



# PSA-050-WFCRC and UNESCO

## Shared Goals

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## Introducing UNESCO

(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

UNESCO is responsible for coordinating international cooperation in education, science, culture and communication. It strengthens the ties between nations and societies, and mobilizes the wider public so that each child and citizen:

- has access to quality education; a basic human right and an indispensable prerequisite for sustainable development;
- may grow and live in a cultural environment rich in diversity and dialogue, where heritage serves as a bridge between generations and peoples;
- can fully benefit from scientific advances;
- and can enjoy full freedom of expression; the basis of democracy, development and human dignity.

UNESCO's messages are of increasing importance today, in a globalized world where interconnections and diversity must serve as opportunities to build peace in the minds of men and women.

## Small Island Developing States

Taking Stock, Looking Forward



Facing a future whose only certainty is change, small island developing states are confronted with many problems and difficulties – some intrinsic and timeless, others extrinsic and new – in making progress towards sustainable living and sustainable development. However, small island societies have a record of thriving in challenging times. Their long histories are rooted in new and innovative approaches, societal mobilization and technological adaptation.

In contributing towards a new vision and commitment for small islands, UNESCO's own action in support of countries and communities is rooted in the fields of culture, basic and natural sciences, social and human sciences, communication and education. **The underlying challenge is that of building capacities, bridges and networks, in promoting problem-solving actions that**

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**mobilize key actors and constituencies that generate effective momentum and impact that are culturally sensitive and scientifically sound.** Addressing this challenge calls for meaningful collaboration between societal and organizational sectors (intersectoral cooperation), between regions and between islands of different affiliations (interregional cooperation) and between generations (intergenerational cooperation).

Together with governments, civil society, regional bodies and other international organizations, UNESCO takes timely actions to ensure effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), referred to as the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) since 1994, the Mauritius Strategy since 2005, and the SAMOA Pathway since 2014.

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