

OPEN AGENDA – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

for Europe (UNECE) due to historical and economic ties to the European continent. Depending on what criteria are prioritised, St Helena could request to join one of three regions: UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), UNECE or the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC). An assessment of the pros and cons of each region is presented in Annex A.

7. Based on this assessment, the following actions are recommended:
 - a. There is no downside to St Helena declaring itself a SIDS and should do so in the near-term.
 - b. St Helena should request to join the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC).
 - i. UNECLAC has the most SIDS (29) and is the only one of the three regions considered that currently includes non-independent territories as members.
 - ii. All other UK OT SIDS are associate members of UNECLAC.
 - iii. In addition, because UNECLAC includes a significant concentration of SIDS (49% of Member States), it is most likely to represent positions that benefit St Helena in the global fora in which it participates as an organisation (e.g., UN conferences on climate change or sustainable development).
8. If accepted as a member of UNECLAC, SHG should undertake further analysis of the costs and benefits of joining the Caribbean Development Bank. Contacts developed through UNECLAC will be helpful to inform this decision at a future date.
9. Montserrat has reported that there are no fees associated with joining UNECLAC. There are likely only minimal costs associated with membership (e.g., if a representative from St Helena travelled to a regional meeting).
10. It is important to note that SIDS status or membership in a Regional Commission may be helpful in identifying new funding opportunities but will not guarantee access to additional funding.
11. While there are not direct economic implications, access to technical cooperation and regional networks may indirectly advance St Helena's economic goals.
12. N/A.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

CONSISTENCY WITH

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INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

PUBLIC / SOCIAL IMPACT

13. While there are no direct social impacts, access to technical cooperation and regional networks may indirectly advance St Helena's social development goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

14. While there are no direct environmental implications, access to technical cooperation and regional networks may indirectly advance St Helena's environmental goals.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT

15. In October, the Chief Secretary agreed with Elected Members that Officers would research the benefits of SIDS status and produce a paper with recommendations in early 2020.

PUBLIC REACTION

16. Public reaction is likely to be positive.

PUBLICITY

17. The EDC meeting summary will provide an update to the public if the recommendations are endorsed.

18. A public announcement regarding SIDS status should be made if Executive Council approve the recommendations.

SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

19. Access to technical cooperation and regional networks may indirectly advance the national goals outlined in the 10 Year Plan and a range of other strategic priorities.

LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS

20. While there are no direct economic implications, access to technical cooperation and regional networks may indirectly advance the goals of the Sustainable Economic Development Plan.

OPEN /CLOSED AGENDA ITEM Corporate Support Corporate Services *DATE OF MEMO*

21. Open Agenda

ACB

11/02/2020