GUIDANCE FOR SPEAKERS – HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE
Samoa Conference Centre
Apia
14:00 – 16:00
31 August, 2014

Prepared by the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

Note: High-level delegates are asked to be present at the venue 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the high level dialogue at 14:00. A high level group photo with the UN Secretary-General will be taken at 13:50 by the main entrance to the conference centre.

Background

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have continued to demonstrate their commitment to achieving their sustainable development objectives. In many cases these efforts have been carried out through partnerships comprising: private/public, SIDS/SIDS, triangular, governments/civil society and others. Furthermore, SIDS continue to seek new partnerships to further strengthen the achievement of their sustainable development objectives following the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), Mauritius Strategy for the further Implementation of the BPoA, and outcomes of the SAMOA Pathway at the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa.

In light of the above, the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) jointly with the Independent State of Samoa and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce will convene the Private Sector Partnerships Forum prior to the 2014 Third International Conference on SIDS.

• Structure of the Forum

Day 1: Will comprise 6 thematic sessions focusing on the themes listed below. Emphasis will be on showcasing successful private sector partnerships, announcement of new partnerships and scaling-up of existing partnerships in SIDS.

Day 2: Will comprise a session on Finance and a High-level Dialogue focussing on practical scenarios for private sector engagement, growth and return on investment in SIDS. It will bring together Government, Business leaders, Inter-Governmental Organisations and partners to share experience and solutions that will culminate in a Co-Chairs Summary.

A key partner for the Forum, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
(UNOSSC) will facilitate a business matchmaking session throughout the two days of the Forum.

**Objectives of the Forum**

- Provide a platform through which genuine and durable private sector partnerships to support the advancement of sustainable development of SIDS can be announced, scaled up and showcased particularly in six (6) areas of focus;

- Facilitate the sharing of information and best practices within SIDS regarding policies, programmes and practices geared towards enabling business and industry in the pursuit of sustainable development, strengthening policy frameworks for business facilitation and developing long-term business case;

- Showcase tools available to the micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in SIDS for promoting more resource efficient processes and practices with particular emphasis on energy efficiency;

- Launch discussions on follow-up mechanisms, including the establishment of a ‘SIDS Global Business Network’ that would contribute towards strengthened business contacts, sharing of best practices including market access, enhance private sector partnerships and increase inter-regional SIDS private sector cooperation and collaboration, and promote increased win-win partnerships with the global business community.

**Objectives of the High-level Dialogue**

The session will be an interactive dialogue involving heads of government, senior ministers, business leaders, Chief Executive Officers and heads of UN system and inter-governmental organisations and will consider:

- Rejuvenation of commitments and enhancement of partnerships of national and regional SIDS private sector stakeholders, governments and the international community to promote the private sector’s contribution to sustainable development for SIDS;

- Identification of priority concrete actions by stakeholders to further strengthen the private sector in contributing to the sustainable development objectives of SIDS;

- Interaction between senior business entrepreneurs (national and international) and SIDS leaders regarding the best way forward to enhance the role of the private sector and fostering private sector partnerships in SIDS;

- Announcement of new partnerships, scaling up of existing partnerships and showcasing best practices and lessons learned;

- Launch discussions on possible follow-up mechanisms including the establishment of a ‘SIDS Global Business Network’ that would contribute towards enabling strengthened business contacts, sharing of best practices including market access, enhance private
sector partnerships and increase inter-regional SIDS private sector cooperation and collaboration, and promote increased partnerships with the global business community.

Guidance for Speakers – High-Level Dialogue

- **General information on session:**
  - At 13:50, a group photo will be taken with the UN Secretary-General on the stairs leading to the main entrance of the conference centre. Delegates are asked to arrive by 13:40.
  - Following the group photo, high-level speakers will be escorted into the venue to assigned seating in a U shaped configuration;
  - The Co-Chairs will be seated on a raised stage facing the high-level delegates;
  - Opening statements will be delivered from the ‘head table’ on-stage, refer to programme for list of opening statements;
  - Private sector representatives who participated in Day1 will bring into the High-level Dialogue, key messages from the previous sessions. These will be supplemented by interventions of high-level speakers which will determine elements and actions to be included in a Co-Chairs Summary.

- **Session Format**
  - Following opening statements the Co-Chairs will announce the commencement of an interactive dialogue in which high-level officials will provide remarks (2 minutes). Please refer to Guiding Questions for further reference;
  - The Co-Chairs will ask speakers to address the meeting (based on a pre-determined speakers list);
  - Given the number of speakers, tight scheduling of the session and the interactive informal nature of the dialogue, delegates are discouraged from delivering formal statements;
  - The Co-Chairs Summary will be posted on the UN-OHRLLS website following the meeting.

- **Dress Code**

  All participants will be in semi-formal island dress.

Guiding Questions

The following questions are offered to stimulate and help your preparations in relation to the Forum’s key objectives:

1. What factors influencing success will SIDS need to have in place to foster genuine private sector partnerships including public/private partnerships?

2. What is the best way for non-SIDS partners and potential partners to better engage with SIDS in fostering private sector partnerships?

3. What gaps, constraints and challenges are there for SIDS in establishing genuine and durable private sector partnerships?
4. How can the idea of a SIDS Global Business Network act as a bridge to better connect the private sectors of the three SIDS regions and foster partnerships with the international business community?

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