PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS FORUM

APIA, SAMOA

30-31 AUGUST 2014
NOTE: For moderators and speakers who are in Apia, Samoa by 29 August, please note that the organisers will hold a briefing for moderators and speakers on the afternoon of 29 August. Time and venue for the briefing will be communicated in due course.

**Background**

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have continued to demonstrate their commitment to achieving their respective sustainable development objectives including in many cases where 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 that can be leveraged to further strengthen the achievement of their sustainable development objectives including through additional solutions to sustain implementation of 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 United Nations 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 a two day Private Sector Partnerships Forum immediately prior to the 2014 Third International Conference on SIDS. The Forum will provide a platform where genuine and durable partnerships to support the sustainable development of SIDS can be announced, particularly in six thematic areas. The Forum will also facilitate interactions between senior business and government leaders to enhance private sector partnerships for SIDS and promote the sharing of information and best practices geared towards strengthening business and industry in the pursuit of sustainable development.

- **Structure of the Forum**

  **Day 1:** will comprise plenary sessions focusing on the 6 thematic areas, identifying priorities for action, showcasing successful private sector partnerships in SIDS and announcing initiatives or continued initiatives including scaled-up existing partnerships with SIDS or new and innovative partnerships.

  **Day 2:** Will comprise a session on Finance and a High-level session that addresses the enabling environment for private sector growth in SIDS including. It will bring together Government, Business leaders and partners to share experience and solutions; and culminate in a Co-Chairs Summary to include key messages and proposals formulated in Day 1.

  A business match-making space will also be available via the UNOSSC’s SS-GATE programme.

**Objectives**

1. Provide a platform through which genuine and durable partnerships to support the advancement of sustainable development of SIDS can be announced, scaled up and showcased particularly in six (6) areas of focus;
2. 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;

3. 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;

4. 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 Moderators**

- **Session Format**
  
  Sessions are organised in a Davos style format [for example please refer to Davos video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSr1SW7gVz4 (see from 3:20 minutes onward)] in the form of an interactive dialogue facilitated by a moderator. The use of PowerPoint presentations will be permitted but not encouraged. In the event that PowerPoint is used, speakers are asked to use no more than 5 slides. PowerPoint presentations must be submitted to Mr. Damien Sass (Email: sass@un.org) by 25 August 2014.

  Given the interactive nature of the sessions, moderators are asked to prepare thoroughly as the flow of their respective sessions will rely significantly on their guidance. Moderators are asked to prepare a list of relevant questions pertaining to their respective session; questions that would further stimulate discussions with speakers. Furthermore, it is important that moderators familiarise themselves with the speakers and their areas of expertise. In light of this, UN-OHRLLS will provide the biographies of speakers in advance of the Forum for the moderators’ preparations.

- **General progression of sessions:**
  
  - All speakers will be introduced by the Moderator at the beginning of the session.
  - The Moderator will then ask each speaker for their initial remarks. Speakers are asked to make no more than 5 minute remarks when they are initially given the floor
  - Partnerships announcements are made by speakers during their remarks with follow-up questions by the Moderator where necessary
  - The final quarter of each session will consist of an interactive dialogue with questions from the floor as directed by the Moderator
  - Given the tight scheduling of the Forum, moderators are asked to keep a strict eye on the timing and progression of their respective sessions to avoid intruding into subsequent sessions.

- **Conduct of Speakers**

  The Forum seeks to build on the “genuine and durable partnerships” that SIDS are calling for. Speakers are asked therefore to refrain from making remarks with an inflammatory political or religious agenda, nor polarizing language. It is a venue for sharing best practices and lessons learned and provide outside-the-box thinking, not to revisit unresolvable disputes on the various topics being discussed.

**Guiding Questions**

The following questions are offered to stimulate your thinking in relation to the Forum’s key objectives and to help your preparations. The following also applies to those speakers making partnerships announcements.
- For partnerships announcements; what is the nature of the partnership including stakeholders involved, beneficiaries, location, duration, contribution to sustainable development of SIDS (including: environmental, economic and social factors), relevance to other SIDS and SIDS regions?

- How will your partnership meet the SMART criteria (SIDS specific, Measurable and Monitorable, Achievable and Accountable, Resources Identified and Results Focused, Timeframes for Implementation and Transparency for All)

- In general, what partnerships can be highlighted as an example of best practice and what lessons learned can be gleaned from those partnerships?

- What are the enabling conditions that SIDS must have in place to foster genuine private sector partnerships including public/private partnerships?

- How can non-SIDS partners and potential partners better engage with SIDS in fostering private sector partnerships?

- What gaps, constraints and success stories can be highlighted in regards to capacity building and institutional strengthening to improve the overall standing of SIDS as partners with other relevant stakeholders?

- How can partnerships better act as a conduit for building capacity towards advancing the three pillars of sustainable development; social, environment and economic?

- Considering emerging issues for SIDS (climate change, disaster risk reduction, renewable energy, ocean governance etc.) what partnerships will be vital for SIDS to secure in order to address emerging issues?

**Focal Points**

- For sessions on Fisheries and Marine Resources, Sustainable Agriculture and Financing for Sustainable Private Sector in SIDS:

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- For sessions on Connectivity and Disaster Risk Reduction:

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- For the High-level Dialogue on 31 August, 2014 contact Mr. Damien Sass or Ms. Rita Ruohonen

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- For sessions on Sustainable Agriculture and Renewable Energy:

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- For the session on Sustainable Tourism:

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