



UN-OHRLLS

Report

Expert Group Meeting on Enhancing the Coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes post SAMOA Pathway and in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Dolce Palisades Convention Centre

New York

November 20-21

2015

Table of Contents:

	<i>Pages</i>
I. Introduction	3
II. Background	3
III. Summary of Meeting	4
A. Opening	4
B. Session I: Overview on Coherence of SIDS Issues in UN Processes	4
C. Session II: Addressing SIDS Issues in UN processes in a Coherent Manner at the Regional Level	7
D. Session III: UNDAF and on-the-ground UN work in SIDS	9
E. Session IV: UN coherence on themes at global level and UN Treaties	12
F. Session V: Next Steps Forward	13
Annex I	
List of Participants	14
Annex II	
Presentations	16

I. Introduction

1. UN-OHRLLS convened an EGM on Enhancing the Coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes post SAMOA Pathway and in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development. The meeting was convened at the Dolce Palisades Convention Center, New York, on 20-21, November, 2015. The EGM brought together 50 participants from UN, SIDS, and Development Partner experts to exchange views, share experiences on coherence of SIDS issues on UN processes from the global, regional, and national levels. Concrete proposals were made at the meeting that would require further consideration, particularly by UN system entities.

II. Background

2. Paragraph 120 of the SAMOA Pathway expanded the advocacy mandate of OHRLLS by specifically calling upon OHRLLS to ‘ensure the mainstreaming of SAMOA Pathway and issues related to SIDS in the work of the UN system and enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in the UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels’.

3. In response to this expanded mandate OHRLLS carried out an analysis of the UN processes on SIDS issues as contained in the SAMOA Pathway. OHRLLS has also convened a UN focal points meeting on mainstreaming and coherence on the margins of the HLPF session. The 2030 development agenda also called for the need for better coherence in the UN processes on SIDS issues. Coordination of the UN system and their work in SIDS is also important.

4. The analysis carried out by OHRLLS on the SAMOA Pathway has identified over 60 UN processes either explicitly mentioned in the Pathway itself or implied by the actions called for in the same. These UN processes cover the three areas of peace & security, development, and respect for human rights that form the pillars upon which the work of the UN is carried out.

5. The objective of the EGM was to: present and discuss the findings of OHRLLS’ analysis of the SAMOA Pathway and the UN processes that are referred to in the Pathway; Identify lessons learned and best practices, in the area of UN coherence and coordination on SIDS issues at the national, regional and global levels in the three dimensions of sustainable development; Propose and recommend concrete ways forward as it relates to OHRLLS’ work on mainstreaming and enhancing coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes;

III. Summary of Meeting

A. Opening

6. Opening remarks were made by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives and Chair of AOSIS, H.E Mr. Ahmed Sareer, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Development, DESA Mr. Lenni Montiel and Principal Advisor - SIDS, Mr. Craig Hawke , Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP.

7. The speakers underscored that enhanced coherence on SIDS issues in the UN process could lead to effective support in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda, and other important UN processes, by UN system entities as well as the broader development partners. It was acknowledged that due to their small size, SIDS capacity constraints were well recognised by the international community, including in the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and the SAMOA Pathway.

8. It was also highlighted that, beyond effectiveness of the UN system to respond to the specific challenges of SIDS, enhanced coherence could lead to practical solutions including the alleviation of reporting burdens for SIDS usually associated with follow-up, monitoring and evaluation of UN processes. Speakers also highlighted the need to integrate the SAMOA Pathway and its implementation and follow-up processes, with that of the 2030 Agenda as a key consideration, given the importance of these two global action plans for SIDS, as well as the convergence on a number of issues and themes that are governed by these two related yet separate processes.

9. The speakers also underscored the need to improve linkages between all levels from, the global to the regional, to the national of SIDS issues in these UN processes, and in this regard it was proposed that the linkages between global and national levels may need to be strengthened as well, including on issues concerning mainstreaming of agreed global action plans and goals, as appropriate, to national actions and development strategies.

B. Session I: Overview on Coherence of SIDS Issues in UN Processes

10. UN-OHRLLS made presentation a highlighting the success that SIDS have enjoyed in being recognised as a special case in terms of their sustainable development in the from Agenda 21, to the Barbados Programme of Action, to the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, to the SAMOA Pathway, and in the outcomes of various other UN conferences and processes. This universal recognition of the special case of SIDS is a reflection of the impact that the advocacy by SIDS themselves have undertaken.

11. UN-OHRLLS also recalled paragraph 120 of the SAMOA Pathway that called on OHRLLS to *'ensure the mainstreaming of SAMOA Pathway and issues related to SIDS in the work of the UN system and enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in the UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels'* and informed the meeting that it had carried out an analysis of the SAMOA Pathway to better understand what UN processes are there and how coherence can be better enhanced.

12. The analysis identified 65 UN processes either explicitly mentioned in the Pathway itself or implied by the actions called for in the same. These processes involve those that are intergovernmental in nature, covering assemblies, governing councils, as well as those born out of legal obligations, including conference of state parties, and other treaty related and decision/policy making bodies. Many of these processes occur in the development pillar of the UN's work but others are associated with the peace & security and human rights pillars as well.

13. UN-OHRLLS submitted that there has been an upward trend in references to UN processes with each outcome of the SIDS conferences over the past 20 years. From the BPOA with 17 processes, to MSI with 44 processes to SAMOA Pathway with 65 processes. The SAMOA Pathway is arguably the most comprehensive sustainable development global policy outcome for SIDS.

14. With SIDS issues having evolved into a complex and comprehensive development agenda for the UN, it was noted that there is a need for a strengthened mechanism for enhanced coordination and coherence.

- Promotes cooperation, coordination and integrated approach,
- Avoids duplication,
- Increases efficiency,
- Promotes pooling of resources,
- Common targets,
- Encourages joint programming,
- Promotes alignment,
- Enhances monitoring, evaluation and follow-up,
- Reduces reporting burden at SIDS national level

15. Noting the importance of the 2030 Agenda as it relates to SIDS, it was conveyed that there are a number of specific targets that, including the one in Goal 14.5 on conserving of 10 percent of coastal and marine areas by 2020 which matches paragraph 58(o) of the SAMOA Pathway. As such together with the 2030 Agenda, the need to ensure an integrated approach in implementation of both the Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway is crucial if both these important outcomes are to be effectively implemented in SIDS.

16. Given the comprehensive nature of the SAMOA Pathway, its implementation will also depend on the implementation of other intergovernmental UN processes.

17. DESA provided an overview of DESA's support to SIDS. On the HLPF, the importance of a SIDS focus was stressed. In preparation for the 2016 meeting of HLPF, DESA is now engaged in supporting the GA process to outline critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level as mandated by paragraph 90 of the 2030 Agenda.

18. The meeting was informed of the status of the Partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments for SIDS emanating from the Third International Conference on SIDS and in this regard the importance of ensuring an integrated follow-up of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda.

19. With regards to the SDGs, the meeting was informed that most SIDS priorities articulated in the SAMOA Pathway are also reflected in the SDGs and/or cut across different targets including inter alia: food security, health and NCDs, gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas and climate change.

20. On the structure and role of the SIDS Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG), the meeting was informed that the IACG emerged from Secretariat support towards the 2005 Mauritius Conference on SIDS and has evolved with a hybrid membership composed (currently) of 33 UN entities and 11 non-UN entities. The IACG provides a platform for information exchange and exchange of inputs on SIDS focused events which have included: SIDS Exhibit and Island Hub (Rio+20), 2014 International Year of SIDS, annual SG's reports, partnerships platform and dialogues and implementation matrix on SAMOA Pathway.

21. With regards to SIDS related activities by DESA, the workshop was informed about recent undertakings including: informal consultation among SIDS statisticians – prior to the 2015 Statistics Commission – and publications including: 2014 SIDS Trends, 2014 World Statistics Pocketbook on SIDS, Population Atlas; 2014 Population and Development in SIDS and a SIDS chapter in the 2015 Global Sustainable Development Report. DESA is also working on integrated approaches related to the follow up of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda including foresight, emerging issues for SIDS, science –policy interface, SIDS, climate change and Oceans and ecosystem conservation. Likewise, inter-agency collaboration has also taken place on issues including financing, vulnerability-resilience country profiles, disaster risk reduction and the University Consortium on Small Island States.

22. In the ensuing discussions that followed, the role of the High Representative was highlighted in particular as that of the highest ranking UN official reporting directly to the Secretary-General on the issues of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. Likewise, the High Representative is a member of various UN system wide coordination mechanisms including SMG, UNDG, CEB/ HLCP, SE4All, ECESA+, UN Oceans and the Broadband Commission. It was stressed that the presence of the High Representative in these high level coordination mechanisms brings special attention of senior UN officials to the issues pertaining to the three groups of countries under his purview and furthermore ensures concise advocacy at the highest levels of the UN system.

23. On the responsibilities of DESA and OHRLLS, clarification on the differences between the mandates of both offices was discussed. The main mandate for DESA is reporting on the implementation of the Programmes of Action for SIDS and providing advisory services while the main mandate for OHRLLS is strengthening coherence and synergy of the UN system. Among the key OHRLLS functions include coordinated follow-up of the implementation of the Programmes of Action, undertaking appropriate advocacy work in favour of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, mobilizing international support and resources for implementation of the Programmes of Action and the latest expanded mandate of OHRLLS as per paragraph 120 of the SAMOA Pathway on mainstreaming and coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes including at the national, regional and global levels.

24. It was also conveyed that there is an open line of communication between DESA and OHRLLS both at the senior management level and at the working level where for instance the High Representative meets with DESA USG to discuss issues and the work on SIDS and

the High Representative also participates in ECESA+ meetings chaired by DESA USG. It was also noted that OHRLLS actively participates in the IACG and is supporting DESA in the revitalization of the group following the 2014 SIDS Conference.

25. In regards to lessons learned from OHRLLS' work on LDCs and LLDCs, it was iterated that in light of the expanded mandate of the Office as per the SAMOA Pathway; lessons learned from the offices work on LDCs and LLDCs are being put into use; the LDCs focal point structure is one such area that could be considered to be implemented in SIDS with SIDS focal points that could contribute towards enhancing coherence at all levels and strengthen linkages.

C. Session II: Addressing SIDS Issues in UN processes in a coherent manner at the regional level

26. ECLAC presented that regional processes have been put in place in efforts to follow-up on the outcomes of World Summits, which gives a regional perspective. The need for coherence has also been reaffirmed at the regional level, with ECLAC focusing on providing support and assistance to Caribbean SIDS including on; Research & analysis, Inter-agency collaboration, Capacity building, Institutional strengthening, Policy development, project development and implementation.

27. ECLAC highlighted that the assistance and support rendered to SIDS in the region were done through existing mechanisms for institutional support for SIDS, with ECLAC Caribbean reporting to ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile. Other regional institutional mechanisms were also highlighted including those that are affiliate with CARICOM, and those that are linked with the Organization of American States. These affiliations included IFIs and sub-regional banks including the IDB and the Caribbean Development Bank.

28. The follow-up of world summits and processes that ECLAC has been focusing on, with regard to SIDS, include the follow-up of the SAMOA Pathway, Agenda 2030, the Rio+20 follow-up, the UNFCCC process, the International conference on population and development, the Sendai Framework on DRR, and the Beijing Platform. These follow-ups are done through regional forums such as the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee supported by ECLAC, the regional conference on Women, Statistical Conferences.

29. The meeting heard that the ECLAC Caribbean office is focusing on research and analysis, institutional strengthening, inter-agency collaboration, policy development, capacity building, and projects. A Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) was established to coordinate with intergovernmental council, a technical advisory board committee, and national focal points. The RCM is supported by ECLAC who is its secretariat. The Caribbean Development Portal was also highlighted which features country profiles and national plans and statistics.

30. One of key enabler tools highlighted that could contribute to monitoring and follow-up is that of the ICTs which has already yielded success allowing for national authorities in Caribbean SIDS to share suggestions, engage, and formulate non-burdensome reporting.

31. ESCAP highlighted the vast expanse of the Pacific Ocean and the Pacific SIDS sub-region underscoring the diversity of Pacific SIDS within this context that can add to the complexities of the challenges to enhance coherence on SIDS issues in regional processes in the region. The regional governance architecture with sector driven regional institutions that support and compliment Pacific SIDS efforts in implementing regional and global policy plans of actions, including the work of the Community of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP), were also highlighted.

32. ESCAP underscored the need to work as one with regard to the operationalisation of their mandates and overall priorities including in monitoring and accountability which the Regional Commissions have a specific mandate for from the SAMOA Pathway as contained in SAMOA Pathway paragraph 122. ESCAP also highlighted the role envisaged for regional commissions in the 2030 Agenda as seen in paragraphs 80 and 81.

33. On data and the importance of indicators, the need to tailor SDG indicators for the Pacific SIDS region was called for by Pacific Island Leaders as well. ESCAP also highlighted the need for the SAMOA Pathway to be integrated into national and regional policies and development frameworks.

34. They have also accorded special attention to SIDS by incorporating SIDS priorities into their strategic framework and resolutions. The continued work on policy coherence through the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Asia Pacific SDG Road Map and Asia Pacific SDG Report that draws on national process and reporting to the HLPF which ensures a focus on Pacific SIDS was also highlighted.

35. The meeting heard that the priorities of the Pacific SIDS included the need to complete ‘unfinished business’, and incorporating the financing Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), climate change, oceans/fisheries and regional economic cooperation as well as other integration including trade, connectivity and transport will all need to be implemented in a coordinated manner. The need to mainstream the SAMOA Pathway was underscored as well. With regard to the implementing the SAMOA Pathway, the view was expressed that these could also be done within the context of the 2030 Agenda, using common but differentiated measures (indicators) for monitoring and accountability. While much has been done in the

36. ECA highlighted the challenges faced by the AIMS SIDS underscoring that the geographic distribution of the AIMS SIDS as one of the key challenges for the AIMS SIDS to genuinely engage effectively as a one collective region. The heavy reliance of African SIDS on imports and underlined their exposure to exogenous shocks including those from the global market. While terrestrial land mass is small AIMS SIDS have large EEZ. The diversity of the AIMS SIDS, with regard to the social, economic, as well as cultural settings was also highlighted.

37. ECA also highlighted the huge governance and institutional challenges faced by the African SIDS in managing their EEZ, and noted that illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is prevalent in the African SIDS region, with the intrusion of distant fishing vessels into their waters and their limited inability to control own water boundaries. Furthermore, issues concerning piracy in the West Indian Ocean waters also pose a serious threat to peace and security of African SIDS.

38. With regard to the efforts being expended by ECA in engaging with Africa SIDS, the work on improving human & institutional capacities on climate information services(CIS); formulation of adequate climate policy and strategy for mainstreaming climate change in development Agendas; analytical research and a policy framework to promote energy for renewable sources; regional information and knowledge sharing mechanism; Formulation and implementation of policies to achieve a green transformation and realize benefits of blue economy were highlighted.

39. In terms of institutional supported, ECA informed that the African Union, in its Assembly/AU/Decl.3(XXIII) in support of African SIDS, called for improved mechanisms to better support SIDS. This together with the SIDS specific SAMOA Pathway and the universal 2030 Agenda would allow for more focus on how institutional support for the African SIDS can be strengthened.

40. With regard to concrete engagement with African SIDS, ECA highlighted the establishment of a High Resolution Continental Numerical Weather Prediction and Early Warning System for Africa with special focus on African SIDS; the capacity Building, Deployments and Direct Engineering Assistance on Wireless Communication Platforms for Climate Information and Climate Services Delivery in African SIDS (Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles); the training of existing and next generation of climate scientists and technicians to consolidate investments in climate information services (observing networks, e-infrastructure, early warning systems and data and information management systems); the establishment of a High Resolution Continental Numerical Weather Prediction & Early Warning System as examples.

41. ECA also highlighted the work of the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) as a model for a demand driven hub that can assist SIDS including on technical matters and developing high resolution models for SIDS which has significantly improved performance in operational weather forecasting for African SIDS that also offers capacity building opportunities.

D. Session III: UNDAF and on-the-ground UN work in SIDS

42. This session focused on enhancing the coherence of SIDS issues post SAMOA Pathway and in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The three presentations from the session highlighted different aspects of the UN system, all working together to strengthen the linkages between the national, regional and global processes. The session strongly echoed the role of partnerships for sustainable development of SIDS.

43. During this session, participants discussed the changes to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process in light of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. The session also saw a presentation on the role of financial inclusion as a key enabler to several SDGs drawing on the example from the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP). The session also looked at the FAO road map to develop an action programme to address food and nutrition challenges facing SIDS.

44. UN is currently working to mainstream the SDGs through the UNDAF process setting out 8 priorities in tailoring the SDGs to national context. The new thinking is grounded on an integrated and multi-sector approach to tackling development challenges calling for integrated solutions to move beyond working in silos in order to address complex issues. UN country teams are prototyping a new UNDAF that increase public participation and multi-stakeholder engagement (currently being rolled out in 32 countries). UNDAFs going forward will increasingly narrow down to fewer outcomes based on “localised” sustainable development priorities.

45. The challenges and opportunities presented by the Pacific UNDAF (2013 – 2017) were also discussed – the aim is to create an UNDAF that can work at the national and regional dimension. 14 different country situations, national priorities as well as regional dimension has been a challenge to consolidate. It was stated that some concerns have been expressed that not all UN agencies will be able to engage with all countries.

46. In the Caribbean, a new innovative, Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF 2016-2020) approach which unifies 6 UNDAF (Barbados & OECS; Belize; Guyana; Jamaica; Suriname; Trinidad & Tobago) is currently underway. Currently consultations are ongoing to carry out a UN system capacity mapping exercise to find out UN’s comparative advantage.

47. The UN is working under the ONE Framework model to strengthen coherence, coordination and consultation among the various agencies. In the context of SIDS, the SAMOA Pathway is mapped into the ONE Framework.

48. The AIMS region requires strengthening of regional coherence. It was noted that Residence Coordinators are also looking for coherence opportunities. In conclusion it was emphasised that greater coherence among national, regional and global processes such as the 2030 Agenda, the SAMOA Pathway are vital.

49. On the issue of financial inclusion for SIDS, the session highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIP) from 2008 to 2014 --in 6 SIDS ; Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

50. Over the 6 year period, the PFIP budget has grown from \$5m in 2008 to mover \$33 m in 2014. The SAMOA Conference in 2014, which launched the Challenge Fund helped garner further support. Since the Conference wide range of activities which include outreach activities, research, grants and training projects have been underway. The estimated number

of beneficiaries from the programme is over 500,000 across the 6 countries. The target for 2014 – 2019 is to reach another 500,000 clients – a target UNCDAF fully expect to reach.

51. The presentation on food security in SIDS noted that SIDS have made less progress in reducing hunger from 1990 to 2015 compared with developing countries as a whole. The second dimension of food security in SIDS is poor nutrition leading to a rise in the proportion of the population who are obese. In food imports, the category of processed foods is on the rise. This move away from healthier local foods has worrying health and economic consequences.

52. In accordance with paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway, FAO informed of the Roadmap to address food and nutritional challenges of SIDS. The Roadmap has been presented to the SG in early November 2015, with the objective to have an action programme (as called for by para.61). The Roadmap calls for close collaboration in the preparatory process to implement para.61. Going forward, the need to take the consultations, physically, to the SIDS countries themselves was stressed. The importance of data and statistics to inform the Action Programme was also noted, including of the need to keep Permanent Representations, central Governments and partners informed of the process. The Action Programme will help to scale-up existing programmes and will be collectively accountable to implementing.

53. During the ensuing interactive segment discussions revolved around the need to strengthen coordination at the regional and sub-regional levels. Coherence at the regional level is also challenged by limited resources. Money for coordination is difficult to come by—there is limited funding for joint-implementation projects. More resources are therefore needed to improve coordination. RC system could be an effective way to mainstream the Samoa Pathway and participants discussed the need to strengthen the RC system relationship at the global and national levels through relevant mechanisms for coordination.

54. The role of national focal points in implementation of the Samoa Pathway on the ground was also discussed and in this context, the successful model of the national focal points used by LDCs that is managed by UN-OHRLLS was cited as good practice.

55. The role of regional organisations was stressed noting that real implementation is done through regional organizations and that states must ensure close cooperation with the regional organisations they belong to. The role of closely engaging all partners including working with NGO, regional banks and institutions for mobilization of scarce domestic resources was seen as important. In the Pacific, the first meeting on tailoring the SDGs in the local context will include representatives from CSOs. Furthermore NGOs and CSOs can play a valuable role in improving data, measurement, monitoring and accountability it was added. The point was raised on whether the UN Secretariat would appoint a focal point on partnerships.

56. The meeting also discussed the importance of resource mobilization and access to concessional finance for SIDS where exchanges in views on the finance agenda and challenge for middle income SIDS in particular were highlighted. For Caribbean SIDS, where

many are classified as middle income SIDS, debt overhang remained a serious problem. New criteria on access to concessional finance based on climate vulnerabilities of SIDS, and proposal of debts for climate change swaps was discussed. In the area of domestic mobilisation, UNDP informed of its work with the OECD to support domestic resource mobilisation through looking at efficiencies in the local tax system in SIDS.

57. The need to pay adequate attention to the importance of transport networks in SIDS was also discussed with views expressed highlighting that coherence and coordination is often dependent on reliable infrastructure and transport facilities that are often absent in SIDS. Distance pose a problem — to address this, UNDP is considering expanding presence in the Pacific, Fiji, Samoa and PNG to have a more robust presence in the region. Lack of proper shipping and port infrastructure is also a disadvantage in the context of food security where FAO's engagement is highly dependent on access to ports and food imports it was added.

58. The meeting also discussed the serious lack of data in SIDS which makes coordination efforts difficult. CSOs and NGOs should be closely engaged in the data gathering, monitoring and implementation process to fill in the current gaps in data. The 2030 Agenda ECOSOC dialogue on indicators will conclude in 12-18 months. The point was raised on the need to improve synergies between processes and ensure the follow-up process for SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda is coordinated to avoid duplication and overlap. Participants also felt it was important to adopt sub-indicators on the SDGS that would be more relevant to SIDS on issues such as indicators on transport links as mentioned earlier.

E. Session IV: UN coherence on themes at global level and UN Treaties

59. UNCCD highlighted on “achieving land degradation neutrality” and stressed how it was key for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda processes. They further stressed that this is a major problem and challenge and underlined other pertinent problems, for example, poverty eradication; food security; drought and water scarcity; climate change and biodiversity.

60. UN-DOALOA welcomed the retreat as an example of how the UN attempts to work together with several agencies to achieve common goals. The need for a more coordinated approach to achieve such goals was emphasised and a detailed background of OLA and DOALOS's role in connection with SIDS was presented which highlighted the key features and benefits of UNCLOS and how the SAMOA Pathway itself also emphasises this.

61. DOALOS emphasised the benefits of UNCLOS and its framework regarding the coherence. The UN Fish Stocks Agreement was also highlighted along with the UN Atlas of the oceans. The importance of capacity building was also highlighted and in this regard mention was made of the opportunities for SIDS in taking advantage of these, including through awards from the trust funds DOALOS is managing, including the fellowship program (UN Nippon Fellowship Programme. The point was made of how African SIDS are turning more and more to the sea for their well-being and economic security. In conclusion, she stressed how UN Oceans is an interagency whose work program focuses on the

importance of the development of an inventory which identifies mandates and activities of SIDS in a cost effective manner, pulling of resources and joint activities. She also referred to several upcoming meetings dealing exclusively with ocean issues at UNHQ in 2016.

F. Session V: Next Steps Forward

62. The High Representative chairing the final segment of the meeting observed that a meeting was a success, allowing the UN system, SIDS delegates and their development partners, an opportunity to engage and brainstorm on issues of coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes. He stated that UN-OHRLLS will continue to work on the issue towards the effective implementation of paragraph 120 of the SAMOA Pathway which expanded the advocacy mandate of the office. He thanked all participants for accepting the invitation to attend the retreat and assured all that UN-OHRLLS will continue to advocate for SIDS and mobilize support and resources in support of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. He noted that number of concrete proposals were suggested and informed that UN-OHRLLS will further consider these proposals, including in cooperation and collaboration with UN system entities.

63. During the discussions that ensued, participants highlighted a number of proposals and suggestions that could be taken forward. These include:

- The need for a coherence on SIDS issues in UN processes is evident, in light of the increase in UN processes over the past 20 years since Barbados;
- Linkages between the processes at the global, regional, and national levels need to be strengthened to encourage and enhance coherence on SIDS issues at these different levels, recognising that implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, as well as other UN processes are done at the regional and national levels;
- In light of the limited capacities and constraints faced by SIDS at the national and global levels with the myriad of UN processes, and their follow-up obligations and reporting processes, the idea of a SIDS ‘one-stop-shop’ or hub for SIDS where SIDS can ‘check in’ to find relevant information of the status of UN processes on SIDS issues was raised as a matter that could be further considered;
- The benefits of having SIDS focal points at the national level with direct linkages to the global processes, along the lines of the LDC focal points that is managed by OHRLLS, was recognised as possible way forward to encourage coherence of SIDS issues at the global and national levels.

ANNEX I

Participants List for EGM on Enhancing the Coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes post SAMOA Pathway and in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

1. H.E. Ambassador DPR Juan Manuel González de Linares – Spain
2. Mr. Francois Gave - Italy
3. Ms. Valeria Biagiotti, First Counsellor - Italy
4. Mr. John Gilroy, Second Secretary – Ireland
5. Mr. Julian Simpson, Second Secretary – Australia
6. Ms. Isabelle Delattre, First Counsellor - EU
7. Mr. Doug Carey, Second Secretary - USA
8. Ms. Natasha Short, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - New Zealand
9. Ms. HUA Ye – China
10. H.E. Ambassador. Tevi Odo – Vanuatu
11. H.E Ambassador. Colin Beck – Solomon Islands
12. Ms. Helen Beck, Counsellor – Solomon Islands
13. H.E. Ambassador Courtenay Rattray – Jamaica
14. H.E Ambassador Elliston Rahming- Bahamas
15. H.E Ambassador Ahmed Sareer – Maldives
16. Ms. Miriyam Midhfa Naeem – Maldives
17. Ms. Francella Strickland, DPR - Samoa
18. Mr. Jeem Lippwe, DPR – FSM
19. Mr. Martin Zvachula, Second Secretary – FSM
20. Ms. Margo Deiye, Second Secretary – Nauru
21. Dr. Ignacio "Nacho" Trabadela, Adviser - Palau
22. Ms. Seema Gail Parkash, First Secretary - Singapore
23. Ms. Cindy Eu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Singapore
24. Ms. Vakaoca Kedrayate - Fiji
26. Ms. Salaseini Tagicakibau - Fiji
25. Mr. Fred Sarufa, Papua New Guinea
26. Mr. Mohammad Reza Salamat, DESA
27. Ms. Hiroko Morita-Lou, DESA
28. Ms. Ider Batbayar, UNDP
29. Mr. Craig Hawke, UNDP
30. Ms. Alice Hicuburundi, DOALOS
31. Mr. Iosefa Maiava, ESCAP
32. Ms. Diane Quarless, ECLAC
33. Mr. Frank Rutabingwa, ECA
34. Mr. Stein Hanson, UNIDO
35. Ms. Petal Thomas, UNFPA
36. Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, UNCCD
37. Ms. Shanon Bullock, UNICEF
38. Mr. Sidney Kemble, The Netherlands
39. Ms. Carla Macuva, FAO
40. Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, UN-OHRLLS
41. Mr. Sandagdorj Erdenebileg, UN-OHRLLS
42. Mr. Peter Kenilorea, UN-OHRLLS
43. Ms. Shifaana Thowfeequ, UN-OHRLLS
44. Ms. Malwina Buldys, UN-OHRLLS
45. Mr. Hans Damien Sass, UN-OHRLLS
46. Ms. Geraldine Doodoo, UN-OHRLLS
47. Mr. Oumar Diallo, UN-OHRLLS
48. Mr. Lenni Montiel, DESA
49. Ms. Alyson Drayton, UNDP
50. Mr. John Tucker, UNCDF