



Closing Remarks
By

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High Representative
and
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for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked
Developing Countries
and Small Island Developing States

Consultative Meeting of SIDS and their development partners on
accelerating the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway at the national,
regional and global levels

Venue: Glen Cove, Long Island

10 April 2018
4:45 – 5:00 p.m.

Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates,
Friends and Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentleman

Thank you ALL for a very productive , intense and forward-looking evening and day spent together.

What brought us together is our common concern around the urgent need for implementing the provisions of the SAMOA pathway.

I was very happy to witness your spirit of partnership. As they say “ we are all in this together “.

And may be the SIDS show us with their vast swaths of oceans - oceans ALL of us depend on - how nobody can go this alone if we truly are to live up to a shared sustainable and inclusive development.

Allow me to briefly share what I would consider key points to take away from our work together.

Generally speaking, support for the sustainable development of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway has made progress but much more remains to be done. Much more also remains to be done with new and emerging challenges. The world is not stationary and will indeed not wait for us.

Yes, we can be very encouraged by the progress three SIDS achieved who will be recommended for graduation from the least developed country category.

It shows “ where there is a will there can be a way “.

The United Nations Committee for Development Policy indeed announced the recommendation of Kiribati, São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Solomon Islands.

Let us all applaud these achievements.

Let us all as partners leverage the upcoming Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway in 2019, to evaluate what has been achieved, what worked and did not work and what we now must do bring the goals of the SAMOA Pathway beyond words- make them reality.

So ahead of us is identifying challenges, lessons learnt and best practices, and most importantly to propose recommendations for action for the remaining five years.

We had the opportunity to get a good sharing of experiences from countries on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. We also learnt how countries strive to promote synergies with the SDGs.

This also included very useful indications as to the key challenges in assessing progress regarding implementation, and very importantly how the forthcoming preparatory regional meetings can contribute to identify drivers that accelerate progress to achieve national development goals.

Thank you all for so candidly giving us your assessments and I will pay high attention to these being reflected in OHRLLS' work.

As we now move forward we indeed must build on our exchange of experiences and ideas heard today.

We must focus on how governments and the combined UN system capacities can work effectively together on the preparatory work and analysis for the inter-regional and regional meetings this year.

I heard you loud and clear on UN system support to SIDS.

The repositioning of the UN development system - after all the world has greatly changed since the system was set up - allow me to use this expression “ we must get with it “ takes on full meaning here !

This repositioning indeed is responsive to what we shared in today’s discussions in regard to what it will take to provide effective support to realising the objectives of the SAMOA Pathway and those of the SDGs.

The means of the past will not be able to address the needs of the future and deliver the enhanced support required from the UN system.

I am also appreciative that we could clearly bring out the specific needs of the SIDS and how the UN must position to provide responsive support.

This was a highly instructive discussion including on SIDS’ priorities and again how these can be adequately addressed through the UN development system reform process.

Finally, we had the benefit of discussions on the importance of preparations for the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway.

The regional and the inter-regional meetings are fast approaching.

Thank you for an inspiring session sharing the challenges encountered in preparing national reports for the MTR. Thank you also for the instructive exchange of ideas on how Regional Commissions and UNDP can better assist in this process and what it is that could be addressed within the context of the Inter Agency Consultative Group on SIDS.

We must notch up our efforts to strengthen linkages between the national, regional and international processes in respect of the Mid Term Review .

We also must broaden opportunities for contribution and engagement of SIDS focal points towards these goals.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The work on the preparatory process for the MTR and ensuring implementation of the SAMOA Pathway at the national, regional and global levels has received great guidance from you and now must be stepped up.

We had the benefit of two enriching days.

We now need to accelerate and many important discussions and key milestones are yet to be had for a productive Mid Term Review process.

This includes actual preparations for the three regional meetings, the inter-regional meeting and most importantly for the outcome documents from these meetings before the end of this year.

OHRLLS will work closely with host countries to support the meetings in AIMS and the Pacific. DESA will take the lead on the Caribbean and Inter-regional meetings.

For this, we will work closely with the regional commissions and relevant entities of the UN system.

In this regard the inter-agency consultative group (IACG) in early May is a key event where the preparations for the MTR will be further discussed.

I strongly encourage your contributions to this including of agenda items of particular interest to be raised in this meeting. Please forward these to the Secretariat.

I though also must add that we need to continue our resource mobilisation efforts to ensure that the scheduled regional and inter-regional meetings are realised.

Lastly, kindly be advised that an outcome document on the consultative meeting will be made available in the coming weeks.

So, thank you ALL so much again for very useful discussions and your active participation.

My special thanks do go once again to the Government of Denmark for your generous support of this event.

Lastly but not least, I thank all of the staff here at Glen Cove for having looked so well after us - let us all give them a hand!

and I thank the OHRLLS' staff for your support to making this meeting happen.

Thank you all.