



United Nations



Republic of Mauritius

## Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) Regional Review Meeting of the SAMOA Pathway

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### MEDIA ADVISORY

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**WHAT:** The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) are organising the small island developing States Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) regional review meeting for the SAMOA Pathway from 23-25 May 2018. The regional meeting is hosted by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius.

The SAMOA Pathway is the dedicated 10-year programme of action for small island developing States (SIDS) adopted at the Third International Conference on SIDS held in Apia, Samoa in 2014. Discussions at the upcoming AIMS regional meeting will contribute to ongoing dialogue on implementing the SAMOA Pathway as well as on achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals. Regional meetings will take place in 2018 followed by the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway in 2019.

Dates of note:

- (i) Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) to be held in Balaclava, Mauritius, on 23-25 May 2018,
- (ii) Pacific region to be held in Nuku'alofa, the Kingdom of Tonga, 19 – 21 June 2018 and
- (iii) Caribbean region, to be held in Belize, 7-9 August 2018.
- (iv) Inter-Regional meeting is tentatively scheduled for October, in Apia, Samoa
- (v) 2019: Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway is scheduled for September, New York, USA

**WHERE:** AIMS Regional Meeting: Maritim Resort and Spa, Balaclava, Mauritius

**WHEN:** 23-25 May 2018

**WHY:** SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development and are among the most vulnerable of United Nations' Member States; susceptible to shocks including from natural disasters and economic. Events over the last few years clearly demonstrate the susceptibility of SIDS to these shocks as demonstrated by the impact of Cyclone Pam on Vanuatu (2015) where a generation of development

was lost in a matter of hours; the impact of Cyclone Winston (2016) on Fiji; and the destruction created by Hurricanes Irma and Maria on the Caribbean in 2017.

The AIMS regional meeting is a major opportunity to assess progress in meeting commitments to the sustainable development of SIDS in the region. It is also an opportunity to share best practices and lessons learned in the first five years of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Discussions will also identify gaps in implementation and addressing these through partnerships and integration with implementation of the wider 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals.

**WHO:** The regional meeting will draw participation from the following: all AIMS SIDS (Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Cabo Verde, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles and Singapore), development partners, representatives of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRESS:**

#### **Wednesday 23 May 2018**

- 10:30 – 11:00: Press Conference
- 14:00 – 14:45: Official Opening

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Meeting Web Page:** <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview#>

#### **Social Media:**

 @UNOHRLLS @UNDESA

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 #SAMOAPathway #PartnerSIDS #AIMSRegional2018

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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