



Notes for USG 'Utoikamanu  
for  
Launch, New OECD Report "Making Development Cooperation Work  
Better for SIDS"

Wednesday, 25 April 2018

*• In your view, what would be the key priorities for enhancing international efforts in support of financing for sustainable development in SIDS? Are they in line with what is outlined with this new OECD report?*

- First, allow me to congratulate OECD on this important work. This is especially useful for all the data and therefore facts shared and also for the set of innovative experiences presented to us. The comprehensive report, including country analysis, and regional groupings is important as we are at the preparatory phase leading to the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway.
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) already pays particular attention to the most vulnerable members of the international community- the SIDS.
- SIDS indeed face complex and special issues and may be a very interesting case for developing new ways of development cooperation if not models.
- I think it may have become a household expression but let me say it again- SIDS are small island states but large ocean nations - so we need to look truly at sustainable and climate resilient developmental paths leveraging the promise of the blue economy.
- There is no one fits all solution for doing this. For SIDS, concessional finance will remain central. So, it is really good to get all the data the report contains.
- As the DSG pointed out at Monday's financing for development meeting: at the forefront has to be national ownership and leadership.
- From there, we need to look at how we blend domestic resource mobilization with concessional finance and enhanced public-private sector partnerships.
- On the latter, the challenge is of course how to overcome a high risk perception of the private sector to get involved in SIDS partnering.

- So, financing and how to finance is critical BUT the other side of the coin we also must look at is how we enhance support to SIDS to build bankable project pipelines responsive to national long-term visions for sustainable and climate resilient development.
- This also must include enhanced ways of outreach to local communities and their participation. I will not once more repeat the well documented complex challenges SIDS face but I must highlight how given size and geography, community-driven development is key in SIDS. Mobilizing and learning from communities can yield very helpful insights also in regard to how to have women and youth access finance.
- Further, it is no great secret I do reveal here and I say that often and will repeat it again. Many times finance access procedures are heavily taxing on capacities and especially in SIDS! We must look at streamlined access ways without compromising on accountability and transparency.
- Once again, I make a clear call for looking at strengthened capacity building support for bankable project and program pipelines and enhancing implementation capacities including speed in implementation! .
- Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement aim for equitably shared development for everyone and everywhere. We are already three years into Agenda 2030, so indeed we now need ACTION.
- While many SIDS are middle income countries, their risk exposure to see their development gains reversed due to exogenous economic and climate shocks is extremely high.
- Yet, many middle-income SIDS are ineligible for concessional finance given their per capita incomes. We must look into this and see how we better take into account the specific and complex structural vulnerabilities of SIDS.
- Similarly we must look into how we can expedite SIDS access to concessional climate finance to help adapt to and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change. The impact of climate related disasters on SIDS we all have been witness to just over the last 12 months speaks for itself!

- I could mention many more points but let me address a final substantive observation here. We all throughout our own lives would wish to be able to start or re-start from a blank page. Now, it does not happen too often and one such issue for SIDS is debt relief. Debt sustainability is a challenge for SIDS already facing the disastrous fiscal impacts natural disasters bring about. There is a need to look at developing instruments that can be used by SIDS for debt relief, including expedited-disbursing of international financial resources for use during financial stresses during and following a natural disaster.
- Once more, I wish to thank OECD for their highly informative and useful work!
- The report gives us a lot of food for thought but I hope we all look at the ACTION that must now follow.