



Draft Concept Note

SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) Meeting
at
the margins of the Interregional preparatory meeting for the Mid-Term Review of
the SAMOA Pathway

Monday, 29 October 2018, Apia, Samoa

October 2018

1. Background

The SAMOA Pathway, paragraph 120, mandates the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) to ensure the mainstreaming of SAMOA Pathway and issues related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the United Nations (UN) system and enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels.

In implementing this mandate, OHRLLS convened a workshop on ‘Enhancing the Coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes post SAMOA Pathway and in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development’ to brainstorm and agree on ways and means to advance coherence and synergies in the implementation and follow up of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. Attended by representatives from member states, UN and other regional and international institutions as well as other major stakeholders, the workshop recommended, among other things, the establishment of SIDS national focal points (NFPs). The workshop also took note of OHRLLS’ experience in supporting the work on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) national focal points and suggested that this network could serve as a good template for SIDS going forward. The same recommendation also found resonance in the Joint Inspection Unit’s report (JIU/REP/2016/3), which called for a similar arrangement for SIDS. Building on this recommendation, the internal audit (Report 2017/093) in 2017 September on the management of OHRLLS by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) requested that OHRLLS develop, by 30 June 2018, an action plan for the creation of a network of SIDS national points.

The action plan has laid out key steps that informed the establishment and full operationalization of the network of SIDS national focal points, which included: the formation of the network, its operationalization, and the mobilization of the resources needed for the funding of its activities. As part of the operationalization of SIDS NFPs, the action plan also identifies SIDS National focal points meetings and including their participation in other regional and global SIDS-related events. This includes annual meetings of the SIDS National focal points, to be held in the margins of international or regional meetings that are closely linked to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

It is in this context that the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) is convening the first SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) meeting on 29 October 2018, in Apia, Samoa. The inaugural meeting is convened in the margins of the Interregional preparatory meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway providing national focal points with the opportunity to participate in the Interregional Preparatory Meeting of the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway, thus increasing participation of SIDS representatives in the SAMOA Pathway Mid-term review process while offering a unique opportunity to: i) share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the SAMOA pathway and SDGs into national development processes as well their implementation and follow up, ii) network, and iii) better understand existing means of implementation, including viable financing and business models.

2. Aims and Objectives

The National focal point inaugural meeting will launch the network of SIDS national focal point to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, by providing a vital link between the global level and the national level facilitating coordination, information sharing and planning on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The designated focal point could be a person from the ministry of planning, foreign affairs, environment or other, that is coordinating the national implementation of SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.

The objectives of the National focal point inaugural meeting are to:

- Launch the network of SIDS national focal points and discuss how to strengthen the role of National Focal Points. As this meeting of the focal points will be the first of its kind to be held, NFPs will be invited to share views on how to strengthen the role of National Focal Points to enhance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, including developing a preliminary work plan and how to establish effective coordination mechanisms among respective capitals, SIDS missions in New York and UN-OHRLLS. Their views and feedback will help UN-OHRLLS provide more targeted substantive support to member countries in implementing SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.
- Share experiences on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway within the context of Midterm review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and Sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Discuss the statistical capacity and data issues as a critical capacity constraint in SIDS in the monitoring and review of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 agenda. A thematic session will be devoted to data challenges related to the review and monitoring of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants will discuss ways to address this critical capacity constraint of SIDS in data collection and utilization for evidence-based policy making.

3. Participation

The meeting will be attended by government designated National Focal Points of SIDS, including associate members of SIDS. Relevant UN agencies including UNDP and DESA, regional commissions including ESCAP and ECLAC, Development partners as well as the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21) will also be invited to attend. Key points from participants in this meeting could feed into the interregional meeting.



Draft Programme

SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) Inaugural Meeting at the margins of the Interregional preparatory meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway

29 October 2018, Apia, Samoa

Draft Programme	
08:00 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 09:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS) · DESA (tbc) · H.E. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Representative of Maldives and Chair of AOSIS · Representative from a development partner (donor country - Italy) · High Level Representative from Host Country
9:00-10:30	<i>Interactive discussion on strengthening the role of NFPs to enhance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda, and preliminary workplan</i> <p>Keynote presentation: <i>OHRLLS representative</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of SIDS national focal points: Origin and envisaged role in the context of implementing the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - OHRLLS - Interactive discussion and preliminary workplan
10:30: 10:45	Coffee/Tea Break
10:45 -13:00	<i>Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway within the context of the 2030 Agenda – lessons learnt and best practices</i> <p>Moderator: UNDP RR (tbc)</p> <p>Keynote Presentations (tbc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AIMS region: Mauritius - Pacific region: Tonga

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caribbean region: Belize - Interactive discussion - Resource persons: UNDP, ESCAP, ECLAC (tbc)
<i>13:00-14:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>14:00 - 15:15</i>	<p><i>Monitoring the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs: A focus on data challenges in SIDS</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Representative of National Statistical Office Samoa (tbc)</i></p> <p>Keynote Presentations (tbc):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PARIS 21 (tbc) - UN-Statistics Division
<i>15:15 - 15:30</i>	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>
<i>15:30 - 16:45</i>	<p><i>Monitoring the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs: A focus on data challenges in SIDS (continued)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Presentations (tbc) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Singapore o Jamaica o Kiribati - Interactive discussion - Resource persons: SPC, CARICOM (tbc)
<i>16:45-17:00</i>	<p><i>Concluding remarks</i></p> <p>UNDP RR & Representative of National Statistical Office Samoa</p> <p>Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (OHRLLS)</p>