Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
National Focal Points (NFPs) Inaugural Meeting

Strengthening the role of NFPs to enhance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda, and preliminary workplan

29 October 2018
Upolu Room, STCC
Apia, Samoa

Tishka Francis, Head of SIDS unit
Office of the High-Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
GA Resolution A/RES/69/15, 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, and continue to mobilize international support and resources to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway by small island developing States”.
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The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) requests OHRLLS to develop, by 30 June 2018, an action plan for the creation of a network of SIDS national points for submission to the Alliance of Small Island States for consideration

Inaugural meeting of the SIDS national focal points in Apia, Samoa

EGM on Enhancing the Coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes post SAMOA Pathway and in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, 20-21 Nov 2015 recommends NFPS

OHRLLS sends letters to SIDS requesting Members to nominate their national focal points

Action Plan for Creation of a network of SIDS NFPs Submitted to OIOS

June 2018

July 2018

August 2018

Govt. of Italy pledges financial support for the SIDS national focal point meeting

29 October 2018

20-21 November 2015

2014

2015

2017

2018

2019
The recommendation to establish SIDS national focal points found resonance in a JIU report (JIU/REP/2016/3): The report stated that:

“Lessons learned from OHRLLS experience with the LDC special category and the related network of focal points could be used as a good practices base on which to build.”
EGM brought together 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:

• underscored the need to strengthen linkages between the processes at the global, regional, and national levels

• discussed the role of national focal points in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway on the ground

• underscored the benefits of having SIDS focal points at the national level with direct linkages to the global processes using the LDC NFPs as a model
(iv) With SIDS issues having evolved into a complex and comprehensive development agenda for the UN, the meeting noted that there is a need for a strengthened mechanism for enhanced coordination and coherence. This:

- Promotes cooperation, coordination and integrated approach,
- Avoids duplication
- Increases efficiency,
- Common targets,
- Encourages joint programing,
- Promotes alignment
- Enhances monitoring, evaluation and follow-up,
- Reduces reporting burden at SIDS national level
Internal audit (Report 2017/093) on the management of OHRLLS by OIOS identified/recommended:

- “the lack of the SIDS focal points network could limit the linkages and coherence to ensure the mainstreaming of the SAMOA pathway”;

- “OHRLLS should, in collaboration with its partners, develop an action plan for the creation of the network of national focal points”.
Action plan laid out the key steps to establish and full operationalization of the network of SIDS national focal points:

1. Formation of SIDS National focal points
2. Operationalization of SIDS National focal points
3. Resource mobilization
Formation of SIDS national focal points network

• Targeted 38 SIDS member states, through official letters and ongoing advocacy activities including bilateral meetings with SIDS representatives

• Total of 26 member states have NFPs nominated to date
Operationalization of SIDS NFP network

The action plan identifies three principal activities:

(1) SIDS National focal points meetings and their participation in other regional and global SIDS-related events;
(2) National coordination on the SAMOA and SDG-related matters and;
(3) SIDS specific analysis and information
The programme of work of the SIDS national focal points will require mobilizing meaningful extra-budgetary resources.

Indispensable, especially in the context of declining or, at best, stagnant regular-budget resources.

Guided by its resource mobilization strategy, OHRLLS will deploy well-coordinated and coherent efforts to solicit, acquire, utilize as well as report and monitor extra-budgetary resources devoted to the activities of SIDS national focal points.
Way Forward

Some key questions for discussion:

• How to strengthen the role of NFPs to enhance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda?
  i. What role could SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) play in ensuring the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels?
  ii. How to empower SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) to effectively carry out their role?

• What could be the short and/or long-term plans for the network of SIDS national focal points?
Thank you!