



## **SUMMARY REPORT**

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

**9 – 10 April 2018**

**Glen Cove, New York**

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Summary of Meeting .....	3
A. Opening Session.....	3
B. Session I: Supporting sustainable development of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.....	5
C. Session II: UN system support to SIDS in the context of the repositioning of the UN development system.....	6
D. Session III: Preparations for the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway .....	8
Next Steps Forward and Key Messages.....	10
Summary of key messages:.....	11
Annex II: List of participants.....	17

## Introduction

UN-OHRLLS convened a consultative meeting of SIDS and their development partners on accelerating the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway at the national, regional and global levels.

The General Assembly through its resolution (A/71/225) decided to convene a one-day high-level review (in September 2019), to assess the progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The resolution also called upon UN-OHRLLS, UNDESA and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and existing resources, to organise, regional preparatory meetings of SIDS in their respective regions, as well as an interregional meeting for all SIDS in 2018.

In light of the above, the main objective of the Consultative Meeting was to encourage informal exchange of views on key accomplishments and critical constraints in implementing the SAMOA Pathway, in the context of the upcoming regional preparatory meetings, the inter-regional meeting and the one-day high-level mid-term review in September 2019.

The discussions of the meeting also informed on how the UN system can best support the efforts of the Small Island Developing States, including in the context of the on-going United Nations Sustainable Development Reform process.

The Consultative Meeting brought together 60 participants comprised of Permanent Representatives of SIDS and their development partners and representatives from the UN system. The event was comprised of a working dinner on Monday, 9 April, and a full day of thematic working sessions on Tuesday, 10 April, including presentations on specific topics followed by interactive debates.

## Summary of Meeting

### A. Opening Session

The opening session featured remarks from the following speakers: Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, USG and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ali Naseer Mohammed, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations and Chair of AOSIS and H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations.

In her welcoming remarks, Ms. ‘Utoikamanu emphasized that the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, which is to take place in 2019, is a major opportunity to assess progress in meeting the commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS. She added that the Consultative Meeting would provide an opportunity to set the stage for these preparatory meetings that would begin in May. Ms. ‘Utoikamanu reflected on the key challenges facing SIDS, noting that SIDS are at the frontline of the impacts from climate change. She underscored

that the MTR provides an opportunity to set priorities for concrete action over the next five years of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. She noted the efforts of OHRLLS to strengthen coordination in the implementation processes and noted the establishment of a SIDS National Focal point mechanism and called for stronger coordination of SIDS related activities within the UN system. She further added that the repositioning of the UN development system must adequately respond to the special needs of SIDS.

The Permanent Representative of Maldives, H.E. Mr. Ali Naseer Mohammed, in his role as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), delivered remarks, highlighting that the purpose of the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway is to assess progress and help move implementation forward. He underscored the need to see on-the-ground improvements, including in the areas of capacity building, data collection and analysis, as well as genuine and durable partnerships. On the repositioning of the UN development system, Mr. Mohammed reiterated the importance of taking into consideration the voices of SIDS, as a vulnerable group of countries and as programme countries. He stressed that the UN development system's ability to deliver services on the ground to enhance capacity to achieve the 2030 Agenda is of primary importance to SIDS.

The Permanent Representative of Denmark, H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen gave remarks and, in his role as Co-Facilitator of the informal consultations on the repositioning of the UN development system, provided an overview of the status of the process. Mr. Petersen noted that the consultations were at a critical stage, and urged the SIDS to continue to be a strong voice, to produce an outcome that would be beneficial to these countries.

Ms. Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, in her address, emphasized the link between implementing the SAMOA Pathway and the repositioning of the UN development system to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in SIDS. She underscored the progress made by SIDS to adapt the SDG targets to national circumstances and priorities, and to incorporate them in their development plans and policies. She underscored sustainable tourism as a high-impact sector with the potential to advance all SDGs. She noted that as SIDS graduate from concessional financing windows, a notable risk has been the loss of access to sufficient and affordable long-term financing for SDG investments. Ms Mohammed outlined a package of proposals put forward by the Secretary-General in his December report, which she believes would be a game changer for SIDS. She further noted that a “new generation of UN country teams”, led by empowered and impartial Resident Coordinators, will ensure a presence, skillsets and resources tailored to the specific needs of each country's development priorities. She added that the Secretary-General has put forward a request for assessed funding from the regular budget to ensure predictable and adequate funding to the Resident Coordinator system. Ms. Mohammed noted that in the particular case of SIDS, the reform would be used as an opportunity to engage in a deep review of Multi-Country Offices, and that the review would be launched upon a decision by Member States on the proposed reform package. She stressed that UN development system must be fit for purpose – equipped to better meet the needs of SIDS.

## B. Session I: Supporting sustainable development of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs

The first session was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia, the Permanent Representative of Samoa, and H.E. Ms. Sheila Carey, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas. The USG, Ms. ‘Utoikamanu provided opening remarks which was followed by a presentation by the Chief of the SIDS Unit, DESA, Mr. Sai Navoti on the status of reporting and assessing implementation of the SAMOA Pathway to date.

Key highlights from this session include the emphasis on the need to improve reporting on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway; the resource requirements arising from the expanded mandates for DESA and OHRLLS; and the need to further strengthen coordination at all levels for effective follow-up and monitoring of the implementation process. The national focal points mechanism initiated by OHRLLS was seen as a positive step towards improved coordination. On means of implementation, it was noted that strengthening the review and monitoring of SIDS partnerships is critical, including those launched during the Ocean Conference and the need for new partnerships to support SIDS in their sustainable development efforts.

Ms. ‘Utoikamanu, USG, OHRLLS provided an overview of the progress and challenges that SIDS face including emerging development challenges across different sectors spanning from health to education, agriculture and infrastructure. She noted that, the UN system must better support SIDS to accelerate the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. She stressed the importance of coherence and coordination to support SIDS and strengthen synergies in the implementation of a host of global agendas from Agenda 2030 to the Paris climate agreement adopted in recent years. She emphasised that means of implementation, including partnerships remain important for SIDS and highlighted activities that UN-OHRLLS has been engaged in to promote the role of the private sector through the SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN).

Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of UNDESA SIDS Unit noted that contributions from member States to the annual SG report on the implementation of SAMOA Pathway were 7, 17 and 1 in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively with the top five themes being, economic growth and decent work, climate change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction and oceans and seas. Themes with insufficient coverage include sustainable transport and gender equality, water, responsible consumption and production as well as data and statistics among others. On the way forward, a proposal was made to review periodic reporting to alleviate burden on Member States and ensure strategic planning.

Following the presentation, participants joining via teleconference from ESCAP and ECLAC provided regional perspectives on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

Mr. Iosefa Maiava from ESCAP noted that in the Pacific region, the SAMOA Pathway has been integrated with the 2030 Agenda, culminating in the adoption of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. He highlighted that a number of priorities for SIDS including sustainable tourism, sustainable energy, sustainable consumption and water, are currently missing from the formulation in this regional framework and stressed that the MTR provides an opportunity to address linkages to sustainable development in the region. He also stressed

that the alignment of SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway should not lose sight of SIDS specific issues and the SAMOA Pathway should not be re-prioritized in the integration process.

Ms. Artie Dubrie from ECLAC, reported on the work of the Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee, and noted that the next meeting will take place on April 26 to 27 in Saint Lucia. She also commented on the voluntary reporting process proposed earlier and noted that reporting every two-years is not ideal and may result in knowledge gaps. She further stressed that there is a lack of awareness on the linkage between SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs, and that going forward, it is important to ensure a special focus on SIDS is not lost while moving the global discussion towards integration of the two agendas.

### **Interactive discussion**

During the interactive discussion, delegates noted the merits of aligning the reporting of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda but at the same time emphasised the importance that visibility of the SAMOA Pathway is not lost in the process. It was further noted that the SAMOA Pathway is a political commitment while the SDGs are underpinned by targets and indicators, which is lacking in the SAMOA Pathway and therefore, the processes for reporting are different. A greater role for UN Country Offices working together with governments to improve quality of reporting was also noted. A peer reviewing process for reporting at the regional level was suggested.

The discussion also noted the increased workload of both OHRLLS and DESA SIDS unit resulting from the additional mandates from SAMOA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships, and the subsequent need for increased resources to continue to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support to strengthen the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS.

It was noted that the vulnerabilities facing SIDS, such as impacts of climate change and issues of global health, require urgent attention. It was noted that the general decline in ODA has contributed to increasing the vulnerabilities of SIDS by not adequately addressing the implementation gaps for fighting climate change adaptation and mitigation.

On the issue of graduation, it was noted that graduation from the LDC category must be seen as a positive and the need for smooth transition measures was highlighted. A case in point was made for one of the SIDS where GDP growth was at 6 per cent at the time of graduation but then declined to 1.3 per cent, owing to reductions in development assistance and exacerbated by the global financial crisis. On resource mobilisation, delegates noted foreign direct investment as a significant source of financing and remains a challenge for SIDS owing to their small market size.

## **C. Session II: UN system support to SIDS in the context of the repositioning of the UN development system**

The second session was co-chaired by H.E. Mr. Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of Singapore and H.E. Mr. Craig Hawke, Permanent Representative of New Zealand. The session was informed by presentations from Ms. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, Deputy Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and Mr. Deodat Maharaj, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Senior Advisor for the Caribbean, UNDP.

Ms. Turkoz-Cosslett, Deputy Director, UNDP, provided an overview of the United Nations Development System Reform process and how the current United Nations architecture is positioned to provide support required by SIDS. She stressed the importance of ensuring that any new configuration of the United Nations Development System provides more access to the assets and services of the UN system for countries, including SIDS. She noted that the United Nations Secretary General's country level proposals seek to strengthen coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations Development System, including through a renewed UNDAF and a new approach to country presence and with national governments a leading role. She also recognised the importance of a reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, and that reform design must take into account the challenges of Multi-Country Offices. Ms. Turkoz-Cosslett also gave an overview of how UNDP is helping SIDS implement the SAMOA Pathway, including in the areas of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work, sustainable tourism, climate change, disaster risk reduction, sustainable energy, and oceans.

Mr. Maharaj presented on UNDP's work on resilience building in the Caribbean. He provided an overview of the response of UNDP in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, including the provision of support for the immediate response and ensuing recovery efforts. Additionally, he noted that UNDP with its development partners, the EU and World Bank, undertook the Post Disaster Needs Assessments, which provided a foundation for international financial and technical support to help these countries not only recover but to build climate resilience. Mr. Maharaj noted the key role of UNDP in the CARICOM-UN High Level Pledging Conference, acting as "connector/integrator", to provide a platform in bringing partners to respond to enormous financing needs of the affected countries and territories, which are also largely ineligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA). He noted that going forward, partnerships are key, and that UNDP is committed to continue working with the UN System and development partners, to help build resilience in SIDS and support their efforts in reaching the SDGs.

### **Interactive Discussion**

In the interactive discussion, delegates noted that SIDS have the opportunity to shape the discussions on the repositioning of the UN development system, and take advantage of the reform process to better meet the needs of SIDS.

The importance of the review of Multi-Country Offices for SIDS was highlighted. Delegates stressed the need to consider how best MCOs could be structured, in order that they are better able to respond to and mobilise resources to address the challenges of SIDS, and build their

resilience. Delegates noted the importance of adequate funding for Multi-Country Offices and UNDAFs, including in the Pacific, where many of the islands are remote, which poses challenges with respect to access. The need to highlight the challenges of AIMS countries in the context of missing a regional coordination body/mechanism was also emphasized.

Delegates also emphasised the need for a reinvigorated Resident Coordinator system, where RCs appointed to SIDS countries would have the necessary training in and exposure to issues critical to those countries. It was noted that each country should have enhanced access to the RCs, and that the RCs need to be aware of the specificities of the different countries they service, and their different levels of development. The role of RCs to bring expertise and policy support from across the UN and around the world was also highlighted.

On the Funding Compact between Member States and the UN development system, delegates noted the importance of producing results to justify any increases in assessed contributions.

Delegates also noted that it is critical for OHRLLS and DESA to advocate for SIDS issues within the UNDG, with all UN agencies working toward the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.

#### D. Session III: Preparations for the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway

The third session was Co-Chaired by the Permanent Representative of Belize, H.E. Ms. Lois M. Young and USG and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, Ms. ‘Utoikamanu. An overview of the General Assembly’s mandate (A/RES/72/217) for the MTR process was provided. Special emphasis was given to the importance of good reporting and the need to facilitate a consistent approach to reporting across the regions to ensure that the preparatory MTR process achieves a concise outcome.

This session provided information on the timeline for the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings for the MTR process, as well as details related to the regional and national reporting procedures, dates, locations and the division of labour between UN-OHRLLS and UN-DESA, in leading the organisations for the four meetings. Funding and short timeline challenges for the MTR preparatory processes were emphasized.

Ms. Tishka Francis noted that the UN-OHRLLS and UN-DESA SIDS Units are working closely together with the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG) for SIDS for the preparatory processes leading up to the MTR. She further noted UN-OHRLLS will take the lead in the preparations of the AIMS Regional Meeting in Mauritius from 23-25 May, which will occur back-to-back with the SIDS Global Business Network meeting in Mauritius from 21-22 May, and then followed by the Pacific Regional Meeting to be held in Tonga from 19-21 June. She further explained that UN-DESA will lead the preparations for the Caribbean Regional Meeting to be held in Belize from 7-9 August, as well as the Inter-Regional Meeting in Samoa in late October.

Ms. Francis drew attention to hard copies of the national reporting template available at the meeting for countries to use when developing their national inputs and noted that electronic

copies will be circulated via email later in the day. It was further clarified that separate from the country specific reports, regional reports will be produced for each region, prior to their respective regional meeting. Ms. Francis further noted that ESCAP, ECLAC and the UNDP SIDS Focal Point in New York in coordination with UN Country Teams will produce the regional reports for the Pacific the Caribbean, and the AIMS, respectively. Ms. Francis also highlighted the importance of a standardized approach to reporting across regions.

Mr. Sai Navoti indicated a major challenge facing the MTR process is lack of funding as the estimated budget needed for the two-year period is currently \$1.8 million USD, to facilitate the three preparatory regional meetings and the inter-regional meeting. Mr. Navoti acknowledged and thanked Norway for their recent pledge of \$1 million USD. He underlined the challenges faced by UN-DESA and UN-OHRLLS to raising money while concurrently organizing and facilitating the respective regional and inter-regional meetings. Mr. Navoti further noted that participation in the upcoming meetings are intended to include two representatives from each SIDS, one from the SIDS Permanent Missions in New York and one from capital.

Mr. Navoti further clarified that the recently shared template is to be used as a guide by individual countries to produce a report that they can then bring to their respective regional meeting. The regional commissions and UNDP, in the case of the AIMS region as previously mentioned, will aim to produce and distribute the regional report one month prior to the regional meeting. The regional meetings will provide SIDS with an opportunity to put forward their own national reports, which will then feed into the regional report and the regional outcome. It was further noted these reports are different from the national voluntary reviews and the annual reporting procedure to the SG.

### **Interactive Discussion**

During the interactive discussions, participants sought further clarification on the national and regional reporting process leading up to the MTR regional preparatory meetings. Participants suggested that UN-OHRLLS and UN-DESA draft a joint letter to Member States to request the above-mentioned regional commissions and UNDP, to produce the draft regional reports and that this would be of use to countries when their capitals receive requests from a regional commission for contributions.

Mr. Navoti clarified that such a joint letter has already been drafted and signed and will soon be sent out to countries through the Chair of AOSIS. Ms. Francis stressed that the UN-DESA SIDS unit and UN-OHRLLS are working with one another and highlighted the lead role that focal points will play in coordinating country reporting.

Also proposed by participants during the discussion was a recommendation for a UNDP focal point in New York to work with the PRs of the SIDS missions, in preparation for the AIMS regional report.

Participants provided comments on the circulated template for national reporting and in particular its focus on best practices and progress, and noted the need to further strengthen its focus on identifying gaps. There was a suggestion to highlight common challenges experienced

by SIDS to achieve the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway, and to include overlapping UN processes, such as on migration and climate change, in the MTR processes to aid SIDS to achieve the SDGs.

## Next Steps Forward and Key Messages

The co-chairs summarised the sessions and highlighted the key messages from the discussions:

**Session 1:** Emphasis on the importance to focus on solutions rather than challenges was highlighted, as well as sharing of information, best practices and lessons learnt with a view to scaling up solutions that have proven successful to accelerate implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS. The session underscored the need to strengthen monitoring, progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments and partnerships. It was further noted that reporting by member States on the progress in implementation is vital and timely submission of inputs, including to the preparation of the Secretary General's report was underscored. Furthermore, the discussion highlighted that the mandates of OHRLLS and UNDESA have expanded over the past few years, as a result of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS. In this context, the participants recognised that commensurate increase in resources are needed for both Offices to continue to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support to strengthen the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS.

**Session 2:** There is a need to improve coordination for SIDS on the different working levels, as well as improved coherence to remain focused on national priorities. A one size fits all message is not appropriate for SIDS and there is a need for increased resources to fund the RC system, MCOs and single-country offices, to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Other issues that need to be addressed in the UNDS reform process are vulnerability and eligibility criteria around Disaster Risk Reduction and increased resilience for SIDS;

**Session 3:** The upcoming schedule of regional and inter-regional meetings were reviewed, as well as the MTR in Sept. 2019. Funding issues were highlighted in terms of resources that have been mobilized and additional resources that are still needed. Finally, it was shared that the Secretariat will ask regional commissions and UNDP for AIMS, to prepare the regional reports through a formal letter from the chair of AOSIS – that identifies progress as well as gaps, and includes parallel issues such as migration and climate change.

Participants noted that SIDS needed to exercise leadership in the UN development System reform process, in order that SIDS needs are prioritized. Participants also suggested a structured approach to the establishment of the SIDS national focal point mechanism that could possibly include training and capacity building. It was stressed that peer reviews, that highlight successes in pursuit of the SAMOA Pathway, as well as next steps and action points deserve special consideration.

Ambassador Mohammed provided an overview of the discussions from the three sessions and highlighted the need to increase Funding for Development for SIDS, and acknowledged that

USG ‘Utoikamanu has engaged on this with other multilaterals including the World Bank and encouraged further collaborative efforts on Financing for Development for SIDS.

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu in her closing remarks underscored that much progress has been made by SIDS in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and many opportunities remain to accelerate progress. She noted the importance of identifying lessons learned and best practices, and to prioritise areas for action over the remaining five years. . She underscored the specific needs of the SIDS, and how they can be better addressed through the on going repositioning of the UN Development System. She called to step-up efforts to strengthen linkages between the national, regional and international processes in respect of the Mid Term Review and opportunities for contribution and engagement of SIDS focal points towards these goals.

### Summary of key messages:

- Underscored the progress made by SIDS to adapt the SDG targets to national circumstances and priorities and to incorporate them in their development plans and policies.
- The Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, which is to take place in 2019, is a major opportunity to assess progress in meeting the commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS and prioritise areas for action over the next five years. The regional preparatory meetings, for the AIMS region in Mauritius from 21-22 May, the Pacific region in Tonga from 19-21 June, the Caribbean region in Belize from 7 to 9 August and the inter-regional meeting in Samoa at the end of October, provides the platform for SIDS to report their progress and deliberate on common challenges and priorities to be reflected in the outcome from the one-day high level review which will take place in September 2019.
- The regional preparatory meetings for the MTR of the SAMOA Pathway must aim to adopt a consistent approach to the outcome documents from the three regions. To this end, Member states should use the reporting template circulated in preparation for the regional preparatory meetings that can then feed into the respective regional reports and outcomes as well as the inter-regional meeting outcome.
- The repositioning of the UN Development System provides an invaluable opportunity to better address the needs of SIDS through a thorough review of the Multi-Country Offices and the RCs system and ensure the UN development system is fit for purpose, and equipped to better meet the needs of SIDS.
- All SIDS that have not already done so are encouraged to submit their recommendations for national focal points to OHRLLS as soon as possible. The national focal points mechanism aims to further strengthen the coordination at the national, regional and global levels, in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs in SIDS.
- On resilience building - a broader approach is needed that takes into account not only the impacts of climate change but also other challenges that SIDS face from NCDs to droughts.

- As SIDS graduate from concessional financing eligibility, a notable risk has been the loss of access to sufficient and affordable long-term financing for SDG investments. Furthermore, finance for resilience building is limited, and there is a critical need to develop innovative approaches to resilience financing for SIDS. .
- Strengthening the review and monitoring of SIDS partnerships remains critical - efforts must be stepped up to strengthen accountability of SIDS partnerships, including those launched during the Ocean Conference and to forge new partnerships to support SIDS in their sustainable development efforts.
- On reporting, it is clear that there is room to improve the quality of the SG reports on implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Reporting by member States on the progress in implementation is vital and timely submission of inputs, including to the preparation of the Secretary General's report.
- There are merits to a more integrated reporting process for Samoa Pathway and the SDGs, however, the focus on SAMOA Pathway must align with reporting processes, as the SAMOA Pathway provides the international framework for addressing the unique challenges facing SIDS.
- Mandates given to OHRLLS and UNDESA have expanded over the past few years, resulting from the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and the work of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS. Commensurate increase in resources are needed for both Offices, to continue to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support to strengthen the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS.
- UN-DESA and UN-OHRLLS will send a joint letter to all SIDS Missions through the AOSIS Chair, informing that the Regional Commissions have been tasked with assisting countries with their national and regional reports in the case of Caribbean and the Pacific, and the UNDP in the case of AIMS. The template for these reports, which were prepared by UN-DESA and UN-OHRLLS, in collaboration with the UN system and relevant regional agencies, was endorsed by the Consultative Meeting.

## Annex 1: Programme



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

**9-10 April 2018**

*Glen Cove, New York*

**Draft Programme**

#### **Monday, 9 April**

**17.30**            **Departure from UNHQ / New York City**

**20.00**            **Dinner with welcoming remarks by:**

- Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, USG and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- H.E. Mr. Ali Naseer Mohammed, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations and Chair of AOSIS
- H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations
- Ms. Amina Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General

#### **Tuesday, 10 April**

**9.00 – 10.45**    **Session 1: Supporting sustainable development of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs: progress in implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and socio-economic trends in SIDS**

*In 2014, the international community adopted the SAMOA Pathway to advance the sustainable development of small island developing states. In 2015, adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development further reaffirmed SIDS as a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. The upcoming Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway in 2019, including the preparatory regional meetings of SIDS in their respective regions, as well as an inter-regional meeting for all SIDS, provides an opportunity to evaluate progress in fulfilling commitments made by the SIDS and their development partners, to identify challenges, lessons learnt and best practices and to propose*

*recommendations for the remaining five years.*

*This session will provide an overview of the experiences of countries in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and their efforts to promote synergies with the SDGs. It will also identify some of the key challenges to assessing progress in implementation and how the preparatory regional meetings can contribute to identify drivers that accelerate progress across national development goals in alignment with the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs. The session will also provide for an exchange of ideas on how governments and the UN system can work together to best support in the preparatory work and analysis leading up to the regional meetings as well as the inter-regional meeting taking place this year.*

**Guiding questions:**

1. What are some of the main achievements at the national level with respect to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway? What are some of the challenges faced? Are there emerging issues that have not been adequately considered or addressed in the sustainable development policy dialogue?
2. What has been the experience in reviewing progress towards the SAMOA Pathway, including with respect to reporting and analysis of implementation? What are the most critical gaps in capacities? Are there examples of initiatives that helped bridge those gaps?
3. What has worked at the national level to improve policy coherence and coordination in support of the integrated implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs and national development plans and policies? Have national mechanisms also incorporated the implementation of other important agreements including the Sendai Framework, Climate Change Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the outcome of the Oceans Conference?
4. How can national, regional and global institutions better coordinate and collaborate to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs in SIDS? Are there lessons from the VNR process?
5. How can the Mid-Term Review process concretely address these issues, particularly in light of the need for the integrated coherent implementation of the broader sustainable development agenda? In addition to the Mid-Term Review process, in what other key meetings this year could SIDS advance their agenda?

*Co-Chairs:* Permanent Representative of Samoa & Permanent Representative of The Bahamas

*Remarks by* USG and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

*Speaker:* Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of SIDS Unit, UNDESA

*Discussants:* Artie Dubrie, ECLAC; Iosefa Maiava, ESCAP (via Skype)

*Interactive discussion*

## **10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break**

## **11:00 – 12.45 Session 2: UN system support to SIDS in the context of the repositioning of the UN development system**

*Realising the objectives of the SAMOA Pathway and achieving the SDGs will require enhanced support from the UN system. This session will provide for an exchange of ideas on the specific needs of the SIDS, and how the current UN architecture is positioned to provide the support required. Furthermore, in light of the United Nations Development System reform process, which is currently underway, this session will look at how the priorities of SIDS can be addressed through the transformation of the UN development system.*

### **Guiding questions:**

1. How will the UN development system reform address the SAMOA Pathway, and how will the entities and system as a whole respond to the specific challenges of SIDS? How do we ensure that SIDS issues will be mainstreamed in a coherent manner across the UN development system in this context?
2. The issue of multi-country offices is an important one for SIDS, how can the reform enhance substantive support to development challenges of SIDS, and ensure multi-country offices are a cost-effective alternative to full UN presence in each country?

*Co-Chair:* Permanent Representative of Singapore and Permanent Representative of New Zealand

*Speakers:* Ms. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett, Deputy Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy, UNDP  
Mr. Deodat Maharaj – Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Senior Advisor for the Caribbean, UNDP

*Interactive discussion*

## **12.45 – 14.00 Lunch**

## **14.00 – 15.30 Session 3: Preparations for the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway**

*This session will provide for an exchange of ideas on the substantive and organisational preparations for the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, particularly as it regards the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings.*

### **Guiding questions:**

1. What are some of the challenges in preparing national reports for the Mid-Term Review? How can the Regional Commissions and UNDP better assist in this process? Which issues could be addressed in the context of the Inter Agency Consultative Group on SIDS?
2. How can the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings be formatted, in order to ensure ambitious and concrete outcomes for the Mid-Term Review?
3. How can the SIDS focal point mechanism contribute to the strengthening of linkages between the national, regional, and international processes in respect of the Mid Term Review?

*Co-Chairs:* Permanent Representative of Belize and USG and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

*Speakers:* Ms. Tishka Francis, UNOHRLLS  
Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of SIDS Unit, UNDESA

*Interactive discussion*

### **15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break**

### **15.45 – 16:45 Way forward**

*This session will put forward a roadmap for the 2018 preparatory processes for the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review and synthesise key messages of SIDS on reforms to the UN development system. It will identify priority areas of support and collaboration, including in the context of preparations for major UN Conferences and meetings that are of relevance to SIDS.*

*Co-Chairs:* Permanent Representative of Maldives & USG and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

*Speakers:* Chairs from the previous sessions  
Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of SIDS Unit, UNDESA

*Interactive discussion*

### **16: 45 – 17:00 Closing remarks**

- Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, USG and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS
- Maldives, Chair of AOSIS Group

**17.00 Departure to New York City**

## Annex II: List of participants

	Entity	Name	Title
<b>SIDS Member States</b>			
1	Antigua & Barbuda	Mr. Walton A. Webson	PR
2	Bahamas	Ms. Sheila Carey	PR
3	Barbados	Ms. Juliette Babb Riley	Chargé D'Affaires a.i.
4	Belize	Ms. Lois M. Young	Ambassador/PR
5	Cabo Verde	Mr. Jose Luis Rocha	Ambassador/PR
6	Comoros	Mr. Abdallah Ahmed	Ambassador/DPR
7	Cuba	Ms. Ana Rodriguez Abascal	Ambassador/DPR
8	Curaçao	Ms. Darryllin Van der Veen	Directorate of Foreign Relations
9	Dominica	Ms. Barbara Dailey	DPR
10	Fiji	Mr. Luke Daunivalu	Ambassador/DPR
11	Grenada	Ms. Keisha McGuire	Ambassador/PR
12	Guinea-Bissau	Ms. Maria Antonieta Pinto Lopes D'Alva	Counsellor / SIDS Focal Point at the Mission
13	Guyana	Mr. Rudolph M. Ten-Pow	Ambassador/PR
14	Kiribati	Mr. Teburoro Tito	Ambassador/PR
15	Maldives	Mr. Ali Naseer Mohamed	Ambassador/PR
16	Marshall Islands	Ms. Amatlain Kabua	Ambassador/PR
17	Mauritius	Mr. Mahammed Soomaaroo	DPR
18	Micronesia	Ms. Jane J. Chigiyal	PR
19	Nauru	Ms. Enola-Gaye Edward	Second Secretary
20	Palau	Ms. Ngedikes Uludong	PR
21	Papua New Guinea	Mr. Fred Sarufa	Minister/Dept. PR
22	Saint Lucia	Mr. Cosmos D. Richardson	Ambassador/PR
23	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	Ms. Inga R. King	PR
24	Samoa	Mr. Aliioaiga Elisaia	Ambassador/PR
25	Seychelles	Mr. Ronald Jumeau	Ambassador/PR
26	Singapore	Mr. Burhan Gafoor	Ambassador/PR
27	Solomon Islands	Ms. Janice Mose	Dept. Perm. Rep./Minister Counsellor
28	St. Kitts & Nevis	Mr. Sam Condor	Ambassador
29	Timor-Leste	Mr. Julio Da Costa Freitas	Chargé D'Affaires a.i.
30	Timor-Leste	Mr. Leoneto Mantilo	Second Secretary
31	Tonga	Mr. Mahe Tupouniua	Ambassador/PR
32	Tuvalu	Mr. Samuelu Laloni	Ambassador/PR
33	Vanuatu	Mr. Odo Tevi	Ambassador
<b>Other Member States</b>			
34	Australia	Ms. Gillian E. Bird	Ambassador/PR
35	Canada	Mr. Marc-Andre Blanchard	Head of Mission and PR
36	Denmark	Mr. Ib Petersen	Ambassador/PR
37	Denmark	Mr. Andres Christian Nygaard	Policy Adviser

38	Egypt	Mr. Mahmoud Elashmawy	First Secretary
39	EU	Ms. Joanne Adamson	Deputy Head of Delegation/Ambassador
40	Ireland	Mr. Micheal Tierney	Counsellor
41	Italy	Ms. Eugenia Palagi	First Secretary
42	Japan	Mr. Kenichi Sannabe	First Secretary
43	New Zealand	Mr. Craig Hawke	PR
44	Norway	Mr. Tore Hattrem	Ambassador/PR
45	USA	Mr. Ashley Bagwell	Counselor for ECOSOC Affairs
UN System			
46	UN	Ms. Amina Mohamed	Deputy Secretary-General
47	UN	Ms. Leonor Gonzalez Koss	EOSG
48	OHRLLS	Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu	USG
49	OHRLLS	Ms. Tishka Francis	Sustainable Development Officer
50	OHRLLS	Ms. Shifaana Thowfeequ	Programme Management Officer
51	OHRLLS	Mr. Hans Damien Sass	Public Information Officer
52	OHRLLS	Mr. Andrew Lange	Associate Programme Management Officer
53	OHRLLS	Mr. Matthew Cruz	Team Assistant to SIDS
54	OHRLLS	Ms. Julie-Ann Brown	Sr. Staff Assistant / PA to USG/HR
55	SIDS Unit, DSD, UN-DESA	Mr. Sai Navoti	Chief of SIDS Unit
56	SIDS Unit, DSD, UN-DESA	Ms. Eun Hee Lee	Associate Sustainable Development Officer
57	UNDP	Ms. Gulden Turkoz-Cosslett	Deputy Director of the Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy
58	UNDP	Mr. Deodat Maharaj	Sr. Advisor, Caribbean, Regional Bureau For LAC
59	ECLAC	Ms. Artie Dubrie	Regional Network Coordinator (Pacific Island Countries)
60	ESCAP	Mr. Iosefa Maiava	Head of ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre