GUIDANCE FOR SPEAKERS

SIDIS National Focal Points (NFPs) Meeting:
“Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in coherence with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and SDGs”

25 July 2019,
Praia, Cabo Verde

Interactive discussion and adoption of the Terms of Reference for SIDS national focal points (NFPs)

Background

The establishment of the network of SIDS national points is a response to the SAMOA Pathway, paragraph 120, which 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 responding to this mandate, OHRLLS developed an action plan for the creation of a network of SIDS national points. The action plan laid out key steps that informed the establishment and full operationalization of the network of SIDS national focal points, which included.

On 29 October 2018 the inaugural meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points was held in conjunction with the Inter-regional preparatory meeting for the midterm review of the SAMOA Pathway in Apia, Samoa from 30 October to 1 November 2018. OHRLLS committed to prepare and circulate draft Terms of Reference (TORs) of the SIDS National focal points network ahead of the second meeting.

These TORs have been developed to clarify the general roles and responsibilities of SIDS National Focal Points and give guidance as to how they might contribute more effectively to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels.

The TORs for SIDS national focal points (NFPs) aim to formalize the network and its activities, by highlighting the main functions of the SIDS NFPs, the composition of membership and modalities for its operation.
The terms of reference, which have been circulated to the SIDS National Focal Points for inputs, are not meant to be prescriptive. However, they are to offer helpful guidance to National Focal Points to assist them in the important tasks for which they have been appointed.

**Key objectives:**

1) Present for adoption the draft terms of reference for the network of SIDS national focal points to enhance coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global level.

2) Explore challenges and opportunities in implementing the TORs to enhancing coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels.

3) Discuss how best to strengthen the role of NFPs to enhance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda, including capacity building initiatives.

**Structure of the session**

The session will be subdivided into two segments:
- First Segment: OHRLLS led Presentations on the TORs and Partnerships
- Second Segment: Interactive Dialogue and adoption of the TORs

**Guidance for Speakers**

General progression of session:
- The speaker(s) will be introduced by the Moderator at the beginning of the session.
- Speaker(s) are asked to make 10-15-minute presentations.
- Following the presentations, there will be an interactive dialogue with questions from the floor as directed by the Moderator.
- The use of PowerPoint is encouraged.
- Please email copy of the presentation/speaking notes to the session focal point (below) by 22 July 2019 at the latest.

**Guiding Questions**

The points are offered to stimulate your thinking in relation to the session's key objectives and to help your preparations.

1. What are the best examples of how are some of these NFP roles are being discharged in respective countries? Are there specific examples of focal points at country/regional level whose implementation has been most successful or least successful, and can serve as best practice and lessons learnt?

2. How to empower SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) to effectively carry out their role, including targeted capacity building initiatives? What could be the short and/or long-
term plans for the capacititation of the network of SIDS in ensuring coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes?

3. What role can NFPs play to promote partnerships?

**Focal Point**

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