

**Dr Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community**  
**SIDS Plenary Statement**  
**Thursday 4 September 2014**

- Firstly – I wish to congratulate the government and people of Samoa for the vision and determination they have had in guiding this Conference. You have done a tremendous job and we salute you.
- Longest standing Intergovernmental Organisation in the Pacific Region with a membership of 22 Countries and Territories (67 years old)
- Largest technical IGO in the Pacific SIDS region (over 600 staff)
- We cover a broad mandate to support Pacific Island Countries and Territories to implement their priorities from Health (Surveillance and Public Health), Food Security and Land Resources including Agriculture and Forestry, Education Assessment, Culture, Fisheries – Stock assessments and Coastal Management, Infrastructure – transport and energy, Human Development - Youth, Women, Culture, Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Management; Water and Sanitation, Oceanic and Maritime boundary delineation and Statistics for Development.
- SPC therefore plays a very important part in the implementation of relevant priorities for Pacific across the various priority clusters for sustainable development as articulated in the SAMOA Pathway.
- To ensure maximum outcomes for our countries it is essential that all stakeholders supporting our members, do so in the spirit of the SAMOA Pathway –true and durable partnerships, leveraging the capacity and resources we have towards the sustainable development of our SIDS.
- In line with this approach, and utilizing the opportunity of this important SIDS Conference, SPC has facilitated the launch of the **Pacific NCD Partnership**, as one of the many partnerships which we are involved under the SAMOA Pathway, here in Samoa with the support of Pacific Leaders, Ministers of Finance and Health of the region and a number of major development Partners and stakeholders.
- SPC is involved in some 50 plus partnerships registered for the SIDS Conference and it our every intention to ensure these partnerships are true and durable.
- A key element for our region is being able to measure our progress and monitor implementation, SPC has a worked for several years in enhancing national statistical systems and through the National Minimum Development

Indicators database will continue to work with countries to meet these implementation and monitoring commitments.

- The final chapters of SAMOA Pathway calls for special attention to implementation, data and statistics and institutional support for SIDS. SPC will place attention to participate in the Interagency Consultative Group to continue a partnership with the UN System to continue to assess how we are best supporting our PSIDS in implementing the SAMOA Pathway.
- Furthermore, SPC will continue to support these important vehicles for implementation and look forward to actively participating in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and related Post 2015 Development Agenda in support of Pacific SIDS.
- In order to effectively support the various institutional mechanisms, SPC has applied to become a permanent Observer to the United Nations at the General Assembly later this month, to enable us to participate at the various technical committees established under the auspices of the UN.
- It is clear that the global community will leave not just with a good understanding of the challenges and opportunities of SIDS – but also a great appreciation of our unique and distinctively proud Island cultures.
- Finally, I want to reiterate is the need for development players, both Governments and agencies, to become better at viewing development, and development interventions, as a process that happens across sectors. It therefore behoves all actors to develop responses in this manner, and to relate to partners as indispensable resources that are part of the "solution". If we view development in this manner, as we must, then working in partnerships -- the theme of the conference -- is a natural response, as no single institution can do it all. It also means that both governments -- from the top -- and communities -- from the bottom -- must be vigorously involved together.