



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

United Nations Member States

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations,
250 East 51st Street (between Second and Third Avenues)
New York, N.Y. 10022

Phone: +1 (917) 369 - 1025
Fax: +1 (917) 369 - 1024
E-mail: psids.sea@gmail.com

Statement of H.E. Mr. Mahe 'U.S. Tupouniua
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations
Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States
For the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development:
General Debate of the High-level week

New York, Tuesday, 07st July 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) with presence at the United Nations. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Maldives as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and for those of us that are members of the Group of 77 and China, with the statement delivered by South Africa as Chair of that Group. [We thank Under-Secretary-General Mr. Wu Hongbo and Mr. José Antonio Ocampo for their introductions.]
2. Mr. President, we welcome this general debate, and consider the moment timely to speak to our understanding of the role that the HLPF will play in its mandate to follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments.
3. For PSIDS, even as we work to specify and shape the outcomes of the post-2015 Development Agenda, and the third International Conference on Financing for Development, we stress the important commitments already made under the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, and the SAMOA Pathway. We reaffirm the need for the HLPF to dedicate adequate time on issues related to SIDS, which include the outcomes of these conferences as well as all other sustainable development commitments related to SIDS.
4. We welcome last week's session dedicated to follow-up on the SAMOA Pathway. We stress the need for such dedicated spaces for discussion of SIDS issues to move beyond talk into action. In this respect, the Partnerships Framework for SIDS called for in the SAMOA Pathway is key, and we are attuned to the need to create synergies with the HLPF in its formation. The HLPF is an appropriate forum for following up on existing partnerships, and will be an important moment in the creation of new ones.
5. As we continue to shape the follow-up and review mechanism for the post-2015 development agenda, we acknowledge the importance of national ownership and we underscore the need for an efficient, robust, inclusive and transparent follow-up and review process. We see an important role for regional commissions and other regional and sub-regional bodies in this process, as well as targeted thematic reviews of progress where appropriate. And we welcome continued efforts to ensure that the UN system is "fit for purpose" to support States in their efforts to implement the post-2015 development agenda.

6. We also stress the importance of our time here as not merely an opportunity to monitor implementation, but as a dedicated space for proper assessment of progress, achievements, and challenges in seeking concrete and solution-oriented guidance to further implementation. This forum will be key for translating our vision and partnerships into action. We must also maintain keen attention on the need to promote coherence and synergy between distinct processes, with HLPF an important moment for convergence. In so doing, we can additionally limit duplication and reporting burdens on our national administrations.
7. We further stress that the SIDS “special case” extends to limitations in data and statistics collation and analysis and capacity, with small, vulnerable and dispersed populations and small national statistical bureaus common. Global efforts to enhance capacity building support for data and statistics should take into account these challenges, and provide targeted support to SIDS.