

**Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as part
of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework**

Second meeting

20 June 2016, 3pm, Conference room 3

Summary

Mr. Sebastiano Cardi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) said that he is inspired and encouraged to see the progress made under the leadership of the Co-Chairs. He stated that this joint effort is a testimonial to the spirit of the Samoa Conference itself: working together in genuine partnerships. The USG highlighted that the SIDS Action Platform has been updated and that it is important for all stakeholders to stay engaged with this work, to report on partnerships, and to register new partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS. The USG noted that the follow-up of the SAMOA Pathway is also an integral part of the High-level Political Forum, which will address sustainable development of SIDS both in the formal programme, as well as in a number of parallel and side events, including in the Partnership Exchange, to be organized by the Secretariat on 18 July as a special event. Furthermore, in June 2017, the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development, will be held in Fiji, under the leaderships of Fiji and Sweden. Mr. Wu noted that DESA is committed to do its part in supporting the preparation of the Conference and in supporting the continued implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing State (UN-OHRLLS) highlighted that OHRLLS with its mandate of advocacy, conducted various activities for raising awareness that SIDS are special case, and conducted activities with partners both from the UN system as well as with SIDS development partners in the areas of disaster risk reduction and renewable energy, climate change, and ocean conservation, amongst others. Mr. Acharya emphasized the importance of participation of stakeholders including private sector for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway. In this regard, UN-OHRLLS officially launched the Global Business Network online. UN-OHRLLS will continue to promote the SIDS Global Business Network as a platform through which both global and SIDS private sector can enter into partnerships that promote sustainable development in SIDS. A peer-to-peer component for the website allowing

for real time exchanges between SIDS businesses themselves and between SIDS businesses and global business that could lead to strengthened or new partnerships is going to be the next focus.

A video of the SIDS Global Business Network was shown: <https://youtu.be/fj4OsB-tmjo>

Mr. Acharya also highlighted the need to ensure coherence on SIDS issues in UN processes and UN-OHRLLS' role in this endeavor.

Mr. Ola Göransson, Division for Sustainable Development, UN-DESA, made a presentation on the overview of the SIDS Action Platform including the reporting template and the status of registration of partnerships. The Platform includes search and filter functions for finding partnerships, as well as reporting template that requires each partnership to fill-in and submit once a year. Currently, 298 SIDS partnerships are registered on the Platform. Total of 54 partnerships have reported since 2014, out of which 15 partnerships have submitted reports through the template. The detail of the presentation can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21309Presentation%20Second%20Steering%20Committee%20webfile.pdf>

Ambassador Ahmed Sareer, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations, said that operative paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 70/202 which established the SIDS Partnership Framework, requested the Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Committee, to organize on an annual basis, an action-oriented, results-focused, global multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue. This Partnership Dialogue is intended to provide opportunities for reviewing progress made by existing partnerships, including where applicable, inputs from regional and national partnership dialogues, and for the sharing of good practices, lessons learned and challenges and solutions from the SIDS Partnerships. They are also intended to encourage the launch of new Partnerships. The one and half hours allocated to the SIDS Partnership Framework, from 3:30 to 5 pm on 18 July 2016, will take the form of a Partnership Dialogue to review progress on partnerships since the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014. It will be geared towards understanding the challenges, lessons learnt, sharing of best practices from partnerships themselves, with an opportunity to interact and ask questions.

Ambassador Sareer explained that the Co-Chairs intend to hold the first Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue in September 2016, and are exploring possible dates in conjunction with the Secretariat. The Co-Chairs will announce the date as soon as it is finalized. As the meeting in July will focus on existing partnerships, the objective of the September event would be to encourage the launch of new partnerships. The Co-Chair noted that active support is essential in encouraging, and identifying new partnerships to be launched, in line with the sustainable development priorities of SIDS.

Ambassador Sareer also announced that the first publication on Partnerships for SIDS will be launched. This publication will look at existing partnerships for SIDS, and how they are making an impact on the ground and helping to achieve the SAMOA Pathway.

Open discussion

The floor was opened for discussions on the format and organization of the two events coming up this year – the Stocktaking session at the Partnership Exchange during the HLPF, and the Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS partnership Dialogue in September.

Overall, delegations were in favour of organizing the two events. Both events should celebrate the importance of the partnerships for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and showcase the successful stories and share experiences and lessons learnt. Many delegations supported the idea of the interactive panel discussion that provides an opportunity for partnerships to share progress made and lessons learnt. One delegation noted the importance of careful selection of panelists.

On the Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS partnership Dialogue, some delegations said that the date and time of the Dialogue should be considered carefully and announced well in advance to ensure the participation of senior officials from the capitals. Some participants noted that the global dialogue should recognize new partnerships. One delegation said that the dialogue should be more strategic discussions for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Another speaker proposed the possible theme - "leave no one behind". Views from other delegations include the importance of the linkage to the Humanitarian Summit and Sendai Framework, and the crucial role that high-level political sub-regional fora can play in the raising awareness of SIDS partnership dialogue and for sharing experiences amongst SIDS. One participant highlighted the need for bringing various sources of information together and for ensuring coherence amongst activities conducted by UN agencies.

Many delegations expressed their appreciation for the establishment of the online reporting template while the view was also expressed that such online tools can have their limitations as well, particularly for some SIDS. One delegation noted that the reporting process should include perspectives from beneficiaries and suggested the need to identify national SIDS focal points, similar to LDC focal points that could assist with follow up and review of the partnerships and also SAMOA pathway in general.

Closing

Ambassador Sareer closed the meeting by highlighting the need for full support in seeking new partnerships and that detail of the coming events will be communicated shortly.