



**PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**  
**United Nations Member States**

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**Statement of H.E. Mr. Mahe 'U. S. Tupouniua**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga**  
**Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States**  
**For the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda**

**New York, Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015**

*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Co-Facilitators,

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 on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and for those of our Group that are members of the Group of 77 and China, with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of South Africa.

Co-Facilitators,

The development of a set of indicative global indicators, to measure the implementation of targets, is a crucial element of the post-2015 development agenda. PSIDS support the development of a set of indicative global indicators to help measure progress of the implementation of the Agenda at the global level. These global indicators ought to be complimented by a set of national indicators, developed by the Member States themselves, to best track progress of the implementation of national sustainable development strategies that articulate the global agenda at the national level.

Co-Facilitators,

We are grateful for the work of the Statistical Commission in preparing, under a very tight time frame, the proposal on a set of indicators to attach to the SDGs. This document provides a starting point from which to begin our conversation on indicators. However, we do not feel that it is useful at this stage to engage in detail with the substance of this report. Our national statisticians joined in concern about the extremely short time frame given to NSOs to complete the questionnaire sent by UNSD on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015. That is why the PSIDS wrote to the Director of the Statistics Division to request an extension to the deadline provided to allow for sufficient time to respond to this important questionnaire and ensure that the Pacific voice was heard on these critical issue. To do justice to the process, our statisticians need time to consult with colleagues in the various line ministries, to give accurate commentary on the relevance of proposals to national, regional and international concerns. The reaction of our statisticians to this survey provides those of us in New York with a clear reminder that the capacity of national statistical systems absolutely must be taken into account and bolstered if we are to develop and implement a successful set of indicators.

In order to provide a very preliminary response to the questionnaire circulated which now serves as the basis of the report from the Bureau of the UNSC, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community submitted a preliminary response using the data available to this Pacific regional organization while we are consulting with other relevant national bodies regarding the indicators questionnaire. The very initial response already highlights some of the many challenges to this important exercise.

Co-Facilitators,

At this stage we feel it is most useful to discuss the potential shape of an indicative global indicator framework, and the conditions for success that will define the eventual list of indicators.

The indicative global indicators to be developed by the Statistical Commission must be measurable, relevant to the targets to be measured, and limited in number. We emphasize that in constructing the indicator framework, we need to ensure that the indicators are responsive to the elements we have agreed to in the SDGs.

We must also be mindful of the number of indicators. This is of particular importance for small states, and we must take into account lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs and consider the enormous demands on the capacity of national and regional statistical offices. Additionally, indicators should not fall below the levels of ambition set by existing international agreements.

Distribution of indicators among targets must also be balanced, and not leave some targets or goals behind. We are open to different strategies for achieving this aim. We need to ensure that chosen indicators are of relevance to and aligned with national development priorities, and address agreed-upon regional priorities.

Co-Facilitators,

In this session, we must further clarify some questions as to the process for development of indicative global indicators. While we support a technically-driven process, with a central role for the IAEG-SDGs created by the Statistical Commission earlier this month, we need to ensure that we remain informed of its activities in the intergovernmental negotiation. We must also ensure that there is a balance in regional representation and to take into account the serious capacity constraints of SIDS during the discussions of the IAEG-SDGs. We further seek clarity as to the timeline for the development of indicators, in particular as to when there will be indicators to be presented for adoption by Heads of State and Government in 2015.

Co-Facilitators,

The development of an indicator framework is not merely an accessory to the post-2015 Agenda, but integral to its substance. In many ways, the building of national capacities to measure development progress is itself an important sustainable development outcome. One important lesson of the MDG process is that the question of indicators cannot be discussed as separate from the question of statistical capacity. Capacity support is vital and should be addressed and coordinated for SIDS including proper data management in the form of ICT assistance and institutional, rather than human resource, capacity building. This assistance also needs to come sooner rather than later, especially for SIDS where constraints will be many and where we hope that commitments made in this regard in the S.A.M.O.A Pathway can be quickly operationalized. Only in this way can we ensure that we leave no one behind.

I thank you, Co-Facilitators