

SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT (01 JULY 2015)

“THE SAMOA PATHWAY: translating vision into action”

South Africa wishes to align itself with the statement of the G77 + China on the SAMOA PATHWAY and calls on the international community to recognise that though it is incumbent upon small island developing states (SIDS) to overcome their development challenges, this should be accompanied by international cooperation with the realisation that SIDS have unique and particular vulnerabilities that constrain them from meeting their goals in all the 3 dimensions of sustainable development. These particular vulnerabilities include amongst others the sea-level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change that pose a significant risk to SIDS and their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Climate change compound existing challenges and place additional burdens on national budgets and impede efforts towards achieving sustainable development goals. Therefore, International cooperation should prioritize the mobilization of the necessary means of implementation to eradicate poverty, build resilience and improve the quality of life of the populations of the SIDS. There should be adequate financial resources availed to these states to facilitate the implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

Dedicated focus should be towards the strengthening of national institutions according to national priorities as well as gaining access to renewable energy and other environmentally sound technologies, thereby creating an enhanced enabling environment for sustainable development. Moreover, there should be adequate and coordinated support from the United Nations system as well as from international development finance institutions, taking into account specific needs and vulnerabilities of the SIDS.