

**THE NUKU'ALOFA OUTCOME DOCUMENT:
MONITORING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION
Pacific SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting,
Nukualofa, Tonga, 19-21 June 2018**

1. Representatives of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific met in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, from 19 to 21 June 2018 in preparation for the inter-regional preparatory meeting, and the one-day High-Level Conference on the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the SAMOA Pathway to be held in New York in September 2019, as mandated by the UNGA Resolutions 70/292, 71/225 and 72/217. The Pacific regional preparatory meeting ('the Meeting'), for the SAMOA Pathway Mid-Term Review was attended by participants from Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Independent State of Samoa, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Regional organisations, civil society, academia and the private sector also participated as observers.

Session 1: Overview of the Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the Pacific

2. In recognising the need for enhanced implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Meeting recalled that SIDS are a 'special case' for sustainable development which was first recognized by the international community in 1992. It underscored that the SAMOA Pathway reaffirmed the commitments made in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, providing a blueprint for action by the international community to achieve the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS, which is reaffirmed *inter alia* by the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

3. The Meeting assessed progress in implementing the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS in the Pacific, noting achievements, gaps and challenges.

4. The Meeting provided an invaluable opportunity for SIDS in the Pacific to share their national experiences and best practices as well as identify opportunities to address major challenges at this important juncture in the implementation process. The Member States also emphasised the importance of full ownership and leadership of their sustainable development priorities with the support of global and regional partners. This was discussed under the three broad pillars of: sustainable development as well as the means of implementation including through partnerships.

5. The Member States stressed the need to further strengthen the monitoring and accountability of the SAMOA Pathway. In this regard they underscored the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and their subsidiary bodies including the monitoring frameworks of the regional commissions to monitor the full implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in full collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations and partners in the region.

6. The Meeting acknowledged the *Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development* as the integrated framework to guide the response of the Pacific region to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SAMOA Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. In this regard, they recalled the importance of prioritising implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the region given that it serves as the international framework to address the specific vulnerabilities, needs and priorities of SIDS. Mindful of the theme of the Third International Conference on SIDS, the

Meeting also recalled the importance of genuine and durable partnerships and called for an increase in all forms of meaningful partnerships with and for SIDS to accelerate the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

7. There was clear support for greater ambition and for stronger linkages between national, regional and global sustainable development processes and platforms. In this regard the efforts through the *Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development* to facilitate a regional approach to the implementation of the various global agreements on sustainable development was noted with appreciation. At the same time, the Meeting reaffirmed the need to maintain focus on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

8. It was agreed that the ‘Nuku’alofa Outcome Document,’ together with the regional report and the report of the meeting, would also be reported to the intergovernmental preparatory meeting in Samoa.

Session 2: Assessing Progress – Achievement, Gaps and Challenges of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the Pacific

9. The Member States recognized that progress has been made in the areas of social inclusion, environmental integrity and equitable economic growth at global, regional and national levels. However some challenges remain and further calls for the SIDS in the Pacific to acknowledge and embrace the challenges and gaps at the national level to address the SAMOA Pathway through innovative means.

Social Inclusion (Poverty and Inequality; Health and NCDs; Water and Sanitation; Gender and Disability; Quality of Education and Culture)

10. In the context of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Meeting recognized national and regional efforts to advance social inclusion however exclusion and inequality, particularly in relation to access to services and livelihood opportunities, continue to be a challenge for the Pacific.

11. The Member States reiterated that the Pacific is facing an epidemic of non-communicable diseases, which constrains development gains, and called for enhanced investment in health priorities under the SAMOA Pathway.

12. The Meeting noted the importance of adopting programmatic approaches to all sectors including water and sanitation in the region, especially in atoll nations, to address the range of issues around sea level rise, salt water intrusion and changes in rainfall patterns, and in this regard acknowledges the United Nations General Assembly launch of the Decade of Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028.

13. Gender inequality remains a key challenge in the region, with the need to step up efforts to further promote gender parity and women’s economic and political empowerment, as well as to address gender-based violence and gender justice, as underscored in the Pacific Leaders gender equality declaration and also addressing cultural constraints.

14. The Meeting noted that despite some gaps in relation to disability inclusive development, national efforts have progressed in these critical areas to promote inclusive societies.

15. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the right to high quality and accessible education for all in underpinning the region’s achievement of sustainable development.

Environmental Integrity (Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; Oceans and Integrated Oceans Management; Food Security; Sustainable Production and Consumption)

16. In the context of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Meeting highlighted the priorities for the region relating to climate change, disaster risk reduction and oceans, as enumerated in a number of global and regional declarations and strategies.

17. The Meeting noted the importance of reproductive, adolescence and maternal health platform for the implementation of strategies to enhance resilience.

18. The Meeting stressed with grave concern recent negative trends in carbon emissions and elevated adverse impacts of climate change and in this regard reaffirms that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and poses an existential threat to some SIDS.

19. The Meeting further stressed that climate change exacerbates existing development challenges, and highlighted the emerging challenges, including climate induced migration and displacement. The Meeting underscored the importance of implementing the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

20. The Meeting called for more effective action to build resilience to climate change and disasters, including slow onset disasters, in the region to complement broader efforts to build a stable and secure Pacific, including through full implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

21. The Meeting stressed the importance of simplified processes to enhance direct access to climate finance, and exploring innovative sources of financing, for example blue and green bonds.

22. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of ensuring a healthy productive and resilient Ocean, for both the region and the world, and highlighted efforts to harness the blue economy/fisheries, in support of sustainable economic development and in light of the outcomes of The Ocean Conference held in June 2017.

23. The Meeting also took note of the need for the full implementation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS launched in July 2017.

24. The Meeting acknowledged ongoing Intergovernmental Conference to develop a legally binding instrument elaborating BBNJ, and sought further support from Regional Organizations and relevant stakeholders including the United Nations System.

Equitable Economic Growth (Sustainable Transport; Communication and Technology; Sustainable Tourism; Sustainable Energy; Migration and Remittances)

25. In the context of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Meeting reaffirmed the special case for SIDS with regard to equitable and inclusive economic growth. The Meeting highlighted the need for widening economic opportunities for all including by addressing lack of access to financial services. The Meeting also acknowledged efforts to mainstream and strengthen linkages between national plans and budgets in support of sustainable development priorities.

26. Member States acknowledged national and regional efforts to address the challenges of connectivity, including through sustainable transport initiatives, and in this regard further attention should be given to integrating solutions on sustainable energy and climate resilience.

27. The Meeting recognized that growth in ICT connectivity is uneven across the Pacific Region and highlighted the opportunities provided by the recently established Technology Bank for LDCs and took note that the Bank will continue to provide its services to support LDC SIDS for a period of five years after graduation.

28. The Meeting underscored the cross-cutting and multi-sectoral nature of sustainable tourism and its potential as a main economic driver in SIDS. In this context Member States highlighted the importance of an integrated approach to achieving sustainable growth in the tourism sector.

29. The Meeting also noted the continued value of remittances to SIDS economies, and stressed the need to further reduce the transaction cost of remittances. Member States emphasized the need to enhance the productive use of remittances, as well as the need for continued support to address capital mobility, both domestic and international. The role of ICT in addressing this issue should be further strengthened.

30. The Meeting called for further progress on the implementation of the 2016 JIU recommendation for the United Nations inter-agency taskforce on financing for development to actively contribute to addressing the specificity of SIDS as a special case with tailor made solutions and should also ensure that new parameters of eligibility are designed for better access to financing for development for SIDS.

31. The Meeting recognised the ongoing discussions on the Global Compact on Migration and stressed the importance of the international community to take all necessary measures to address the drivers of climate change induced migration, through the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions as well as the full financing of adaptation strategies in-country.

Means of Implementation (Finance; Trade; Data and Statistics; Multi-stakeholder Coherence and Coordination Mechanisms)

32. The Meeting acknowledged that science, technology and innovation are essential enablers and drivers for sustainable development.

33. The Meeting discussed the importance of enhancing access, modalities and partnerships for concessional finance for SIDS, and further underscored the need for strengthened international advocacy for the ‘special case’ of SIDS and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

34. The Meeting called for a more strategic approach to enhancing trade and productive capacity in the region, and for trade to be linked more closely to poverty eradication and inclusiveness.

35. The Meeting recognized the importance of disaggregated data and statistics for evidenced-based policy-making, planning and reporting. The Meeting recognized the challenges of the region as it relates to statistical infrastructure, and that significant investments are needed to meet the data requirements for Pacific SIDS toward sustainable development priorities. The Meeting called for the United Nations system, to collect data from SIDS irrespective of size and in the least burdensome way in cooperation with regional organisations, to provide strengthened support for

data collection and statistical analysis in accordance with national priorities. The Meeting also highlighted the importance of partnerships in this regard.

36. The Meeting underscored the need for greater presence of the UN Development System, and took note of the upcoming review of the Multi-Country Office (MCO) towards strengthening its impact in delivering on sustainable development and the need to ensure SIDS in the Pacific priorities are adequately reflected, and to that end, encourages the participation of those countries under the purview of these MCOs.

Session 3: Addressing Development Challenges through Partnerships

37. The Meeting discussed the key role of partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement in the achievement of inclusive sustainable development in SIDS and welcomed the progress in the implementation of partnerships targeting the SIDS in the Pacific region.

38. The Meeting recognized that partnerships can bring ideas from the global level to the regions, and the meeting heard examples of partnerships that have been inspired by various UN initiatives. The Meeting also recognized that national and regional initiatives of the Pacific have inspired UN partnerships for SIDS.

39. The Meeting reconfirmed that partnerships require strong buy-in, ownership by local communities, based on accountability, mutual trust and national ownership. In addition, partnerships need to have clear objectives, strong coordination and governance mechanisms, long-term and sustained funding, encompass the notion of leaving no one behind, and engage all relevant stakeholders, including youth, women and civil society and education institutions/academic.

40. The meeting also discussed the importance of meaningful partnerships with the private sector and the potential to mobilize future partnerships to target under-addressed priorities in the Pacific.

41. The Meeting stressed the importance of further examining lessons learned from genuine and durable partnerships and main challenges in implementation, in order to improve the ongoing in-depth analysis of SIDS partnerships. The SIDS Action Platform should also clearly indicate the status of partnerships and archive those that are complete.

42. The meeting also discussed current partnership methodology at the global and regional levels and highlighted the need to distinguish partnerships from programmes and projects.

43. There is also a need to assess and strengthen the current processes related to the SIDS Partnership Framework in fulfilling its mandate of monitoring and reviewing existing partnerships, acting as a platform for stimulating the launch of new partnerships for SIDS, and ensuring an annual, action-oriented, results focused Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue.

44. The SIDS Partnership Framework should include SIDS partnerships from other processes, such as relevant voluntary commitments announced during the UN Ocean Conference, among others.

45. The meeting discussed the proliferation of stand-alone projects in the region and the challenges of coordination that stem therefrom. Furthermore, the Meeting stressed the importance of moving incrementally from stand-alone project-based support from partners, toward more program-based support, and also toward more sector budget support and general support as well as greater accountability through common assessment measures.

46. The Meeting also called for scaling up international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and especially cooperation among SIDS in the Pacific region through enhanced knowledge sharing platforms, dissemination of best practices and strengthening peer-to-peer learning processes.

Session 4: Key regional priority areas for actions for accelerating the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

47. The Meeting discussed the progress on the implementation of the priorities in the SAMOA Pathway and agreed to include in the Midterm Review the following key elements:

- (i) Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Building
- (ii) Conservation, protection, management and sustainable use of oceans, seas and their resources
- (iii) Promote Sustainable transport and improve connectivity
- (iv) Renewable energy and access to affordable energy
- (v) Water and Sanitation, and sustainable management of waste including chemical and hazardous waste
- (vi) Strengthen capacity for data collection and statistical analysis, the production of quality data and statistics including for research and development
- (vii) Improved access to financing for development
- (viii) Poverty eradication, equality and social inclusion, gender and disability
- (ix) Non-communicable diseases and, reproductive adolescence and maternal health, food security and nutrition, sustainable consumption and production
- (x) Sustainable tourism
- (xi) SIDS Partnership Framework
- (xii) Strengthening national and regional enabling mechanisms for SIDS sustainable development including an effective monitoring and accountability framework for the SAMOA Pathway

Session 5: Conclusions

48. The Meeting agreed that the ‘Nuku’alofa Outcome Document’ serves as the input of the Pacific region into the Interregional Preparatory Meeting to be held in Samoa from 30 October to 1 November, 2018. The Meeting also agreed that Member States would provide inputs to the draft Pacific Regional Report which was circulated by Tonga by 10 July 2018. The draft report will be revised based on these inputs and circulated to Member States by 31 July, 2018. The Secretariat will provide the summary of the meeting proceedings.

49. The Meeting expressed its appreciation to the UNOHRLLS, UNDESA and UNESCAP for their continued support to Pacific SIDS in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The Meeting also thanked the regional organisations, partner agencies and stakeholders participating in the meeting for their contributions and for their continued support.

50. The Meeting expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga for its hospitality and for ably convening the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway.

ENDS.

Nuku’alofa, Kingdom of Tonga, 21 June, 2018