

**SAN PEDRO DECLARATION**  
**Caribbean SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting,**  
**San Pedro, Belize, 7-9 August 2018**

1. Representatives of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Associate Members of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), met in San Pedro, Belize, from 7 to 9 August 2018 in preparation for the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the SAMOA Pathway to be held in New York in September 2019, as mandated by the UNGA Resolutions 70/202, 71/225 and 72/217. The Caribbean regional preparatory meeting ('the Meeting'), for the SAMOA Pathway Mid-Term Review was attended by the participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago and Associate members of ECLAC attended and observers, including: Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Sint Maarten.

***Contextualizing the S.A.M.O.A in the Caribbean***

2. The Meeting affirmed that the SIDS agenda for sustainable development comprises the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, all of which reaffirm that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. The SIDS agenda for sustainable development is consistent with the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda. The Meeting however stressed that the SIDS sustainable development agenda is a stand-alone regime in keeping with their recognition as a special case for environment and development that remains under the full ownership of SIDS.

3. The Meeting reaffirmed that the outcome of the Third International Conference on small island developing states, the SAMOA Pathway, reinforces the international recognition of SIDS as a special case for development and serves as an international framework to advance the sustainable development priorities of small island developing states. The Meeting urged its speedy and effective implementation, and called for the allocation of resources at the national, regional, inter-regional and international levels for strengthening existing modalities, and for the development and implementation of additional appropriate modalities for its effective monitoring, follow-up and review.

4. The Meeting noted that reporting should be tailored to address and accelerate support for the attainment of SIDS sustainable development objectives. In this regard, the Meeting underscored that the upcoming Midterm Review (MTR) represents an important opportunity for SIDS to assess gaps, challenges and emerging issues in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, including at the

national, regional, inter regional and international levels. The Meeting also noted that the MTR process is also an opportunity to strengthen institutional and targeted international support for SIDS through the allocation of adequate resources for the United Nations system to execute mandates emanating from the SIDS. The Meeting emphasized that the MTR should call for the international community to take urgent and concrete action to support SIDS in a coherent manner.

5. The Meeting stressed that while Caribbean SIDS have made some progress in meeting their sustainable development priorities, these countries continue to face major challenges and highlighted in particular, the lack of economies of scale in production, high vulnerability to environmental stresses, acute exposure to external shocks, excessive reliance on external financial inflows and on few export and import markets, limited transport and communications, reduced scope for economic diversification and limited human resources, compounded by high levels of migration of skilled individuals, high unemployment youth and women. This has resulted in stalled progress in some areas and reversal of development gains in others.

6. The Meeting noted with grave concern that the Caribbean region is experiencing sharply increasing debt to GDP ratios; persistent low economic growth; a widening infrastructure gap; high energy costs which negatively impact the ease of doing business in the region; and declining credit ratings that negatively affect prospects for investment, in an increasingly hostile and volatile international economic landscape. This is coupled with a decline in the attention and resources afforded to addressing SIDS issues in the context of the United Nations system. Moreover, existing challenges as set out in the SAMOA Pathway in relation to the impact of non-communicable diseases, poverty and inequality, youth unemployment, the gender wage gap, rising levels of crime and violence, including gender-based violence, the escalating costs of development activities, and the dangerous impacts of climate change persist. These challenges are being compounded by the increasing costs of recovery associated with more frequent and intense natural disasters.

7. Whereas the Meeting recognised the leadership that has been exerted in addressing some of these challenges, it also identified a clear need for enhanced citizen and private sector engagement at the national level, as well as the need to effectively mainstream the S.A.M.O.A Pathway into national development plans. The Meeting also took note of the need to revitalise institutional modalities for regional and inter-regional cooperation, and called for more effective international cooperation, genuine and durable partnerships and assistance from the international community. In this regard, the Meeting also called for renewed engagement with the international community to ensure that SIDS needs are central to decision-making processes that affect their development aspirations.

8. Caribbean SIDS are committed to the full and effective implementation of the BPoA, the MSI and the SAMOA Pathway and in this regard urged development

partners to fulfill their commitments by providing timely and predictable financial and technical support to ensure the successful implementation of the outcome documents and decisions of all United Nations conferences and processes related to the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States. The Meeting noted with concern the declining levels of Official Development Assistance and Foreign Direct Investment being provided to Caribbean SIDS.

### ***Assessing Progress in Implementation – Achievements, Gaps and Challenges***

10. Welcome the Caribbean Outlook report for 2018 prepared by ECLAC for this meeting that outlined many of the achievements, gaps and remaining challenges in the achievement of sustainable development for Caribbean SIDS.

11. At the Meeting Member States assessed progress in implementing the SAMOA Pathway, took note of achievements, best practices, and extant gaps and challenges. The Meeting welcomed the achievements of individual Member States and sub-regional groupings in aligning the SAMOA Pathway with existing sustainable development priorities, long and medium term development planning, and with accessing finance for resilience building, in spite of existing high debt and fiscal stress. In this regard, the Meeting took note with appreciation of the efforts underway in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), in particular, to implement the St. George's Declaration<sup>1</sup> and CARICOM to develop a sub-regional strategy that builds on the synergies between existing development initiatives. The Meeting also welcomed the establishment and operationalisation of the SIDS Partnership Framework and used the opportunity of the Caribbean Regional Partnership Dialogue to assess the requirements for its improvement in the future. In this regard, the Meeting recognised the need to strengthen the Partnership Framework and proposed improved monitoring and evaluation, considering thus the advantages of developing norms such as the SMART criteria and building monitoring and evaluation into projects so as to better understand the impacts including the spillover effects of partnerships. The Meeting also proposed organising national and regional partnership dialogues and underscored the need to promote existing partnerships consistent with national sustainable development priorities.

12. The Meeting acknowledged that achieving a results-based, sustained and cohesive approach for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway requires that consideration be given to elements of governance, policy, budget, legislation, human resources, technology transfer, institutional framework, national, regional, inter-regional and international coordination, generation, access and application of data, and multisector stakeholder engagement.

13. The Meeting stressed the need for an integrated and synergistic approach to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and other sustainable development agreements, to strengthen coherence in

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<sup>1</sup> St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS

overcoming the multiple challenges facing SIDS. The meeting identified the urgent need to strengthen knowledge management, education, communication and outreach activities to support the implementation monitoring and evaluation of the SAMOA Pathway.

14. The Meeting stressed the urgent need for an ongoing assessment of existing national and regional institutions and capacities mechanisms, roles, and mandates with a view to identifying areas of overlap, duplication, gaps and conflicts to contribute to the best use of resources for Caribbean SIDS. In this regard, the Meeting called for the revitalisation of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism to advance political advocacy on SIDS issues at the regional level, facilitate SIDS-SIDS cooperation and advance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in a coherent and effective manner. In this regard, the Meeting underscored the importance of the role of the RCM as the natural institutional home for a system for regular review, early warnings and required reassessment/realignment of priorities, reporting and evaluation on the implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda.

15. The Meeting took note of the reform of the UN regular budget cycle and its movement from a biennial to an annual process, on trial basis beginning in 2020, as well as ongoing re-positioning of the UN Development System. In this regard, the Meeting stressed that these ongoing processes should not negatively impact the treatment and prioritization of SIDS sustainable development priorities and should rather form the basis for a renewed partnership and framing within the UN system for SIDS.

16. The Meeting welcomed the publication of the Findings of the Comprehensive Review of United Nations System Support for Small Island Developing States prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), and called for continued work on the full and effective implementation of its recommendations.

### ***Transforming economies and societies for sustained inclusive and equitable growth***

17. Poverty, unemployment, and exclusion disproportionately affect vulnerable groups in the Caribbean, with significant income disparities across the region and within countries. This demands economic re-structuring from a human-centered perspective that helps the region to remain competitive. Investments in appropriate education and skills-building are essential to expand human capabilities and support the readiness of young people for labour market opportunities that arise. These investments need to be complemented by the creation of opportunities in the labour market, a large proportion of which will come from entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises, especially in many of the SIDS where significant parts of the labour market are informal and/or dependent on SMEs.

18. In this regard, the Meeting stressed the importance of expediting domestic capital formation and of using capital market strategies to drive the creation of and

expansion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) including youth and women's ownership of SMEs to enable more persons to generate jobs and promote entrepreneurship.

19. The Meeting recognised the need to advance progress on the implementation of the social agenda elaborated in the SAMOA Pathway which is lagging behind. The Meeting also took note of the challenges in addressing these issues posed by limited fiscal space in the region.

20. The Meeting took note of the value of implementing prudent fiscal management reforms that would foster more balanced public finances and result in improved sovereign credit ratings. The Meeting also noted the need to incentivize the participation of the private sector and called for the support of International Financial Institutions for government led fiscal reform efforts. The Meeting welcomed initiatives on debt restructuring, debt forgiveness and innovative forms of finance including the debt for climate adaptation swap initiative<sup>2</sup>.

21. The Meeting took note of the importance of the green economy, the blue economy and creative and cultural industries as means to build resilience, foster innovation and value chain creation as well as to promote entrepreneurship and decent jobs, in the context of enhancing economic diversification. The Meeting also noted the need to scale up investment and enhance the enabling environment for expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region.

### ***Building a sustainable and resilient Caribbean: confronting climate change and other environmental related stressors***

22. The meeting reaffirmed that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and acknowledged that the impacts of climate change including sea level rise continue to pose a significant threat to Caribbean SIDS and their efforts to implement the SAMOA Pathway. In this context, the Meeting reaffirmed the imperative of limiting the increase in average global temperatures to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as championed by SIDS and took note of, the Declaration on Climate Change by the Heads of State and Government of CARICOM at their 39<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting<sup>3</sup>, in order to assure their continued survival and viability. The Meeting recognized the responsibility of developed countries to take the lead in climate action.

23. The Meeting noted with concern that although the region's contribution to the climate change problem was negligible it was being disproportionately burdened with the financial cost of addressing its negative and dangerous impacts. In this regard, the Meeting took note of the challenges inherent in accessing climate

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<sup>2</sup> *Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*, Report Prepared by ECLAC, 2018

<sup>3</sup> *"Securing the Future of Our People"*, 39<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, 4 - 6 July 2018 Montego Bay, Jamaica

change finance, including in relation to the need for national institutional strengthening and capacity building within and across SIDS. The Meeting also recognised and encouraged ongoing efforts for the expedition and simplification of Green Climate Fund and other Environmental Funds application processes with a view to improving SIDS access to finance and called for these to be further improved.

24. The Meeting emphasized that loss and damage is an integral pillar of the Paris Agreement and called for the provision of adequate support to initiatives under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage. The Meeting also called for support to enable countries to submit loss and damage proposals to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and urged the international community to support the CARICOM in its drive to recapitalize the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) as the premiere mechanism that presently addresses loss and damage, in the face of more intense extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change. The Meeting underscored the importance of support being made available for developing strategies for the financial management of disaster risk in SIDS, and in this regard, emphasized the importance of low-cost, concessionary and long-term financial arrangements. The Meeting called for the establishment of a global disaster fund for SIDS to build back better after natural disasters.

25. The Meeting stressed the need to integrate the improved management of environmental issues outside of climate change into the SAMOA Pathway. The linkages between the chemical waste management regime, and its implications for human health and social well-being in the region were highlighted with a request for further work to be done on these issues. In this regard, the Meeting called for greater attention to the generation and availability of environmental statistics to inform decision-making at all levels.

26. The Meeting considered the high levels of biodiversity in the region and its sensitivity to anthropogenic pressures which undermine the capacity of ecosystems to provide economic advantages in the area of eco-tourism services as well as critical natural services such as barriers against natural hazards, climate change adaptation options, renewable energy options, fiber communications, water quality and availability, food security and livelihood support. The Meeting welcomed the success of conservation measures taken in Belize to preserve the integrity of the Belize barrier reef system, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

27. The Meeting underscored its support for the principles of sustainable consumption and production as a means of addressing issues related to waste, chemicals, food, energy, sustainable lifestyles and land management in an integrated manner. The Meeting welcomed initiatives on banning and or phasing out the use of single-use plastics undertaken in a number of countries in the region.

28. The Meeting recognized that reducing economic, social and environmental vulnerability and building the requisite resilience requires a significant departure

from traditional approaches and interventions, and should involve risk assessments through a thorough analysis of communities, including details of the most vulnerable areas in terms of productivity, residences and infrastructure, followed by a recommended course of risk reduction measures. In this regard, the Meeting called on the UN system, the specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to elaborate appropriate indices for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of small island developing States. The Meeting stressed that these indices should: take better account of SIDS vulnerabilities; support the elaboration of policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience; strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems; improve analytical capabilities for decision-making, and the tracking of progress; and facilitate the further development and deployment of Vulnerability Resilience Country Profiles (VCRP), across Caribbean SIDS.

29. The Meeting called for an evaluation of the World Bank Small Island States Resilience Initiative in terms of building climate and disaster resilience in SIDS and for this programme to be scaled up and expanded to all Caribbean SIDS. The Meeting called for the development of similar resilience initiatives to be launched in regional development banks.

***Achieving financial and economic sustainability in the face of graduation, adverse debt dynamics, de-risking, and adverse impacts of climate change***

30. The Meeting noted that the majority of Caribbean SIDS have been classified as middle-income countries, which greatly limits their access to bilateral and multilateral grants and other concessional funding. Decreasing ODA continues to hinder the progression of the Caribbean's development agenda. This categorization does not recognize the vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS to climate change, to natural disasters and to negative external shocks considering their extreme openness and size. In the circumstances, a concerted effort must be made to focus the donors, partners and the UN system on the acute financial challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS to meet their commitments under the SAMOA Pathway and other global mandates. This implies focusing on vulnerability as a key element in accessing development assistance and in offering debt reduction through climate adaptation swaps and other mechanisms to those Member States whose debt burden limit their capacity to adequately address mitigation and adaptation strategies to combat the effect of natural hazards and climate change.

31. Withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships and services has negatively impacted several countries and resulted in an acute financial shock to the region. The Meeting noted with extreme concern the multitude of direct and indirect impacts resulting from these measures which include: impacts on human welfare and economic development, given the region's high dependence on foreign exchange; adverse effects on initiatives aimed at alleviation of poverty and inequality, given declining remittances and their mode of delivery; and knock-on

effects in Tourism and other Economic Sectors; as well as decreased access to credit by Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

32. In this regard, the Meeting recognised the critical role of the financial services sector in promoting the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS and called for dedicated spaces for SIDS in the relevant international decision-making fora. The Meeting also called on the regional financial services sector to advance a new partnership with Caribbean SIDS in support of their sustainable development priorities. The Meeting called on the UN system and other relevant agencies to increase advocacy to enhance the profile and understanding of SIDS issues in the context of the international financial institutions and other relevant fora.

33. The Meeting noted that both natural and man-made disasters have large and enduring economic effects that range from lost income to the destruction of physical and human capital, infrastructure, and property. The Meeting noted with concern the negative feedback loop created when governments borrow to finance recovery only to be faced with the destruction wrought by a new extreme event. In this regard, Governments underscored that whereas rebuilding provides a temporary boost, indirect effects can spread throughout the economy and undermine investment, growth, and macroeconomic performance. Debt dynamics inevitably worsen as governments borrow to finance recovery and growth slows.

34. The Meeting expressed solidarity and support to the islands and communities, affected in the 2017 hurricane season and reaffirmed their commitment to working together to build back better and in a more resilient way, following the devastation caused by increasingly intense and severe disasters. They highlighted the need to build human resilience, establish early warning systems and preventive measures, as well as to ensure the active engagement of communities, especially women, in the response, recovery and reconstruction process. The Meeting underscored the importance of establishing building standards and taking other measures to mitigate the impact of future extreme weather events and accelerate the rate of recovery.

33. The participants highlighted the need for a response involving all partners, including regional organizations, development partners, private sector, national Governments and civil society, to leverage comparative advantages for building resilience to disasters in highly vulnerable small-island states, as extreme weather events have added to their existing economic vulnerabilities. The Meeting noted that the contribution of the private sector would also be critical, offering both resources and expertise and underscored the importance of public private partnerships in this regard.

34. The Meeting called on the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to continue to enhance their crisis preparedness and resilience frameworks and toolkits, including through exploring opportunities for appropriate insurance solutions and extending advisory services across the Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories. The Meeting stressed the need for post-disaster responses and

approaches that are tailored to specific country needs to better prepare for and mitigate the impact of future disasters. The Meeting underscored the importance of information sharing amongst SIDS to facilitate disaster risk management.

35. The meeting acknowledged the support of the UN Development System and agencies in disaster recovery efforts. The Meeting called for strengthening the ability of the UN system to offer to continue to offer this support.

### ***Strengthening institutions and enabling environments for a people centred development***

36. Strengthening the public health system, including at the primary level through expanding the viability of basic health-care services, is essential for improving health, life expectancy and related social and economic outcomes. The rise in NCDs that many SIDS are experiencing is associated with a variety of factors including ageing and early initiation of unhealthy behaviors with long-term healthy consequences, particularly during adolescents. Promoting healthy behaviors at early ages is part of recognizing that prevention of NCDs is the only long-term way to address the issue. The Meeting also noted with concern the urgent need to address adolescent pregnancy, reduce maternal mortality rates, and incidence of childhood obesity. The Meeting underscored the importance of addressing emerging issues related to the spread of Zika, Chik V, and the rising incidence of cervical cancer, in the Caribbean, noting that these health issues also had a negative impact on economic productivity throughout the region.

37. In this regard, the Meeting stressed the importance of improving access to basic health-care services including for maternal, newborn and child health and sexual and reproductive health and to reducing risk factors for non-communicable diseases through the promotion of healthy lifestyles among children and adolescents through school programmes, public media, including skills to resist tobacco use and other substance abuse, healthy eating and affordable nutrition, movement and exercise, tax measures on sugary drinks and all foods with added sugar and stress management and mental health care. The Meeting stressed the importance of public private sector partnerships to assist with financing of the health system.

38. The Meeting recognized the importance of meaningful multi stakeholder engagement in advancing the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. The Meeting also called for new social compacts and other partnership modalities to enhance the engagement with civil society organizations, academia and the private sector at national, regional and interregional level. The Meeting called for enhanced implementation of those resolutions already adopted at the WHO in line with implementation of health objectives set out in the SAMOA Pathway

39. Special reference was made to the recent adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

***Towards A Programme for Implementation: Addressing Caribbean Challenges with Means of Implementation***

40. In defining a programme of implementation for the next five years, the Meeting emphasized the importance of building resilience in all its dimensions and identified the following priority areas for action:

- I. Scale up implementation of trade and market integration processes to advance Caribbean SIDS resilient economic transformation and to promote and enable innovation and entrepreneurship to address youth unemployment and public and private sector development;
- II. Call on the international community in consultation with national and regional institutions and other partners to support Caribbean SIDS in the scaling up the use and deployment of sustainable energy, communication and transport infrastructure for the land, marine and air;
- III. Call on the Caribbean Development Bank and ECLAC to establish a Caribbean SIDS Public Sector Investment Programme Reform and Enhancement Initiative in support of implementation and Resilience Building;
- IV. Call on the UN System and international partners to support capacity strengthening for development and management of coastal zones and protected areas;
- V. Call on the UN System to support the use and institutionalisation of appropriate tools for science-based sustainable natural resources management;
- VI. Build partnerships with new global development partners and mechanisms;
- VII. Call on the World Bank to produce an evaluation report on the SISRI at the 2019 Spring meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions;
- VIII. Call on the enhancement of the SISRI to include all Caribbean SIDS; and call on Caribbean-focused regional development banks to develop and or scale-up Caribbean SIDS specific resilience building initiatives;
- IX. Call on UNDESA in collaboration with the relevant regional institutions to review and scale-up development and deployment of the Vulnerability Resilience Country Profile methodology to all Caribbean SIDS;
- X. Call on OHRLLS to scale up its advocacy and resource mobilization delivery in support of SIDS sustainable development priorities;
- XI. Establish relations with new global financial institutions with a view to build the resilience of Caribbean SIDS;
- XII. Support the development of green, sustainable ocean-based or blue economies, and cultural and creative industries as a means to build resilience, foster innovation and entrepreneurship;

- XIII. Request ECLAC to prepare an infrastructure gap report on a biennial basis in support of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway;
- XIV. Support the development of national social compacts to support inclusive local partnership dialogues towards the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway;
- XV. Institute national and Caribbean SIDS Major Groups Mechanism as vehicles to facilitate non-governmental stakeholder inputs to policy and programming processes;
- XVI. There is a need for Caribbean SIDS cultural industries promotion and cooperation framework that utilises the experiences of the Caribbean region’s cultural heritage and cultural exposition experiences including CARIFESTA;
- XVII. Promote the convening of a “Financial Services Sectors for Caribbean SIDS Sustainable Development Forum” in partnership with institutions such as the Commonwealth;
- XVIII. Call on CARICOM Secretariat to complete the CARICOM Environment and Natural Management Policy Framework, as one of the main vehicles for the implementation of the SIDS sustainable development framework, to address environmental resilience building and to share experience with all Caribbean SIDS;
- XIX. Enhance technical assistance and collaboration among Caribbean SIDS Universities and regional ocean-focused institutions to research and address new and emerging issues, such as Sargassum;
- XX. Call on the United Nations Environment and other regional organizations to support the establishment of a framework initiative to address Caribbean SIDS sustainable consumption and production priorities in the SAMOA Pathway;
- XXI. Call on the FAO, PAHO, WHO and UN system to escalate support to Caribbean SIDS to address the health, agricultural and food challenges in the Caribbean;
- XXII. Call on the UN System for enhanced support for capacity building to civil society and NGOs including funding support for meaningful participation in the sustainable development agenda;
- XXIII. Called on the UN System for support to Caribbean SIDS in addressing issues pertaining to the vulnerability of young men to gang-related violence, and to address national security concerns including in relation to illicit drug trade and small arms and light weapons.
- XXIV. Call on the UN system to disseminate relevant information on SIDS priorities and SAMOA Pathway at all levels.

41. The Meeting underscored the importance of national ownership to achievement of sustainable development priorities, and the need for strengthened enabling environments at national, regional and global levels to facilitate greater coherence in and coordination of support to national priorities. The Meeting discussed the importance of enhancing access, modalities and partnerships for concessional finance for SIDS. The Meeting recognized that the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030

Agenda and other sustainable development agendas require increased effort with regards to building Caribbean SIDS capacity for statistics and data generation, access, and monitoring. The Meeting underscored the importance of localizing the global sustainable development agenda.

#### **42. Cross cutting issues for implementation**

- I. Call on ECLAC to strengthen the Regional Coordinating Mechanism to be able to monitor implementation of actions called for in this Declaration and elaborated in the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda;
- II. Strengthen national statistical systems to support the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway
- III. Develop and enhance institutional modalities for the facilitation of SIDS SIDS cooperation
- IV. Encourage knowledge transfer platforms for SIDS-SIDS cooperation and collaboration using existing regional ICT platforms
- V. Request the UN system to increase the global socialization of the SIDS agenda
- VI. Promote SIDS-SIDS cooperation on best-practices in resilience building, including in the context of developing appropriate building-codes.

#### ***Conclusions***

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

44. The meeting expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Belize for ably hosting the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway.

**ENDS.**