Language: The 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets is a singular document that has been described as historic, ambitious, revolutionary, momentous and a panacea offering a holistic approach to ensure that no one is left behind, particularly to reach the 'furthest behind first'. The 2030 Agenda is about ‘people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership’.

In this regards, as we consider, Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) by the nature of their geographic locations, they are already in the forefront of those vulnerable and marginalized who should be placed on the front burner for special consideration by Member States, UN System and the none state actors; that is in terms of prioritization of plans of action, SIDS should be top of the agenda, as countries in special situation and needs.

The UN System took bold steps through conferences, summit, and resolutions (66/288 of July 2012, 67/207 of Dec 2012, 67/558 of May 2013, to address some of the global problems as they affect SIDS, such climate change, finance for development, disaster risk reduction, economic growth, etc.

The challenges faced by SIDS are also common to coastal areas in Least Developed, and developing countries, often compounded by extractive activities. The solutions should be extended to them as resolved in the SAMOA Pathways, the 3rd Conference held in Samoa in September 2014, prior to the endorsement of Agenda 2030 in September, 2015.

As usual, State members are implored to fulfill their commitments by implementing agreements in the SAMOA pathway, that is SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action - Pathway. We emphasized Goals 14, 15, 13, 16, 17 and 11, recognizing that all goals affect one another.

There is urgent need for comprehensive mapping of the areas, resources both human and natural capacity building, identifying visible areas, persons, organization and institutions for increased and result oriented partnerships so as to achieve a meaningful resilient society, providing means of implementation and have communities ‘where no one is left behind’.

Thank you Madam Moderator.