



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES United Nations Member States

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Intervention by the Pacific Small Island Developing States At the High-Level Political Forum: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world—taking forward the SAMOA Pathway Wednesday, 12 July 2017 3:00PM-4:30PM, New York

Thank you for the floor, Mr. Moderator,

And acknowledging the presence of the Minister of Labour of Jamaica and the Minister of Health for Samoa. At the outset, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States. We thank all of the panelists and discussants for their enlightening presentations. We welcome the conversations that have just taken place. What we have heard so far in today's discussion underscores many of the unique challenges faced by Pacific Small Island Developing States, and reminds us why SIDS are a "Special Case" for sustainable development.

We therefore welcome today's panel discussion and thank the President of ECOSOC, especially in light of our calls for the High-Level Political Forum to devote adequate time to discussion of the sustainable challenges facing SIDS in order to enhance engagement and implement the commitments called for in the SAMOA Pathway. This body remains an important means for follow up, monitoring, and accountability of commitments made to SIDS, and for establishing linkages between those commitments and the 2030 Agenda, as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity is a cornerstone priority of the SAMOA Pathway. The burden of non-communicable diseases remains a striking challenge to health in the Pacific, and one that stands at a nexus with efforts to improve our food security, given the role poor nutrition plays in driving this trend.

Indeed, the challenge extends beyond health with health outcomes and expenditures representing a major drag on Pacific economic growth and broader prosperity.

We welcome the work, started in the SAMOA Pathway launched last week by the Food and Agriculture Organization to create the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, and we call on our partners to assist us in ensuring its full implementation.

Mr. Moderator,

Regional efforts are underway to mainstream the SDGs—and the SAMOA Pathway—into the national development plans of the PSIDS. However, one persistent challenge that remains is in the field of data collection. High-quality data remains critical, and a challenge given the unique economies and geographies of SIDS. With the global indicator framework now adopted, we reiterate our calls for strengthened support for SIDS in the field of data collection and use.

Mr. Moderator,

We would also like to use this moment to highlight the importance of our ocean to the sustainable development in the Pacific. Ocean based resources are critical not only for food security in SIDS, but for our sustainable development. Oceans and Seas feature prominently in the SAMOA Pathway. We welcome the recently concluded United Nations Oceans Conference, and support carrying forward its Call for Action as well as the Voluntary Commitments made. We must carry forward this momentum, and we welcome the segment at this HLPF on follow-up and review of implementation of SDG-14.

Mr. Moderator,

The SAMOA pathway called for an increase in all forms of partnership with and for SIDS. That call prominently included the United Nations System. With the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations having completed its report on UN System Support for SIDS, and with implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review moving forward, now is the time to ensure that reform of the UN Development System ensures that it is able to work for all of its members, including SIDS. We will move forward in ensuring that all of the findings and recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit report are fully implemented.

Finally, Mr. Moderator,

A discussion of the sustainable development of SIDS cannot overlook the challenges posed by climate change. It is an existential threat, and a mounting security challenge. We reiterate our call for the appointment of a Special Representative on Climate and Security, in order to ensure that the UN System has the tools to respond to these challenges, not just for SIDS but for all.

I thank you.