

**2019 Annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue**  
**“Fostering effective partnerships for addressing gaps and priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway”**

10 July 2019 (3:00pm – 6:00pm)  
Conference Room 1

Opening Remarks

Excellencies, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 Annual Global Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue. I am heartened to see the interest this dialogue has generated, demonstrated by the number of participants in the room.
  
2. The origin of the SIDS Partnership Framework is the SAMOA Pathway and as a result of that mandate, the UN Secretariate was asked by resolution 70/202 to organize on an annual basis, an action-oriented, results-focused, global multi-stakeholder small island developing State partnership dialogue.....which will provide opportunities for reviewing progress made by existing partnerships including, where applicable, inputs from regional and national partnerships dialogues, and for the sharing of good practices, lessons learned and challenges and solutions from small island developing States partnerships, and encourage the launch of new partnerships for SIDS in line with those priorities. This year’s dialogue particularly significant because it is complementary to the High-level Midterm Review of progress in implementing the SAMOA Pathway which will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
  
3. 3. During the regional meetings and interregional meeting which took place in 2018 in preparation for the Review, persistent gaps in implementation were identified, as well as emerging and evolving challenges in action areas which are in fact being implemented. Collectively, SIDS have also identified priority areas for the next five years requiring enhanced action, in conjunction with support from partners.

4. Against this background, it is important to ensure that new partnerships being launched, as well as new commitments emerging from existing partnerships, cater to these specific issues and priorities. In this context it is salutary to recall paragraph 105 of the SAMOA Pathway states “We should also bear in mind that there is no one-size-fits all formula that will guarantee development effectiveness. The specific situation of each country must be fully considered.” One of the most important functions of **this Dialogue** such as this one, is to enhance the complementarity between the needs of SIDS and deliverables from partners, hopefully furthering genuine and durable partnerships as enshrined in the SAMOA Pathway.
5. Since the launch of the SIDS Partnership Framework in 2016, there has been a steady increase in the number of SIDS specific partnerships. At a global level, more than half of the partnerships are led by UN organizations, with limited initiatives emanating from the private sector, Non-governmental Organizations, civil society and academia. We welcome the UN partnerships. However, as recognized in the SAMOA Pathway, the development aspirations of SIDS can only be realized through a broad alliance from all of these sectors. Therefore, there is a need to expand outreach.
6. This is also another function served by **this Dialogue**. Through showcasing successful and mutually beneficial partnerships, and utilizing mechanisms such as the SIDS Partnership Toolbox, we hope to tap into new potential, including investments in niche markets, small and medium size enterprises and sourcing development finance for SIDS.
7. I look forward to the presentations today, as well as the interactive discussion on how we can expand the SIDS Partnership Platform and enhance monitoring and review of these partnerships to facilitate more efficient delivery of the SAMOA Pathway objectives.

## Closing Remarks

1. I would like to thank all of the distinguished speakers for their presentations, as well as the participants who contributed to the fruitful exchange of views that we have had today.
2. Ambassador Geraldine and I have been co-chairing the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS for almost a year and a half now. Throughout all of the engagements we have had in this capacity, including the discussions today, it has become apparent that there is a critical element that lies at the heart of every effective partnership: mutual trust.
3. Trust is what defines the relationships being forged under this **Framework as** true partnerships, and from the outset determines the future success of the venture. The SMART criteria as well as the SIDS Partnership Toolbox, which have been discussed here today, are instruments designed to strengthen this trust through enhancing inclusivity, transparency and accountability. This consequently delivers impactful and lasting results.
4. From today's dialogue it has become evident that there are still areas with considerable potential for generating new partnerships, as well as enhancing existing partnerships based on this mutual trust. This includes social and economic development, reducing inequalities, sustainable transportation, water management and sanitation, and health and non-communicable diseases to name a few. Moving forward, focus should be given to these areas, in line with the SIDS priorities which have been identified for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway.
5. We must also draw from the best practices from ongoing successful partnerships, as well as lessons learned from completed partnerships to extend or scale up potential partnerships in the future.
6. Last but not least, I wish to emphasize that the SAMOA Pathway is a development blueprint created *by* the people *for* the people. Therefore, it is critical to ensure that partnerships it generates are formulated in a manner

which ensures that the commitments are realized by the targeted communities on the ground, leaving no one behind.

7. Once again, I thank you for your participation and engagement in this dialogue and wish you all a pleasant evening.