

Multi-stakeholder Roundtable 1 - Progress, gaps and challenges

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Colleagues and Excellencies,

The SAMOA Pathway has been helping SIDS get healthier, stronger and more resilient since its adoption in 2014.

While progress has been made, persistent systemic barriers and structural inequalities in SIDS continue, such as neoliberal capitalism, fundamentalisms, militarism, racism, colonialism, and patriarchy. These drivers of inequalities are exacerbated further by climate change and disasters; oceanic pollution; food and nutrition insecurity; lack of WASH facilities; unsustainable consumption and production patterns; loss of biodiversity, including desertification; and land degradation.

Faced with all these challenges, it is imperative that SIDS governments take a human rights-based approach with a clear justice-focused definition of prosperity that fully recognizes justice for ecological sustainability, climate and development.

Around health, addressing new priority areas of SIDS urges an update into its health-related targets on Antimicrobial Resistance, Non-Communicable Diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases and Tuberculosis, however the efforts of SIDS urge to take serious action against TB, as it kills 1 million people each year, stimulating approaches that interconnect SDGs to one another and impacting health and quality of life of key vulnerable populations.

We urge member states to implement integral person-centered approaches targeting Primary Health Care, reaffirming the Astana Declaration and the Political Declaration on the Fight against Tuberculosis and Universal Health Coverage, centering our efforts towards leaving no one behind and truly bringing health for all, constructing effective supply chains and collaboration to stimulate research and development, as well as specialized interventions oriented towards prevention, capacity building, healthcare advocacy and empowering Civil Society.

We urge member states to support gender equality and the right to health for all, SIDS must strengthen its comprehensive approaches to health that ensures sexual and reproductive health and rights for all, and comprehensive sexuality education

Around environment, we call for the recognition of the need to reverse the conditions causing mangroves to decline. Mangroves are necessary not only for livelihood security, but for the health and resilience of the intricate network of interconnected ecosystems including lagoons, mudflats, seagrass beds and coral reefs.

The local communities are committed to the protection of mangroves, coastal areas and climate but needs support to enhance their skills and revive traditional knowledge related to mangrove management. In particular women's knowledge and participation in the decision making process needs to be encouraged in the conservation and resilience initiative.

This can only be achieved through joint multi-stakeholder accelerated partnerships, stimulating political will and strong accountability mechanisms that lead to successfully address inequality in all sectors.

Finally, greater participation of civil society is needed. We need to continue to provide space and resources so that impacted communities are involved in the SAMOA process, so that this high level meeting is as well attended as the Climate Summit and SDG Summit.

Thank you