

SAMOA PATHWAY - High-Level Midterm Review 2019
27 September 2019
2nd Roundtable “Priorities, solutions and the way forward”

Cross-check against delivery

Thank you very much M/Mme Moderator/Chair

Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

I thank you for the opportunity to deliver a collective statement prepared by a group of civil society and other stakeholder representatives at this High-level Midterm Review. *I am Patrick Paul Walsh, a Professor of International Development Studies in University College Dublin in Ireland.*

We would like to congratulate you on the progress made with respect to the SIDS partnership framework and toolbox, yet we acknowledge the gaps and challenges highlighted in the Partnership Analysis and discussed during the webinars organized by UN-DESA.

In this context, we would like to convey three main messages on: (I) civil society and stakeholder engagement, (II) science/policy interfaces, and (III) regional and sub-regional mechanisms.

(I) Civil society and stakeholder engagement is critical to the success of the SAMOA Pathway goals.

- Engagement is enabled via strengthening the [SIDS National Focal Points Network](#) and engaging the [Major Groups and Other Stakeholders](#) groups in order to further reach out to those constituencies stated in Paragraph 40 in the [SAMOA Pathway](#).

“40. We reaffirm the importance of engaging a broad range of stakeholders at the global, regional, subregional, national and local levels, including national, subnational and local governments and the scientific community, private businesses and civil society, and also including youth and persons with disabilities, and also reaffirm that gender equality and the effective participation of women and indigenous peoples are important for effective action on all aspects of climate change.”

- A formalized engagement of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders could enhance the actions of UN entities and integrate SIDS related priorities into their work, and link other UN and multi-stakeholders processes (e.g., High Level Political Forum).

(II) The crucial role of the science-technology-policy-practice interface, also including traditional knowledge, towards implementing effective partnerships.

- The interface has practical implications such as strengthening public health systems, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and preparedness systems, and ocean sustainability.

- The international scientific and technological community focuses on many challenges faced by SIDS (e.g., climate change, gender equality, zero-emission renewable energy, and non-communicable diseases) and on science and technology education and capacity building, including needs assessments. Here, we call for further links between SIDS and major international initiatives such as the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) of the International Science Council (ISC).

(III) The importance of furthering regional and sub-regional mechanisms for SIDS.

- Regional and sub-regional mechanisms and platforms are critically important, also to facilitate data and knowledge sharing, capacity building and technology transfer, and project development and financing. This issue should also be reflected in the UN Development System and the country-offices set-up such as a new multi-country office (MCO) for the North Pacific.

We look forward to working together towards further engaging civil society and other stakeholders, enhancing the science-technology-policy-practice interface (including traditional knowledge), and optimizing regional and sub-regional frameworks.

Thank you very much.

Collective statement prepared by (in alphabetical order):

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