

Partnership Dialogue for Small Island Developing States

Concept note

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Background

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) was held in Apia, Samoa 1-4 September 2014. Its overarching theme was “*the sustainable development of Small island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships*”.

The SIDS Conference included six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues that provided an opportunity for recognizing and launching successful and innovative and partnerships and initiatives to advance the sustainable development of SIDS. It also provided a venue for interactive and focused discussions on key priorities related to Small Island developing States. Representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, experts and major groups and other civil society stakeholders participated broadly.

The SIDS Conference concluded with the adoption of the *SAMOA Pathway*—a blueprint for the sustainable development of SIDS—and the recognition of over 300 partnerships that advance the sustainable development of SIDS.

The SAMOA Pathway requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to “present recommendations, including through the use of existing intergovernmental mechanisms, for a partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for Small Island developing States.” (*paragraph 101*).

In addition, the Samoa Pathway requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on the progress achieved in implementing the priorities, commitments, partnerships and other activities of the small island developing States, and to continue to maintain a partnerships platform focused on the small island developing states (*paragraph 124*).

The General Assembly reaffirmed paragraph 101 in its resolution A/RES/69/217, emphasizing that the partnership framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States should be open and adaptable to the priorities and realities of small island developing States and consistent with other relevant processes and mechanisms in order to promote efficient and effective follow-up to the existing partnerships, in particular the new ones launched in Samoa, and to encourage new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of small island developing States based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability and focused on concrete action oriented programmes addressing the priorities of small island developing states.

Progress to date

On 1 October 2014, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held an informal stock-taking meeting on the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing State, where member States reflected on the Conference and its outcome document, the Samoa Pathway, and the role of ECOSOC and the High-level Political Forum to ensure the follow-up to the partnerships that stemmed from the SIDS Conference.

In response to paragraph 101 of the Samoa Pathway, the Secretariat sought the views of Member States and prepared an informal note containing a set of draft recommendations based on those consultations. The note was sent to all member States in April 2015 on a “*SIDS Partnerships Framework*”. The note aims at spurring further dialogue and internal consultations among member States.

In response to paragraph 124 (b), the Secretariat developed and launched the web-based “*SIDS Action Platform*” (www.sids2014.org) which includes the 300 partnerships stemming from the SIDS Conference. The UN system developed a UN Implementation Matrix as a kind of implementation plan for the follow up to the SAMOA Pathway, focusing on mandates specifically directed at the United Nations system as well as on areas where the UN system is already engaged through its programmatic work.

The high-level political forum on sustainable development (26 June-8 July 2015) will include a session dedicated to the follow-up to the Samoa Pathway. This will be the opportunity to reflect on follow-up in the area of partnerships.

SIDS Partnership Dialogue

A Multi-stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue will be organized just ahead of the 2015 session of the High-level political forum, which is being held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council from 26 June to 8 July 2015. The theme of the dialogue is: “*SIDS Partnerships: Lessons learned and links to the post-2015 implementation landscape*”.

Objective

Following the modalities of the Multi-stakeholder Partnership Dialogues of the SIDS Conference, the SIDS Partnership Dialogue could provide an opportunity for:

- **Reviewing progress of partnerships** and initiatives launched and recognized at the SIDS Conference, with a focus on how those partnerships and initiatives are advancing the Samoa Pathway. Where are partnerships working? And where are they falling short? Do the partnerships themselves

address SIDS priorities?

- **Launching new partnerships** and initiatives of all stakeholders, in support of the implementation of the *SAMOA Pathway* and other internationally agreed commitments for SIDS
- **Interactive and focused discussions** on key priorities related to SIDS, including on the SIDS Partnership Framework, and how SIDS partnerships can advance the priority areas identified in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Also to address the ways that the SIDS Partnership Framework could serve as a model and good practice for implementation, follow-up and review in the post-2015 context.

As was the case at the SIDS Conference in Samoa (2014), all stakeholders would be invited to register new (or update their existing) SIDS specific partnerships into the “*SIDS Action Platform*”. The Secretariat would help to proactively reach out to encourage the launch of new partnerships or the reporting on progress in existing partnerships.

In the lead-up to the SIDS Conference, the Prep Com Bureau decided that the following “SMART” criteria should be applied when registering partnerships in the partnerships database.

- SIDS-SPECIFIC
- MEASURABLE & MONITORABLE
- ACHIEVABLE & ACCOUNTABLE
- RESOURCE-BASED & RESULTS FOCUSED, with
- TIMELINES for implementation & TRANSPARENCY by ALL PARTIES

The same criteria could be applied for the SIDS Partnership Dialogue.

Participants

The event will be open for all member States, the UN system, major groups and other stakeholders, NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, and those NGOs accredited to the CSD Roster.

Format

Facilitated by a moderator, the meeting will start off with stage setting remarks by the President of EOCOSC, followed by presentations by a panel of experts and partnership participants, both SIDS and non-SIDS. The panel would address lessons learned in the year since the Samoa Conference, ongoing challenges, and opportunities for the SIDS partnership experience to inform the global discourse on post-2015 implementation, follow up and review.

The meeting will then move into an interactive dialogue format, presided over by the moderator.

Timing, venue and Draft Programme

A preliminary scheduling of **Conference room 3 on 25 June 2015** has been made.

Outcome

The outcome of the SIDS Partnership Dialogue for SIDS will be a summary and a set of recommendations which will be conveyed to the official session on SIDS during the meeting of HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC.
