



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

United Nations Member States

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Submission of the Pacific SIDS in response to the questionnaire circulated 16 October As input into the report of the Secretary-General on organizational arrangements for State-led reviews at the high-level political forum

1. This submission on behalf of the 12 members of the Pacific Small Island Developing States outlines general views in response to the questionnaire.

Coherence of GA, ECOSOC and HLPF

2. As regards the coherence of work of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and the HLPF, we consider this a broad and highly important conversation that ought to move forward in an open and transparent manner. Presently, we recognize that this conversation is ongoing, in a piecemeal fashion, in a number of different fora- for example in the context of a discussion of working methods in the 2nd Committee. We would like to see a proper stocktaking coordinated across various mandated bodies, including the main committees of the General Assembly and ECOSOC to identify how their work directly impacts the implementation and follow up of the 2030 agenda, and use this information to assess the need to change or maintain the working methods and agenda of the different bodies.
3. In this regard, we note that the organization of ECOSOC and the various committees have a special preference on the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. The environment dimension seems to be lacking, therefore we would like to see this addressed to ensure all three dimensions are considered in a balanced manner.
4. Given the limited number of days allocated to HLPF for the follow-up and review of the seventeen SDGs, the national and regional reviews should play a crucial role. Similarly, the inputs of the various functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and other intergovernmental bodies and forums would similarly be important in terms of addressing the specific and integrated nature of the goals. This includes the Forum on Financing for Development and the multi-stakeholder forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, the HLPF

must also take into account and build on the outcomes of the SIDS Partnerships Dialogue, as an element of the SIDS Partnerships Framework.

5. We note that the comprehensive review of United Nations system support for SIDS is ongoing, and will be submitted as an addendum to the report of the Secretary-General before the end of this session of the General Assembly. The results of this review will have important implications for on the ground delivery of programmatic activities in SIDS, as well as for the operational activities of the United Nations Development System. Therefore, the organization of follow up and review of such activities must not be prejudiced against transformation of the organizational arrangements of the UN System for SIDS.

SAMOA Pathway and the HLPF

6. We are keenly interested in ensuring that we effectively link follow-up and review arrangements of the 2030 Agenda with the SAMOA Pathway. In this regard, we recall that the Commission on Sustainable Development was the sole forum to review the implementation of the outcomes of global conferences on SIDS, the key consequence of which was a dedicated session addressing respective themes of the CSD from SIDS perspectives. In negotiating the replacement of CSD with the HLPF, SIDS were particularly concerned with the need for “adequate time” to address our issues. Given the strides in articulation of SIDS priorities in the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, the HLPF cannot become a step backwards in follow up and review of our Programme of Action and priorities. Therefore, the designation of necessary time annually in the HLPF to SIDS and Follow up and Review of the SAMOA Pathway must be a fixed item on the HLPF annual agenda. At a minimum, as was agreed in CSD, the HLPF should dedicate one day for SIDS issues.
7. On thematic reviews, SIDS priorities listed in the SAMOA Pathway find close analogues in the SDGs and targets. Therefore, thematic reviews can directly link to the SAMOA pathway. As SDGs and targets are reviewed, the HLPF can at the same time include follow up on progress on thematic priorities from the SAMOA Pathway. Examples of SIDS priorities spanning the SAMOA and SDG agendas include sustainable energy, climate change, biodiversity, oceans and seas, among many others.
8. Another effective link with follow up of SAMOA pathway with the work of the HLPF will be ensuring the follow up of the “MOI including partnerships” section of the SAMOA pathway is closely linked to the follow up of FFD and Goal 17. SAMOA Pathway follow up should be a fixed agenda item of the Annual ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum, and High Level meeting of the HLPF at the GA held every 4 years, as well as at the ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum and multistakeholder discussions in the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

9. One of the key asks of the SAMOA pathway is the SIDS partnership framework, to be launched during this Session of the General Assembly. HLPF is also mandated to provide a platform for partnerships, thus providing a platform where partnerships for SIDS can be launched and lessons learned can be shared. The ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and platforms, such as the HLPF, the Development Cooperation Forum should allow input from the SIDS partnership framework where applicable.

Thematic reviews

10. Where functional commissions, intergovernmental bodies and forums already exist, they must be aligned to support the considerations of the HLPF. The HLPF should, where possible align its cycle of the follow-up and review to such processes. Where such supporting mechanisms have become outdated or do not exist, they should strengthen or created to ensure the follow-up and review of all the goals are equally effective and balanced for all the goals right throughout the follow-up and review process. Speaking to thematic reviews, it is critical to reiterate that any thematic clustering of reviews must not in any way privilege the value of any SDG over any other. Thematic reviews can help sharpen attention on implementation of commitments, but should emphasize the interlinkages and relationships between the goals.
11. The Co-facilitators during the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda noted that the supporting mechanisms for certain goals may need to be rearranged or created where they do not exist. This is to ensure that all goals are on equal footing with others that already have strong supporting mechanisms in place to assist the HLPF in the follow-up and review process. In this connection, the Pacific SIDS are giving sustained attention to SDG14's implementation, through the mandating of a high-level UN forum beginning 2017
12. The process for determining themes must be open, accessible, and transparent, and take into account the needs of small Missions.