

**Apia Outcome**  
**Inter-Regional Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway**  
**Apia, Samoa**  
**30 October – 1 November 2018**

We, the Representatives of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Associate Members of the Regional Commissions, having met in Apia, Samoa, from 30 October to 1 November 2018 in preparation for the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the SAMOA Pathway to be held in New York in September 2019, as mandated by the UNGA Resolutions 70/292, 71/225 and 72/217, reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development and to the full implementation of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway.

1. We agree that this outcome document will serve as the basis for the preparation of the intergovernmentally agreed Political Declaration of the High Level SIDS Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway.
2. We reaffirm that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in view of our special circumstances and unique and particular vulnerabilities and they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development.
3. We reaffirm that SAMOA Pathway, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is a standalone overarching framework for guiding global, regional and national development efforts to achieve the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS; building on the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI).
4. We recognize and welcome the ownership, leadership and considerable efforts that have been demonstrated by all SIDS in advancing the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and welcome the successes and progress made to date.
5. We recognize the achievements made by SIDS in the first five years of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, while also recognizing that there are gaps in implementation, and commit to addressing the following key priority areas over the next five years of the SAMOA Pathway with the support of the international community, with accelerated action for implementation at the national, regional and interregional level in the longer term through enhanced international cooperation:
  - a. climate change, disaster risk reduction and resilience building;
  - b. conservation, protection, management and sustainable use of oceans, seas and their resources;
  - c. sustainable transport and improved connectivity;
  - d. renewable energy and access to affordable energy;

- e. water and sanitation, and sustainable management of waste including chemical and hazardous waste;
  - f. building of human, technical and institutional capacity; especially for data collection and statistical analysis and the production of quality data and statistics, including for research and development;
  - g. poverty eradication, equality and social inclusion, gender and disability;
  - h. non-communicable diseases and reproductive, adolescence and maternal health, food security and nutrition;
  - i. sustainable consumption and production;
  - j. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all;
  - k. sustainable tourism;
  - l. an enhanced SIDS Partnership Framework;
  - m. Enhancing trade and productive capacity in SIDS
  - n. strengthening national and regional enabling mechanisms for SIDS sustainable development including an effective monitoring and accountability framework for the SAMOA Pathway;
  - o. Achieving debt sustainability.
6. We are concerned that progress on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway has been uneven across different regions and in countries. SIDS face severe and complex challenges from many factors including small populations and small landmasses, spatial dispersion, remoteness from major markets, disadvantages in economies of scale, heavy dependence on imports, high levels of national debt and high exposure to external economic and environmental shocks, including energy and food price shocks and severe climate-related events and natural disasters for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and these challenges can reverse, and in some cases already have reversed, hard earned development gains.
7. We renew our resolve to fulfil our commitments to further implement the SAMOA Pathway and underscore the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing SIDS in a concerted manner. We emphasise that the way forward for sustainable development requires that coordinated, balanced and integrated actions be taken at all levels, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships especially between SIDS and the international community, with the aim of building the resilience of SIDS.
8. We are gravely concerned that the existing challenges set out in the SAMOA Pathway in relation to the double burden of communicable and of non-communicable diseases, poverty and inequality, gender inequality, food insecurity, limited transport and communications networks, degradation of terrestrial, coastal and marine environments, inadequate access to or inappropriate infrastructure and the adverse impacts of climate change, still persists. We call for greater international support to address these challenges that are being persistently compounded by the increasing costs of recovery associated with more frequent, intense and unpredictable natural disasters.

9. We note that the MTR process is an opportunity to strengthen institutional and targeted international support for SIDS through the allocation of adequate, sustainable and predictable resources for the United Nations system to execute mandates emanating from SIDS.
10. We recognize that achieving a results-based, sustained and cohesive approach for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway requires, that in addition to the attention given to governance frameworks at national and sub regional levels, which include policy, budgets, legislation, human resources, technology transfer and institutional capacities, an effective monitoring and evaluation framework is essential, and that disaggregated data and statistics are a key element of any monitoring and evaluation system and we stress the need for enhanced support to strengthen national statistical systems for the effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SAMOA pathway.
11. We stress the need to further improve the monitoring and accountability of the SAMOA Pathway, including through strengthening Regional and Sub-regional Coordinating Mechanisms, which will enable data generation, statistical analysis knowledge management, education, communication and outreach activities, to support the effective, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.
12. We underscore the important role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and their subsidiary bodies, including the monitoring frameworks of the Regional Commissions to monitor, assess and evaluate the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. We emphasize that any monitoring and evaluation should not increase the reporting burden on SIDS, and should be facilitated through existing reporting frameworks already in place, such as the Voluntary National Review process. In this regard, we call on the UN System to enhance synergies and identify links between the targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda and the priorities of the SAMOA Pathway.
13. We welcome the establishment of the SIDS National Focal Points network as a mechanism that can provide a vital link between global regional and national levels to facilitate coordination, information sharing and planning on the implementation of SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs, as appropriate.
14. We note the Secretary-General's efforts on management reform, including the change from a biennial to an annual budget cycle on a trial basis, as well as ongoing re-positioning of the UN Development System<sup>1</sup> and urge that these ongoing processes should adopt a coherent and coordinated approach for activities carried out by the UN system for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.
15. We stress the need for greater presence of the UN Development System in SIDS, including the provision of adequate resources, and reiterate that the repositioning of the UN Development System should take into account the specific circumstances of SIDS in the reevaluation of country offices. In this regard, we also take note of the ongoing review of

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<sup>1</sup> In line with 71/243 and 72/279

the Multi-Country Office (MCO) towards strengthening its impact in delivering on sustainable development, stress the need to ensure SIDS priorities are adequately reflected, and reiterate the request for the United Nations Development System to engage in full consultations with all the affected countries and to report on its findings during the 2019 Operational Activities Segment.

16. We welcome the Report of the Secretary-General on the assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the SIDS Units of the Secretariat, at this critical juncture in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda and the gaps identified in the report, and we call on the Secretary General to continue to address the needs resulting from the expanding mandates given to the SIDS unit of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), in the context of the reforms of the UN development system repositioning, DESA alignment, the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway and the formulation of the UN regular budget.
17. We are concerned that not all recommendations of the Comprehensive Review of United Nations System Support for Small Island Developing States prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) have been implemented, and call for continued work on the full and effective implementation of all its recommendations and reporting on the progress made in implementation.
18. We are concerned that SIDS continue to experience several similar economic vulnerabilities and disadvantages including, high import dependence, limited resource base and dependence on a limited number of goods and services for exports, small internal markets, limited regional and global connectivity, and lack of economies of scale.
19. We also note that the withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships and services in several SIDS have compounded these vulnerabilities, with further adverse effects on initiatives aimed at poverty eradication and addressing inequality.
20. We remain deeply concerned, that poverty, unemployment, and exclusion disproportionately affect groups of vulnerable people across regions and within countries. We also note with concern the widening infrastructure gap in SIDS. To address these challenges, we are committed to economic re-structuring, debt sustainability and widening of economic opportunities for all, through appropriate investments in education, the provision of access to financing and financial services, and the fostering of entrepreneurship, and in this regard, call for enhanced support for the efforts of SIDS.
21. We reaffirm our commitment to scale up new opportunities for economic growth and diversification through investments into the marine sector and creative and cultural industries, which would also serve as a means to reduce vulnerability, build resilience, foster innovation and promote entrepreneurship, and call for support to SIDS in creating enabling environments for such investments.

22. We call for support for the efforts of SIDS to foster the creation and expansion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises while taking into account national development priorities and individual country circumstances and legislation.
23. We call for urgent scaling up of efforts in addressing the specificity of SIDS as a special case when considering access to grant and concessional financing, through tailor-made solutions that take into account the special circumstances and vulnerabilities of SIDS, in addition to GDP per capita and other relevant criteria.
24. We remain concerned about the continued difficulties faced by SIDS in accessing concessional resources for sustainable development, the declining levels of Official Development Assistance and Foreign Direct Investment being provided to SIDS and the general decline in the attention, financing and resources afforded to addressing SIDS issues within the context of the United Nations system and call upon the international financial institutions and development partners to prioritize access of SIDS to international funds and to fulfill their commitments by providing timely, predictable and sustained financial resources and technical support at the national, regional, inter-regional and international levels to ensure the successful implementation monitoring, follow-up and review of the outcome documents and decisions of all United Nations conferences and processes related to the sustainable development priorities of SIDS.
25. We recognize that SIDS, many of whom are middle-income countries, face significant challenges in accessing funding and financing for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, including inherent challenges in accessing financing for development as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and we call on development partners and the UN System to address the resource needs for national institutional strengthening and capacity building within and across SIDS, including support to build SIDS capacity to access available funding and financing. Therefore, we remain committed to exploring innovative sources of financing, such as blue or green bonds, with a view to improving SIDS access to finance.
26. We reiterate the importance of development partners implementing concrete measures in support of the transition strategy for SIDS that have graduated from the LDC status, so as to ensure sustained progress, and recognize the importance of the ongoing review of the criteria by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), and in this regard, requests the CDP to address the special case, circumstances and vulnerabilities of SIDS, including in determining the criteria and transition period for graduation from LDC status.
27. We further recognize that investments in ICT connectivity across SIDS is uneven and we emphasize the need for support for the development of information and communication technology, and science, technology and innovation.
28. We recognize that the recently established Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries is one means by which small island least developed countries can improve the utilization of scientific and technological solutions to ensure the growth of knowledge-

based economies and stress the need for similar mechanisms to address the challenges faced by all SIDS.

29. We recognize the continued value of remittances to SIDS economies and stress the need to further reduce the transaction costs of remittances. We emphasize the need to enhance the productive use of remittances, as well as the need for continued support to address capital mobility, both domestic and international, including through the use of ICT.
30. We reaffirm that successful engagement in trade is a driver for economic growth and sustainable development, while expressing concern that SIDS continue to face specific challenges engaging in the multilateral trading system. In this regard, we call for the development of an integrated trade related mechanism or framework for technical assistance aimed to strengthen SIDS capacity to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system, including with respect to explaining trade rules and disciplines, negotiating and implementing trade agreements and formulating and administering coherent trade policies, with a view to improving trade competitiveness as well as development and growth prospects.
31. We are deeply alarmed that our ability to achieve sustainable development in line with the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda is being compromised by the effects of human-induced climate change, and will be further compromised if the international community fails to take ambitious climate action to limit global temperature rise to below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C<sup>2</sup> has concluded with a high level of confidence that the effects of climate change are worse than previously projected, and the associated risks have increased immensely for SIDS.
32. We remain deeply concerned about the escalating devastation already being inflicted on SIDS by the adverse impacts of climate change, even at current levels of warming, including, through intensifying extreme weather events, sea level rise, and ocean acidification and we reaffirm our solidarity with our members impacted by increased intensity and frequency of natural disasters and reiterate the urgency to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.
33. We underscore that the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C concludes that current nationally stated mitigation ambitions as submitted under the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC would not limit global warming to 1.5°C, even if supplemented by very challenging increases in the scale and ambition of emissions reductions after 2030, and emphasize that according to the Report, limiting warming to 1.5°C remains feasible, and is likely to have considerable sustainable development benefits.
34. We also underscore the important role of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and welcoming its entry into force on 1 January

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<sup>2</sup> IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty

2019, and further welcoming its ratification by 55 countries, while encouraging further ratification as soon as possible.

35. We are concerned that while SIDS contribution to the climate change problem is negligible, we are being disproportionately burdened with the financial cost of addressing its negative and dangerous impacts. We reaffirm our determination to continue to act decisively in addressing the threat posed by climate change, and call for the mobilization of the means of implementation, while recognizing and encouraging the ongoing efforts for the expedition and simplification of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other Environmental Funds' application processes.
36. We emphasize that addressing loss and damage in developing countries is an integral pillar of the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, and strongly call on all countries, both developing and developed, to participate actively and meaningfully to address loss and damage, including through the provision of adequate support to initiatives under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage as well as support to enable SIDS to submit proposals to address loss and damage to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
37. We commend the Fiji Presidency for its stewardship of the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties and its efforts to focus international attention on the special case of SIDS and for their continued preparatory work for COP 24, including the Talanoa Dialogue and the finalization of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP) by 2018, and we urge Poland as the incoming Presidency of COP 24 to maintain international attention on the special case of SIDS in the finalization of the PAWP.
38. We emphasize that there is an urgent need to consider and address the security implications of climate change, including violation of territorial integrity, more frequent and severe climate-related disasters, threats to water and food security, increased natural resource scarcity, and forced displacement and the human dimensions of climate change, including where necessary, initiatives for preparing communities for relocation.
39. We express deep concern over the increasing number and scale of disasters which continue to undermine sustainable development in many SIDS including through massive loss of life, displacement and other long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences. We recognize that addressing disaster risk reduction is key to advancing sustainable and resilient development, as SIDS experience some of the most severe consequences of escalating environmental risks, thus SIDS must be prioritized and supported by the international community to build our disaster risk reduction capabilities and disaster resilience. We further call for the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, financial and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery thereby strengthening resilience.

40. We recognize and re-emphasize that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development and we reaffirm the importance of healthy, resilient and productive oceans for poverty eradication, nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development, and essential ecosystem services including carbon sequestration, and reemphasize that oceans represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of SIDS.
41. We highlight efforts to harness the blue economy in support of the sustainable economic development and in light of the outcomes of the Ocean Conference<sup>3</sup> held from 5 to 9 June 2017, and we recognize the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14.
42. We express our great concern about the increase of plastics in the Ocean and its accumulation in certain areas, in particular those in proximity to SIDS, and call upon all Governments to work with the private sector and other stakeholders to implement initiatives to better manage and reduce plastic waste.
43. We further acknowledge the importance to SIDS of the ongoing Intergovernmental Conference to develop a legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and seek further support from relevant stakeholders including the United Nations System for SIDS to participate in the intergovernmental process, and also develop the capacity of SIDS for effective engagement.
44. We recognize waste management is a serious challenge for SIDS, and reaffirm continuing efforts in collaboration with the global community to address and manage the different types of waste, including plastic and chemical waste. We remain concerned about the linkages between the chemical waste management regime, and its implications for human health and social well-being. In this regard, we welcome implementing reduce, reuse, recycle approaches and the principles of sustainable consumption and production as a means of addressing issues related to waste, chemicals, food, energy, sustainable lifestyles and land management in an integrated manner.
45. We recognize the high levels of biodiversity in many SIDS, and its sensitivity to anthropogenic pressures undermine the capacity of ecosystems to provide economic advantages in the area of eco-tourism services as well as critical natural services such as barriers against natural hazards, climate change adaptation options, renewable energy options, fiber communications, water quality and availability, food security and livelihood support. We therefore urge support for the use and institutionalisation of appropriate tools for science-based sustainable natural resources management.
46. We recognize that full and equal access to quality education at all levels is an essential condition for achieving sustainable development, and note that progress has been made at

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



local, national, and regional level. At the same time, we reiterate the need for international cooperation, exchanges and investments in formal and non-formal education and training to create an environment that enables and supports sustainable development.

47. We recognize that our urgent and purposeful efforts toward the full implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are driven by our shared desire to secure a sustainable future for all, for present and future generations. We, therefore, call for deeper engagement and participation by youth in the process toward the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.
48. We recognize that gender inequality remains a key challenge for SIDS and commit to continue stepping up efforts to further promote gender parity and women's economic and political empowerment, as well as to address gender-based violence to enhance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and call for the continued support from the United Nations System and other relevant stakeholders.
49. We recognize the progress in national efforts to promote inclusive societies, including through disability inclusive development, while stressing the need for further actions, and in this regard welcomes continued international cooperation and support for enhancing these efforts.
50. We are concerned about the social and economic costs of youth unemployment, the impacts of which may include alienation, deprivation and growing incidence of youth crime and recognize that high youth unemployment can also pose a threat to long-term development of SIDS. In this regard, we call for special consideration for addressing youth unemployment in mechanisms to develop resilient SIDS economies.
51. We recognize that the sustainable development of SIDS can, and continue to be, negatively affected by crime and violence, including drug trafficking, transnational crime and the illicit trade in small and light weapons, and call on the UN system to enhance support to address these issues, including the vulnerability of young men to gang-related violence.
52. We are concerned with rise in non-communicable diseases experienced in many SIDS, which is associated with a variety of factors including ageing and early initiation of unhealthy behaviors with long term health consequences. We also recognize that strengthening the health system, including at the primary level through expanding the viability of basic health-care services, is essential for improving health, life expectancy and related social and economic outcomes and we stress the importance of promoting healthy behavior, improving access to basic health-care services and to reducing risk factors for non-communicable diseases, including through relevant education and better nutrition including through the full implementation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS launched in July 2017.
53. We further recognize the need to enhance the resilience of national health systems including by integrating disaster risk management into primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare.

54. We recognize that access to safe drinking water and sanitation is a critical sustainable development issue for SIDS especially for atoll nations, with profound implications for economic growth, human rights, public health and the environment. Climate variability, water resource management and economic development are all closely linked to fresh water access and sea-level rise, salt water intrusion, changes in rainfall patterns and other disasters affect water supply and sanitation and undermine sustainable development. We note with concern that although there has been an increase in access to improved drinking water sources and sanitation facilities in SIDS, there still remain challenges with access to safe water and sanitation for many SIDS.
55. We welcome the launch of the International Decade of Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028 as an opportunity to accelerate support to SIDS for the implementation of safe drinking water initiatives. We therefore call on the relevant organs of the UN system, international and regional development banks, and agencies to support the establishment of a dedicated SIDS Water for Sustainable Development Technical Assistance Initiative during the International Decade, to address the water and sanitation challenges impacting SIDS as outlined in the SAMOA Pathway.
56. We reiterate that as primarily net food importers due to limited landmass and small populations, SIDS continue to be highly vulnerable to food insecurity, as we remain susceptible to the variable availability and price volatility of food imports. We are further concerned that disasters put local food security and nutrition at risk. We commit to continue efforts to enhance sustainable and resilient domestic food production, and call upon the FAO and other specialized agencies to provide SIDS with support to enhance institutional and technical capacity for trade expansion and competitiveness.
57. We recognize that tourism is cross-cutting and multi-sectoral in nature and a main economic driver for many SIDS but it also places demands on natural resources, infrastructure and other service and if not properly planned and managed, it can significantly degrade both cultural heritage and the environment, and we therefore call for the need for integrated approaches, including linkages with SIDS cultural and creative industries, in order to achieve sustainable growth in the tourism sector.
58. We recognize that the generation and use of electricity has a significant influence on the livelihoods of individuals and communities and is crucial to the development of SIDS and serves as a catalyst for poverty reduction, equity, social progress, gender equality, women and youth empowerment. We further recognize that many SIDS lack the capacity to fully utilize their potential with respect to sustainable energy production, and as a result, are highly dependent on fossil fuel imports which has placed a great strain on the economies of many SIDS and increases vulnerability based on the volatility in the prices of fossil fuels. In this regard, we welcome the work of the SIDS DOCK, which has given strong momentum to the promotion of renewable and sustainable energy in SIDS.

59. We reaffirm that it is vitally important to support the efforts of all small island developing states in their sustainable development efforts and to strive for greater inclusion of the associate members of the Regional Commissions, which offers all countries and territories the opportunity to engage in the work of the UN System.
60. We recognize the importance of meaningful multi stakeholder engagement in advancing the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, and in this regard, we continue to advance partnership modalities to enhance the engagement with civil society organizations, academia and the private sector, women and youth at national, regional and interregional level, and request the UN System, in line with existing mandates, to develop additional innovative multi-stakeholder partnership engagement strategies.
61. We recognize the value of SIDS national and regional partnership dialogues to promote durable and genuine partnerships that are based on the principles of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability and are consistent with national sustainable development priorities.
62. We welcome the establishment of the SIDS Partnership Framework, and highlight the need to strengthen the Partnership Framework through improved monitoring and evaluation, and also encourage further partnerships in accordance with the SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms annexed to this Outcome Document.
63. We encourage the use and linking of the SIDS Partnership Framework with existing regional processes and frameworks, in order to inform and connect with the Global multi-stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue, and in this regard, request the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, to enhance avenues for reporting on regional partnerships, as appropriate, with the purpose of assessing progress, best practices, innovations, challenges and gaps from partnerships for SIDS, and to stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships on an annual basis.
64. We request UN-DESA to continue in-depth analyses of partnerships for SIDS and their impact, collect and curate best practices and lessons learned on partnerships for SIDS, in order to enhance capacity and competency of stakeholders in the design and development of genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS; and also to enhance its online SIDS Action Platform, clearly indicating the status of all partnerships, archive those that are complete, and integrate and highlight relevant SIDS partnerships from other global processes.
65. We acknowledge that the private sector has a very important role to play in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and highlight the need for facilitation of public private partnerships in this regard and call for continued coherence between the SIDS Partnership Framework and the SIDS Global Business Network.
66. We call for scaling up North-South cooperation in support of SIDS, complemented by South-South, triangular, and also SIDS-SIDS cooperation, including through enhanced knowledge sharing platforms, using known platforms such as the Centre of Excellence for

Sustainable Development of SIDS, dissemination of best practices and strengthening peer-review and peer-to-peer learning processes.

67. We recognize that in order to accurately reflect the SIDS sub-region's composition, the "Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea" (AIMS) regional nomenclature has been modified to "Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea (AIS) to be pronounced as "ACE".
68. We express our gratitude to the Governments of Belize, Mauritius and the Kingdom of Tonga for hosting regional preparatory meetings, and commend the national and regional preparatory process efforts for the MTR, and welcome the national reports, regional reports and the outcome documents from the regional meetings: The San Pedro Declaration; the Nuku'alofa Outcome Document: Monitoring Accountability and Transformation; and the Outcome of the AIMS Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway.
69. We express our gratitude to the Government and people of Samoa for hosting and providing all the necessary support for the inter-regional preparatory meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the SIDS Partnership Dialogue, and the first meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points, as well as the side events by stakeholders in Apia, from 29 October to 1 November.

## **ANNEX 1**



## **Small Island Developing States Partnership Criteria and Norms**

A genuine and durable partnership for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is one that strive to follow the SIDS Partnership SMART criteria – a partnership that is:

- SIDS-Specific
- Measurable and monitorable
- Achievable & Accountable
- Resource-based & results focused
- Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties

### **SIDS-Specific**

Partnerships that advance the implementation of priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for SIDS, the Sendai Framework and other SIDS specific mandates, are aligned with national development priorities, brings positive impact and benefits to SIDS while being globally accepted, and recognize the vulnerabilities and opportunities that are unique to SIDS.

### **Measurable and Monitorable**

Partnerships that have clear set of goals, objectives, outputs and outcomes, have a clearly built in and defined monitoring and evaluation framework with the purpose of assessing progress of implementation and its intended impact on beneficiaries, is knowledge and research-based, have clear baselines, targets and indicators of achievement linked to Samoa Pathway priority areas and the SDGs, and generate appropriate data for monitoring and evaluation.

### **Achievable & Accountable**

Partnerships that are realistically designed to fulfil their objectives, includes a governance structure that is inclusive and participatory of all partners, relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries, has support, ownership and buy in of all partners, is based on mutual trust from all its stakeholders; and provides to partners and relevant stakeholders, on a regular basis, as appropriate, through the SIDS Action Platform, the SIDS Global Business Network platform, or other means, effective communication of plans, results from monitoring and evaluation of impact, lessons learned, and provide opportunities to enhance peer learning, sharing of experiences and lessons learned between partners, beneficiaries and other stakeholders, and provide for evaluation to allow for the replication of successful partnerships.

### **Resource-based & results focused**

Partnerships that are based on predictable and sustained resources for their implementation, include the mobilization of new resources and, where relevant, result in the transfer of technology to, and capacity-building in, SIDS, have the appropriate and effective human resources capacity, have demonstrable and, if where relevant, tangible, results that are verified by relevant stakeholders, and identifies the beneficiaries of, and evaluate impact from, the partnership.

**Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties**

Partnerships that have clear start and end dates, sets timelines for its deliverables, clearly defined roles for its partners and stakeholders; and have publicly available, such as through a website, information on its governance structure, procedures, partner composition, and results.

Partnerships that engage, as appropriate, with the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, and the annual Global Multi-Stakeholder SIDS Partnership Dialogue, for the sharing of good practices, lessons learned and challenges and solutions from SIDS partnerships, and launch, and register in the SIDS Action Platform, new partnerships for SIDS, in line with their priorities.

Partnerships that submit a progress report, using the established partnership reporting template, through the SIDS Action Platform once a year until completion of its activities, to include information on overall status, achievements, challenges, best practices, impact for its beneficiaries.

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