

**Report of the Small Island Developing States
Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the
Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway**
Apia, Samoa 30 October-1 November 2018

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I. Introduction

1. The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway (The Meeting) was held on 30 October to 1 November 2018 in Apia, Samoa. As was the case in the previous three SIDS Regional Preparatory Meetings, the Meeting was preceded by the Samoa Partnership Dialogue (The Dialogue) and by the Inaugural Meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points on 29 October 2018. The present Report covers the proceedings of the Dialogue (Part A) and the Meeting (Part B).

2. The Dialogue was structured in two parts, a plenary session and a set of Partnership Networking sessions. The Dialogue reviewed the key messages from the three regional partnership dialogues; examined the development, implementation, challenges and lessons learned from the various existing Partnerships in SIDS; considered a draft toolkit and a draft norms and criteria formulated to be used to strengthen the capacity and ability of all stakeholders to forge new, genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships; and discussed how the review and monitoring of Partnerships could best be strengthened to foster, encourage and attract additional meaningful, genuine and durable Partnerships for SIDS.

3. The Meeting *inter alia* assessed the progress in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, examined the gaps and challenges in implementation efforts and identified a set of SIDS priorities to be further advanced in the period following the high-level mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway. At its final session, the Meeting adopted the “Apia Outcome Document”. The Apia Outcome Document, the Samoa Declaration on Climate Change and the List of Participants are at Annex I, II and III respectively.

PART A. THE SAMOA PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE

Session 1: Opening Segment, including highlighting commonalities and key messages from the regional partnership dialogues

4. The Opening segment of the Dialogue commenced with remarks delivered by the two co-chairs of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, H.E. Ms. Lois M. Young, Permanent Representative of Belize and Mr. Mícheál Tierney, Counselor, representing H.E. Mrs. Geraldine Patricia Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN. The Co-Chairs emphasized the importance of multilateral cooperation through partnerships. They described the path leading up to the Samoa Partnership Dialogue, and how ideas from the three regional partnership dialogues had been distilled, including the SIDS partnership SMART criteria and proposed enhancements to the SIDS Action Platform. They reiterated that genuine partnerships could provide a win-win situation for all, and that it is important to acknowledge accomplishments achieved thus far, while at the same time aiming to do better with the next generation of partnerships.

5. The Honourable Sili Epa Tuioti, Minister of Finance of the Independent State of Samoa delivered the keynote address on behalf of the Government of Samoa and declared the Dialogue open. He noted that international cooperation and partnerships are critical for the sustainable development of SIDS. National ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability are important characteristics of partnerships. He emphasized the importance of quality cross-sectoral and innovative multisectoral approaches to partnerships, where different sectors and actors working together in an integrated manner, sharing knowledge and mechanism to gauge success of implementation. It is important to celebrate successful partnerships, acknowledge gaps, and to identify and attract new partnerships to address gaps and needs. He also stressed that the SIDS focal points should play a key role in the implementation of the partnership framework. The Samoa Partnership Dialogue provides an opportunity to look at achievements, learn lessons, and to move forward to progress the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

6. The opening segment also heard remarks by Ms. Ana Birchall, Deputy Prime Minister of Romania; Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director General for Sustainable Development, Energy and

Climate, Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea of Italy; H.E. Mr. LIU Zhenmin, Under-Secretary- General for Economic and Social Affairs; and H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, the United Nation's Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean (video message).

7. Ms. Birchall recalled the many challenges that do not recognize national boundaries or boarder such as climate change and food security and conveyed that in such regard, Romania has much in common with SIDS. She described Romania's desire, together with the European Union (EU), to strengthen partnerships with SIDS, working collaboratively for peace and development. She indicated that there are a number of current and existing multilateral initiatives such as the Global Compact, the negotiations for a new treaty for marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, and the new Ocean Conference, that provide the opportunity and important steps forward in this collaboration. Romania, as part of the EU, in partnership with the United Nations and the UN General Assembly, will be hosting an international conference on building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

8. Mr. La Camera in his remarks, reiterated the challenges of climate change, and the power of partnerships in addressing this challenge. He highlighted and described Italy's partnerships with Pacific SIDS on renewable energy and climate adaptation. He indicated that Italy will draw on the lessons learned from this partnership when forging new Partnerships and in these thematic areas with the Pacific and reiterated Italy's continued support to SIDS.

9. Under Secretary-General Mr. LIU Zhenmin noted the growing recognition that partnerships have great potential to bring together human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge from different actors and multiply their impacts. He highlighted the work of UN-DESA in supporting the preparatory process of the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review with generous funding from the Government of Italy and under the overall guidance of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS which resulted in three inclusive regional partnership dialogues, the development of the SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms, proposals for strengthening monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS and the development of the SIDS Partnership Toolbox. He pledged his continued personal support and his Department (UN-DESA) for monitoring and reviewing existing partnerships,

and promoting the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS.

10. The UN Ocean Envoy, Ambassador Peter Thomson in his recorded message described the profound impacts of ocean warming and acidification, and the global effort to respond to these challenges and highlighted that the 2030 Agenda recognize that partnerships are critical to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. He lauded the role of the SIDS Partnership Framework and its intergovernmental Steering Committee as an innovative arrangement, given that it is the only intergovernmental process within the UN tasked to monitor and following up multi-stakeholder partnerships. He further described the role and activities of the thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action in advancing the implementation of SDG 14 as a model for maintaining multi-stakeholder interest and engagement, and as a possible inspiration for strengthening the review mechanisms of partnerships for SIDS.

Session 2: Implementation of partnerships for SIDS launched during SIDS Conference (2014) and The Ocean Conference (2017)

11. As part of its mandate and support to the SAMOA Pathway mid-term review preparatory process, UN-DESA conducted an in-depth analysis of partnerships for SIDS, including partnerships that were announced in the context of the SIDS Conference in 2014, the UN Ocean Conference in 2017, and other relevant partnerships. Discussions from the regional dialogues and preparatory meetings made important contribution to the analysis. In this session, the result of the analysis was presented as follows: -

- There had been an overall increase in SIDS partnerships since the 2014 SIDS Conference, many of which have now been completed.
- The reporting rate of partnerships is low (34% average overall), and there is a need to strengthen review and monitoring. Information about impacts of partnerships on their beneficiaries and on sustainable development in SIDS is as a result generally lacking. Notwithstanding, all Samoa Pathway priority areas are addressed by partnerships, but

in an uneven manner. Partnerships relating to oceans, climate change and renewable energy are well represented, but there is less focus on issues such as poverty, inequality, health and NCDs, sustainable transportation, gender considerations, water, wastewater and sanitation, and sourcing development finance for SIDS.

- Going forward, there is an opportunity for a new generation of partnerships to address under-represented areas, and to learn from the experiences of completed partnerships. It will also be important to build capacity on the monitoring and review of partnerships, and to build better information flow between partnerships at national and regional level with the global level. This may include through close collaboration with regional organizations, as well as national governments.

12. During the general discussion, the meeting emphasized the need for an integrated approach to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, as well as indicators for assessing progress. Available indicators that were cited included the SDG indicators, national indicators, and the IUCN indicators. The meeting also noted the uneven impact of partnerships across the Samoa Pathway, the need to involve all stakeholders in partnerships, and emphasized the need to strengthen the review and monitoring process, particularly to better measure the quality and impact of partnerships. The need to learn from completed partnerships, and to have partnership norms were also highlighted and noted.

13. The dialogue also welcomed the potential of the SIDS Action Platform, once enhanced, to become a one-stop-shop for information about partnerships and materials to build capacity on partnering. Some participants expressed concern about their limited capacities to access reliable data and indicated that SIDS need more support from UN agencies and other entities, to ensure no one is left behind. There is also a need to showcase SIDS issues and achievements in the UN system, and to provide increased funding for UN offices addressing SIDS issues.

Session 3: Examining best practices and challenges of SIDS Partnerships

14. The regional partnership dialogues have stressed the need to: better understand and define the meaning of durable and genuine partnership; examine the lessons learned from successful

partnerships; understand the challenges faced in implementation, and how to foster better stakeholder engagement in partnerships. In this regard, UN-DESA has developed case studies on the design and development of existing partnerships for SIDS, which will form the basis of learning material on appropriate Partnerships. The case studies seek to highlight some approaches and best practices on selected partnerships and highlight the following: -

- A genuine partnership is led by the partners themselves and provides an environment where partners can challenge each other to take action towards a common goal. Existing systems are strengthened by the partnership.
- Partners invest their own resources in the partnership. The partnership has good governance vertically (from local to national, and, in some cases, regional and global) and horizontally (involving different sectors and stakeholders). An effective partnership is easy to understand, efficient, and makes use of existing practices, for example in reporting. A range of different partners are heard and taken seriously. The partnership shows results and stimulates new initiatives.
- Many partnerships often have limited resources. Effective coordination and financing can be a challenge to partnerships, and different and innovative financing options may need to be explored.

15. The panellists noted the following: -

- Successful partnerships must be participatory and should foster culturally appropriate approaches. They should involve government entities and work across ministries to build political will and leadership at all stages from inception to completion. They should also engage other partners, including for example academia, civil societies, private sectors, women and youth.
- Genuine and durable partnerships require buy-in from all partners who should agree on a common set of goals, objectives and outcomes for the partnership.
- Any new partnership should ensure that there is a common understanding of what the partnership is seeking to achieve; with

whom it wants to achieve it; and the mechanism used for communication. It also needs to build the capacity and confidence of each partner, ensuring that everyone's voice is heard.

- Communication is a key element of successful partnerships, as is the need to maintain momentum throughout the partnership process. Both good governance and flexibility are important for partnerships, and a balance needs to be found between these aspects.

16. During general discussions, the Dialogue also discussed the issue of financing in Partnerships. The meeting noted that there were several possible options for innovative financing which needed to be explored. It was made clear that the private sector should be key ingredient in the mobilization of resources for partnerships.

Session 4: Engaging all stakeholders in partnerships for SIDS, including the private sector

17. Session 4 focused on understanding the ways in which stakeholder involvement could be facilitated. In the presentations and ensuing discussions, the following were highlighted: -

- One-size-fits-all solutions do not work for partnerships. The culture and values of a region need to be considered in determining appropriate partnering strategies.
- Civil society needs to be given the opportunity to be heard in partnerships. Building trust is important and takes considerable work. It includes giving civil society a seat at the decision-making table. It is also important to involve indigenous peoples, and to allow civil society to participate more fully, benefit from financing, and undertake impactful activities on the ground. All partners need to have a sense of ownership and have a responsibility to deliver on specific partnership targets or outcomes. The impact needs to be measurable on the ground.
- Appropriate private sector strategies should include understanding the nature of the private sector in SIDS, which tend to be micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. Activities involving private sector need to be designed to deliver impacts that are easily identifiable and

measurable. Effective communication, clear objectives, a work program for all partners, and monitoring and review are key components of a true partnership.

- Engagement with the private sector, is being strengthened through the creation of the SIDS Global Business Network. The SIDS Global Business Network has led to the launch of some fifty new partnerships. The network also has the potential to serve as a mechanism for multi-country partnerships, enhance knowledge transfer, and address constraints related to financial resources.
- Effective partnerships have shared benefits and commitments, as well as a sense of ownership by all partners. Collaboration is essential for partnerships. The private sector can be a key partner in delivering solutions for societal issues such as NCDs, transport, access to education and health.
- The private sector can also provide lessons learned on accountability as they tend to prefer to engage in partnerships that are time-bound and results-based, and where all partners have a responsibility to a particular outcome.
- In order to foster private sector involvement, government needs to clearly express their needs and priorities over the short, medium and long term, and articulate strategies in language that is understandable to the private sector. Evidence-based data is also needed to demonstrate impacts and to show measurable results.

Session 5: Capturing outcomes of the Samoa Partnership Dialogue

18. This Session focused on the specific outcomes of the Dialogue, intended to feed into the outcome of the mid- term review of the SAMOA Pathway. These include:(i) the SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms, (ii) a strengthened Steering Committee on SIDS partnership; and (iii) a set of proposals for strengthening the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS.

19. The SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms, developed by the co-chairs of the Steering Committee on Partnership for SIDS, Belize and Ireland further articulate what constitutes a genuine and durable partnership for SIDS, through outlining elements of the SMART criteria¹. With respect a strengthened Steering Committee, in 2018, Member States in resolution 72/217² called upon UN-DESA and OHRLLS to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support for the work of the Steering Committee, and, in particular, to ensure an annual action-oriented, results-focused Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue. Based on the consultations from the three regional partnership dialogues, a set of proposals have been developed which include *inter alia* linking with existing national and regional processes and frameworks, and the development of a regional partnership reporting template, 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.

20. With respect to strengthening the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS, UN-DESA presented elements of the SIDS Partnership Toolbox, developed to support the outcomes of the regional dialogues, and the Samoa Partnership Dialogue. The Toolbox includes the in-depth analysis of existing partnerships for SIDS, online learning material based on case studies, best practices of SIDS partnerships and tools for assisting in the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS. The meeting also discussed the possibility of including a discussion forum in the Toolbox, which would allow users to post results, ask questions, and continue discussion on specific topics.

SIDS Partnership Networking Exchange

¹SIDS Specific, Measurable & Monitorable, Achievable & Accountable, Resource-based on Results-focused with Timelines for implementation & transparency by all

²A/RES/72/217

21. A number of networking sessions were held in the margins of the Dialogue. The networking sessions were used for showcasing and discussing partnerships and innovative solutions, and further exploring the potential of scaling-up existing, and launching new, partnerships in line with the priorities of SIDS. The participating partnerships included the Island Resilience Partnership, SIDS University and Research Institutions Network, Pacific Islands Universities Research Network, International Decade of Ocean Science, Sand watch - A Global Observatory of Changing Environments in SIDS, ICT4SIDS Partnership, and Beyond the Stars (BTS).

PART B: INTER-REGIONAL PREPRATORY MEETING FOR THE MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Opening of the Meeting

22. The Meeting commenced with an opening prayer by the Reverend Utufua Naseri of Samoa. The Official address was delivered by-Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa. Remarks were also made by H.E. Dr. Ali N Mohammed, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations, Chair of Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS) and H.E. Mr. LIU Zhenmin, Under Secretary General, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

23. Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi welcomed participants and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to undertake an assessment of where the SAMOA Pathway currently stands and to allow for the identification of solutions to ensure that the SIDS Accelerated Modality of Action is able to deliver on SIDS sustainable development goals. He emphasized the importance of the identification of gaps as a means to move forward at the national, regional and interregional level and for the need for practical and pragmatic actions to facilitate the effective implementation of the Pathway. This should include forging stronger genuine partnerships and provision of the appropriate institutional support. He commended SIDS and partners who have taken ownership of the SAMOA Pathway and have targeted specific efforts and resources to accelerate action and progress. He informed the Meeting that SIDS have consulted and agreed on the **“Samoa Declaration on Climate Change in the context of**

Sustainable Development for SIDS” which would be adopted along with the Meeting’s own Outcome Document.

24. H.E. Dr Ali N. Mohamed thanked the government of Samoa for hosting the meeting. He underscored that the vulnerabilities of SIDS had not improved, demonstrated by the recent disasters experienced in Caribbean and Pacific SIDS that had wiped away years of developmental progress. This was heightened by the fact that SIDS’ access to development financing had been reduced significantly. Looking forward, he emphasized the need for SIDS to forge strong partnerships as means for meeting their developmental goals. With regard to the Outcome document, he informed that AOSIS had worked very hard to finalize it and hoped that it would be adopted at the conclusion of the Meeting.

25. Mr. LIU Zhenmin, USG of UN-DESA also thanked the Government of Samoa for hosting the interregional meeting as well as the governments of Mauritius, Tonga and Belize for hosting the regional preparatory meetings. He re-emphasized that the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway presented an opportunity to re-examine progress and gaps, to determine priorities ahead, and to reaffirm and reinforce partnerships. He reminded that the UN system is working together to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda in a coherent and efficient manner and recognized the contributions of the UN regional commissions and regional partners in the process. In closing, the Under Secretary-General reassured the Meeting of the UN family’s commitment for investing in and support to SIDS.

Session 1 (Agenda Item 2)- Adoption of the Agenda and Organizational Matters

26. This session was chaired by Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa. Under this item, Member States appointed a Bureau comprising of Samoa as the Chair, Belize, Maldives, Mauritius, Tonga and Nauru, and adopted the Agenda of the Meeting.

Session 2 (Agenda Item 3)- Review of Progress in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway at the national, regional and global levels

27. This session was again chaired by Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi (Samoa) and facilitated by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox (OHRLLS). This session started with a key note address delivered by UNDP's Mr. Luis F Lopez Calva, Assistant-Secretary-General and Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. This was followed by the presentations of the Outcomes of the three regional preparatory meetings by the representatives of the host of the three regional meetings, by H.E. Mr. Rakesh Bhuckory (Mauritius) for AIMS, H.E. Mr. Mahe Tupouniua (Tonga) for the Pacific SIDS, and H.E. Ms. Lois Young (Belize) for the Caribbean SIDS respectively. Mr. Mícheál Tierney, Counselor, representing H.E. Mrs. Geraldine Patricia Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations, co-chair of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS also presented a report on the Partnership Dialogue Process and Mr. Sainivalati Navoti (UN-DESA) presented a synthesis of the three Outcome Documents.

28. Speaking about the changing landscape of SIDS' vulnerabilities, Mr. Lopez Calva (UNDP) recognized that SIDS have evolved through innovation and the amalgamation of technologies and are paving the way towards enhanced productivity, resilience and inclusion. He also recognized the important role of regionalism in this evolution and underlined how the regional preparatory meeting outcomes shed a light on many coordinated efforts and constructive partnerships toward the achievement of the SAMOA Pathway. He emphasized the importance of partnerships in the next four years to fulfil the call of the SAMOA Pathway. He concluded by assuring the meeting of UNDP's commitment to continued partnerships, policy and programming support to SIDS. Mr. Rakesh Bhuckory (Mauritius), presented on the outcomes of the AIMS regional preparatory meeting which took place from 23 to 25 May 2018 in Balaclava, Mauritius. He indicated that the meeting had focused on reviewing progress, discussing regional approaches, and means of implementation. With regard to the regional approaches, the meeting elaborated on the need for a regional coordination mechanism for the AIMS region and on the proposed change to the AIMS regional's nomenclature i.e. from AIMS to AIS (pronounced 'ACE'). This he indicated would be adopted in the context of high-level meeting in 2019.

29. H.E. Mahe Tupouniua (Kingdom of Tonga) presented the Nuku'alofa Outcome Document adopted at the Pacific regional preparatory meeting held from 19 to 21 June 2018 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga. He noted that the Nuku'alofa Meeting provided an invaluable opportunity for SIDS in the Pacific to share their national experiences and best practices as well as identify opportunities to address major challenges. He highlighted the need to further strengthen the monitoring and accountability of the SAMOA Pathway. He noted that the meeting also acknowledged the *Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development* as the integrated framework to guide the response of the Pacific region to the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway. H.E. Lois Young, (Belize) presented the outcome of the Caribbean regional preparatory meeting. In this regard the key takeaways from the "San Pedro Declaration", were the need for a synergistic approach to integrate the SIDS Agenda; widening stakeholder engagement at all levels including through regional and global processes; targeted action to access finance and assure debt sustainability; measures to integrate SIDS special case in the UNDS and all financial systems; and institutionalizing SIDS-SIDS cooperation. In addition, she also noted the need for strengthening of modalities for effective monitoring and reporting; strengthening of regional coordination and statistical system and building new partnerships.

30. Mr. Mícheál Tierney, co-chair of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS presented the report of the Samoa Partnership Dialogue. He informed the Meeting of the SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms, a set of proposals for strengthening the monitoring and review of partnerships for SIDS. He also described the SIDS Partnership Toolbox being developed by UN-DESA which included the in-depth analysis of existing partnership for SIDS. He concluded by stating that the Steering Committee is working hard to make a difference on the ground. Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti (UN-DESA), provided an analysis of various outcomes of the regional preparatory meeting. He noted there had been significant effort and progress in terms of alignment of the SAMOA Pathway with national development plans, SDG based monitoring as well as legal and institutional architecture. He also noted the trends in approaches in the regions, as well as the challenges and emphasized on the need for regional approaches for monitoring and evaluation. On partnerships, Mr. Navoti noted the need for improved monitoring and evaluation and the role of regional institutions and private sector and lastly, the need for institutional support at various levels.

31. During general discussion, delegates exchanged information and ideas as follows: -

- That there is an urgent need for an appropriate monitoring framework for the SAMOA Pathway, and in this regard the key issue would be appropriate data collection and analysis. Related to this, is the need for strengthening of national statistical offices.
- That at the national level, there is a need for the development of appropriate long-term national development plans wherein the SAMOA Pathway priorities are to be integrated and embedded. A number of Pacific SIDS have adopted this approach
- The national focal point mechanism was highlighted as one means of connecting international and regional levels and in this regard the Caribbean RCM provides a good mechanism to drive implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in that region.
- That access to adequate finance, especially for the middle-income SIDS remains a significant challenge. There is a need for SIDS to have greater interaction with partners such as the World Bank and the ADB to enhance the understanding of challenges confronting SIDS.
- Resilience Building and Vulnerability Reduction is key in SIDS. There is still a need for appropriate planning and adaptation tools, for instance, the vulnerability and country resilience profiles (VCRP), the development and enforcement of building codes, and other incentives including the development of appropriate insurance facilities to raise and leverage resources for disaster risk reduction.

Session 3(a) (Agenda Item4(i)) -Strengthening the means of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Addressing the Challenges in SIDS -Means of Implementation, including Partnerships

32. This session was also chaired by Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi (Samoa) and facilitated by Mr. Tumasie Blair (Antigua & Barbuda). It focused on “Achieving economic and financial sustainability in SIDS.” The panellists were; Ms. Maria Monteiro, (Cabo Verde), Ms. Nicola Barker-Murphy (Jamaica), Ms. Simona Marinescu (UNDP), Mr. Iosefa Maiava (UNESCAP) and Ms. Maria Melei Tagiilima, (Asian Development Bank- ADB).

33. Ms. Maria Monteiro (Cabo Verde) presented on Cabo Verde’s experience after graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status and the approach adopted to achieve economic growth and development. She focused in particular on Cabo Verde’s challenges i.e. debt (130% of GDP), the fall of ODA and rise of non-concessional financing and how they were seeking to overcome them, through the devolvement of strategic partnerships, investments to promote mobilization of new resources flows and technical capabilities, and decentralization. She concluded her presentation by noting the need for robust international support as well as capacity building. Ms. Nicola Barker-Murphy (Jamaica) shared the vulnerabilities brought about by high level of indebtedness which also had constrained Jamaica’s efforts toward sustainable development. She presented on key actions taken at the national level which included *inter alia* a fiscal consolidation programme, strengthening of national disaster risk preparedness as climate change caused destruction of capital stocks and high government expectation in reconstruction. In closing, she noted the need for partnership with International Development Partners for financial products that better meet country needs.

34. Ms. Simona Marinescu (UNDP- RC, Samoa) presented on issues related to financing for sustainable development. She noted that without appropriate financing it would be difficult to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway, regardless of graduation status and ODA received which has been declining. In this regard, she spoke *inter alia* of UNDP’s support to Member States to develop national Integrated Financing Frameworks (INFF) to support SDG financing. Ms. Maria Melei Tagiilima presented on the ADB Response to achieving economic and financial sustainability in SIDS. She highlighted that the ADB makes efforts to support its membership to reduce costs, manage

risks and enable value creation through finance, knowledge and partnership in infrastructure investment and resilience building. She noted that the ADB promotes sub-regional and regional approaches to create economies of scale that would better attract investment.

35. Mr. Iosefa Maiava (UN-ESCAP) presented on the means of implementation to achieve economic and financial sustainability in SIDS. He emphasized the urgent need to address climate change and made reference to the recent IPCC report. He concluded his presentation on how a strengthened UN system coherence in support of SIDS, with strong accountability, can be worked out at global, regional and national levels.

36. During the general discussions, the following issues were raised: -

- Macro-economic stability could include actions focused on stimulating economic growth and diversification, strong resilient financial sectors, prudent fiscal management, debt reduction and improved government savings.
- Productivity and Competitiveness could include actions to stimulate private sector assisted growth, an empowered private sector, investment in infrastructure and technology, and data for decision making.
- That there is a need for more predictable criteria for access to financing, as well as the need for innovative financing tools and mechanisms.
- That there is still a need for smooth transition from LDC status, which must be discussed with a country's partners.

That at the national level it is important for governments to, in the absence of, or in the face of declining resources and adequate finance, clearly identify national priorities and that there is a need for that greater use of appropriate political platforms for articulating the needs of SIDS.

Session 3(b) (Agenda Item4(i)) – cont'd

37. This session focused on the theme of “Confronting climate change, reducing environmental vulnerability and building resilience in SIDS.” The panellists were; Mr. Chee H. Loh, (Singapore), Mr. Kosimiki Latu (SPREP), Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra (UNEP) and Ms. Fareeha Iqbal (Global Environment Facility).

38. Mr. Chee H. Loh, (Singapore) presented on the various policies which his country was implementing to address climate change. He focused on approaches in the water sector and the Waste-Water-Energy Nexus. Mr. Kosimiki Latu (SPREP) presented on SPREP’s programme on climate change in the Pacific, which included *inter alia* interventions in the areas of policy improvements, mainstreaming climate change into budget and planning processes, addressing biodiversity and ecosystems in adaptation plans and access to climate finance. He also touched on the establishment of the Pacific Climate Change Centre in Samoa where SPREP serves as the secretariat. Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra (UNEP) in his presentation focused on climate change and biodiversity and UNEP’s support on this issue to SIDS. He also touched on the importance of the UN reform processes to support countries in better addressing these issues, the need to look at economic approaches (i.e. UNEP’s Partnerships for Green economy and circular economy) and the need for strengthening monitoring and harmonized reporting processes to multilateral environmental conventions.

39. Ms. Fareeha Iqbal (GEF) highlighted the support which the GEF has been providing in its role as financing arm of several major international environmental Conventions. In particular, GEF financing for resilience; i.e. the Least Developed Countries Fund (LCDF), which has to date approved over US\$214 million for 38 projects in SIDS; the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) which approved over US\$40 million in 7 projects spanning 24 SIDS; the GEF trust fund which has granted over 500 million to SIDS and other projects. She underlined that these funds offer benefits that are socio-economic in nature as there is linkage between poverty and environmental degradation, and furthermore placed emphasis on gender consideration involving indigenous peoples. She also presented on the world’s first sovereign blue bond launched by Seychelles, an innovative financial instrument to support sustainable use of ocean resources.

40. During the discussions the following issues were raised: -

- Resilience building requires finance; however, access and absorptive capacity were considered as significant constraints in SIDS. There is still scope for international institutions to simplify access procedures at the same time there is a need for SIDS to address absorptive capacity.

Session 3(c) (Agenda Item4(i)) – cont’d

41. This session was chaired by Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi (Samoa) and facilitated by Ms. Nisha (UNESCO) and focused on developing enabling environments for People centred development. The session saw presentations from Mr. Ali N. Mohammed (Maldives), Ms. Luz Bonilla de Zabala, (Dominican Republic), Ms. Amrikha Singh (CARICOM Secretariat), Mr. Donglin Li (ILO), and Mr. Sheldon Yett (UNICEF).

42. Mr. Ali N. Mohammed (Maldives) in his presentation emphasized the importance of an appropriate enabling environment in SIDS, which should be people-centred. In examining his own country’s development progress, Mr Mohammed indicated that 15% of the Maldives’ GDP had been invested in education and health resulting in improved life expectancy, maternal mortality, universal secondary school enrolment, and a literacy rate of 98%. He also stressed the prominent role played by Public-Private-Partnerships. Ms. Amrikha Singh (CARICOM Secretariat) noted that the Caribbean region had entered a difficult time for development following the last financial crisis, which included low economic growth and high debt, leading to high poverty and youth unemployment, high homicide rate, challenges with gender-based violence and NCDs. In response to these challenges, Ms. Singh conveyed that several regional initiatives are ongoing in all sectors in the Caribbean and underscored the importance of including people or the social sector in economic development, policy analysis and planning, given that investment in these sectors would decrease costs. She concluded by suggesting an inter-regional Social Compact for the Sustainable Development of SIDS to exchange best practices across the regions.

43. Mr. Donglin Li (ILO) presented on the ILO Decent Work agenda in SIDS. He reiterated the importance of developing an enabling environment for social and economic sustainable development through providing opportunities for decent employment for all. He highlighted common challenges, for

example, high rates of youth unemployment, large informal sectors, skills mismatch, insufficient social protection floors, gender inequality, weak social dialogues and inadequate labour market information systems. In this regard he elaborated on the two major interventions by ILO to SIDS viz promoting youth unemployment and supporting SIDS toward meeting full and productive employment. Mr. Sheldon Yett (UNICEF) underscored the importance of early childhood development including health and parental care and the need for critical investments at this stage. Ms. Luz Bonilla de Zabala, (Dominican Republic) presented on how her country was addressing implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway. To achieve social development goals, the Dominican Republic has created a High-level Inter-Institutional Commission for Sustainable Development, a national coordination mechanism for the achievement of the SDGs. With support of the MAPS mission on the national prioritization, five accelerated areas of the SDGs were achieved; multi-dimensional poverty, decent employment, sustainable production and consumption, resilience and climate change. Ms. Zabala also noted the Dominican Republic's presentation of VNR in 2018 and underscored the importance to report on progress that has been made. Ms. Zalaba concluded by mentioning the need for partnership and for stakeholder participation, which depends on the government's approach to mobilise stakeholders outside its structure.

44. During the discussions the following issues were raised: -

- That people centered development as key to a country's sustainable development goals;
- That investment in youth issues at the national level is important; and
- That the proposal of CARICOM Secretariat for a SIDS Social compact for the Sustainable Development of SIDS should be further examined and fleshed out.

Session 3(d) (Agenda Item4(i)) – cont'd

45. This session heard presentations by Ms. Jeanel Volney (Saint Lucia), Dame Meg Taylor (Secretary-General, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)), Ms. Emeline Ilohahia (PIANGO), and Mr. Christian Fruean (Digicel Samoa Limited).

46. Ms. Jeanel Volney presented on Saint Lucia's approaches to fostering an enabling environment for stakeholder participation

and partnerships. In this regard, the Government of Saint Lucia has established a Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee (SDGNCC) whose role is to guide the implementation and monitoring of the SDGS. The SDGNCC involves government agencies, private sector, CSCOs, academia and research. Dame Meg Taylor (PIFS) in her presentation noted the “Framework for the Pacific Regionalism”, which sets out a strategic vision, and approaches to achieve deeper regionalism. She indicated that the Framework also articulates a public policy process to enable the leaders in the Pacific to identify and implement initiatives to drive deeper regionalism. She informed the meeting that the Pacific has annual high-level dialogues, where private sector, civil society and development partners are involved. Ms. Emeline Ilohahia, (PIANGO) presented on a case of PIFs/CSO engagement policy. Ms. Ilohahia spoke on the main role of PIANGO in the Pacific region, its network and presence and the scope of work. She advised that PIANGO also provides a common voice of NGOs at various foras and takes collective action to respond to regional and global concerns. She noted that since an opportunity is now given for civil society organization to participate in the dialogues, there is a need for more capacity building for the civil society to bring out the best in each stakeholder, and to mediate the role in democracy. Mr. Christian Fruean (Digicel Samoa Limited) in his presentation focused on connectivity in the Pacific through building the ‘one Polynesia cable network’, which would support the Pacific to achieve a digital economy. He underlined the need to match policies to ensure roll out of world class networks with action to reset wider legal and regulatory frameworks to enable the digital economy to emerge. He underscored the opportunity that the Pacific had to leapfrog to a digital economy, but to achieve this, key challenges would be the alignment of a cross sectoral approach and the coordination and implementation of agreed actions and timeframes at regional level. He underscored that this would be where the UN can play a pivotal role in assisting with coordination and accountability.

47. During the interactive dialogue, the following issues were identified: -

- That there is a need for partnerships as well as innovation among SIDS for adaptation to climate change, especially in connection to sea level rise and biodiversity.
- That there is a need to prioritize and align the SDGs with national planning and budgeting processes.

- That there is a need for more CSO involvement in sustainable development initiatives.
- That SIDS were losing much of their talent to brain drain, as much as 2/3 of graduates to the developed countries.
- That stakeholder engagement is a key component of successful development strategies. In this regard, the private sector's role in technology advancement and delivery should be encouraged and pursued.

Session 3(e) (Agenda Item4(i)) – Strengthening the means of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and Addressing the Challenges in SIDS Session 3(e) 4(ii). Institutional Support for SIDS in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway including in the context of the 2030 Agenda

48. This session was again chaired by Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi (Samoa) and moderated by Mr. Travis Sinckler (Barbados). The speakers of this session were; H.E. Jane Chigiya, (Federated States of Micronesia), Mr. Sanaka Samarasingha (UNDP), Ms. Tishka Francis (OHRLLS) and Ms. Artie Dubrie (ECLAC).

49. H.E. Jane Chigiya (Federated States of Micronesia) spoke on her country's experience in implementing the 2030 Agenda, building on the MDG experience and on the issue of making the UN fit for purpose. Regarding the latter, she highlighted that there was no UN Multi Country Office (MCO) presence in the northern Pacific and that these countries were served from Fiji, which made targeted support to these countries a challenge. She noted that the Pacific SIDS were currently discussing how to make the UN fit for purpose, so that the MCOs would be inclusive to all countries and ensure that no one is left behind, including related financial aspects. Ms. Tishka Francis (OHRLLS) reported on the first meeting of the SIDS National Focal Point (NFP) Network, held on 29 October in Apia, immediately preceding the inter-regional preparatory meeting. The establishment of the Network was in response to paragraph 120 of the SAMOA Pathway to ensure the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway in the work of the UN system, and to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in the UN processes at various levels. Some of the key outcomes of the meeting included; highlighting the role that NFPs play in the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, emphasizing the issue of national ownership of these agreements; various roles that can be undertaken by the NFPs including catalysing the South-South Cooperation, playing a role in VNRs. On monitoring and reporting the meeting, *inter alia* recognized the importance of availability of

qualitative data to policy makers. She also noted that much work is required to be done after the first meeting of the NFP network and that OHRLLS will develop a Terms of Reference for the NFPs, based on the discussions at the meeting.

50. Ms. Artie Dubrie (ECLAC) presented on the work of her organization viz a vis Institutional Support for Caribbean SIDS in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway including in the context of the 2030 Agenda. She provided an overview of ECLAC's efforts at supporting localization of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs in the Caribbean including through the use of national and regional platforms. At its 73rd session, ECLAC renewed its call to serve as a pertinent and effective instrument for regional development. In this context, Ms Dubrie also spoke on the objectives and purpose of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, Regional Coordinating Mechanism (CDCC-RCM) in supporting the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and in synergy with other sustainable development agendas for the Caribbean region. Mr. Sanaka Samarasingha UN Resident Coordinator (Fiji), presented on the coming changes as a result of the UN Development System (UNDS) reform efforts. He assured the meeting that UNDP and the Resident Coordinators are behind the Secretary-General to ensure that UNDS provides coherent and cohesive support. He also updated the meeting of the changes that will take place as of 1 January 2019 i.e. UNDS will be providing more cohesive support, by *inter alia* fostering national ownership and alignment; UNDS will have closer collaboration with regional organizations and will provide support for SIDS to make their voices heard to the Secretary-General and the UN Secretariat. He also suggested some ways the Member States could contribute; providing financial support to mandates, establishing mutual accountability frameworks and emphasizing their role in building a country team. In addition, he requested the host countries to find a shared space for all UN entities to allow them to share knowledge and respond to the host country in a joint matter and requested for the donor countries to not make a division among the UN entities and finally to hold the UNDS accountable. Samoa's example of the establishment of a One UN House for the 15-member country team is a case in point.

51. During the discussions the following issues were raised: -

- Welcomed the outcome of the inaugural meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points (SNFP) and recognized the potential role this important network can play in the

implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (see separate report). The roles and functions of Regional Coordinating Mechanisms were also recognised as valuable in supporting the SNFP.

- That the concerns of SIDS must be taken on board in any UNDS reform.
- There are often difficulties in progressing projects with one-year cap as well as disparity between the size of the MCOs and the funding as all MCOs regardless of its size, was supported with the same amount.
- The discussion also noted the need for more resources in the SIDS Unit of the Secretariat to meet the expanded mandates as in the Secretary-General's report (A/73/34)³. Finally, it was emphasized once more that UN is a member-driven organization and thus the ownership and leadership is crucial.

Session 4(Agenda Item 5) - Priorities for SIDS for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway

52. This session was chaired by Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi (Samoa) and facilitated by H.E. Lois Young, (Belize). The session focused on defining a concise Political Declaration for 2019 High Level review.

53. During the discussions the meeting reiterated that the Outcome Document of the inter-regional meeting should form the basis of any discussions on a High-Level Political Declaration SIDS.

Session 5(a), (b) (Agenda Item 6) -Adoption of the Outcome (The draft Outcome will be presented for Adoption)

54. This session commenced with a closed segment, where members of Bureau only discussed and considered the draft outcome of the Meeting and the Samoa Declaration on Climate Change in the Context of Sustainable Development for SIDS.

55. The remaining sessions focused on the adoption of the draft outcome, which had been agreed ad ref in New York prior to the meeting. The Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia introduced the draft Outcome Document of the SIDS Interregional Preparatory

³ Assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the small island developing States units of the Secretariat : report of the Secretary-General

Meeting for the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway. Ambassador Elisaia reminded the meeting that the high-level review of the SAMOA Pathway will take place at UN Headquarters, New York on 27 September 2019 in the margins of the High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly, as mandated by resolutions 70/292, 71/225 and 72/217. He explained that the outcome document was the result of negotiations at the Working Group level of SIDS representatives in New York, based on the initial draft skeleton prepared by the Secretariat with inputs received from SIDS Member States, as well as UN agencies and other stakeholders. He, thus, underscored that the draft outcome could not be re-opened for discussion or re-negotiations by the meeting and would serve as SIDS' input to the intergovernmental negotiations in 2019 forming the basis for a concise, focused and action-oriented inter-governmentally agreed Political Declaration of the High-Level SIDS Mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway. H.E. Elisaia concluded by conveying to the meeting that the proposed name of the outcome document in full will be "Apia Outcome of the SIDS Interregional Preparatory Meeting for the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway" or in short, "The APIA OUTCOME" and thanked all delegations for their spirit of co-operation and accommodation.

56. At this session, the meeting considered also and adopted a draft Declaration on Climate Change presented by the Chair of AOSIS, H.E. Dr. Ali N Mohammed, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations. The Declaration titled "The Samoa Declaration on Climate Change in the context of Sustainable Development for SIDS" is at ANNEX II.

Session 6 (Agenda Item 7) Closing of the Meeting

57. At the closing session, the meeting heard remarks by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, (OHRLLS) and Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi (Samoa). Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox on behalf of the entire UN system congratulated the meeting for the adoption of the outcome and reiterated deep gratitude to the Samoan Government for the hospitality and the excellent arrangements, as well as the development partners present for their financial support. She again reminded the meeting that the outcome document will serve as basis for the discussion at the political declaration of the SAMOA Pathway and also that the modalities for the 2019 High-Level Review will be in accordance with resolution A/RES/72/307 "Modalities for the high-level review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway." She emphasized that the

UN system must ensure that the focus remain on SIDS at the high-level review and encouraged all the participants to ensure highest level of participation at the high-level review on 27th of September 2019. She also conveyed that UN is working to secure support for the capacity building for journalists from SIDS to come to New York and to report on the review. She closed by assuring that the UN System will continue to support with utmost dedication.

58. Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi (Samoa) in her closing remarks reiterated that it is important for SIDS to reflect on where they are and the status of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and whether it is on track towards its development objectives at all levels. She underscored the importance for SIDS to own the SAMOA Pathway and lead its implementation. She emphasized that climate change would be a priority for all SIDS, as all SIDS remain vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, frequent and more severe natural disasters and noted also that several SIDS were being proposed for graduation out of LDC status and some from accessing ODA. She wished everyone safe travels then closed the meeting.

IV. Conclusions of the Meeting

59. The Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting was successfully concluded, following the consideration and adoption of the Apia Outcome. The Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on 1 November 2018.



APIA OUTCOME DOCUMENT

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 inter-governmentally 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 emphasize 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 System¹ 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 1 In line with 71/243 and 72/279the 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 2 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 2 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 Conference³ 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 institutionalization 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 3 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 at 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.



1 November 2018

Samoa Declaration on Climate Change in the Context of Sustainable Development for SIDS

1. We, the representatives of Members States of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), at our interregional preparatory meeting on 30 October – 1 November 2018, in Apia, Samoa, for the midterm review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) express our profound concern that the adverse effects of anthropogenic climate change present the gravest threats to our resilience and sustainable development, and threatens the very existence of some of our members.
2. We reaffirm that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change and further reaffirm its objectives, principles and commitments.
3. We recognize the critical linkage between climate change actions and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that actions need to take into account different national realities, capacities, levels of development and respect national circumstances and poverty reduction policies and priorities.
4. We reaffirm the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the SAMOA Pathway and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled “The future we want,” and resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
5. We are 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 continue to be 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.

6. 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 2019, and further welcoming its ratification by 55 countries, while encouraging further ratification as soon as possible.

7. We welcome the adoption of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (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 (1.5°C Special Report) in Incheon, Republic of Korea, on 6 October 2018.

8. We express deep alarm that the 1.5°C Special Report concludes that the effects of human-induced climate change are worse than previously projected and that the associated risks have increased immensely for our ecosystems, economies and social wellbeing.

9. We strongly emphasize that the 1.5°C Special Report finds that limiting warming to 1.5°C remains feasible and is likely to have considerable sustainable development benefits for SIDS and all nations.

10. We underscore the 1.5°C Special Report's finding that current nationally stated mitigation ambitions as submitted under the Paris Agreement (PA), which extend to 2030, would fail to 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 we note with alarm that currently stated ambitions instead cumulatively track toward 3-4 °C of warming by 2100 with the potential for further warming thereafter.

11. Accordingly, we stress that more ambitious near-term ambition is required to limit global warming to 1.5°C and we therefore call upon the international community to take the ambitious action needed to halve the amount of global CO₂ emissions from 2010 levels by 2030, and to ensure that CO₂ emissions reach net zero by 2050, with rapid reductions in energy demand over the next two decades, consistent with the Paris Agreement goals and 1.5°C pathways, as noted in the 1.5°C Special Report.

12. We note, in this regard, that the 1.5°C Special Report indicates that climate action consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C requires a steep reduction in the use of coal toward a global phase out of coal for electricity by 2050, and we urge the international community to respond appropriately to this challenge.

13. We welcome with appreciation the ambitious NDCs submitted by SIDS and the recent announcements of SIDS to undertake and implement even more ambitious NDCs and reiterate our call for enhanced global cooperation for more urgent and more ambitious climate action.

14. We call on the international community to act with utmost urgency to rapidly shift financial flows towards pathways consistent with limiting warming below 1.5°C.
15. We underscore the urgency to enhance both mitigation and adaptation action, particularly in light of our ongoing need to build resilience to the impacts of climate change and strengthen resilience.
16. We emphasize the need to address loss and damage in SIDS and other vulnerable countries as an integral and distinct pillar of the Paris Agreement and strongly urge all countries, both developing and developed, to participate actively and meaningfully to address loss and damage in this context.
17. We call for the provision of adequate support to initiatives under the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, including support to enable SIDS to submit proposals to address loss and damage to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
18. We urge developed countries on the occasion of the 2018 High-level Ministerial Dialogue on Climate Finance at Twenty-Fourth Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 24) to demonstrate progress towards the mobilization of USD100 billion per annum by 2020 and to further demonstrate their contributions to efforts to further enhance that goal through to 2025, while aiming to achieve a balance in the provision of resources for mitigation and adaptation actions and targeting the needs of SIDS for public and grant-based resources for adaptation.
19. We welcome the launch of the first formal replenishment process of the GCF and look forward to a timely conclusion of an inclusive process and the development of a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy informed by the latest science and the urgent needs of SIDS.
20. We reiterate our call for increased support to SIDS to build capacity and to strengthen national institutions according to national priorities and recognize that appropriate reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies are critical to achieving our sustainable development.
21. 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.
22. We welcome the United Nations' Secretary General's effort to convene a UN Climate Summit in September 2019 and commit to engage constructively and participate at the highest possible level to ensure its success.
23. We commend the Fijian Presidency for its stewardship of the Twenty-Third Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, its efforts to focus international attention on the special case of SIDS, and its role in the continued preparatory work for the COP 24, including the Talanoa Dialogue and the finalization of the Paris Agreement Work Programme.

24. We urge that the launch of renewed efforts to catalyze more ambitious climate action synergized with wider sustainable development objectives must begin at the COP 24 with the Talanoa Dialogue; it must be buttressed in 2019 by the High-level Political Forum, the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway, and the Secretary-General's Climate Summit; and it must be carried through to the twenty-sixth session of the COP in 2020.

25. We urge the COP 24 Presidency to ensure that sufficient space is provided at COP for the Talanoa Dialogue and that its political phase produces concrete outputs, including a COP decision and accompanying declaration by Ministers, urging countries to bring forward substantially more ambitious efforts in their NDCs to be communicated by 2020, and encourages countries to come forward with ambitious long-term low GHG emission development strategies to 2050, consistent with the Paris Agreement goals.

26. We recall and stress the importance of fulfilling the international commitment to SIDS as a special case for sustainable development in view of our unique and particular vulnerabilities and recognition as being particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

27. We call for urgent steps to ensure the completion and adoption of a comprehensive, practical and balanced Paris Agreement Work Programme at COP 24.

28. We affirm our full support to the Republic of Poland in its capacity as the Presidency of COP 24 and encourage efforts by the COP 24 Presidency to continue to focus international attention on the special circumstances of SIDS.

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