

MEETING
Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
Date: 21 Sep 2018
Venue: S26-MM2
Time: 4:00pm – 5:30 pm (New York Time)

Members in Attendance: UN-OHRLLS, UN DESA, UNIDO, IAEA, DOALOS, UNE, IMO, UNFPA, UNDP (HQ), UN RC/UNDP (Samoa), IRENA, GEF, World Bank, UNESCO, DOALOS

SIDS Member States (Observers): Belize

Chair: Mr. Sai Navoti, Chief of SIDS Unit, DSDG/DESA

Summary: The Meeting was provided with an update on the status of preparations for the upcoming interregional meeting on the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway. The Meeting participants was also updated on the SIDS related side events that would be taking place in the margins of the General Assembly.

1. Opening remarks by IACG co-chair(s)

The Director of the Division for Sustainable Goals (DSDG), UNDESA, Mr. Juwang Zhu opened the Meeting by welcoming everyone. He conveyed that the meeting would focus primarily on preparations for the mid-term review processes. Mr. Erdenebileg Sandagdorj, Chief of Policy Development, Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting Services of UN-OHRLLS, in his welcome remarks, thanked DESA for organizing the meeting, and expressed his gratitude to those Member States that had hosted the 3 regional preparatory review meetings, the outcomes of which would feed into the Samoa interregional meeting. Mr. Sandagdorj concluded by underscoring that OHRLLS and DESA have intensified consultations, including with the host (Samoa), and AOSIS, on several key areas in preparation for the meeting in Samoa. He also mentioned the Needs Assessment that DESA and OHRLLS have prepared resulting from the evolving mandates of the relevant programmes and sub-programmes of the Secretariat to ensure the allocation of the resources required to adequately respond to the mandates in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing State (SIDS).

2. Outcomes of the three Regional Meetings

Ambassador Janine Felson of Belize briefed the Meeting on the Caribbean regional Meeting, which was held in San Pedro, Belize 6-9 August 2018 6-9. She conveyed that the Meeting successfully adopted the San Pedro Declaration, as its Outcome which includes the region's specific priorities and recommended actions for follow-up over the next 5 years. She explained that the Meeting saw robust discussions around priority areas of the Samoa Pathway and that it was clear that there were growing appetite for the wide dissemination of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. There was also renewed excitement from capitals as they gained a deeper understanding of the way in which

implementation of the Samoa Pathway could contribute synergistically to the wider development landscape. The Ambassador in closing thanked DESA for supporting preparations for the meeting as well as for the guidance given. She also thanked the USG of OHRLLS and Mr. Sai Navoti from DESA for being present at the meeting. With respect to follow up she indicated that Belize was in the process of reviewing the technical report of the meeting.

The SIDS Unit of DESA, then provided a brief on the outcomes of the other regional Meetings (AIMS and Pacific). With respect to the AIMS Outcome, there were 8 priority areas identified viz climate change, disaster reduction and resilience building, water and sanitation, data collection, finance, capacity building, gender equality and food security. For the Pacific, 12 priority areas were identified which were; climate change and disaster reduction and resilience building; oceans; promotion of sustainable transport; renewable energy; water and sanitation; strengthening of capacity building for data, improve access to financing for development; poverty eradication; sustainable tourism; non-communicable disease; SIDS partnership framework; strengthening national and regional enabling mechanisms. He added that outcome documents were all available on DESA's website for review.

3. Update on the Preparations for the Mid Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway

- i. Update on Preparations for the Interregional Meeting for SIDS (30 Oct-1 Nov 2018)
 - Provisional Agenda, Logistics, Expected Outputs, Side Events

UN DESA/UN OHRLLS continued to work closely with Samoa to finalize the logistical details for the upcoming SIDS Inter-Regional Meeting. Invitations were dispatched to all SIDS member states, UN agencies and regional institutions in the respective regions. So far Samoa had confirmed and informed of the meeting venue, the "T.A.T.T.E Convention Centre (STCC)". An Information note was being prepared to be dispatched once the host country agreement is finalized. Side event guidelines and application forms had also been sent out.¹

The Meeting agenda was still under internal consultation to ensure that it is in line with the practices of UN meetings. Regarding the outcome document of the meeting, a skeleton draft was prepared by the Secretariat and shared with the Host, Samoa, who had expressed a preference to hold prior consultations in New York before the meeting. DESA informed the Meeting that relevant information and documents would be made available to participants and uploaded <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview> when finalized.

- ii. Engagement of UN Country Teams and Other Stakeholders (regional institutions etc.)

The UN Resident Coordinator Samoa, Ms. Simona Marinescu was present in person at the Meeting and he provided an update on logistics information; including confirmation that the proposed meeting venue is very spacious and well located in the middle of town. The venue consists of a main hall, and several other rooms for breakouts if necessary. Given the various DSA rates for different hotels in Apia, the government of Samoa was working to negotiate suitable rates with hotels around

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=13&nr=2913&menu=1634>

the venue which are under 200 dollars per night. Once finalized, a list of hotels would be compiled and circulated. UNRC The UNCTs both in Samoa and Fiji assured their willingness and readiness to support, including as chairs/facilitators of the plenary sessions as well as to participate in the discussions.

Discussions

WHO inquired about the processes being envisaged for finalizing the outcome document and how can the regional agencies engage in the process. DESA responded that negotiations on the outcome document will take place in New York with the aim to have the document to be agreed ad ref as much as possible before the interregional meeting in Samoa. The negotiations will continue in Samoa if not concluded in New York. The outcome document will be open for feedback from member states and institutions prior to the conclusion of the negotiations, and this could be where UN institutions provide inputs. It was expected that the Outcome document would examine the challenges that SIDS face and indicate priorities for the next five years of SAMOA Pathway implementation. The Meeting was advised that AOSIS was currently meeting to agree on what its members would like to see in the outcome document.

iii. Communications & Advocacy

Outreach and Communication Branch of DSDG/DESA gave a brief on two possible scenarios for communications and advocacy strategy depending on the availability of resources whether there would be an on-site communications focal point.

In case there is an on-site media team, there would be a media advisory sent to the DPI SDG and SIDS press mailing list, as well as to the UNIC in Canberra, Australia which serves Samoa and the Pacific and has media contacts for distribution to the regional press. The communication focal point would be able to sit in sessions and interview attendees and get a sense of what happened at the meeting, to write a closing press release to be distributed to the same channel. The on-site team will also make use of social media through live twitter coverage and making use of promotional materials to advertise the meeting and determine if any of the session of the meeting would be live-streamed. Also, they will make use of attractive materials sent from the Samoa and the UN system. There could be also short forms of video and pop-up live studios, where UN officials, Member State representatives and other stakeholders could participate in a 5 to 10-minute interview broadcast, talking about the challenges their countries/stakeholder group face and solutions they are implementing. It would be good opportunity to highlight other things that the UN is doing in Samoa, that are not directly related to Samoa and broadly SIDS issues such as climate change, forests, the ocean, economy, other SDGs could be featured. In the second scenario, where there is no communications staff member, the media advisory, social media promotional materials will look to colleagues who are present in Samoa to send back the contents.

4. SIDS Partnership Dialogue

- Regional Partnership Dialogue Outcome
- Samoa Partnership Dialogue (29 Oct 2018)
- Partnership Criteria/Norms

DESA, presented on the SIDS partnership dialogue process. The Regional Partnership Dialogues were organized in the margins of the regional Samoa Pathway Midterm review meetings. These dialogues provided an opportunity to; assess the status of partnerships for each region and identify best practices and gaps around which new partnerships for driving implementation of SAMOA Pathway priority areas and the SDGS, raise the capacity of stakeholders in developing genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS, strengthen the review and monitoring process of SIDS partnerships. There outcomes and summaries of each three regional partnership dialogues which are also available in the Sustainable Knowledge Development Platform (SDKP) website.

The Samoa Partnership Dialogue would take place on 29 October 2018 in Apia, Samoa. The outcome of the regional dialogues and the Samoa Partnership Dialogue will be a SIDS Partnership Toolbox which will be presented to participants at the meeting for feedback. The Toolbox would include the following; a) an in-depth analysis of existing partnerships for SIDS; b) case studies and best practices of SIDS partnerships; and c) recommendations for strengthening the review and monitoring of SIDS partnerships.

The programme is posted on the SDKP website at the following link:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/partnerships2018>.

The Dialogue would also include some space for networking among partnership focal points and government officials, for showcasing and discussing partnerships and innovative solutions, and further explore the potential of scaling-up existing, and launch new, partnerships in line with the priorities of SIDS. Interested organizers from member States, UN system entities, IGOs, private sector and major groups and other stakeholders, should apply to the Secretariat by 1 October 2018. A schedule of all networking sessions will be made available to all participants ahead of the Samoa Partnership Dialogue, to seek interest of scheduled sessions.

Lastly, the two co-chairs of the meeting of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS, Belize and Ireland, were able bring a draft set of SIDS Partnership Norms for consideration, resulting from the of regional partnership dialogues held in the margins of the regional preparatory meetings at the SAMOA Pathway MTR. The co-chairs invited comments and concrete suggestions for improvement of the document, to be submitted by 5 October 2018 and an updated version of the document will be included in the outcome document of the inter-regional preparatory meeting for the review of the SAMOA Pathway.

Discussions

UNFPA inquired on how the outcome the Partnership dialogue would feed would into interregional discussions and the high-level review. DESA indicated that since the dialogue was taking place before the interregional meeting, the outcome would be feed into the overall discussions as well as the outcome document. The UNRC of Samoa added that since partnerships are central to any progress that needs to be made on the SAMOA Pathway, the UN team was also keen to see what had really worked and not with respect to Partnerships.

5. SIDS National Focal Point Meeting

UN-OHRLLS advised that it will convene the first SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) meeting on 29 October 2018 in Samoa in the margins of the Interregional preparatory meeting. The meeting will launch the network of SIDS national focal point to enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels, by providing a vital link between the global level and the national level facilitating coordination, information sharing and planning on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs. So far, 19member states have confirmed to participate for the meeting. The concept note and draft agenda had been sent out. The meeting aims to address three areas which are; launch the network of SIDS national focal points and discuss how to strengthen the role of National Focal Points; share experiences on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway within the context of MTR review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs; discuss the statistical capacity and data issues as a critical capacity constraint in SIDS in the monitoring and review of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 agenda. Key points from participants in this meeting could feed into the interregional meeting and program is not finalized yet. OHRLLS will forward further information on the programme and other relevant matters as they progress.

6. Any Other Business

- **UNGA 73: side events/meetings concerning SIDS**

IRENA announced that they will be organizing a side event on 28th of Sept. 2018 in the ECOSOC Chamber from 13:15 to 14:30 to announce the launch of Light House Initiatives 2.0. The invitations were still to be dispatched. The LHI 1.0 was launched in 2014 and its targets were reached ahead of the timeline. 35 Member states are coming, 12 at the head of state level and many ministers. IRENA will be expecting to have good dialogue on how they will take the initiative forward and welcome to participate.

OHRLLS in collaboration with Global Green Growth Institute in cooperation with the Republic of Korea is hosting a high level even on leveraging green growth potential in vulnerable countries including SIDS also on 28th of Sept., 13:15-14:30 in Conference Room 5.

DOALOS is continuing annual resolutions on fisheries toward end of November

- **Modalities for the High-level review of the SAMOA Pathway**

Negotiations for the modalities for the High-Level review of the Samoa Pathway took place in June and ended in July 2018. The L documents were circulated and the draft Resolution stipulates that the High-level Review will be structured around an opening plenary meeting, followed by two multi-stakeholder round-table sessions, with time provided for an interactive dialogue and a closing plenary meeting; and be chaired by the President of the General Assembly.

- **PSIDS 2019 VNR Workshop (2 Nov 2018)**

The Meeting was informed that a Voluntary National Review (VNR) Capacity Building Workshops in the Pacific for Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS), co-organized by UNDESA, UNESCAP and UNDP will take place from 24 – 28 September 2018, at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, Fiji. On November 2, 2018, a second VNR workshop specifically targeting the five PSIDS countries presenting VNRs at HLFP 2019, will be held in Apia, Samoa, immediately after the conclusion of the SIDS Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting.

- **COP 24 (3-14 Dec 2018)**

The Samoa UNCT including UNESCO participated in the meeting via teleconference despite it being a Saturday morning in the Pacific in their desire to get a sense of where the things are, and they once again confirmed the UNCTs in Samoa and Pacific are ready to support the meeting.

END