



**Statement  
by  
Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi  
Prime Minister of Samoa  
at the  
AOSIS Leader Meeting  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, Orator Hotel, Apia**

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Your Excellency the Honourable Baron Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States,  
Your Excellency Mr Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations,  
Distinguished Leaders and Representatives of AOSIS Member States,  
Ladies and Gentleman.

Thank you for the honour to address the leaders and members of our group this morning.

Firstly I would like to convey my gratitude to the Chair of AOSIS for organising this meeting in the margins of the Third International Conference on SIDS. Many of you have sacrificed much to be in Samoa this week, I therefore feel humbled by this expression of goodwill and solidarity. Your presence is a source of pride and encouragement especially as the Conference in Samoa is about addressing the challenges and priorities of the very islands and people represented around this table and in this room. Welcome to Samoa and thank you for the commitment to be part of this exciting and historical event for our group.

Mr. Chairman,

We all know that SIDS had long been recognised by the United Nations as a “special case” for sustainable development. This recognition contributed to the fact that 2014 has been dedicated as the Year of the SIDS, providing a strategic opportunity for SIDS to command sustained centre-stage attention of all stakeholders with agenuine interest in their future sustainability. We, as SIDS, should continue to take the lead in the celebrations of the Year of SIDS. And this week’s conference provides another key opportunity for us as SIDS not only to re-emphasise our challenges and urge for a collective response to these challenges; but also to share our success stories as small but resilient nations.

In order to focus on our critical needs for sustainable development including ways and means to address them, SIDS and UN member states 20 years ago endorsed the Barbados Programme of Action, followed 11 years later by the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and this week we have before us the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway or in short the "S.A.M.O.A Pathway".

Some may wonder about the name S.A.M.O.A Pathway? I believe all AOSIS negotiators know the essence of this. But allow me to share some of the thinking behind this name. For Samoa, we felt that only those who know what the acronyms BPOA and MSI stand for in the context of the UN will immediately make the connection between the host country and the outcome document, and only those who follow the issues closely know that the Conference outcomes were slightly different; where Barbados produced a "Plan of action" for SIDS sustainable development, the Mauritius was a "strategy for the further implementation" of the BPOA.

Hence we felt there was a need for the official Outcome of our Conference that will be adopted by UN member states later this week to have SAMOA as part of the acronym. This provides clarity to the name of the Outcome Document and identifies the host country at the same time.

Secondly we already had a Programme of Action from Barbados and a Strategy of implementation from Mauritius, so we wanted the outcome of the Samoa conference to be relevant and applicable and takes forward the first two outcomes. That was why we felt it was critical that the name of our document speaks to accelerating action. The outcome of this conference will therefore be called the "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway or the SAMOA Pathway for short. Samoa's wish for this name would not have materialised if it wasn't for the full support of all of the SIDS members around this table, and for that, Samoa is indebted to all of you for your support.

What does the SAMOA Pathway mean for SIDS?

From Samoa's perspective, being a UN document, it represents agreement from the wider membership of the UN and as such, it represents a compromise in some areas where SIDS perspectives and priorities do not yet enjoy universal support. Nevertheless, the real challenge begins after Samoa, with what we as SIDS will do with this document and how we will engage the international community to address the full implementation of the BPOA, MSI and the SAMOA Pathway.

Samoa always believes that the two main outcomes of the Third International Conference on SIDS is the (i) SAMOA Pathway and (ii) Partnerships. We see partnerships as a cornerstone of the conference, based on our firm belief that irrespective of the level of development individual SIDS are at, and their national priorities, it is almost unimaginable to think that SIDS can achieve any of their needs without the support of a partner or a few partners. And partners can be national, other SIDS, civil society and the private sector or intergovernmental from both the north, south or through triangular cooperation.

This was the driving force behind our strong push to ensure partnerships became an integral and official part of the conference. It was also why we wanted to provide space for SIDS and their partners to launch SIDS-specific partnerships that will assist in our sustainable development, today not in the distance future. Importantly, it was also a way of giving our partners an opportunity so that their support for SIDS is acknowledged and appreciated. It's a way of saying that there are concrete developments happening in our respective countries.

So we look forward to the launching of several concrete partnerships throughout this week either in plenary, the multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, in side events and parallel events. Importantly, the follow up work to ensure that these partnerships are implemented and are supportive of SIDS sustainable agenda after the Samoa Conference is critically important.

The Samoa Pathway calls for an effective follow up mechanism not only for the outcome but also for all the partnerships launched or highlighted for SIDS at this conference.

Mr. Chairman,

I believe this meeting will help us highlight again some of the key issues that may have not received universal support in the negotiations of the SAMOA Pathway but most importantly to focus on other crucial processes such as the Post 2015 development agenda and the development of the Sustainable Development Goals and the upcoming Climate Change summit.

There is still much work to be done, and Samoa stands ready to continue to work in solidarity with all of you, so that our sustainable development needs are addressed.

Thank you.