



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



**Regional Preparatory Meeting**  
**for the Pacific SIDS for the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on SIDS**

**Nuku'alofa, Tonga**  
**16 - 18 August 2023**

*CHARTING THE COURSE TOWARD RESILIENT PROSPERITY*

**Programme of Work**

Wednesday 16 August		
<b>8:30am – 9am</b>	Registration	
<b>9:00am-10:00am</b>	Official Opening	<p><b>Master of Ceremony:</b> H.E Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tone Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UN</p> <p><b>Opening Hymn:</b> Tupou Tertiary Institution</p> <p><b>Opening Prayer:</b> His Eminence Cardinal Soane Patita Paini Mafi, Bishop of the Diocese of Tonga and Niue</p> <p><b>Special Item:</b> Tupou Tertiary Institution</p> <p><b>Welcome Remarks:</b> Hon. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p> <p><b>Remarks on Behalf of AOSIS:</b> Ms. Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa,.</p> <p><b>Remarks:</b> Mr. Li Junhua Under-Secretary-General UNDESA and Secretary General of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on SIDS</p> <p><b>Key Note Address:</b> Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga</p> <p><b>Closing Prayer:</b> His Eminence Cardinal Soane Patita Paini Mafi, Bishop of the Diocese of Tonga and Niue</p> <p><b>House Keeping Matters:</b> Team Tonga</p>

<b>10:00-10:15am</b>	Family Photo (Heads of Delegations Only)	
<b>10:15am-10:45am</b>	<p>Election of the bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work</p> <p>This session deals with Organizational Matters. The SG of the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference will appoint the Chair and the Bureau. The Chair will define the objectives and outputs of the meeting (including structure of the report and related aspects) in the context of the regional preparatory processes for the final Pacific review of the SAMOA Pathway. The specific outputs expected of the meeting will be identified. The structure of the report to be adopted by the meeting and the zero Draft Outcome Document will also be outlined. Discussions on the Agenda and Organization of Work including its adoption will be addressed in this session</p>	<p><b>Conference Secretary General:</b> Mr. Li Junhua Under-Secretary-General UNDESA and Secretary General of the 4th International Conference on SIDS</p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p>
<b>10:45 – 11:00am</b>	Tea/Coffee Break	
<b>11:00am-1:00pm</b>	<p><b>Assessment of SAMOA Pathway Progress</b></p> <p>A regional overview of SAMOA Pathway outcomes and impacts will set the stage for an exchange on national experiences implementing the SIDS agenda</p> <p><i>Interactive discussion</i></p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Key Note Address: Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana,</b> Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of ESCAP</p> <p>National Contributions (Nauru, Tonga, Kiribati, Fiji)</p> <p><b>Mr Sudip Ranjan Basu</b> Deputy Head, ESCAP – Subregional Office for the Pacific and <b>Mr. Roy Trivedy,</b> International Consultant &amp; Former Resident Coordinator in Timor-Leste and Papua New Guinea</p>
<b>1:00 – 2:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>2:00 – 3:45pm</b>	<b>Roundtable 1: Strategic Responses to multilayered shocks impacting Pacific SIDS</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga

SIDS are among the most vulnerable countries to external shocks. They are facing an unprecedented set of events, stemming partly from i) the COVID-19 pandemic which has exacerbated their debt situation ii) rising cost of living due in part to the situation between Russia and Ukraine and (iii) climate-related disasters.

Pacific SIDS are experiencing fiscal and financial stress from the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, as a result of increased public spending to respond to the health emergency and to recover from its impacts. National revenues from key economic sectors such as tourism have been slow to fully recover. At the same time, climate change and weather related disasters continues to threaten achievement of sustainable development, destroying biodiversity, infrastructure and interfering with livelihoods

Unaddressed, there will be deepening hardship, debt defaults, and widening inequality. Overcoming these challenges requires the rapid scaling up of investments and available financial resources as well as capacity building to reduce vulnerability and build resilience. This session will focus on challenges and emerging issues deserving closer attention to enhance the resilience to external shocks in Pacific SIDS and explore way forward.

Perspectives on challenges and emerging issues deserving closer attention to enhance the economic sustainability and people centred social development in Pacific SIDS (e.g., inclusive economic growth, job creation, trade and investment, education and skill development; health systems and non-

**Moderator:** Mr Paula Maú, Chief Secretary & Secretary to Cabinet, Kingdom of Tonga

**Speakers:**

**Mr. Samuel Soares**, Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Timor Leste

**Mr. Christopher Cocker**, Chief Executive Officer, Pacific Tourism Organisation (Virtual)

**H.E Ms. Ilana Seid**, Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations

**Mr. Richard Howard**, UN Resident Coordinator, Papua New Guinea (Virtual)

	communicable disease, gender equity and women's empowerment).	
<b>3:45 – 4:00pm</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
<b>4:00pm–5:45pm</b>	<p><b>Roundtable 2: Sustainable economic development, people centred social transformation and prosperity issues in Pacific SIDS</b></p> <p>Ensuring social justice, social inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, and secure communities with access to essential goods and services are key components of sustainable development in SIDS. Youth engagement also plays a critical role in accelerating the implementation of sustainable development. Facilitating access to quality education and employment opportunities for the youth while promoting gender equality are central to fostering social inclusion. The COVID-19 highlighted the social challenges in the Pacific region including inter alia inadequate social protection, and poverty. In this session, participants will engage in a discussion about the pressing challenges in social development in the Pacific region and explore effective strategies to address them. Issues such as blue green growth and job creation, social protection, health education and sustainable development will be discussed</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p> <p><b>Moderator: H.E. Ms. Ilana Seid,</b> Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Mr. Tapugao Falefou,</b> Permanent Representative of Tuvalu to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Mr. Jonathan Veitch,</b> Representative UNICEF Pacific (Virtual)</p> <p><b>Ms. Jacqueline Weekers,</b> Chief of Mission Country Office for Australia with Coordinating Functions for New Zealand &amp; the Pacific, International Organization for Migration</p> <p><b>Mr. Pedro Velazquez,</b> Acting Head of Cooperation, Head of Section, Civil Society, Gender, Human Rights, Health, Development and Cooperation Unit, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific</p> <p><b>Ms. Lise Kalavi,</b> Regional Consultant</p>
<b>5:45pm – 6:15pm</b>	<b>Closed Session (Pacific Countries Only)</b>	
<b>7:00pm-9:00pm</b>	<b>Welcome Reception</b> – Hosted by Honourable Hu'akavameiliku at Liku'alofa	

**END DAY 1**

**THURSDAY 17 AUGUST**

<b>8:00am – 9:30am</b>	<b>Donor Roundtable</b> <i>(By Invitation Only)</i>	
<b>9:30am – 11:15am</b>	<p><b>Roundtable 3: Harnessing the Potential of the Pacific’s Natural capital and pursuing nexus approaches</b></p> <p>Perspectives on opportunities to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation and protecting oceans and environment, with a focus on oceans and seas, and sustainable energy transition, disaster risk reduction (e.g., Fossil fuel free Pacific, Early-warning systems, and Global Biodiversity Framework)</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeola Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Tearinaki Tanielu,</b> Director, Multilateral Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs &amp; Immigration, Kiribati</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>H.E Mr. Viliami Va’inga Tone</b> Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UN</p> <p><b>Mr. Jope Davetanivalu,</b> Director Environmental Monitoring and Governance, SPREP</p> <p><b>Ms. Brenda Heather-Latu ,</b> Regional Consultant</p>
<b>11:15-11:30am</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>	
<b>11:30 am– 1:15pm</b>	<p><b>Roundtable 4: Financing Development in Pacific SIDS</b></p> <p>Most Pacific SIDS have economies heavily reliant on a narrow range of sectors, such as tourism and agriculture. This lack of economic diversification makes them susceptible to external shocks and changes in global market. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated already high fiscal imbalances and debt vulnerabilities in many SIDS in the region.</p> <p>While addressing these immediate needs, the international community must lay the path toward a new financial system that drives financial resources towards vulnerable countries. This requires the rapid scaling up of investments and available financial resources to reduce vulnerability and build resilience In this regard reform of</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeola Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms Kilisitina Tuameiápi,</b> CEO for Finance, Kingdom of Tonga</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>H.E. Mr Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru</b> Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN and Member of the High Level Panel on the MVI</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr Fred Safura,</b> Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Mr. Aholotu Palu,</b> CEO, Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company</p> <p><b>Prof. Ruth Kattumuri,</b> Senior Director, Economic, Youth &amp; Sustainable Development Commonwealth Secretariat</p> <p><b>Ms. Simona Marinescu,</b> Senior Adviser, SIDS, UNOPS</p>

	<p>the international financial architecture and the work on the High level Panel on the MVI is crucial and support from the International Community will be necessary to move this agenda forward.</p> <p>This session will feature insightful discussions and expert insights into the current landscape of resource mobilization in the region, shedding light on successful initiatives and identifying potential areas of improvement.</p>	<p><b>H.E Ms. Lucy Joyce</b> British High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Tonga</p>
<p><b>1:15pm-2:15pm</b></p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>	
<p><b>2:15pm – 4:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Roundtable 5: Effective Institutions in Pacific SIDS and strengthening Statistical Capacities</b></p> <p>In the pursuit of sustainable development, Pacific SIDS face numerous challenges that demand well-informed and effective decision-making. Building institutional and statistical capacity is crucial for enabling governments to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate development initiatives accurately and transparently. The roundtable seeks to have an exchange to improve institutional and data capacity to support planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation for improved governance and operationalization of development plans</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Charlene Hoff</b>, Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>H.E Mr. Filipo Tarakinikini</b>, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Ms. Alison Culpin</b>, Statistics Adviser, SPC (Virtual)</p> <p><b>Ms. Misha Kaur</b> Senior Lead &amp; Specialist, Public Governance Directorate, OECD</p> <p><b>H.E. Mr Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru</b> Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN</p> <p><b>Mr. Paul Wallis</b>, Special Adviser, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Pacific and Development Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand</p>
<p><b>4:00pm – 4:15pm</b></p>	<p><i>Tea/Coffee Break</i></p>	
<p><b>4:15 – 6:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Roundtable 6: Improving Partnerships around technology and digital economy in Pacific SIDS</b></p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p>

	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the urgency of embracing innovative approaches to building resilient economies and societies. This session focuses on scaling up innovative approaches to ensuring the sustainable development of Pacific SIDS. It will examine how the region can remain competitive in a market that is focusing more on technology and digitalization. Discussions will also focus on leveraging digital advancements to enhance various sectors and also explore ways to stimulate novel solutions to local challenges, encourage start-ups, and boost private sector engagement in sustainable development.</p> <p>This session will explore essential enabling factors that can foster, enhance, and scale up multi-stakeholder partnerships, including policies that encourage collaboration, dedicated capacity-building initiatives, and innovative financing mechanisms to incentivize investments in digitalization. It will also include an exchange on opportunities for partnerships uniquely responsive to Pacific development needs, A discussion on how the SIDS Partnership Framework can be strengthened to support effective partnership building in the region will also be included.</p>	<p><b>Moderator: H.E. Mr Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr Pa'olelei Luteru Permanent Representative of Samoa to the UN and Chair of AOSIS and Mr. Afonso Lages, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Sai Navoti</b>, Chief, SIDS Unit, UNDESA</p> <p><b>Mr. Sylvain Kalsakau</b> Head United Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p> <p><b>Mr. Howard Politini</b>, Chairman, Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO)</p> <p><b>Mr. Austin Lewis</b>, Economic Officer, US Embassy in Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu</p> <p><b>Ms. Atsuko Okuda</b>, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, ITU (Virtual)</p>
<b>6:00-6:30pm</b>	<b>Closed Session (Pacific Countries Only)</b>	

**END DAY 2**

**FRIDAY 18 AUGUST**

<b>9:00-10:45am</b>	<p><b>Roundtable 7: Regionalism for impactful results for sustainable development in Pacific SIDS</b></p> <p>This session will focus on Regionalism issues and Pacific leadership of its development agenda. The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent will be in shaping aspirations in the Pacific. The session will explore ways to connect with the global sustainable development agendas and other initiatives through these key regional policy documents. Other issues to be explored include the Mid-term review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Hon Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p> <p><b>Moderator: H.E. Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua</b>, Permanent Representative of Marshall Islands to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Henry Cocker</b>, Engagement Adviser, Sustainable Development, PIFS</p> <p><b>Dr. George Carter</b>, Research Fellow and Director of the Pacific Institute, Australian National University, Co-Director, Resilient and Sustainable Islands Initiative (RESI)</p> <p><b>H.E Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tone</b> Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the UN</p> <p><b>Ms. Allison Gow</b>, Assistant Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia</p> <p><b>Ms. Andie Fong Toy</b>, Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific</p>
<b>10:45am-11:00</b>	<i>Tea/Coffee Break</i>	
<b>11:00am – 1:00pm</b>	Discussion of Outcome Document (Closed Session)	<b>Chair:</b> Hon. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga
<b>1:00-2:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>2:00-3:00pm</b>	Discussion of Outcome Document (Closed Session)	<b>Chair:</b> Hon. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga
<b>3:00pm – 3:30pm</b>	Presentation and Adoption of the Outcome Document	<b>Chair:</b> Hon. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga



<b>3:30pm</b>	Closing ceremony	<p>Mr. Li Junhua Under-Secretary-General UNDESA and Secretary General of the 4th International Conference on SIDS</p> <p>Hon. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga</p>
<b>4pm</b>	Farewell Reception hosted by Hon. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Tonga	