

Report of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway
San Pedro, Belize, 7-9 August 2018

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I. Introduction

1. The Caribbean Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway (the Meeting) was held on 7 to 9 August 2018 in San Pedro, Belize. It was preceded by the Caribbean SIDS Regional Partnership Dialogue (the Dialogue) on 6 August 2018.

2. The Dialogue examined the development, implementation, challenges and lessons learned from various Partnerships in the Caribbean; assessed the extent to which Partnerships could be used to address implementation gaps in the SAMOA Pathway priority areas and the SDGs; and discussed how the review and monitoring of Partnerships could best be strengthened and additional meaningful Partnerships fostered.

3. The Meeting assessed progress with implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean, examined the gaps and challenges in their implementation efforts and identified a set of regional priorities inclusive of a list of actions to further advance implementation. At its final session, the Meeting adopted its Outcome Document, the San Pedro Declaration, a copy of which is at Annex I. The Final Agenda of the Meeting and the List of Participants are at Annex II and III respectively.

II. Opening of the Meeting

4. At the official Opening, remarks were made by the Honourable Omar Figueroa, Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development Belize, H.E. Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS), Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti, Chief, SIDS Unit, on behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), and by H.E. Mr. Irwin LaRocque, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The official address was delivered by the Right Honourable Mr. Dean O. Barrow, Prime Minister of Belize.

5. In his remarks, Hon. Omar Figueroa noted that the Meeting presents a good opportunity to assess progress in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the region. He, expressed concern that the SIDS

Agenda is being progressively overshadowed by other global sustainable development agendas and thus overwhelming the capacities of Caribbean SIDS. He underscored the need to reinforce the international commitment to the SIDS Agenda in charting a way forward.

6. Mr. Navoti, on behalf of UN-DESA congratulated and thanked the Government of Belize for its leadership role and for the work done in preparing for the meeting. Mr. Navoti noted that the Midterm review of the SAMOA Pathway presents a key opportunity for the Caribbean SIDS to re-harness the support of the international community for addressing the region's challenges. He emphasized that without a doubt, SIDS will have to contend with challenges, uncertainties and setbacks in pursuit of their sustainable development objectives. However, to keep progressing, SIDS would have to keep evolving. Mr. Navoti reminded delegates that the purpose for their being in Belize was to do just that, review, move forward and evolve.

7. Under Secretary-General 'Utoikamanu, thanked the Government of Belize for hosting the Meeting and for the hospitality provided. She noted that the Midterm Review gives SIDS the opportunity to not just renew emphasis on the SAMOA Pathway but to reinvigorate commitment to action. She underscored the need for SIDS to chart a course of action that would enable full implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, as a key building block for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ms. 'Utoikamanu concluded by assuring the Meeting of the UN's support in addressing the challenges faced by SIDS in meeting their sustainable development goals.

8. H.E. Mr. Irwin LaRocque, Secretary General of the Caribbean Community in his remarks, noted that at their recent Meeting held in Jamaica in July 2018, CARICOM Heads of Government agreed that Member States must work closely with the international community to take the necessary actions to build the environmental, social and economic resilience of Caribbean SIDS. In this regard, Mr. LaRocque underscored the need for urgent attention to be paid to reducing the debt burden of Caribbean SIDS. The Secretary General also indicated that while global attention has to date been focused on achieving the SDGs, it is incumbent upon SIDS to ensure that the SDGs are pursued in the context of SIDS' special circumstances, i.e. vulnerability to natural disasters, effects of climate change, small size and limited natural resource base. He concluded by giving his assurances that he would endeavor to reach out to his counterparts in the AIMS and Pacific Regional Institutions to ensure that SIDS's collective influence is used to give the best chance of a positive outcome for the midterm review process.

9. The Rt. Hon. Dean O. Barrow, Prime Minister of Belize highlighted the recent efforts made by Belize to defend the environmental integrity of its Barrier Reef and associated resources, especially through progressive conservation measures, such as a ban on offshore oil exploration. The Prime Minister however noted that notwithstanding the country's best efforts to meet its sustainable development goals, it still faced threats from distant places, and that despite the special and circumstances of SIDS, global development policy

still deploys a one-size-fits-all approach. He emphasized that SIDS must advocate for proper international focus on and support for the SIDS Agenda. He also indicated that the spotlight must be refocused on SIDS and that the meeting is the opportunity to tailor solutions to address the special case of SIDS.

10. A video of the Opening Ceremony is available at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview/caribbean>

III. Sessions

11. The Meeting was divided into nine (9) sessions, three of which was devoted to the Dialogue and six (6) to the Mid-term Review of the SAMOA Pathway. Each session was structured around presentations by resource persons, followed by facilitated interactive discussions.

THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE

Session 1: Assessing progress with partnerships in the Caribbean – good practices and lessons learned

12. This session 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. Micheál Tierney, Counselor, representing H.E. Mrs. Geraldine Patricia Byrne Nason, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN. Ms. Young thanked all members of the organising committee and Italy for supporting the partnership dialogues and called for a new development paradigm and solutions for supporting the sustainable development of SIDS. Mr. Tierney recalled that the SAMOA Pathway midterm review will consider lessons learnt from Partnerships thus far, and in this regard, highlighted the need for improved data that could support effective monitoring and evaluation of partnerships.

13. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Dr. Kathryn Mengerink, (Waite Institute), Ms. Laverne Walker, (Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus Project), Mr. Hayden Redhead, (Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)), Mr. Travis Sinckler, (Government of Barbados) and Ms. Tisa Grant, (UNFPA). They cited various ongoing Caribbean SIDS Partnerships as examples and highlighted the challenges to their development, governance structures, implementation modalities, monitoring and evaluation approaches.

14. The Panellists noted the following opportunities, challenges and suggested some potential solutions as follows:

- 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. This may prove difficult, particularly in the beginning, as partners may not fully

understand each other. If possible a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be established setting the Partnership's goals and objectives. Regular progress reviews are also needed to keep the partnership on track towards the stated goals and objectives.

- Partnerships are sometimes challenged by lack of trust between partners. Trust is a critical ingredient of a successful partnership and should be fostered through joint action and shared responsibilities.
- Successful partnerships must be participatory. 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.
- Partnerships often require internal financial and other resource mobilization on the part of Governments. This could be a challenge for governments where there can be limited fiscal space for investment into sustainable development. In such cases priorities have to be carefully defined as to where limited resources are to be spent. One example of an innovative financing solution discussed, was the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund as part of the CCI. In the case of the CCI, each participating country is encouraged to create its own national trust fund, and in addition, will also be able to access funding from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. Other partnerships have involved the private sectors, chambers of commerce, as well as funding from such UN agencies as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), donor countries etc.
- There is often overlap and duplication between partnerships, projects and other initiatives. There needs to be a transparent accessible mechanism that would allow donors and others stakeholders to know what types of partnerships have or is being carried out in the region. This would ensure that lessons learned are accessible. In this regard, there is a need for regional mapping of institutional mandates and regional frameworks overlap, in order to identify areas of duplication and to establish a common monitoring framework. One way to avoid duplication is through the establishment of a regional information portal that contains information about projects, programmes and initiatives, including their scope, duration and funding arrangements. One example cited by a panellist was the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) portal, which is managed by the project coordination unit of CLME. Other regional information sources also exist, for example the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC)¹.

¹ The RCM

was officially established through a resolution made at the 21st session of the Caribbean Development

- There are limited monitoring and evaluation frameworks against which progress could be assessed. Access to information, managing data, and knowledge transfer are issues at both national and regional levels.
- Capacity challenges remain in the Caribbean. One panellist noted the development of a capacity building and innovation partnership platform for SIDS, supported by UNIDO, which will enhance green economy knowledge transfer between all SIDS, foster innovation and support for small and medium sized enterprises
- Private sector engagement requires special skills e.g. communication and negotiation skills and requires strategic approaches aimed at win-win outcomes. One solution offered was that the partnership should develop and establish a strategic action programme for public/private sector engagement

15. A recurring theme amongst the successful partnerships discussed during this session was for the development of a focused governance structure, providing for a leadership group (such as a steering committee) and the formulation of regular dialogue and a decision-making process between partners. One example of effective dialogue cited was the “solutions dialogue” built into the CCI, which allows partners to share problems and solutions. All of the successful partnerships examined, also had in place a review and monitoring process. Such frameworks at regional and national levels were identified as a best practices and lessons learnt for larger public/private sector partnerships

Session 2: Identifying partnerships to fill the gaps in implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

16. Session 2 was moderated by Dr. Percival Cho, CEO of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, The Environment & sustainable development, Belize and focused on gaps in partnerships. The session examined priority areas where further partnerships could be forged for the sustainable development of SIDS in the Caribbean and addressed the types of partners from sectors and groups that are currently underrepresented in partnerships in the region. The panellists were USG Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, (High Representative OHRLLS), Mr. Lyndon Forbes Robertson, (Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)), Dr. Albert Binger, (Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) and Secretary-General of SIDS DOCK), Mr. Simeon Collins, (Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)), Mr. Dillon Alleyne, (ECLAC) and Ms. Fiona Grant, (Marine Institute of Ireland).

17. The session commenced with a presentation by UN DESA on the status of SIDS partnerships in the Caribbean. In this regard, it was noted that there is an increasing trend in SIDS partnerships in the Caribbean,

with a high degree of implementation and with many completed. The need to strengthen reporting processes was however noted. All SAMOA Pathway priority areas have been addressed through partnerships, but unevenly. Areas for which there is less attention include trade, sustainable transportation, NDCs, social issues (gender, crime, youth etc) biodiversity, recycling, sanitation and waste water management. It was also noted that a smaller number of partnerships didn't necessarily imply a gap if the existing partnerships are effective and inclusive.

18. In the presentations and ensuing discussions, a number of gaps were highlighted, and proposals for possible partnerships identified as follows:

- 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.
- Partnerships with insurance industry is a possible innovative means of mobilizing resources for sustainable development. This needs to be properly explored in the region
- As SIDS are still highly dependent on fossil fuels, partnerships which foster greater use of electric vehicles or the development of Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) could reduce dependency on imported petroleum.
- Food Security and bio-safety: Diseases and pests move quickly, as such there is a need for a regional action plan and the development of an integrated regional emergency response strategy, to ensure the safety of the food supply in an emergency situation.
- Building resilient health systems, including physical and mental well-being is important for the achievement of the SAMOA Pathway. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs – cancer, heart attack, stroke) are more significant than communicable diseases in the Caribbean. Climate change is also a significant threat to human health.
- Maritime sectors: Innovations in the maritime domain, and maximizing socio-economic benefits of open science and open data towards developing blue economies are important for SIDS. Fostering small, medium and micro enterprises relating to ocean resources could help to foster ocean economies in the Caribbean.

19. The review of partnerships was also discussed. There is a need have an agreed definition on what is meant by durable, genuine and effective partnerships, including having a functional mechanism for measuring, monitoring evaluation and reporting. Development and implementation of effective partnership norms can help to provide the basis for the development and implementation of appropriate partnerships. The

SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Timely) can provide a general basis for articulating norms.

Session 3: Strengthening the review and monitoring process of partnerships of SIDS

20. Session 3 was moderated by Mr. Mícheál Tierney (Ireland), Co-Chair of the UN Partnership Committee for SIDS. It provided an opportunity for the Dialogue to discuss the SIDS Partnership Framework, and how the monitoring, review and launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS, could be fostered. Panellists of this session were Ms. Nicola Barker-Murphy, (Jamaica), Mr. Douglas Slater, (CARICOM Secretariat), Ms. Shantal Munro-Knight, (Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)), Mr. Mark Griffith, CaribInvest WI Ltd, and Mr. Paul Acton, (DIGICEL - via Skype).

21. During the discussions which followed the presentations, all panellists agreed on the need to strengthen the review, evaluation and monitoring of partnerships. This requirement should be made mandatory and it should be built into partnerships from the outset. In this way, the cost of monitoring and reporting becomes part of the project costs. A serious challenge to monitoring, reporting and evaluating partnerships in the Caribbean is the lack of baseline data or indicators. Institutional and human capacity strengthening are needed both for identifying, collecting and using evidence-based data.

22. The following additional items were also discussed: -

- The monitoring process should assess the weight and impact of partnerships, including how a partnership interlinks with Samoa Pathway priority topics outside of its main area of focus. Spillover effects of partnerships should also be understood and monitored. The regional coordination mechanism (RCM) for the Caribbean, established by the Caribbean Development and cooperation Committee (CDCC), could assist in reviewing and monitoring partnerships in the region. The RCM is an established regional mechanism with focal points in each country. For the RCM to fulfil this function, it will need funding and localised institutionalisation.
- Effective partnerships have shared benefits and commitments, as well as a sense of ownership by all partners. Collaboration is essential for partnerships.
- There is a need for more rigorous evidence-based criteria on how to establish partnerships, and more baselines for measuring progress. Some challenges in this regard include:
(i) The lack of baseline data for partnerships (ii) lack of appropriate data for monitoring and evaluation, which does not allow for measuring impact of partnerships (iii) SMART criteria in partnerships (iv) Evidence-based criteria for evaluating partnerships.

- Partnerships must be inclusive of all stakeholders, and an effort should be made to include marginalized groups e.g. women , youth, children. They should be based on a common understanding of objectives, collaboration, trust and accountability. Successful partnerships bring together all stakeholders from the very beginning, ensuring ownership in the process. In order to have buy-in from communities, NGOs and civil society need to be involved. Partnerships must work and cooperate with government and government entities. Successful partnerships should be replicated, so as not to reinvent the wheel.
- The lack of meaningful “from the start” engagement of other key partners such as civil society, women, youth and other groups such as trade unions, has, in many cases, been a critical gap in the development of effective, durable genuine partnerships in the Caribbean. Too often it is the powerful and entrenched interests, which have easy access to policy-makers. Civil society organizations have made a strong contribution to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway priority areas. Civil society organizations have provided and continue to provide both financial and human resources to assisting Caribbean SIDS to meet their sustainable development goals.

23. Private sector inclusion and involvement was also discussed with these key lessons identified: Private sector in the Caribbean consists mainly of small and medium-sized enterprises, with services, such as tourism and fisheries, being the largest contributor to economic growth.

- Access to finance is a key challenge for the private sector, and this limits their ability to finance sustainable development at the national level.
- Private sector has little understanding of instruments such as the SAMOA pathway, and other SIDS policy frameworks and instruments. It is difficult for the private sector to understand the language in these documents.
- If partnerships want private sector involvement, they need to translate the UN-oriented language in policy documents into something that the private sector can understand. This language needs to be action-oriented and results-focused.
- 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.

Summary of key points from the Regional Partnership Dialogue

24. The co-chairs highlighted the following key points and expectations as take-away messages from the dialogue. First, the meaning of durable and genuine partnerships should be clearly defined. In regards to monitoring and evaluating the following were discussed; Monitoring and evaluation should be mandatory and built into partnerships from the outset in order for its cost to be included in the project; the ability to measure, monitor and evaluate needs to be developed; capacity strengthening may be needed both for collecting and using evidence-based data as one of the serious challenge to monitoring and evaluating partnerships in the Caribbean is the lack of baseline data as well as indicators; the monitoring process should assess the weight and impact of partnerships, including how a partnership interlinks with Samoa Pathway priority topics outside of its main area of focus and spill-over effects of partnerships should also be understood and monitored; a regional coordination mechanism for the Caribbean, maintained by ECLAC, can assist in reviewing and monitoring in the region. Third, partnerships must be inclusive of all stakeholders including communities, NGOs and civil society and an effort must be made to include marginalized groups. Fourth, private sector involvement requires a clear expression of needs by government and the articulation of strategies in language that is understandable to the private sector. Finally, evidence-based data is also needed to demonstrate impacts and to show measurable results.

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PREPRATORY MEETING FOR THE MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

Adoption of the Agenda and Organizational Matters

25. Under this item, Member States appointed a Bureau comprising Belize as the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting, Saint Lucia, Barbados and the Dominican Republic. The Meeting then adopted the Agenda of the Meeting (Annex II)

26. Mr. Sainivalati S. Navoti, UN-DESA, provided an overview of Mid-Term review processes. He conveyed that in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolutions A/RES/71/225 and A/RES/72/217, preparatory meetings of SIDS in their respective regions, and an interregional meeting for SIDS are to be convened in 2018 in order to undertake a review of progress with implementation of the Samoa Pathway at national and regional levels. Furthermore, a one-day high-level review will take place at United Nations Headquarters in September 2019, as part of its seventy-fourth session, which will result in a concise, action-oriented and inter-governmentally agreed political declaration. So far, the AIMS regional preparatory meeting (23-25 May 2018) and the Pacific Regional Preparatory meeting (19-21 June 2018) had already been held, and the inter-regional meeting would take place in Apia, Samoa 30 October – 1 Nov 2018. Mr. Navoti acknowledged and

thanked the gracious funding of donor partners that has enabled the holding of these Preparatory Meetings.

Session 4: Contextualizing the S.A.M.O.A Pathway in the Caribbean

27. This session was chaired Dr. Percival Cho (Belize) and facilitated by Ms. Decima Corea (St. Vincent and The Grenadines). The session provided an overview of the global, and regional context of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway. Presentations were made by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox (OHRLLS), Mr. Sai Navoti, (UNDESA) Ms. Artie Dubrie, (ECLAC) Mr. Edon Daniels, (Guyana), Ms. Gillian Gutherie (Jamaica), H.E. Maria Balaguer Labrada (Cuba), Ms. Charmaine Williams, (the Bahamas), and Dr. Justin Ram, (Caribbean Development Bank - via SKYPE).

28. The Meeting heard an overview of the SIDS Agenda within a global and regional context, by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, (OHRLLS) and Mr. Sai Navoti, (UNDESA). Their presentations focused *inter alia* on the need to keep the SAMOA Pathway prominent on the international agenda and be used to intensify efforts and mobilize resources for SIDS toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as other relevant internationally agreed development agendas. Their presentations also highlighted the importance of the needs assessment exercise being undertaken by OHRLLS and DESA, and the opportunity it presents to secure additional resources for SIDS. Ms. Artie Dubrie (ECLAC) gave a presentation on the Caribbean Regional Report. She highlighted the processes involved in preparing the draft regional and conveyed that the purpose of the report was to document key achievements, challenges and gaps in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean, including specific approaches to implementation at national and regional levels. The report highlighted that in the absence of defined/agreed targets and indicators specific to the SAMOA Pathway, achievements could only be matched against corresponding 2030 Agenda SDG Goals and targets. Ms. Dubrie confirmed that the draft Regional Report remain open for inputs until 24 August 2018. Dr. Justin Ram, Caribbean Development Bank on the Caribbean gave a presentation on the developmental progress and challenges, risks and opportunities confronting the Caribbean region. This was then followed by country presentations from Guyana, Jamaica, Cuba and the Bahamas, on specific national approaches to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

29. Delegates at this Session discussed and exchanged information and ideas as follows:

- That the SAMOA Pathway reaffirms that SIDS are a special case for sustainable development and includes strong language on climate change, culture and other issues which are not as prominent in the SDGs.
- That the MTR process provides an opportunity to refocus on the challenges of SIDS, and to bring international attention to the

issues that are currently affecting SIDS e.g. de-risking, climate-change impacts, lack of access to development finance, debt sustainability etc.

- That the MTR Process is occurring at the same time as UN system reform and therefore presents a possible platform for SIDS to advocate for its concerns within the reform discussions e.g. review of Multi Country Offices and the Resident Coordinator System.
- That the MTR process is also a potential opportunity to mobilize additional resources for SIDS programmes within the UN Secretariat. This is also in keeping with the finding of the Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States (JIU/REP/2016/7).
- That the Caribbean region has several challenges spanning all three spheres of development i.e. Economic, social and environmental. With respect to growth, the region lags behind Latin America. Most SIDS are burdened with high debt to GDP ratios and low credit ratings making them unattractive to investors and adversely affecting their ability to borrow at lower interest rates.
- That the Caribbean needs more private sector involvement which could be fostered through better use of Public-Private Partnerships.
- Given the region's fiscal challenges, a debt swap initiative could help to relieve the fiscal pressure and jump start growth. This will however require a commitment to fiscal accountability and transparency.
- That greater use of appropriate political platforms for articulating the needs of SIDS is necessary.
- That at the national level, there is a need for the development of appropriate long-term national development plans in which SAMOA pathway priorities are to be embedded.
- That Caribbean challenges and the necessary solutions are well known. However, for these solutions to be realised, a cultural shift is necessary, including application and use of ICTs and an overhaul of public sector agencies to effect change.
- That governments need to create the conditions to encourage the private sector and integrate climate considerations into all investment decisions.
- That new approaches to development planning are needed, including broad consultation and a new level of accountability is required for implementation of the SIDS agenda.
- That at the national level, countries lack clearly defined structures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the SAMOA Pathway. As a result, for many countries there are no systematic and comprehensive reports and assessments available.
- That the SAMOA Pathway lacks bench marks and targets. This affects the ability to monitor and report progress through quantitative assessments.

- That the UN system and the international community have placed the bulk of its attention, energy and resources behind the SDGs. Focus on the SAMOA Pathway seems to be addressed by default.
- That data challenges persist in the region and there is limited capacity to systematically collect and report information in a timely manner. Notwithstanding, monitoring and evaluation requires high quality data and these must be developed over time.
- Limited human and institutional capacities and other inefficiencies hamper coordination at national levels. In addition, the need to link priorities across many agencies is difficult to coordinate. Ownership at the national level is therefore key towards addressing these challenges.
- South-South cooperation among SIDS as a means of supporting implementation has been underutilized and should be pursued more vigorously.

Session 5: Assessing Progress Implementation -Achievements, Gaps and Challenges

30. This session assessed the progress with implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as well as examined achievements, gaps and challenges including with respect to systematic monitoring and reporting. Discussion was facilitated by Dr. Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary General, Human and Social Development, CARICOM Secretariat, and Mr. Ruel Edwards of Grenada. The session was divided into four thematic sections. The first was entitled “*Transforming economies and societies for sustained inclusive and equitable growth*” Ms. Kennethia Douglas of Trinidad and Tobago gave a presentation focusing on her country’s national development strategy and the alignment with the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway, Ms. Karen Bernard, (UNDP), presented on the UN Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSDF) and Ms. Norma Cherry-Fevrier, (OECS Commission presented on the OECS Commission’s Framework for sustainable development which includes the St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability and the Growth and Development Strategy for the OECS and how these priorities are aligned with the SAMOA Pathway.

31. The second thematic session was entitled “*Building a sustainable and resilient Caribbean: confronting climate change and other environmental related stressors*”. This session heard presentations from Mr. Victor Alegria, (Belize), who presented on the country’s progress in implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and other economic and sustainable development initiatives. Ms. Alexandra Kerekaho and Mr. Maximilien Pardo, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) jointly presented on the topic building a sustainable and resilient Caribbean by addressing climate and environmental changes and harnessing ecological potential.

32. In the third thematic session, entitled “*Achieving financial and economic sustainability in the face of graduation, adverse debt dynamics, de-risking, and adverse impacts of climate change*” saw presentations by Mr. Tumasie Blair of Antigua and Barbuda, who presented his country’s efforts at achieving sustainability through economic diversification, investments in technology, debt repayments improvements in tax and revenue collection and greater use of PPPs. Mr. Dillon Alleyne, (ECLAC), presented on ECLAC’s support to the region in addressing issues such as low growth, debt, de-risking, graduation and climate change.

33. The fourth thematic session entitled “*Strengthening institutions and enabling environments for a people centred development*” saw presentations from Professor Rhoda Reddock, Member of the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Committee (2019-2022), who focussed on the social sector, the issues and challenges confronting the region. Prof. Reddock reflected on the need for appropriate investments in the social sector, given the rising crime and violence in the region, and the potential medium to long term benefits to be derived, viz a vis reduced costs in the long run for *inter alia* national security, the judiciary and prison systems. and Ms Zakiya Uzoma-Wadada, (CANARI) who examined the role that civil society plays in delivering on the sustainable development priorities of Caribbean SIDS. Ms. Uzoma-Wadada conveyed that civil society could do more if provided with the appropriate enabling environment, adequate resources and a real commitment from Governments for their meaningful involvement in decision making processes.

34. During the discussions, the following issues were raised: -

- The region’s priorities over the coming years could be focused around (i) Fostering Macroeconomic stability (ii) improving productivity and competitiveness (iii) improving human and institutional development and (iv) improving Environmental sustainability.
- 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, data for decision making
- Human development could include actions focused on the creation of decent work and employment especially among youth and women, investment in good quality education to build a skilled workforce, investments to improve civil society involvement, address crime and citizen security, and focus on health in particular reducing the incidences of NCDs.

- Resilience Building and Vulnerability Reduction. There is still a need for appropriate planning and adaptation tools i.e. vulnerability and country resilience profiles, development and enforcement of building codes, also incentivise the development of appropriate insurance facilities to raise resources for disaster risk reduction.

Session 6: Toward a Programme for Implementation

35. This session was chaired by Dr. Percival Cho (Belize). It focused on the identification of regional priorities and actions to advance their implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The session commenced with a presentation from Ms. Artie Dubrie, (ECLAC), on the synergies of agendas related to the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS. Three break out groups was formed during this session to: 1) identify regional priorities under the relevant thematic area over the next five years 2) identify the human, institutional, and financial resources required and capacity needed to support those priorities 3) identify what is needed to ensure timely systematic monitoring and reporting on implementation.

36. At the break out group report back session discussions, the following points were raised: -

- There are multiple stakeholders involved in development in the Caribbean. Besides the government, which provides political leadership, other related actors such as CSOs and the private sector and institutions at various levels should be first identified and engaged. Utilization of IT can facilitate this process at lower costs.
- Involving stakeholders in development requires a deliberate process to streamline interests into common objectives, identify specific roles and responsibilities and to secure commitment for accountability.
- Greater integration of SIDS as in the case of the Caribbean, enhancing SIDS-SIDS collaboration and cooperation can help with sharpening our message and strengthening our voice in a unified manner.
- Resilience building requires finance however access and absorptive capacity were considered as significant constraints. 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. References to debt swap proposals from the World Bank, Commonwealth and the ECLAC were also made.
- There is a need for differentiation for debt depending on the purpose such as consumption purposes and infrastructure and this is also linked to the issue of de-risking. Other needs mentioned during discussions were: diversification of SIDS economies and greater regional integration of markets through improved connectivity to increase competitiveness in global markets; Investment in education and building human capital;

Strengthening data and statistics - collection, analysis and reporting and dissemination of data and statistics to inform policy; A coordinating mechanism for follow-up on reporting and promote linkages; Identify key indicators for SIDS out of the SDG indicators.

- Issues of population dynamics should be considered when planning for development (reproductive health, migration, gender, youth, ageing etc) and participation of girls and women in education and productive sectors in particular in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) was emphasized. Women's capacity to cope with disasters including during post-disaster situations should be built, as women and girls often play the role of first responders and caregivers in the aftermath of an emergency which renders them a key target population for continued and/or increased investments in women.
- ECLAC is working to define a regional monitoring framework across the SDGs. Opportunity exist for SIDS to look at this framework, identify which indicators are included and address the gaps for SIDS, to leverage this platform that exist for monitoring and reporting on the priorities integrating the SIDS priorities into existing framework will be important for ensuring continuity and sustainability.
- On the issue of de-risking the following three points were stressed; 1. There is a need to address the perception of high-risk currently affecting Caribbean economies. In this regard there may be opportunities to leverage the work done by the IMF and the World Bank on de-risking and SIDS economies. 2. There needs to be greater advocacy by SIDS and the UN System and more transparency exhibited by rating agencies 3. There is a need for Caribbean SIDS to move from cash economies towards formal banking systems. This would reduce opportunities for money laundering, increase transparency and reduce opportunities for crimes that are linked with cash economies.
- For the Caribbean region, challenges of MIC are exacerbated because of SIDS inherent characteristics. Issue of knowledge sharing and SIDS-SIDS cooperation is currently weak and can be addressed through improving access to information where knowledge management remains key.
- Ex-ante capacity building including in the health sector is necessary to be able to better absorb shocks and responsiveness to disasters. Experiences were shared in the area of Health system preparedness, greening and smarting of health facilities and preparedness of facilities for disasters, health sector preparedness to deal with disasters in particular impacts of hurricanes in the region.

Session 7: Reserved for Bureau

37. Session 7 was a closed session, where members of Bureau only discussed and considered of the draft outcome of the Meeting.

Session 8: Addressing Caribbean Challenges with Means of Implementation.

38. This session was facilitated by Mr. Travis Mitchell, (Commonwealth Secretariat), it examined the current challenges confronting resource mobilization and engagement of the private sector and civil society in the region. It also discussed and suggest ways of addressing these challenges in support of the implementation of the region's priorities and needs. A presentation on the subject of Finance was made by Ambassador Ms. Sharmon Yvonne Hyde of Belize. Ms. Nicola Barker-Murphy of Jamaica presented on Trade and Capacity Development while Dr. David Smith and Dr. Douglas Slater presented on SIDS-SIDS Cooperation. Dr. Mark Griffith presented on Engagement with private sector and civil society.

39. Ms Hyde, highlighted that SIDS eligibility for financing still needs to be addressed, including their capacity to manage and absorb funds. She cited the issue of categorization based on GDP and noted internal challenges such as lack of human financial and institutional capacity, lack of relevant data delays access to finance and implementation. Ms. Hyde, as a suggested solution, discussed the need for the design of financial mechanisms with consideration of individual circumstances, strengthening of country institutions (public procurement institutions) and strengthening of project management.

40. Ms. Nicola Barker-Murphy (Jamaica) highlighted that since the share of export, trade and benefits are low in SIDS in the context of volatile international trade, the vulnerabilities of SIDS are constantly being further threatened. She noted the lack of reciprocal benefits to SIDS due to high energy costs, low competitiveness, fluctuation in exchange rates, limited energy transfer and limited disaggregated data. She emphasized that in order to overcome such challenges, the following efforts could be made; creation of a logistic hub, higher value added to products, exploration of culture and creative industries, finding cost effective and environmentally sustainable energy solutions.

41. Professor David Smith (UWI) underscored that SIDS-SIDS cooperation should be increased at both intra- and inter- regional levels to learn from each other and share lessons and best practices. He added that in term of cooperation, data sharing -not only meteorological hazard related data but other kinds of data, including movement of human capital should be encouraged to contribute to building better resilience in the region. Professor Smith explained as an effort to build resilience, the UWI is involved in network of universities to ensure university themselves are resilient and to make valuable contribution to the community. Finally, he noted that to support SIDS-SIDS cooperation, knowledge management is necessary.

42. Dr. Mark Griffith (CaribInvest Foundation Inc.) underscored that institutional mechanisms as well as effective engagement of private

sector and CSOs are critical for the Caribbean SIDS to implement the SAMOA Pathway, BPoA and MSI. However, Dr. Griffith noted that such frameworks have not been adequately established at the national, regional and international levels to facilitate the development of concise actions to develop support the implementation of the various SIDS instruments and the effective engagement of the various stakeholders. Dr. Griffith also emphasized that action would be necessary to prevent SIDS issues disappearing from the key agenda item on the agenda of the international community. He noted that challenges for engagement of private sector and CSOs include funding necessary engagement modalities, finding ways to broaden space for CSOs to participate and need to address the risk-averse tendency of private sectors. Finally, he also added that cohesion and coordination are also a challenge.

Session 9: Presentation of Draft Regional Outcome

43. The final session was chaired by Ms. Ruenna Haynes (Rapporteur), who presented the draft regional Outcome Document for discussion and for adoption. Participants reviewed and discussed the outcome document, examined it for accuracy in the context of their discussion and its comprehensiveness. The text was agreed to by the Meeting and adopted as the San Pedro Declaration. The outcome document is provided in Annex I.

IV. Conclusions of the Meeting

44. The Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting was successful concluded, following the consideration and adoption of the San Pedro Declaration. (see annex I).

V. Closing of the Meeting

45. At the closing session, the meeting heard remarks by Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General of UN-OHRLLS and by Hon. Wilfred P. Elrington, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Government of Belize.

46. USG 'Utoikamanu thanked the Government of Belize UNDESA and OHRLLS for the organisation of the meeting as well as all the participants, panellists and moderators for their valuable and substantive contributions to the thematic sessions. She noted that that the Meeting has touched upon the important findings of the JIU Review on the UN system support to Small Island Developing States. She highlighted that the two SIDS units of DESA and OHRLLS have strengthened coordination in line with these recommendations. The Under Secretary-General reiterated that the outcomes of the Meeting provide a comprehensive summary of the discussions and a clear direction forward to accelerate and further implement the SAMOA Pathway over the next five years. She concluded her statement reiterating the support of the

United Nations system in the process of accelerating progress toward the sustainable development of SIDS.

47. The Honourable Wilfred P. Elrington, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belize noted that the adopted Outcome of the Meeting, the San Pedro Declaration, accurately and clearly highlighted the Caribbean region's priorities in the further implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. It also highlights existing challenges of diseases, youth unemployment, crime and violence which are further exacerbated by persistent low economic growth, a volatile or hostile international financial and economic environment, the impact of climate change and decline in development assistance dedicated to SIDS. He welcomed the outcome of the Caribbean Regional Partnership Dialogue that was created for the development of meaningful and transparent partnership to support SIDS. Finally, he emphasized the need for continuation to coordinate, to raise the visibility of SIDS agenda both at home and globally and work strategically intra and inter regional levels. The Minister concluded by thanking the United Nations systems, Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of the Environment of Belize as well as Permanent Mission of Belize in New York for the organization of the meeting and Government of Germany and Mexico for the contributions.

48. The Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. on 9 August 2018.

SAN PEDRO DECLARATION
Caribbean SIDS Regional Preparatory Meeting,
San Pedro, Belize, 7-9 August 2018

1. Representatives of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Associate Members of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), met in San Pedro, Belize, from 7 to 9 August 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. The Caribbean regional preparatory meeting ('the Meeting'), for the SAMOA Pathway Mid-Term Review was attended by the participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago and Associate members of ECLAC attended and observers, including: Aruba, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Sint Maarten.

Contextualizing the S.A.M.O.A in the Caribbean

2. The Meeting affirmed that the SIDS agenda for sustainable development comprises the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA), the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, all of which reaffirm that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique vulnerabilities and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development. The SIDS agenda for sustainable development is consistent with the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda. The Meeting however stressed that the SIDS sustainable development agenda is a stand-alone regime in keeping with their recognition as a special case for environment and development that remains under the full ownership of SIDS.

3. The Meeting reaffirmed that the outcome of the Third International Conference on small island developing states, the SAMOA Pathway, reinforces the international recognition of SIDS as a special case for development and serves as an international framework to advance the sustainable development priorities of small island developing states. The Meeting urged its speedy and effective implementation, and called for the allocation of resources at the national, regional, inter-regional and international levels for strengthening existing modalities, and for the development and implementation of additional appropriate modalities for its effective monitoring, follow-up and review.

4. The Meeting noted that reporting should be tailored to address and accelerate support for the attainment of SIDS sustainable development objectives. In this regard, the Meeting underscored that the upcoming Midterm Review (MTR) represents an important opportunity for SIDS to assess gaps, challenges and emerging issues in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, including at the national, regional, inter regional and international

levels. The Meeting also noted that the MTR process is also an opportunity to strengthen institutional and targeted international support for SIDS through the allocation of adequate resources for the United Nations system to execute mandates emanating from the SIDS. The Meeting emphasized that the MTR should call for the international community to take urgent and concrete action to support SIDS in a coherent manner.

5. The Meeting stressed that while Caribbean SIDS have made some progress in meeting their sustainable development priorities, these countries continue to face major challenges and highlighted in particular, the lack of economies of scale in production, high vulnerability to environmental stresses, acute exposure to external shocks, excessive reliance on external financial inflows and on few export and import markets, limited transport and communications, reduced scope for economic diversification and limited human resources, compounded by high levels of migration of skilled individuals, high unemployment youth and women. This has resulted in stalled progress in some areas and reversal of development gains in others.

6. The Meeting noted with grave concern that the Caribbean region is experiencing sharply increasing debt to GDP ratios; persistent low economic growth; a widening infrastructure gap; high energy costs which negatively impact the ease of doing business in the region; and declining credit ratings that negatively affect prospects for investment, in an increasingly hostile and volatile international economic landscape. This is coupled with a decline in the attention and resources afforded to addressing SIDS issues in the context of the United Nations system. Moreover, existing challenges as set out in the SAMOA Pathway in relation to the impact of non-communicable diseases, poverty and inequality, youth unemployment, the gender wage gap, rising levels of crime and violence, including gender-based violence, the escalating costs of development activities, and the dangerous impacts of climate change persist. These challenges are being compounded by the increasing costs of recovery associated with more frequent and intense natural disasters.

7. Whereas the Meeting recognised the leadership that has been exerted in addressing some of these challenges, it also identified a clear need for enhanced citizen and private sector engagement at the national level, as well as the need to effectively mainstream the S.A.M.O.A Pathway into national development plans. The Meeting also took note of the need to revitalise institutional modalities for regional and inter-regional cooperation, and called for more effective international cooperation, genuine and durable partnerships and assistance from the international community. In this regard, the Meeting also called for renewed engagement with the international community to ensure that SIDS needs are central to decision-making processes that affect their development aspirations.

8. Caribbean SIDS are committed to the full and effective implementation of the BPoA, the MSI and the SAMOA Pathway and in this regard urged development partners to fulfill their commitments by providing timely and predictable financial and technical support to ensure the successful implementation of the outcome documents and decisions of all United Nations conferences and processes related to the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States. The Meeting noted with concern the declining levels

of Official Development Assistance and Foreign Direct Investment being provided to Caribbean SIDS.

Assessing Progress in Implementation – Achievements, Gaps and Challenges

9pre. Welcome the Caribbean Outlook report for 2018 prepared by ECLAC for this meeting that outlined many of the achievements, gaps and remaining challenges in the achievement of sustainable development for Caribbean SIDS.

9. At the Meeting Member States assessed progress in implementing the SAMOA Pathway, took note of achievements, best practices, and extant gaps and challenges. The Meeting welcomed the achievements of individual Member States and sub-regional groupings in aligning the SAMOA Pathway with existing sustainable development priorities, long and medium-term development planning, and with accessing finance for resilience building, in spite of existing high debt and fiscal stress. In this regard, the Meeting took note with appreciation of the efforts underway in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), in particular, to implement the St. George's Declaration² and CARICOM to develop a sub-regional strategy that builds on the synergies between existing development initiatives. The Meeting also welcomed the establishment and operationalisation of the SIDS Partnership Framework and used the opportunity of the Caribbean Regional Partnership Dialogue to assess the requirements for its improvement in the future. In this regard, the Meeting recognised the need to strengthen the Partnership Framework and proposed improved monitoring and evaluation, considering thus the advantages of developing norms such as the SMART criteria and building monitoring and evaluation into projects so as to better understand the impacts including the spillover effects of partnerships. The Meeting also proposed organising national and regional partnership dialogues and underscored the need to promote existing partnerships consistent with national sustainable development priorities.

10. The Meeting acknowledged that achieving a results-based, sustained and cohesive approach for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway requires that consideration be given to elements of governance, policy, budget, legislation, human resources, technology transfer, institutional framework, national, regional, inter-regional and international coordination, generation, access and application of data, and multisector stakeholder engagement.

11. The Meeting stressed the need for an integrated and synergistic approach to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and other sustainable development agreements, to strengthen coherence in overcoming the multiple challenges facing SIDS. The meeting identified the urgent need to strengthen knowledge management, education, communication and outreach activities to support the implementation monitoring and evaluation of the SAMOA Pathway.

12. The Meeting stressed the urgent need for an ongoing assessment of existing national and regional institutions and capacities mechanisms, roles, and mandates with a view to

² St George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS

identifying areas of overlap, duplication, gaps and conflicts to contribute to the best use of resources for Caribbean SIDS. In this regard, the Meeting called for the revitalisation of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism to advance political advocacy on SIDS issues at the regional level, facilitate SIDS-SIDS cooperation and advance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in a coherent and effective manner. In this regard, the Meeting underscored the importance of the role of the RCM as the natural institutional home for a system for regular review, early warnings and required reassessment/realignment of priorities, reporting and evaluation on the implementation of the SIDS sustainable development agenda.

13. The Meeting took note of the reform of the UN regular budget cycle and its movement from a biennial to an annual process, on trial basis beginning in 2020, as well as ongoing re-positioning of the UN Development System. In this regard, the Meeting stressed that these ongoing processes should not negatively impact the treatment and prioritization of SIDS sustainable development priorities and should rather form the basis for a renewed partnership and framing within the UN system for SIDS.

14. The Meeting welcomed the publication of the Findings of the Comprehensive Review of United Nations System Support for Small Island Developing States prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), and called for continued work on the full and effective implementation of its recommendations.

Transforming economies and societies for sustained inclusive and equitable growth

15. Poverty, unemployment, and exclusion disproportionately affect vulnerable groups in the Caribbean, with significant income disparities across the region and within countries. This demands economic re-structuring from a human-centered perspective that helps the region to remain competitive. Investments in appropriate education and skills-building are essential to expand human capabilities and support the readiness of young people for labour market opportunities that arise. These investments need to be complemented by the creation of opportunities in the labour market, a large proportion of which will come from entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprises, especially in many of the SIDS where significant parts of the labour market are informal and/or dependent on SMEs.

16. In this regard, the Meeting stressed the importance of expediting domestic capital formation and of using capital market strategies to drive the creation of and expansion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) including youth and women's ownership of SMEs to enable more persons to generate jobs and promote entrepreneurship.

17. The Meeting recognised the need to advance progress on the implementation of the social agenda elaborated in the SAMOA Pathway which is lagging behind. The Meeting also took note of the challenges in addressing these issues posed by limited fiscal space in the region.

18. The Meeting took note of the value of implementing prudent fiscal management reforms that would foster more balanced public finances and result in improved sovereign

credit ratings. The Meeting also noted the need to incentivize the participation of the private sector and called for the support of International Financial Institutions for government led fiscal reform efforts. The Meeting welcomed initiatives on debt restructuring, debt forgiveness and innovative forms of finance including the debt for climate adaptation swap initiative³.

19. The Meeting took note of the importance of the green economy, the blue economy and creative and cultural industries as means to build resilience, foster innovation and value chain creation as well as to promote entrepreneurship and decent jobs, in the context of enhancing economic diversification. The Meeting also noted the need to scale up investment and enhance the enabling environment for expanding renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region.

Building a sustainable and resilient Caribbean: confronting climate change and other environmental related stressors

20. The meeting reaffirmed that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and acknowledged that the impacts of climate change including sea level rise continue to pose a significant threat to Caribbean SIDS and their efforts to implement the SAMOA Pathway. In this context, the Meeting reaffirmed the imperative of limiting the increase in average global temperatures to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as championed by SIDS and took note of, the Declaration on Climate Change by the Heads of State and Government of CARICOM at their 39th Regular Meeting⁴, in order to assure their continued survival and viability. The Meeting recognized the responsibility of developed countries to take the lead in climate action.

21. The Meeting noted with concern that although the region's contribution to the climate change problem was negligible it was being disproportionately burdened with the financial cost of addressing its negative and dangerous impacts. In this regard, the Meeting took note of the challenges inherent in accessing climate change finance, including in relation to the need for national institutional strengthening and capacity building within and across SIDS. The Meeting also recognised and encouraged ongoing efforts for the expedition and simplification of Green Climate Fund and other Environmental Funds application processes with a view to improving SIDS access to finance and called for these to be further improved.

22. The Meeting emphasized that loss and damage is an integral pillar of the Paris Agreement and called for the provision of adequate support to initiatives under the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM) for Loss and Damage. The Meeting also called for support to enable countries to submit loss and damage proposals to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and urged the international community to support the CARICOM in its drive to recapitalize the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) as the premiere mechanism

³ *Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*, Report Prepared by ECLAC, 2018

⁴ "Securing the Future of Our People", 39th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM, 4 - 6 July 2018 Montego Bay, Jamaica

that presently addresses loss and damage, in the face of more intense extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change. The Meeting underscored the importance of support being made available for developing strategies for the financial management of disaster risk in SIDS, and in this regard, emphasized the importance of low-cost, concessionary and long-term financial arrangements. The Meeting called for the establishment of a global disaster fund for SIDS to build back better after natural disasters.

23. The Meeting stressed the need to integrate the improved management of environmental issues outside of climate change into the SAMOA Pathway. The linkages between the chemical waste management regime, and its implications for human health and social well-being in the region were highlighted with a request for further work to be done on these issues. In this regard, the Meeting called for greater attention to the generation and availability of environmental statistics to inform decision-making at all levels.

24. The Meeting considered the high levels of biodiversity in the region and its sensitivity to anthropogenic pressures which 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. The Meeting welcomed the success of conservation measures taken in Belize to preserve the integrity of the Belize barrier reef system, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

25. The Meeting underscored its support for 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. The Meeting welcomed initiatives on banning and or phasing out the use of single-use plastics undertaken in a number of countries in the region.

26. The Meeting recognized that reducing economic, social and environmental vulnerability and building the requisite resilience requires a significant departure from traditional approaches and interventions, and should involve risk assessments through a thorough analysis of communities, including details of the most vulnerable areas in terms of productivity, residences and infrastructure, followed by a recommended course of risk reduction measures. In this regard, the Meeting called on the UN system, the specialized agencies and relevant intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to elaborate appropriate indices for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of small island developing States. The Meeting stressed that these indices should: take better account of SIDS vulnerabilities; support the elaboration of policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience; strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems; improve analytical capabilities for decision-making, and the tracking of progress; and facilitate the further development and deployment of Vulnerability Resilience Country Profiles (VCRP), across Caribbean SIDS.

27. The Meeting called for an evaluation of the World Bank Small Island States Resilience Initiative in terms of building climate and disaster resilience in SIDS and for this

programme to be scaled up and expanded to all Caribbean SIDS. The Meeting called for the development of similar resilience initiatives to be launched in regional development banks.

Achieving financial and economic sustainability in the face of graduation, adverse debt dynamics, de-risking, and adverse impacts of climate change

28. The Meeting noted that the majority of Caribbean SIDS have been classified as middle-income countries, which greatly limits their access to bilateral and multilateral grants and other concessional funding. Decreasing ODA continues to hinder the progression of the Caribbean's development agenda. This categorization does not recognize the vulnerability of Caribbean SIDS to climate change, to natural disasters and to negative external shocks considering their extreme openness and size. In the circumstances, a concerted effort must be made to focus the donors, partners and the UN system on the acute financial challenges faced by Caribbean SIDS to meet their commitments under the SAMOA Pathway and other global mandates. This implies focusing on vulnerability as a key element in accessing development assistance and in offering debt reduction through climate adaptation swaps and other mechanisms to those Member States whose debt burden limit their capacity to adequately address mitigation and adaptation strategies to combat the effect of natural hazards and climate change.

29. Withdrawal of correspondent banking relationships and services has negatively impacted several countries and resulted in an acute financial shock to the region. The Meeting noted with extreme concern the multitude of direct and indirect impacts resulting from these measures which include: impacts on human welfare and economic development, given the region's high dependence on foreign exchange; adverse effects on initiatives aimed at alleviation of poverty and inequality, given declining remittances and their mode of delivery; and knock-on effects in Tourism and other Economic Sectors; as well as decreased access to credit by Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).

30. In this regard, the Meeting recognised the critical role of the financial services sector in promoting the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS and called for dedicated spaces for SIDS in the relevant international decision-making fora. The Meeting also called on the regional financial services sector to advance a new partnership with Caribbean SIDS in support of their sustainable development priorities. The Meeting called on the UN system and other relevant agencies to increase advocacy to enhance the profile and understanding of SIDS issues in the context of the international financial institutions and other relevant fora.

31. The Meeting noted that both natural and man-made disasters have large and enduring economic effects that range from lost income to the destruction of physical and human capital, infrastructure, and property. The Meeting noted with concern the negative feedback loop created when governments borrow to finance recovery only to be faced with the destruction wrought by a new extreme event. In this regard, Governments underscored that whereas rebuilding provides a temporary boost, indirect effects can spread throughout the

economy and undermine investment, growth, and macroeconomic performance. Debt dynamics inevitably worsen as governments borrow to finance recovery and growth slows.

32. The Meeting expressed solidarity and support to the islands and communities, affected in the 2017 hurricane season and reaffirmed their commitment to working together to build back better and in a more resilient way, following the devastation caused by increasingly intense and severe disasters. They highlighted the need to build human resilience, establish early warning systems and preventive measures, as well as to ensure the active engagement of communities, especially women, in the response, recovery and reconstruction process. The Meeting underscored the importance of establishing building standards and taking other measures to mitigate the impact of future extreme weather events and accelerate the rate of recovery.

33. The participants highlighted the need for a response involving all partners, including regional organizations, development partners, private sector, national Governments and civil society, to leverage comparative advantages for building resilience to disasters in highly vulnerable small-island states, as extreme weather events have added to their existing economic vulnerabilities. The Meeting noted that the contribution of the private sector would also be critical, offering both resources and expertise and underscored the importance of public private partnerships in this regard.

34. The Meeting called on the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to continue to enhance their crisis preparedness and resilience frameworks and toolkits, including through exploring opportunities for appropriate insurance solutions and extending advisory services across the Caribbean countries and Overseas Territories. The Meeting stressed the need for post-disaster responses and approaches that are tailored to specific country needs to better prepare for and mitigate the impact of future disasters. The Meeting underscored the importance of information sharing amongst SIDS to facilitate disaster risk management.

34 bis. The meeting acknowledged the support of the UN Development System and agencies in disaster recovery efforts. The Meeting called for strengthening the ability of the UN system to offer to continue to offer this support.

Strengthening institutions and enabling environments for a people centred development

35. Strengthening the public 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. The rise in NCDs that many SIDS are experiencing is associated with a variety of factors including ageing and early initiation of unhealthy behaviors with long-term healthy consequences, particularly during adolescents. Promoting healthy behaviors at early ages is part of recognizing that prevention of NCDs is the only long-term way to address the issue. The Meeting also noted with concern the urgent need to address adolescent pregnancy, reduce maternal mortality rates, and incidence of childhood obesity. The Meeting underscored the importance of addressing emerging issues related to the spread of Zika, Chik V, and the rising incidence

of cervical cancer, in the Caribbean, noting that these health issues also had a negative impact on economic productivity throughout the region.

36. In this regard, the Meeting stressed the importance of improving access to basic health-care services including for maternal, newborn and child health and sexual and reproductive health and to reducing risk factors for non-communicable diseases through the promotion of healthy lifestyles among children and adolescents through school programmes, public media, including skills to resist tobacco use and other substance abuse, healthy eating and affordable nutrition, movement and exercise, tax measures on sugary drinks and all foods with added sugar and stress management and mental health care. The Meeting stressed the importance of public private sector partnerships to assist with financing of the health system.

37. The Meeting recognized the importance of meaningful multi stakeholder engagement in advancing the implementation of the Samoa Pathway. The Meeting also called for new social compacts and other partnership modalities to enhance the engagement with civil society organizations, academia and the private sector at national, regional and interregional level. The Meeting called for enhanced implementation of those resolutions already adopted at the WHO in line with implementation of health objectives set out in the SAMOA Pathway

38. Special reference was made to the recent adoption of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Towards A Programme for Implementation: Addressing Caribbean Challenges with Means of Implementation

39. In defining a programme of implementation for the next five years, the Meeting emphasized the importance of building resilience in all its dimensions and identified the following priority areas for action:

- I. Scale up implementation of trade and market integration processes to advance Caribbean SIDS resilient economic transformation and to promote and enable innovation and entrepreneurship to address youth unemployment and public and private sector development;
- II. Call on the international community in consultation with national and regional institutions and other partners to support Caribbean SIDS in the scaling up of the use and deployment of sustainable energy, communication and transport infrastructure for the land, marine and air; mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway into national development plans and programmes in Caribbean SIDS;
- III. Call on the Caribbean Development Bank and ECLAC to establish a Caribbean SIDS Public Sector Investment Programme Reform and Enhancement Initiative in support of implementation and Resilience Building;

- IV. Call on the UN System and international partners to support capacity strengthening for development and management of coastal zones and protected areas;
- V. Call on the UN System to support the use and institutionalisation of appropriate tools for science-based sustainable natural resources management;
- VI. Build partnerships with new global development partners and mechanisms;
- VII. Call on the World Bank to produce an evaluation report on the SISRI at the 2019 Spring meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions;
- VIII. Call on the enhancement of the SISRI to include all Caribbean SIDS; and call on Caribbean-focused regional development banks to develop and or scale-up Caribbean SIDS specific resilience building initiatives;
- IX. Call on UNDESA in collaboration with the relevant regional institutions to review and scale-up development and deployment of the Vulnerability Resilience Country Profile methodology to all Caribbean SIDS;
- X. Call on OHRLLS to scale up its advocacy and resource mobilization delivery in support of SIDS sustainable development priorities;
- XI. Establish relations with new global financial institutions with a view to build the resilience of Caribbean SIDS;
- XII. Support the development of green, sustainable ocean-based or blue economies, and cultural and creative industries as a means to build resilience, foster innovation and entrepreneurship;
- XIII. Request ECLAC to prepare an infrastructure gap report on a biennial basis in support of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway;
- XIV. Support the development of national social compacts to support inclusive local partnership dialogues towards the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway;
- XV. Institute national and Caribbean SIDS Major Groups Mechanism as vehicles to facilitate non-governmental stakeholder inputs to policy and programming processes;
- XVI. There is a need for Caribbean SIDS cultural industries promotion and cooperation framework that utilises the experiences of the Caribbean region's cultural heritage and cultural exposition experiences including CARIFESTA;
- XVII. Promote the convening of a "Financial Services Sectors for Caribbean SIDS Sustainable Development Forum" in partnership with institutions such as the Commonwealth;
- XVIII. Call on CARICOM Secretariat to complete the CARICOM Environment and Natural Management Policy Framework, as one of the main vehicles for the implementation of the SIDS sustainable development framework, to address environmental resilience building and to share experience with all Caribbean SIDS;
- XIX. Enhance technical assistance and collaboration among Caribbean SIDS Universities and regional ocean-focused institutions to research and address new and emerging issues, such as Sargassum;
- XX. Collaborate with United Nations Environment to establish the Caribbean SIDS Sustainable Consumption and Production Initiative;

- XXI. Call on the United Nations Environment and other regional organisation to support the establishment of a framework initiative to address Caribbean SIDS sustainable consumption and production priorities in the SAMOA Pathway;
- XXII. Call on the FAO, PAHO, WHO and UN system to escalate support to Caribbean SIDS to address the health, agricultural and food challenges in the Caribbean;
- XXIII. Call on the UN System for enhanced support for capacity building to civil society and NGOs including funding support for meaningful participation in the sustainable development agenda;
- XXIV. Called on the UN System for support to Caribbean SIDS in addressing issues pertaining to the vulnerability of young men to gang-related violence, and to address national security concerns including in relation to illicit drug trade and small arms and light weapons.
- XXV. Call on the UN system to disseminate relevant information on SIDS priorities and SAMOA Pathway at all levels.

40. The Meeting underscored the importance of national ownership to achievement of sustainable development priorities, and the need for strengthened enabling environments at national, regional and global levels to facilitate greater coherence in and coordination of support to national priorities. The Meeting discussed the importance of enhancing access, modalities and partnerships for concessional finance for SIDS. The Meeting recognized that the SAMOA Pathway, 2030 Agenda other sustainable development agendas require increased effort with regards to Caribbean SIDS relevant data generation, access, and monitoring; and statistics. The Meeting underscored the importance of localizing the global sustainable development agenda.

42. Cross cutting issues for implementation

- I. Call on ECLAC to strengthen the Regional Coordinating Mechanism to be able to monitor implementation of actions called for in this Declaration and elaborated in the SIDS Sustainable Development Agenda;
- II. Strengthen national statistical systems to support the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway
- III. Develop and enhance institutional modalities for the facilitation of SIDS-SIDS cooperation
- IV. Encourage knowledge transfer platforms for SIDS-SIDS cooperation and collaboration using existing regional ICT platforms
- V. Request the UN system to increase the global socialization of the SIDS agenda
- VI. Promote SIDS-SIDS cooperation on best-practices in resilience building, including in the context of developing appropriate building-codes.

Conclusions

43. The meeting expressed its appreciation to UNDESA, UNOHRLLS and UNECLAC for their continued support to Caribbean SIDS in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

The Meeting also thanked regional organisations, partner agencies and stakeholders participating in the meeting, for their contributions and for their continued support.

44. The meeting expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Belize for ably hosting the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway.

ENDS.



***Caribbean Regional Partnership Dialogue and Regional Preparatory Meeting
for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway***

San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, Belize

6-9 August 2018

DRAFT AGENDA

The main objectives of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway are: to assess progress achieved in the implementation of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway; identify emerging priorities as well as practical and pragmatic action-oriented strategies or mechanisms for accelerating the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the region.

1. Opening
2. Regional Partnership Dialogue
 - a. Assessing progress with partnerships in the Caribbean
 - b. Identifying partnerships to fill the gaps in the implementation of the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway
 - c. Strengthening the review and monitoring process of partnerships for SIDS
3. Regional Preparatory Meeting
 - a. Adoption of the Agenda and Organisational Matters
 - b. Contextualizing the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway in the Caribbean
 - c. Assessing Progress in Implementation: Achievements, Gaps and Challenges
 - d. Toward a Programme for Implementation for the SAMOA Pathway in the Caribbean
 - e. Addressing Caribbean Challenges with Mobilization of Means of Implementation
 - f. Presentation & Adoption of Draft Regional Outcome
4. Closing

Participants List from the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway

FIRST NAME	FAMILY NAME	JOB TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<i>SIDS in the Caribbean Representatives</i>			
Mr. Tumasie	Blair	Counsellor	Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda
Ms. Shema	Roberts	Environment Officer	Department of Environment Ministry of health, Wellness & Environment
Ms. Charmaine	Williams	Chargé d' Affaires	Bahamas Permanent Mission to the United Nations
Ms. Kereeta	Whyte	First Secretary	Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations
Mr. Travis	Sinckler	Senior Environment Officer	Policy, Research, Planning and Information Unit
Ms. Maria	Caridad Balaguer Labrada	Ambassador	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Cuba
Mr. Michelén Nannun	Carlos Antonio	Ambassador (Alternate)	Permanent Mission of the DR to the United Nations
Mr. Ruel	Edward	Director	Ministry of Finance, Planning, Economic Development and Physical Development Grenada
Mr. Edon	Daniels	Sustainable Development Coordinator	Ministry of the Presidency of Guyana
Dr. Olney	Daly	Minister Counsellor	Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guyana to the UN
Ms. Nicola	Barker-Murphy	Counsellor (Economic Affairs)	Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations
Ms. Gillian A.	Guthrie	Senior Director, Environment and Risk Management Division	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
Ms. Kimberly	Louis	First Secretary	Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the UN

Ms. Jeanel	Volney	Sustainable Development and Environment Division	Ministry of Education, innovation, gender and sustainable development
Ms. Ghisland	Williams	Counsellor	Permanent Mission of Saint Kitts & Nevis to the UN
Mr. Manners	Auren	Senior Project Analyst	Ministry of Sustainable Development
Ms. Decima	Corea	Deputy Director of Planning	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology
Mr. Westford	Joseph	Foreign Service Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce
Mr. Vladamir	Budhu	Second Secretary	Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN
Ms. Kennethia	Douglas	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Ministry of Planning and Development

Associate Members

Ms. Jocelyne	Croes	Chair, SDG National Commission Aruba Alternate Chair	Aruba Center of Excellence for the Sustainable Development for SIDS, Government of Aruba
Mr. Mervin	Hastings	Deputy Chief Conservation & Fisheries Officer	Ministry of Natural Resources & Labour
Ms. Danae	Daal	Senior legal and Treaty advisor	Directorate of Foreign Relations
Ms. Lucrecia	Morales	Program Manager	Department of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BAK)

Belize

Rt. Hon. Dean	Barrow	Prime Minister of Belize	Office of the Prime Minister
Hon. Wilfred	Elrington	Minister of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Hon. Omar	Figueroa	Minister of State	Ministry of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development
H.E Patrick	Andrews	Chief Executive Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Percival	Cho	Chief Executive Officer	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change
H.E. Yvonne	Hyde	Chief Executive Officer	Ministry of Economic Development, Petroleum, Investment, Trade and Commerce
Ms. Judith	Alpuche	Chief Executive Officer	Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation
H.E Lois	Young	Ambassador	Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations
H.E Janine	Felson	Ambassador	Deputy Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations
Ms. Ayesha	Borland	Director of International Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Victor	Alegria	Director of Sustainable Development	Ministry of Agriculture
Mrs. Tasha	Cain	Head of Protocol	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Kimberly	Westby	Economist	Ministry of Economic Development
Ms. Darlene	Padron	Senior Sustainable Development Officer	Ministry of Sustainable Development
Mr. Colin	Mattis	Deputy Chief Climate Change Officer	Belize National Climate Change Office
Mr. Andrew	Smith	Foreign Service Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mrs. Yancy	Habet – Harrison	Protocol Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Etienne	Martinez	Protocol Officer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Rueanna	Haynes	Rapporteur	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Claude		Intern	Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations

Other Representatives

Mr. Ben	Collins	Development and Humanitarian Advisor	New Zealand Mission New York
Ms. Wainelle	Alleyne-Jones	Policy Advisor	New Zealand High Commission Bridgetown
Mr. Mícheál	Tierney	Counsellor	Mission of Ireland to the United Nations
Ms. Fiona	Grant		International Programmes, Policy, Innovation And Research Support Services Marine Institute

United Nations Secretariat

Ms. Fekitamoeloa	‘Utoikamanu	USG and High Representative	UN-OHRLLS
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Ms. Patricia	Mariduena	External Relations Officer	PAHO/WHO
Ms. Jesse	Madkaud	Superregional Program Coordinator	PAHO/WHO

Intergovernmental Organizations and regional Institutions

Mr. Peter	Murray	Programme Manager	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
Mr. David	Smith	Coordinator	University of the West Indies
Mr. Travis	Mitchell	Advisor and Head, Economic Policy and Small States	Commonwealth Secretariat
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Dr. Douglas	Slater	Assistance Secretary General	CARICOM Secretariat
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Mr. Rodolfo	Gutierrez		Consumer Protection Liaison Officer
Ms. Diana	Ruiz	Science Officer	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
Mr. Lyndon	Robertson		CARPHA
Mr. Albert	Binger		SIDS-DOCK
Mr. Simeon	Collins		CAFHSA

Civil Society Groups

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Ms. Kristin	Marin	Project Coordinator	CYEN
Mr. Shantal	Munro-Knight		Caribbean Policy Development Centre
Dr. Mark	Griffith	Chairman and CEO	CaribInvest Foundation Inc
Mr. Jacob	Williams	Managing Director & Senior Advisor	Waitt Foundation & Waitt Institute
Ms. Kathryn	Mengerink	Executive Director	Waitt Foundation & Waitt Institute
Mr. Hayden	Redhead		Caribbean Challenge Initiative