

## **Note for 2018 Global Multi-Stakeholder Small Island Developing States Partnership Dialogue**

### *Partnerships for sustainable and resilient societies in Small Island Developing States*

12 July 2018, 10.00 AM – 01.00 PM, ECOSOC Chamber

#### Keynote Address

#### **H.E. Mr. Peter Thompson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean**

H.E. Mr. Thompson began by acknowledging the uniqueness of the SAMOA Pathway that it established an intergovernmental SIDS Partnership Framework that monitors the progress of existing partnerships and stimulates the launch of new, genuine and durable collaboration efforts for the sustainable development of SIDS. He also recognized that the 2014 Samoa Conference served to further emphasize partnerships as a key means of supporting SIDS to address their inherent vulnerabilities and build their resilience. He informed the outcome of the recent review by UNDESA of over 300 partnerships announced during the 2014 Samoa Conference that 25 per cent of registered partnerships focuses on knowledge transfer. Large number of partnerships were also formed in the areas of energy and disaster resilience, which can be attributed to the highest energy consumption rates, extreme vulnerability to climate change and heavy dependence on coastal tourism in SIDS.

In addition, H.E. Mr. Thompson also stressed that the sound and sustained ocean-focused partnership interventions can help drive the economic growth, welfare and prosperity of SIDS, underlining the need for more partnerships that drive innovations and investments. He noted such partnerships can also provide SIDS with a basis for pursuing a low-carbon and resource-efficient pathways to economic growth and development, boosting national policy coherence, offering scope for re-investment in human development and alleviating crippling national debt burdens. In this regard, he pointed out the need for developing institutional frameworks to support economic growth and development from contextualized marine environment. Lastly, he urged for increased efforts to build the data capacity to monitor and evaluate the partnerships related to SIDS based on SMART criteria.

#### Opening Remarks

#### **Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)**

Discussing the two key challenges SIDS face in managing survival on land and ocean resources with limited means, he stressed that the focus of today's dialogue should be on action, with the key feature of action being partnerships. He noted the recent SIDS Global Network Forum, convened in collaboration with the government of the Republic of Mauritius, which resulted in several new partnership announcements in renewable driven desalination systems and renewable energy. He noted the need for strong multi-stakeholder partnerships to accelerate reforms and scape up energy initiatives as well as for enhanced capacity-building and resource mobilization. Pointing out the urgent international support measures required for building disaster and climate resilience in SIDS, she highlighted the importance of streamlining the access and disbursement procedures without compromising on transparency and accountability.

She also noted the outcome from the recent meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, "St. John's Call for Action" which stressed the limited ability of SIDS, mainly from the Caribbean region, to access concessionary and development financing. She mentioned that OHRLLS is exploring options for a vulnerability

matrix in relation to access to concessional finance through its membership for the World Bank Small Island Forum. She urged that the upcoming SAMOA Pathway Mid-Term Review is all the stakeholders' opportunity not only to assess progress made, but also to identify priority areas for action over the next five years.

**Mr. Elliot Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Chief Economist, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

Mr. Harris noted that the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships represents a truly global partnership, open to all Member States of the UN, members of the specialized agencies, UN System and other stakeholders, mentioning such an arrangement could serve as an inspiring model for maintaining momentum and accountability for partnerships and voluntary commitments that have been forged in other UN processes as well. He discussed that UNDESA is currently undertaking a capacity development project to support the work of the SIDS Partnership Framework and the preparatory process related to the SAMOA Pathway Mid-Term Review, with generous funding support provided by the Government of Italy and under the overall guidance of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships. He discussed that the overarching goal of the project is to increase the capacity of all stakeholders in forging new, genuine and durable multi-stakeholder partnerships to help drive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway on the ground and to strengthen the monitoring and review of partnerships in SIDS. As part of this project, he noted the Secretariat had prepared an advance study of the status of partnerships that were launched at the SIDS Conference, which was presented to all Member States during the May meeting of the Steering Committee and is currently available online. He informed that the next regional partnership dialogue will be held in Belize on 6 August 2018, as part of the Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting.

**H.E. Mr. Aliioaiga Feturi Elisaia, Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations, Representative of the Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum**

H.E. Mr. Elisaia noted the need for improved access to adequate financing, including genuinely effective public-private partnerships (PPPs), to effectively respond to urgent and immediate needs to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and disaster risk facing the 15 SIDS in the Pacific. The Pacific Islands Forum is establishing the Pacific Resilience Fund to build resilience and enhance more integrated regional development cooperation. He highlighted the need for enhancing ownership and accountability at national and sub-national levels and adapt partnerships to national processes and embed them at local level. He pointed out the importance of improving reporting mechanisms for partnerships, focusing not only on its quantity, but also the quality and effectiveness.

**H.E. Mr. Saud Al Shamsi, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations**

H.E. Mr. Shamsi highlighted the potential priority areas for SIDS, which require collective actions and strategic partnerships: he discussed the renewable energy, including equitable access to affordable and clean energy, as the most promising and highly impactful area that needs to be scaled up through partnership efforts. He also noted the forecast-based financing as a sure way to save human lives and prevent economic, social and environmental losses, inviting all SIDS to be a core source of support for this work stream. Expressing his concern on the current trend within donor community that discourages to provide development cooperation to high-income SIDS, he called for all development partners including OECD/DAG and the multi-lateral development banks to reconsider the eligibility criteria.

**Mr. Francois Martel, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Development Forum**

Mr. Martel positioned the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) as a new organization with its Charter entering into force in September 2015: with 14 current members, PIDF is a multilateral, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder organization focusing on a distinctive Pacific model of green growth in blue economies aligned to sustainable development principles including through horizontal South-South collaboration on sharing of knowledge and expertise. To develop genuine partnerships for sustainable and resilient societies in SIDS, he made the following points: i) Forging of new partnerships for island resilience should be first and foremost an act of solidarity towards SIDS and for SIDS and vulnerable states in the face of climate change; ii) It is critical to focus more on island community resilience to well prepare island communities with adequate adaptation solutions; iii) There is a need for involving increasing number of main local stakeholders including civil society organizations and community groups with the establishment of effective delivery mechanisms, rather than placing too much emphasis on the engagement of the private sector and the use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) with little attention to community groups; iv) In the Pacific, the best example of partnerships for resilience-building include the Micronesia Challenge and the Aloha+ Challenge that aimed to fast-track the commercial and philanthropic resilience-building investments and catalyse the innovative partnerships on the ground.

**Ms. Simona Marinescu, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Samoa**

Ms. Marinescu noted the need to enhance the principle-based, accountable partnerships on issues related to SIDS and introduced the recent initiative of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), which now has over 600 members representing not only donors but also the private sector entities and philanthropic organizations that publish their development cooperation data with IATI standards. Referring to the importance of integrated national financing framework (INFF) referenced in Addis Agenda, she encouraged the SIDS to use the existing development finance assessment methodologies developed to grasp their context-specific financing landscape and available financial instruments (e.g. Development Finance Assessment (DFA); Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS); etc.) She underlined the importance of co-creating solutions; taking tailored approach; integrating the national, regional and global partnerships efforts for reduced transaction costs and greater synergies as well as strengthening the internal partnerships; and examining the eligibility criteria of development cooperation for SIDS considering the major fiscal imbalance and vulnerabilities these countries face. She also highlighted the central role the technology and innovation can play in enhancing the human capital within the SIDS communities and the potential benefit for employing the innovative financing including the green bonds and diaspora bonds.

**Mr. Ahmend' Abdel-Latif, Chief Office of the Director-General, IRENA**

Mr. Abdel-Latif discussed how the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) supports SIDS in their transition to a sustainable energy future and provides the practical platform for international cooperation, noting sustainable energy as a key to broader economic transformation and sustainable development of the islands. Moving away from activity-based projects towards more holistic approach, he shared about the SIDS Lighthouses initiative, which brings together SIDS and partners to promote the accelerated deployment of renewables on islands and aim to develop renewable energy roadmaps, mobilise USD 500 million and deploy 120 MW of renewable energy by 2020. He stressed the need for: strong country leadership and ownership; inclusive and broad partnerships including all relevant partners; ambitious yet measurable targets; and responsive partnerships attentive to changes in needs

/ circumstances of communities. He noted the organization's plan to place greater focus on the SIDS Lighthouse initiative, bankable projects, engagement of the private sector, transportation, bio-fuels and interlinkages with water and health communities going forward

#### Interactive Discussion

- **Seychelles** noted that SIDS are at different stage of development and those which graduated from the low- or middle-income status face increased challenges in finding the right partners to achieve resilience and adaptation. Seychelles called for support of donors and multi-lateral banks to create an enabling environment for SIDS – including using their convening power and support for forging strategic partnerships – to make a smooth transition to achieve sustainability and resilience, instead of putting countries into different categories of boxes.
- **Canada** invited all to join in the relevant forthcoming events it is hosting: i) G7 Ministerial meeting on climate change, oceans and clean energy in Halifax (19-21, September, 2018); and ii) High-Level Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (26-28, November, 2018) in Nairobi with Government of Kenya
- **Norway** stressed the need for partnerships be aligned with national priorities taking demand-driven approach and shared about its contributions towards the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) processes. Norway posed the question about ways to enhance the accountability for SIDS-related partnerships.
- **Maldives (on behalf of Alliance of SIDS)** highlighted the importance of enhancing mobilizing resources efforts in the context of SIDS.
- **New Zealand** noted its development cooperation and development financing goes mostly towards SIDS and shared about its robust support to energy sector. The country representative also underlined the important role the technology and innovation play in SIDS partnerships.
- **Australia** discussed the country's holistic approach to SIDS partnerships and highlighted the need for investing more on disaster risk reduction efforts as country's priority focus in the region.
- **Russian Federation** underlined the country's support to SIDS including for preventive measures and capacity-building for disaster risk reduction and recovery. The representative also emphasized the need for consistent monitoring and review efforts.
- **UNESCO** noted the various activities of the organization in relation to SIDS mobilizing their multi-disciplinary expertise.
- **FAO** informed of the launch of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on Food security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and invite all relevant stakeholders to join in its implementation.

#### Summary of Belize (H.E. Ms. Young)

- Our needs are sustainability and resilience and this is critical for SIDS
- Support needed from development partners

- Pacific leaders and Caribbean SIDS emphasized the absolute need for transitioning to renewable energy
- Renewables are the closest thing to a silver bullet for curing our high energy costs and higher energy costs translates into food security and transport costs. Access to available finance despite finance categorization need to be fixed, and need to navigate finance world (navigating between green financing and ocean financing). Vulnerability index for SIDS necessary
- Partnerships that we need, as Amb. Feturi (Samoa) mentioned, are genuine and durable partnerships. We need to be able to measure achievement and time bound partnerships. Partnerships need to be country-owned and each country should monitor partnerships for accountability - need to involve more local communities and civil society in this.
- Lastly, and importantly, thank donor countries:
  - ➔ Thank **IRENA** for launching Lighthouse Initiative and also for the next LHI 2.0.
  - ➔ Thank **Canada** for hosting the i) forthcoming G7 Ministerial meeting on climate change, oceans and clean energy in Halifax (19-21, September, 2018) which is relevant to us; and ii) High-Level Conference on Sustainable Blue Economy Conference (26-28, November, 2018) in Nairobi with Government of Kenya
  - ➔ Thank **Norway** for supporting us on BBNJ process, trust fund for 2019 review.
  - ➔ Thank **New Zealand** Trust Fund which accounts 7 partnerships and 3 partnerships completed.
  - ➔ Thank Australia for recognizing the importance of 2018-2019 process that we are going through
  - ➔ Thank **Russian Federation** for financial contribution and diplomat training
  - ➔ Thank **UNESCO** for having been engaged with many SIDS activities.

They are all perennial partners and I thank on behalf of SIDS. As Amb. of Samoa mentioned, “SIDS challenge are our partners’ challenges” and accountability is important for all partnerships