

**Ambassadorial Meeting of the Steering Committee on SIDS Partnerships
Tuesday, 9 June 2020, 3-5 pm**

**Briefing by Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, OIC, DSDG/DESA, on
Item 3: Review of Achievements
“The Work and Achievements of the Steering Committee in 2018-2019
and Way Forward”**

Slide 1: Salutations



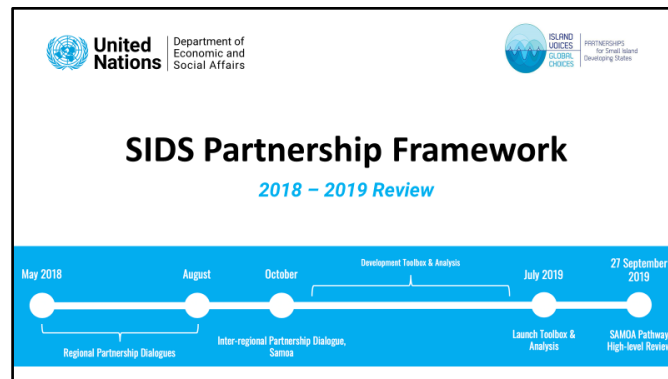
Thank you, Mr./Madam Co-Chair,

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

- It is my great honour and pleasure to address this Ambassadorial meeting of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States.
- First, I wish join the previous speakers in congratulating Ambassador Walton Webson of Antigua and Barbuda and Ambassador Vanessa Frazier of Malta, on their appointment as Co-Chairs of this Steering Committee, and assure them of the full support of the Secretariat in this important role.
- I would also like to pay tribute to the outgoing Co-Chairs, Ambassador Lois Young of Belize and Ambassador Geraldine Byrn-Nason of Ireland, for their fruitful work and strong leadership.
- This afternoon, my task is to provide a brief overview of the activities and achievements of the SIDS Partnerships Framework during the period 2018-2019, covering the entire tenure of the outgoing Co-Chairs.

Slide 2

SIDS Partnerships Framework Stock-take



Excellencies,

- In **2018**, with the generous funding support provided by the Government of Italy, and under the overall guidance of the Steering Committee, we undertook a capacity development project to support the work of the SIDS Partnership Framework, which ran in conjunction with the preparatory process leading up to the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway.
- The project included a series of partnership dialogues which were organized on the margins of the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings of the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway.
- These dialogues provided an opportunity to bring together relevant stakeholders from different SIDS regions to pursue three main objectives:
 - First, assess the status of partnerships for each SIDS region and identify best practices and gaps around which new partnerships could be forged to further drive implementation of the SAMOA Pathway priority areas and the SDGs in SIDS;
 - Second, raise the capacity of diverse stakeholders to develop genuine and durable partnerships for SIDS; and
 - Third, strengthen the review and monitoring process of SIDS partnerships.
- A total of 104 focal points from local, national, regional and global partnerships participated in these dialogues.
- In this connection, I would like to thank the Governments of Belize, Mauritius, Tonga and Samoa for hosting and for helping organize the partnership dialogues on the margins of the preparatory meetings.

Slide 3 SIDS Partnerships Toolbox



- Between **October 2018 and July 2019**, two concrete outputs came out from this process: (1) a SIDS Partnership Toolbox; and (2) an Analysis of all Registered SIDS Partnerships.
- The SIDS Partnership Toolbox is a practical guide on how to participate in the SIDS Partnership Framework and how to effectively design, implement and evaluate partnerships for SIDS at national, regional and global levels.
- The SIDS Partnership Criteria and Norms provide a good starting point for articulating genuine and durable partnerships. They can be summarized in the acronym “SMART”, where:
 - “**S**” stands for SIDS specific;
 - “**M**” for measurable & monitorable;
 - “**A**” for achievable & accountable;
 - “**R**” for resource-based & result-focused; and
 - “**T**” for time-bound & transparent.
- The Toolbox also includes a Checklist of items to be considered in drafting a partnership agreement and a Learning segment with a 20-question Partnership Quiz with explanatory answers and other resources, as well as a section for enhancing communication.

Slide 4

SIDS Partnership Analysis



Excellencies,

- The SIDS Partnership Analysis was prepared to better understand the landscape and impact of the many partnerships registered to advance implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.
- Specifically, the in-depth review focused on the following issues:
 - The status and trends of SIDS partnerships globally, regionally and nationally;
 - How these partnerships addressed the SAMOA Pathway priority areas;
 - Identification of implementation gaps and under-represented priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway, such as sustainable transport, water, health, gender, finance and others;
 - The impact of partnerships on their beneficiaries and on sustainable development of SIDS;
 - Challenges confronted; and
 - Lessons learned.
- The outcome of the Analysis together with the Toolbox was launched in July 2019, during the Global Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on SIDS Partnerships.
- Electronic copies are available on the SIDS Action Platform (sidspartnerships.un.org) at the website of the DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals.

Slide 5

Looking Forward



Excellencies,

- As we look forward to activities in 2020, you will recall that the SIDS Global Peer Learning Workshop, scheduled to be held in Bangkok from 18 to 20 March, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding for this activity remains and the event will be rescheduled.
- In the meantime, the *2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator*, a collaborative initiative between UNDESA, UN Office for Partnerships, UN Global Compact, and The Partnering Initiative, working closely with the Development Coordination Office and the UN Resident Coordinators, aims to significantly accelerate and scale up effective partnerships in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in all countries.
- A central part of the Partnership Accelerator is the national partnership workshops. The purpose of these workshops is to foster a strong culture of collaboration among sectors and stakeholders, and to develop new and effective partnerships to tackle the SDGs.
- For the 2019 Partnership Accelerator programme, four pilot countries were identified, two of which are SIDS, namely, Maldives and Samoa.
- In both Samoa and Maldives, the workshops have been postponed due to the current pandemic. We are closely following the situation and will resume activities once the situation allows for it.
- In both countries, we have, however, engaged local consultants to conduct national partnership landscape assessments, and to adapt the support to the specific national contexts in order to deliver direct impact and derive value from these workshops.
- In addition to Samoa and Maldives, we have secured funding for organizing additional two to three SIDS national workshops and are now exploring interest, especially from the Caribbean SIDS.

Slide 6

Thank you



Excellencies,

- In concluding, as the Officer in Charge of DESA's Division for Sustainable Development Goals, I wish to express appreciation to the Government of Ireland for providing dedicated staffing support, under the Irish Strategy for Partnership with SIDS, to bolster the SIDS Units of DESA and OHRLLS. Such support is much needed and very welcome at this juncture.
- Thank you.