



**Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Climate Adaptation in Small Island Developing States
Milan, Italy, 14-16 October 2015**

High Level Forum

on

SIDS vision for a food secure future following up paragraph 61 of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway

14 October 2015; 11.00 am – 1.30 pm

INTRODUCTION

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which took place in Apia Samoa, in September 2014, adopted the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway, which draws on the two earlier SIDS Conferences.

The 2030 Development Agenda maps out the future we want and the milestones against which progress will be measured. The bold goals that have been set clearly state the international community's will to transform development, making it inclusive and socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. This effort begins with eradicating hunger, malnutrition and poverty so that nobody is left behind. While ending hunger, malnutrition and poverty are first steps to sustainable development, it is necessary to advance towards all Sustainable Development Goals, given that there is interdependence amongst all of the goals.

The 2015 State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) report reveals that SIDS countries have, as a whole, advanced more slowly in reducing hunger than the global average. While the proportion of undernourishment fell 44% in the developing world, from 23.3% to 12.9% between 1990-92 and 2014-16, in the SIDS the reduction was of only 26.3%, from 24.5% to 18%.

Malnutrition, however, manifests itself in different forms and that is also true in the SIDS. The second International Conference on Nutrition in 2014 highlighted that many SIDS face the complex burden of malnutrition. The Pacific Islands, for example, face multiple burdens of malnutrition; while hunger has fallen slowly, overweight, obesity and, as a consequence, non-communicable diseases, such as type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease, are taking a growing toll on the region's health and economic status.¹

The Samoa Pathway recognizes the complex food security and nutrition challenges faced by the SIDS and the need to act in different areas to face them, including building resilience to climate change, promoting the sustainable use and management of natural resources, improving market efficiency and combating food price volatility.

Paragraph 61 of the SAMOA Pathway calls for FAO to facilitate a biennial forum on food and nutrition in SIDS. The High Level Forum (HLF) on "*SIDS vision for a food secure future following up paragraph 61 of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway*" responds to this call and provides a platform to present and share views on how

¹ FAO, IFAD and WFP. 2015. *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2015. Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress*. Rome, FAO.

to promote food security and nutrition while also addressing other multiple threats in SIDS. It is part of a process that will lead to the development of an action program aiming to enhance food security and improve nutrition in SIDS countries, in close consultation with national governments, regional integration bodies, international partners and non-state actors.

In addition to those indicated above, a food secure future for SIDS will have to take into account a myriad of issues, including promoting sustainable food systems and strengthening preparedness and building resilience to disaster risk reduction, both in farming and fishing communities. SIDS are particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Rising sea level, increasing air and sea surface temperatures, and changing rainfall patterns as well as the impact of natural disasters and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems are adding additional pressures to the sustainable development of SIDS.² For SIDS, overcoming climate change and risks of natural disasters is more than a simple challenge - it is a question of survival.³

Questions for discussion:

1. How can national food security and nutrition plans and strategies be strengthened to address the breadth of challenges faced?
 - a. from hunger to obesity;
 - b. the fragile natural resources base;
 - c. the impacts of climate change.
2. What are the most critical barriers and concrete actions that SIDS and their partners can take in order to achieving food security and nutrition in SIDS?
3. How can international cooperation, parliamentarians, non-state actors and other partners improve the design and delivery of actions?
4. In the context of Paragraph 61 of S.A.M.O.A Pathway, how can we develop an action programme aiming to enhance food and nutrition challenges in SIDS?

² IPCC, 2014: Summary for policymakers. In: IPCC. Climate Change 2014: impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, pp. 1–32. Cambridge, UK and New York, USA, Cambridge University Press

³ FAO. 2015. Food security and nutrition in Small Island Developing States. Rome.