Session 9- "The SAMOA Pathway: translating vision to action"

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held in Apia, Samoa in September 2014. It adopted the SAMOA Pathway, which represents the programme of action for the further sustainable development of SIDS for the coming decade. The SAMOA Pathway recognized, as a core theme, that genuine and durable partnerships are essential to the sustainable development of SIDS. At the conference, there were 300+ partnerships announced.

The HLPF has an important role to play in reviewing the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. As decided by the General Assembly, the sustainable development challenges facing the world's most vulnerable states will be a priority for the Forum. The meetings of the forum shall devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing states in order to enhance engagement and implement commitments.[1]

Small island developing States (SIDS) remain a special case for sustainable development. Implementing the SAMOA Pathway and achieving the proposed SDGs in SIDS require integrative approaches and engagements, strengthened science-policy interface to enhance evidence-based decision-making and effective partnerships around the identified priority thematic. There needs to be proactive engagement of a variety of stakeholders for continuous learning, dialogue, sharing of knowledge and lessons learned to continue to translate the vision of Samoa to action on the ground. The SIDS session of the HLPF should aim to be such a forum of engagement at the global level.

Possible questions for discussion:

1) Are we on track to implement the commitments we made at the Samoa Conference on Small Island Developing States and to mobilize the necessary means of implementation?
2) How can we further strengthen the partnerships committed in Samoa?
3) How will the review of post-2015 development agenda fit together with the review of Samoa Pathway implementation in the future?

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[1] UNGA Resolution A/RES/69/15