

SIDS Partnership Dialogue



An informal event organized by
Maldives and UN-DESA/DSD

Summary & Progress report

SIDS Action Platform
www.sids2014.org

As a follow-up to the SAMOA Conference, an informal SIDS Partnership Dialogue was organized by Maldives and UN-DESA on 25 June 2015, UNHQ, New York. The meeting provided an opportunity for all partners to inform stakeholders on the progress of their ongoing partnerships in Small Island Developing States.

The Chair of AOSIS, Maldives Ambassador Ahmed Sareer presided over the meeting. In his opening remarks, he expressed the importance of “*genuine and durable partnerships*” to be based on respect and trust reflecting the changing environment. The Ambassador also highlighted the close linkage between post-2015 and the SAMOA Pathway.

The meeting was moderated by Nikhil Chandavarkar, Chief, Outreach and Communications Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA).

Briefing by UN-DESA on the SIDS Partnership Framework

As a follow-up to paragraph 101 of the SAMOA Pathway, which requests the Secretary-General to present recommendations for a Partnership Framework to monitor and ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for Small Island developing States, UN-DESA briefed participants on the draft recommendations for a SIDS Partnership Framework.

The six draft recommendations for the Partnership Framework, available on the SIDS Action Platform at www.sids2014.org/partnershipframework, were the result of a consultative process with member States and other relevant stakeholders. The Framework seeks to monitor and ensure the full implementation of SIDS partnerships by distilling ownership of the review and follow-up processes at national, regional, and global level.

In supporting the draft recommendations prepared by UN-DESA, the participants:

- Echoed the importance of paragraph 101 in preparing a robust Partnership Framework as an important mechanism for follow-up to SIDS partnerships.
- Stressed the importance of emphasizing action and impact of SIDS partnerships, going beyond merely having dialogue and show-and-tell.
- Underlined that no partnership should be left behind regardless of the size, since, albeit their size, smaller partnership can have a great impact in SIDS.
- Urged the Secretariat to work in a coordinated manner through constructive collaboration between departments and units. In quoting one member State: “*the relationship between the Secretariat and member States is the most important partnership in making the SIDS Partnership Framework, and the follow-up process to the Samoa Pathway, a great success*”
- In regards to the draft recommendation 1 - which speaks of forming an informal steering committee to



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Maldives

Nikhil Chandavarkar, Chief
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guide the follow-up process of partnerships – comments were made urging the Secretariat - and member States - to look at existing successful groupings, such as the Friends of LDC, when moving ahead with this recommendation. A statement was also made to work within existing resources in taking this forward.

Highlights from interactive partnership presentations

An update on their progress of SIDS partnerships and important remarks on partnerships were made during the interactive session that followed:

United Arab Emirates reported that since 2013, its renewable programme is worth \$700 million in grants and soft loans, including the Pacific Partnership Fund (ref#2818) with 11 Pacific projects that will create \$3.5 million of savings in the energy sector. In January agreements were signed with Caribbean countries worth \$25 million and just this month, an agreement was signed with Maldives for programmes in energy efficiency. UAE shared three lessons from these experiences:

1. Concessional funding/financing makes a difference by kick starting projects
2. Renewables: a shift from public to private finance is needed.
3. Political will is very important on the national level

UNEP mentioned of *Sustainable Consumption and Production for SIDS Initiative (within the 10YFP)* ([ref #2417](#)) where it organized the first regional meeting in Barbados to advance Caribbean implementation of this initiative: tourism, waste management, sustainable lifestyle were among the issue. UNEP is working with Barbados, Bahamas, Jamaica and others to advance energy efficiency in tourism economies, in order to reduce fossil fuel dependency.

In relation to SAMOA Pathway Paragraph 58 (c) and (e) as well as MSI paragraphs 25 (a) and (d) and 26, UNEP is collaborating with Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP) through a Global Coral Reef Partnership initiated in 2014. The partnership provides the primary vehicle for strengthening implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Continuing Call to Action and delivery on Aichi Target 10 through the Regional Seas. The partnership brings together Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in all SIDS regions, and encompasses 10 SIDS target countries for demonstration projects. By focusing on building resilience in the face of climate change, strengthening use of coral reef ecosystem service values in public and private decision-making, and enhancing data and information provision for planning and management, the partnership promotes ecosystem-based management of coral reefs. Uptake and use of approaches, tools and policy frameworks developed at the global level is facilitated through the Regional Seas intergovernmental mechanisms. Activities in 2014 included development of standard indicators and methods for coral reef monitoring in the Wider Caribbean, in collaboration with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, and expansion of the Green Fins public-private partnership for sustainability in the dive tourism industry to new countries in Asia, including



the Maldives.

ITC spoke of three partnerships related to *Women & Trade - Economic Empowerment of Women in the Pacific* launched in 2014 in the Pacific region, which were originally identified by PIF Secretariat : a) For *Papua New Guinea* ([ref #2543](#)), challenges of overcoming the geographic isolation of the country are being addressed; b) *the equivalent in Samoa* ([ref #2544](#)) is being partnered with the *National University of Samoa* to train public servants on procurement; and c) *The Vanuatu* ([ref #2545](#)) programme affected by Cyclone Pam, is being considered for relaunch. Also mentioned was the partnership programme launched in 2015 between IT, Caribbean Research Institute and EU for the development of the region's coconut industry.

IRENA highlighted its Lighthouse initiative ([ref #2716](#)), which has grown substantially since September; Belize has recently joined. Total of 16 countries and 19 partners are involved. Assessments, studies, roadmaps have been completed, and several events had been held under the Initiative.

United States provided reference a workshop they are partnering with IRENA in Hawaii for Pacific countries with regards to energy efficiency. Several other partnerships were mentioned, including the International Diaspora Alliance

Sustainable Seafood Sector where two dozen entrepreneurs are involved in a business competition with the winner getting a chance to visit Stanford University; the Caribbean Energy Security Initiative – the Vice-President Biden chaired Caribbean Security Summit. Other relevant programmed included funding a 20 megawatt solar farm in Jamaica, providing a 20 million project finance facility for Caribbean countries; a new Caribbean Marine Programme newly launched; and a Caribbean oceans and aquaculture programme, partnering with the World Bank and FAO.

Singapore trained nearly 8000 SIDS officials under the SPC program to improve governance. Programmes have been designed in assistance with Japan, UNDP and other partners. It organized study tours for SIDS officials to learn from Singapore. A 3 year technical cooperation package was rolled out in SAMOA comprising of training, fellowships, and other initiatives for the SIDS. In November in partnering with DESA, 10 SIDS officials were given fellowships, maritime training, etc.

Sweden has contributed 500 million to the Green Climate Fund, GEF, and other funds. As stated, Sweden will continue to provide capacity support for SIDS.

Italy mentioned of positive lessons learnt since its first programme to support SIDS in 2007. Mutual respect and trust was the key to designing effective partnerships. The ability to see how responsive and effect the engagement of local communities depends on regular involvement with the partners in a transparent dialogue mechanism. Italy is currently working with friends and partners on a SIDS event in Milan 2015.

United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) made reference to the Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme (PFIF) ([ref# 2451](#)) where initial round of grants were issued, and now moving into the second phase.



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Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations

1 million new accounts were registered, 0.5 million were mobile money subscribers, 400,000 new depositors, helped 4 countries lay out financial inclusion strategies. Future: adding 0.5 million clients, adding 150,000 clients with no saving accounts, adding 4 countries with no financial inclusion strategies, helping improve 3 countries with strategies. MOI: Example of N-S Support and S-S collaboration. Australia, NZ, EU, UNCDF, and funders like Sweden were involved. We plan to move into a new LDC this year, and 1 next year. In terms of South-South partnerships, central banks are taking steps to embed financial inclusion strategies.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) that Partnerships formed in the margins of the recent FAO conference in Rome in June – provided a platform for promoting food security and nutrition – attended by 36 SIDS countries – it has recently signed a MOU with African and Caribbean group of states.

World Bank Group mentioned of the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Facility: 16 members and partners, supported by governments of France, Japan, UK, and EU. ESMAP is a 29.5m SIDS DOCK support program: Seychelles, Mauritius, Sao Tome have completed 1st phase.

A few stakeholders submitted their updates in writing to the Secretariat:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

In response to the Samoa Pathway, ESCAP has undertaken a comprehensive organizational wide planning exercise to align its work program in the Pacific with the Samoa Pathway.

Capacity development support will continue to be coordinated through the national sustainable development strategies (NSDS), mainly through the NSDS Regional Support Partnership, one of the partnerships ([ref # 2328](#)) on the SIDS partnership platform. Through this partnership, ESCAP has led a regional team which helped review Kiribati's national development plan towards the end of 2014 and which is now preparing to assist in the development of the new Kiribati plan. Other Pacific countries (i.e., Tuvalu, Fiji, and Vanuatu) have requested assistance or discussion with regards to their NSDS processes, which ESCAP is prepared to assist with.

Through this resolution, ESCAP remains accountable to member States for its response to the Samoa Pathway. Capacity development support will continue to be coordinated through the national sustainable development strategies (NSDS), mainly through the NSDS Regional Support Partnership, one of the partnerships ([ref# 2328](#)) on the SIDS partnership platform. Through this partnership, ESCAP has led a regional team which helped review Kiribati's national development plan towards the end of 2014 and which is now preparing to assist in the development of the new Kiribati plan. Other Pacific countries (i.e., Tuvalu, Fiji, and Vanuatu) have requested assistance or discussion with regards to their NSDS processes, which ESCAP is prepared to assist with.

ESCAP is also focusing on building resilience to impacts of climate change and developing adaptive capacity, including by examining the relationship between climate change and migration in climate vulnerable communities to inform national responses. This corresponds to partnership [ref #2450](#) on the SIDS partnership platform



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and ESCAP reports that were the results of the attitudes survey in Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu to help inform national policies and plans will be available in the second half of 2015 and that a COP21 side event is being proposed by Tuvalu and Kiribati to discuss these and promote better international understanding of the nexus between climate change and people movement.

ESCAP will also continue its support to the implementation of international conventions such as the Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CRPD) and is also responding to requests for assistance from countries to fulfill their core human rights obligations, recognizing the importance conveyed in Samoa Pathway for the respect for all human rights and the rule of law.

ESCAP will continue to promote regional cooperation and integration, including opportunities for maritime transport and ICT connectivity as well as opportunities for increased benefits from trade, ICT and sustainable energy. Disaster risk reduction is an area of ESCAP support in the Pacific for which additional resources has been obtained. ESCAP will also continue to provide support to SPC for the Pacific Regional (Energy) Data Repository another partnership ([ref #2557](#)) on the SIDS partnership platform as well as Sustainable Living ([ref #2643](#)) for which some resources have been obtained to extend the piloting of biogas to a few Pacific island countries.

To help raise the voice of Pacific SIDS, ESCAP has: (a) increased the profile of the Pacific issues in its Asia-Pacific publications while publishing more Pacific-dedicated reports including on climate change and migration ([ref# 2450](#)) and fisheries; and (b) mobilized greater participation in Asia-Pacific policy dialogues culminating in the 71st Commission in May 2015 where Pacific leaders (the most ever in any ESCAP Commission meeting) and ministers focused dialogue on the Samoa Pathway and the post-2015 development agenda.

In terms of the monitoring and follow-up on the Samoa Pathway, ESCAP while continuing to provide support for statistical capacity development, has launched a new Development Account project with which it will assist in the development and mainstreaming of Pacific-relevant indicators for SDGs and, by extension, the Samoa Pathway. In response to the call by Samoa and Fiji for a Pacific consultation on SDG indicators, and in line with the call for sub-regional consultations and coordination, a proposal has been made under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism to convene a Pacific-wide consultation post-September to discuss and agree on a Pacific approach to the implementation of the SDGs and the Samoa Pathway. The aim is to coordinate the regional capacity assistance for NSDS with the task of contextualizing/localizing SDGs (and the Samoa Pathway) in the Pacific, make use of Pacific regional organizations and processes as called for by Palau on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum, and incorporate the Samoa Pathway in the SDGs implementation as called by Tonga on behalf of the Pacific SIDS.

Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) (ref #1675)

In response to calls in Samoa for greater accountability of partnerships, GLISPA has worked with a US based open data company called *Socrata* to launch and develop its own impact dashboard to measure the progress



of the partnership toward its strategic goals. GLISPA is also working with another SIDS partnership – the Micronesia Challenge, to support them in establishing their own impact dashboard and ultimately demonstrate the collective impact of islands toward common goals. GLISPA’s Impact Dashboard is available at: <https://impact.glispa.org/>.

Full report available at: <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&nr=1675&menu=1601&template=919>

Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage (ref #2441)

The Voyage’s arrival at UNSIDS and sail with the UN Secretary General was a profound moment for the Voyage and GLISPA. The Message in the bottle given by the UNSG and his proceeding invitation to welcome the voyage at UNHQ in NYC has provided impetus to create global awareness of island and ocean sustainable development issues. In 2016, GLISPA is working with Polynesia Voyaging Society and supporters to plan celebrations to mark the Voyages arrival at UNHQ in NYC for World Oceans Day 2016. GLISPA in the process of engaging countries and institutions interested in this event.

To recognize the significance in the Voyage preparing to depart the Pacific for the first time as well as to farewell the Voyage with the ‘mana’ (strength) of the Pacific, President Remengesau of Palau (Co-Chair of GLISPA) entrusted the Voyage to carry forward Palau Ocean’s Declaration and Pacific Oceanscape to share as an example of island solutions as it travels the world and arrives in NYC in 2016.

More information: <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&nr=2441&menu=1601&template=919>

Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona ‘Ae’oia (ref #2748)

Since launching at the UNSIDS meeting the partnership has launched its own Aloha+ Challenge Impact Dashboard: <https://dashboard.hawaii.gov/aloha-challenge>.

The Aloha+ Challenge is a commitment to statewide targets and an integrated approach that is strongly supported Hawai’i Green Growth - a growing network of public and private leaders, organizations and communities.

More information: <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&nr=2748&menu=1601&template=919>

Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (#2619)

Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) continues progress on developing several facets of the network. Friends of GOA-ON foundation funds are being used to build capacity, an inventory map of OA observations is being maintained at the GOA-ON website, a biological observations working group is developing recommendations, a data portal is being discussed, and GOA-ON’s international Executive Council co-chaired by Dr. Libby Jewett, NOAA, and Dr. Phil Williamson, University of East Anglia, is guiding planning for future GOA-ON meetings.

GOA-ON was invited to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States “Regional Workshop on Ocean Acidification in the OECS” organized by Dr. Asha Singh (OECS) and Ms. Rachel Allen (University of West Indies) in Saint Lucia on 26-27 May 2015. Ms. Allen had attended the Samoa OA SIDS workshop; this workshop was designed to promote further discussion among Eastern Caribbean SIDS. Exhibiting the GOA-ON Requirements and Governance Plan, lead author Dr. Jan Newton participated on behalf of GOA-ON to outline its goals and to offer the network’s template upon which to integrate existing resources and strategize on needs. More information and full progress report: <http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships?template=919&page=view&type=1006&menu=1601&nr=2619>

Islands and Oceans Net (IO Net) (ref #2793) by Ocean Policy Research Institute

IO Net Core Group and collaborators met in Tokyo from 19 - 20 January 2015 and discussed the principal themes of island management, management of islands' surrounding oceans, response to climate change and variability, and capacity building and institutional strengthening. IO Net Core Group consisted of OPRI, AN-CORS, Geoscience Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS). They discussed the operational guidelines of IO Net that was developed as a terms of reference (TOR), and proposed to invite the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of South Pacific (USP) to be members of IO Net Core Group.

More information and full progress report: <http://www.sids2014.org/partnerships?template=919&page=view&type=1006&menu=1601&nr=2793>

Closing remarks

In closing, H.E. Ahmed Sareer reiterated that it is our common responsibility to implement the Samoa Pathway in Small Island Developing States. In this regard, SIDS welcomes the forging of new and innovative partnerships that moves us closer to sustainable development in Small Island Developing States. A robust review and follow-up mechanism of SIDS partnerships needs to be underpinned with data collection and data analyses, in order for SIDS partnerships to tell their story through facts.

More information about the event: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdinaction/meetings/sidspartner-shipdialogue>

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