

Draft Statement
Commission on Population and Development
Forty-ninth Session
11th to 15th April 2016

***Item 4: General debate on national experience in population matters:
strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development
agenda***

Madam Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of Nauru, Solomon Islands, Samoa, and my own country, the Federated States of Micronesia. At the outset, allow me to offer our congratulations on your assumption to the chairmanship of the Forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development. Let me assure you of our support as you lead our work during this important session.
2. We welcome the theme of this session, “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda.” We find this theme to be particularly fitting as we begin the process of implementing the ambitious 2030 Agenda recently adopted by our Heads of State.
3. Madam Chair, we express our continued support for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD held in Cairo. We applaud the Programme of Action’s holistic approach toward a very complex and politically sensitive issue. Furthermore, we note that the successful implementation of the Programme of Action will contribute to the realization of the 2030 Agenda.
4. Over the past two decades some of our countries have achieved significant progress with regard to the objectives of the Programme of Action in the areas of: reducing instances of child mortality, increasing access to quality healthcare services and increasing access to primary education. It is clear, however, that there remains great room for further implementation, and we believe that, in working to meet the Goals and Targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda, we will be able to fill the many gaps that remain.
5. While we are committed to achieving the ICPD objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals, as SIDS, we are also committed to ensuring that the SAMOA Pathway is fully implemented.
6. The SAMOA Pathway, adopted two years ago by the international community, is both comprehensive – as it seeks to address the varied and deeply ingrained

obstacles to development – and universal – as it represents a global partnership. Most importantly it was crafted to take into consideration the unique and particular vulnerabilities of SIDS. It was a country-driven document that reflects our national priorities and respects our sovereignty.

7. In order to successfully implement the objectives set forth in the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway, we must strengthen the demographic evidence base. The ambitious nature and breadth of these agendas require that we obtain more and better demographic data, disaggregated by various population dimensions, for use in planning interventions and measuring progress.
8. In particular, we must ensure that data collection, disaggregation, and analysis benefit the most marginalized sectors of society: women and children. Strengthening the statistical evidence base for women and children will enable our governments to obtain the data necessary to form policies that will protect these two most integral groups of society. We must collect and analyze data with the goal of promoting quality education, healthcare, and healthy environments for women and children especially, but also for men and women of all ages and abilities. We must also collect data with the aim of ensuring employment opportunities for all men and women.
9. Although we applaud this year's focus on strengthening the demographic evidence base, we must note that the process of collecting, disaggregating, and analyzing data is not always neutral. It is imperative that the United Nations refrain from imposing any controversial agendas through the guise of collecting data for and monitoring progress of the internationally agreed-upon 2030 Agenda.
10. Along these lines, we would like to echo the sentiments of the many other delegations that have reaffirmed the sovereign right of each Member State to implement the recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action and the Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda in a way that is consistent with our national laws and development priorities, with respect for the religious and ethical values of our peoples, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights.
11. Finally, Madam Chair, we would like to call on the UN system to provide support in building capacities and ensuring adequate and sustainable financing for bolstering data collection at the national level and, ultimately, implementation of these agendas.
12. We acknowledge the primary responsibility of our States for their own sustainable development. However, we recognize that the persistent development challenges of SIDS require enhanced global partnership and easy access to MOI. So too must the developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of achieving sustainable

development and we encourage our partners to continue to improve their efforts to promote sustained economic growth and to narrow imbalances in a manner that can benefit all countries.

13. Thank you.