



**Samoa's statement at the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission on Population Development**

**delivered  
by**

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We congratulate you, Mr Chairman on your election and we are confident that your leadership with the full support of the Bureau will ensure that we have a successful session.

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports which were helpful in informing our deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

The Samoa Government is committed to the ICPD Program of Action with its national policy and programme implementation. The ICPD agenda reminds that we should implement inclusive, equitable and sustainable global development for all and in this regard, Samoa welcomes the theme of the Fifty-first Session on "Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration".

Samoa has been working hard to integrate and streamline the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in to its national Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2017-2020, and was the first Pacific Small Island Developing State, to report on its development progress when presenting its National Voluntary Report in 2016 at UN High Level Political Forum. Samoa saw the opportunity to review its existing national systems, processes and institutions to support the localization of the SDGs.

The review and formulation of the Samoa Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 – 2020 highlights the inter-linkages of the SDGs and the national priorities as well as the population and development issues. As a resource constrained country, Samoa integrated population issues as a crucial part of its National Sustainable Development

Framework and reaffirms its commitment by launching the Samoa Population Action Plan 2016 – 2020.

Samoa Population Action Plan highlights key areas such as, fertility (includes sexual and reproductive health) relocation/migration from rural to urban areas, emigration and immigration, the changing age structure, changing health indicators, education, the changing characteristics of certain population groups and the impact of human settlement on the environment as well as provision of essential services (safe drinking water, sanitation services, energy and transport services).

Samoa ensures that population data and information are widely disseminated and planners have the skills to incorporate population issues into national development and sector plans. Samoa's 2016 Census Brief report is the first publication by Samoa Bureau of Statistics to be released on quarterly basis with emphasis on Samoa population and development in different areas. This gives the stakeholders/community more collaborative approach in compiling relevant, focus and more user friendly statistical report for planning and program interventions. Samoa's Mass Registration Campaign is to strengthen civil registration and vital statistics as well as health information. It has also recognized the importance of relevant administrative data sources that contribute to tracking progress for sustainable development.

Samoa like other Small Island Developing States is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of disasters in our region. The recent tropical cyclones and flooding that devastated Samoa and neighbouring Pacific countries destroyed progress in infrastructural development resulting in the relocation of communities to higher grounds for safety thus the right to development of communities were affected.

Mr. Chairman,

An inclusive consultative approach and expansive outreach program to ensure engagement of community, civil society, youth, women and girls, development partners and various stakeholders are crucial part of the localization process.

These process and integrated development strengthened a whole of government approach to ensure our commitment to delivery of services to our people to achieve the sustainable development goals so that no one is left behind.

Thank you