



Draft Concept Note

SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) Meeting

“Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in coherence with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and SDGs”

25 -26 July 2019, Praia, Cabo Verde

1. Background

The SAMOA Pathway, paragraph 120, mandates the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) to ensure the mainstreaming of SAMOA Pathway and issues related to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the United Nations (UN) system and enhance the coherence of SIDS issues in UN processes, including at the national, regional and global levels.

In responding to this mandate to strengthen linkages between global process and implementation, OHRLLS developed an action plan for the creation of a network of SIDS national points. The action plan informed the establishment and full operationalization of the network of SIDS national focal points, which included: the formation of the network, its operationalization, and the mobilization of the resources needed for the funding of its activities.

On 29 October 2018 the inaugural meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points was held in conjunction with the Inter-regional preparatory meeting for the midterm review of the SAMOA Pathway in Apia, Samoa from 30 October to 1 November 2018.

The inaugural meeting was attended by over 50 participants including government designated National Focal Points of SIDS, UN agencies - UNDP and DESA, regional commissions including ESCAP and ECLAC as well as development partners. It:

- ***affirmed the critical role that NFPs play in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and SDGs. It also affirmed the important role of the NFPs in the delivery of the mandate of coherence at the national, regional and global levels, as they are the closest to implementation “on the ground”. It noted that the NFPs are best placed to speak directly to the effectiveness of the support provided by the development partners, including the UN system, and how it can be strengthened;***
- affirmed the important role that NFPs can play in the localization of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and SDGs in national development plans and budgets, which was identified as a critical accelerator for the implementation of these international agreements;
- pointed out a range of roles that could be undertaken by NFPs including catalyzing the south-south cooperation, and the validation of the partnerships at the national level, in supporting the preparation of voluntary national reviews (VNRs), including to ensure the necessary inter-agency coordination;
- underscored the importance of capacity building and empowerment as a prerequisite for the SIDS national focal points to effectively carry out these important roles;
- identified the idea of an active online platform and other ICT tools for the exchange of information and ideas with regard to the implementation of the SAMOA pathway and the 2030 as important mechanisms that the SIDS national focal points could utilize;
- highlighted that strengthening the SIDS NFPs will require drawing from lessons learnt from other earlier similar mechanisms, as well leveraging existing mechanisms, including regional coordinating bodies;

- noted the importance of providing qualitative data for policy makers, using new technologies and innovation where possible, the importance of coordination between focal points, national statistical offices and line agencies; and
- underscored the need for a harmonized approach for monitoring and reporting on the SAMOA Pathway across SIDS, focusing on what is relevant, feasible and possible.
- ***noted the importance of annual meetings of the NFPs, ideally two a year, with the purpose of facilitating the regular sharing best practices and building capacities, as well as exposing NFPs to key global processes of relevance to SIDS. It was highlighted that one of these meetings could be held in one of the three regions of the SIDS and the other in the margins of key UN meetings, including the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development. The NFPs could also be active in regional or other global meetings on key accelerators of sustainable development.***

2019 SIDS National Focal Point Meetings

The United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) together with the Government of Cabo Verde will convene a meeting of SIDS National Focal Points in Praia, Cabo Verde from 25-26 July 2019. Government designated National Focal Points of SIDS, members of the AOSIS Bureau, UN agencies including UNDP and DESA, regional commissions including ESCAP and ECLAC, as well as resource persons and development partners will be invited to participate in the meeting. It is envisaged that a second meeting of the SIDS National Focal Points will be held in 2019 in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

2. Aims and Objectives

This meeting will be held under the overarching theme of “Implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in coherence with the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and SDGs”. The meeting will provide a platform to exchange information and share experiences on enhancing coherence in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs at the national levels. Concrete output from the meeting will include preparation of a toolkit for the harmonized approach for monitoring and reporting on the SAMOA Pathway. The meeting will also adopt the Terms of Reference (TORs) for SIDS national focal points, and consider preparations for the one-day high level review of the SAMOA Pathway in September 2019.

The objectives of the National focal point meeting are therefore to:

- Adopt the Terms of Reference (TORs) for SIDS national focal points (NFPs): A draft TORs will be presented for discussion and adoption. Aiming to formalize the network and its activities, the TORs will highlight the main functions of the SIDS NFPs, highlight the composition of membership and modalities for its operation.

- Discuss the preparation of a toolkit for the harmonized approach for monitoring and reporting on the SAMOA Pathway, as a response to the critical statistical capacity constraint in SIDS in the monitoring and review of the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 agenda.
- Discuss and share experiences and relevant strategies on pertinent SIDS related issues including how to localize the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and SDGs, and the role NFPs can play. Thematic sessions to prepare for consultations on the High-Level Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway will also be held.

3. Participation

Around 60 participants will attend the meeting including government designated National Focal Points of SIDS. Relevant UN agencies including UNDP and DESA, regional commissions including ESCAP and ECLAC, Development partners as well as the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS 21) will also be invited to attend.

4. Deliverables

The SIDS National Focal Points Meeting will result in an outline for the preparation of a Toolkit for the harmonization of the SAMOA Pathway and a Report of the meeting summarising the discussions and conclusions. The meeting will also adopt the Terms of Reference for the Network of SIDS National Focal Points.

5. Dates for the Meeting

The Meeting will convene over two-days from 25-26 in July 2019, in Praia, Cabo Verde. The Meeting will be conducted in English.



DRAFT AGENDA

SIDS National Focal Points (NFPs) Meeting,

25-26 July 2019

Draft Agenda (Key Items) – Day 1 & 2	
1.	- Registration
2.	- Opening
3.	- Interactive discussion and adoption of the Terms of Reference for SIDS national focal points (NFPs)
4.	- Monitoring the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs: Towards a toolkit for a harmonized approach for monitoring and reporting on the SAMOA Pathway.
5.	- Localization of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and SDGs
6.	- High Level Meeting for the Midterm Review of the SAMOA Pathway the 2019 High-Level Political Forum: preparations for consultations
7.	- Concluding remarks