



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

31 July 2019

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the high-level review of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, to be held on Friday, 27 September, from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 71/225 and 72/307, and decision 73/522.

This review will provide a key opportunity for Small Island Developing States, partners and other relevant stakeholders to discuss progress made and continuing challenges faced. It will also serve as an opportunity to identify meaningful and transformative next steps in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

A provisional concept note and draft programme for the high-level review is attached herewith. Furthermore, based on consultations with Member States and the Secretariat, I have the honour to propose that in addition to the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the following speakers address the opening of the high-level meeting:

- High-level representative of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS);
- H.E. Mr. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland;
- H.E. Mr. Frank Bainimarama, Prime Minister of Fiji;
- Youth Representative;
- Keynote Address: Mr. Jason Momoa, Actor.

Participating States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly are invited to register their preference between the two interactive dialogues through the e-speaker system available at <https://delegate.un.int> from Monday, 5 August at 9:00 a.m. EDT until Friday, 6 September, at 6:00 p.m. EDT. Associate members of the regional commissions are invited to register by contacting the ECOSOC Affairs Branch, DGACM, Ms. Cassandra Price Taveras (email: pricec@un.org).

All Permanent Missions and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

The provisional list of participants for each interactive dialogue will be determined based on the level of representation with priority given to Heads of State and Government with due consideration to geographical and gender balance. Delegations will be able to speak in only one pre-selected interactive dialogue, time permitting. The provisional list of participants will be made available in September, prior to the event.

For further information, Ms. Nehali Anupriya, from my Office, may be contacted via email at nehali.anupriya@un.org or via telephone at +1 (929) 505-3864.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

High-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

27 September 2019, Trusteeship Council Chamber
United Nations Headquarters

Background

The third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was held from 1-4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. The Conference resulted in the adoption of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action – or [SAMOA Pathway](#) and the announcement of 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of SIDS. The SAMOA Pathway was mandated for the duration of 2014 to 2024. It also established a unique intergovernmental SIDS Partnership Framework, designed to monitor progress of existing partnerships, and stimulate the launch of new, genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

On 27 September 2019, the General Assembly will convene a one-day high level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. The high-level review will also result in a concise action oriented and inter-governmentally agreed political declaration.

The high-level review will assess progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Bringing development partners and SIDS together, it will also assess the priorities, solutions, and lessons learnt for the way forward. It is key that the final five years of implementation seek out the strongest synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the climate agenda, and other key multilateral processes.

Tentative Programme

10.00 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	Opening Segment
10.45 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Multi-stakeholder Roundtable 1	Progress, gaps and challenges • Keynote Address • Fireside chat • Interactive Dialogue
3.00 p.m. – 5.15 p.m. Multi-stakeholder Roundtable 2	Priorities, solutions and the way forward • Keynote Address • Fireside chat • Interactive Dialogue
Immediately after	Closing Segment

Multi-stakeholder Roundtable 1

The theme of this roundtable is 'Progress, Gaps, and Challenges'. Participants are invited to give insights on the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway thus far, and the hindrances that they have faced. Discussion here will include topics such as climate change, access to finance, and United Nations Development System Reform.

Guiding Questions

How has the SAMOA Pathway been implemented thus far?

How has national policy planning been changed to align with the SAMOA Pathway?

What partnerships and initiatives have proved most successful? How and why?

What challenges have been faced in implementation? What needs to be done to address these challenges?

Multi-stakeholder Roundtable 2

The theme of this roundtable is 'Priorities, solutions and the way forward'. Participants are invited to announce new partnerships and initiatives going forward with the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. This session should also serve as a platform to set priorities going forward.

Guiding Questions

What priorities must be set in order to ensure the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by 2024?

What new initiatives and partnerships will become available to SIDS going forward?

How can development partners and the international community better serve SIDS?

At a national level, how must policy planning change to facilitate implementation?

Participation

Representation and participation at the highest possible level is strongly encouraged. Participation is also open to associate members of regional commissions, the heads of the United Nations fund and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as the heads of intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and entities having observer status in the General Assembly. Attendance will also be opened to relevant non-governmental organisations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as to those that were accredited to relevant conferences and summits¹ and accredited by the General Assembly in its decision 73/556 of 10 July 2019.

Interactive Dialogue

Given time restraints, during the interactive dialogue of each round table session, all effort will be made to accommodate 22 high-level speakers comprising of 18 from participating States and the European Union, two from relevant intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly or associate members of the regional commissions, one United Nations system representative, and one representative of a civil society organization. The time limit for statements

¹ World Summit on Sustainable Development, United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the previous UN conferences on sustainable development of small island developing States held in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa, and the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

during the two interactive dialogues will be three minutes, which will be strictly implemented to allow all inscribed participants to speak.

Participating States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly are invited to register their preference between the two interactive dialogues through the e-speaker system available at <https://delegate.un.int> from Monday, 5 August at 9:00 a.m. EDT until Friday, 6 September, at 6:00 p.m. EDT. Associate members of regional commissions are invited to register by contacting the ECOSOC Affairs Branch, DGACM, Ms. Cassandra Price Taveras (email: pricec@un.org).

The provisional list of participants for each interactive dialogue will be determined based on the level of representation with priority given to Heads of State and Government, on a first come, first served basis with due consideration to geographical and gender balance. Delegations will be able to speak in only one pre-selected interactive dialogue, time permitting. The provisional list of participants will be made available in September, prior to the event.