



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SAMOA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
800 Second Avenue, Suite 400J
New York, N.Y 10017
Tel.: (212) 599-6196 - Fax: (212) 599-0797**

**STATEMENT
BY
MRS. NOUMEA SIMI**

**AT THE HIGH LEVEL REVIEW TO ASSESS PROGRESS MADE IN ADDRESS THE
VULNERABILITIES OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES THROUGH THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAURITIUS STRATEGY FOR THE FURTHER
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

**ROUND TABLE 1: "REDUCING VULNERABILITIES AND STRENGTHENING
RESILIENCE OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES"**

Co-Chairs,

Samoa associates itself with the statement made by the Hon Prime Minister of Vanuatu on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Small islands developing states face unique challenges in particular high levels of vulnerabilities of their natural, social and economic systems to external shocks which arise from their peculiarities of their intrinsic characteristics. As well they are also hosts to hotspots of biodiversity, cultural diversity and a wealth of marine resources which are the basis of their economic social and environmental development.

Samoa has weathered the impacts of the global crisis as well as natural disasters namely the Pacific tsunami of 2009 through commitments to ensure focused national planning targets and budgets towards sustainable development accompanied by improved fiscal management systems. In response to the tsunami of 2009 Samoa remains committed to minimize the fiscal burden and capacity risks arising from rehabilitation and maintain fiscal sustainability. It has also made significant progress in securing concessional donor support and prioritising reconstruction spending however it will be important to return to the public deficit target once reconstruction is completed to safeguard its favourable debt outlook and fiscal space to deal with future shocks. Effective and timely implementation of the government's ongoing public financial management reform plan will help underpin this strategy.

Co-chairs

Key to sustainable development planning is the ability to compile and disseminate statistics that would serve to enhance policy credibility and reduce uncertainties.

The current 4 year development strategy sees the initial steps towards mainstreaming and integration of climate change, energy efficiency, green growth and resilience into it. Our attempts at Sustainable development planning include visible and functional, national policies for science and technology, the protection of natural resources to support sustainable development and building resilience to the impacts of climate change. Furthermore Samoa has already streamlined and integrated the MDGs into the national development framework and has also used the target indicators as a measure of aid effectiveness.

Samoa is also progressing well in the implementation of its National Adoption and Mitigation Programme to climate change with the support of its development partners. While there is available additional, and adequate sources of grant-based

financing to fully meet our adaptation needs there is still room for improvement in ensuring the access to these resources is timely, direct, prioritised and simplified.

Co-chairs,

Fossil fuel dependency has a crippling effect on national budgets and revenues and impacts on key productive sectors such as fisheries, agriculture and tourism. The lack of technical knowhow and limited local capabilities means that support is needed from our development partners for immediate diversification in energy options, with a focus on renewable energy; a shift to appropriate technology in key productive sectors; and a coordinated approach for more appropriate technology transfer.

We continue to rely on our development partners for financial assistance to assist us in meeting the impacts of the recent crisis; however in doing so Samoa has remained committed to greater aid effectiveness through enhanced ownership and leadership of the aid coordination processes, congruent partnerships on focal areas that require further emphasis, reviewing and adopting the most efficient modalities for delivery and putting in place an appropriate development co-operation policy framework with an expressed preference for budget support. To this end Samoa is presenting its final report on the Evaluation of the Paris declaration in October to OECD/DAC and will be participating in the Monitoring Survey in 2011. Similarly Samoa continues to advocate for Pacific Island Country leadership of aid coordination processes under the Cairns Compact.

Co-chairs

Our isolation remains a major impediment to the growth of our economy. Not only is there a clear need to improve maritime, aviation infrastructure as well as transport facilities in the region and nationally but there is also recognition that ICT will provide a key to unlocking development potential and reducing the distance to markets, education, health care, etc. Through the national budget as well as with support from the international community Samoa is targeting improved connectivity within and between it and countries of the Pacific and the rest of the world. This involves the development of appropriate ICT infrastructure; shipping and aviation infrastructure and facilities that meet international standards and ensuring that it has the capacity to maintain these.

In conclusion we accept the responsibility for the implementation of the MS lies with SIDS, however we would welcome the continuing support of our development partners in developing and implementing the various measures to build our resilience and minimise our vulnerabilities.