



**Remarks by
Hon. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi,
Prime Minister of Samoa
at
Flag Lowering Ceremony
Thursday, 4 September 2014**

Susuga i le Peresetene Aisoli Iuli,
Your Excellency Mr. WU Hongbo,
Members of Cabinet,
Members of Parliament,
Members of the Judiciary,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Samoa's journey as host of the Third International Conference on SIDS began in September 2012 when our fellow Pacific brothers agreed for Samoa to represent the Pacific. Since day one, my country has been overwhelmed by the support of the international community and in particular the UN Secretariat to help my small island nation host the biggest conference ever held in our part of the world.

We gather here at the same spot where the children of Samoa welcomed the world to complete the final act of the partnership arrangement between the United Nations and Samoa for the hosting of the SIDS Conference. Five days ago Samoa entrusted this venue to the United Nations. I would like on the occasion of this ceremony to express our heartfelt appreciation and thank you to the United Nations for the great and careful care with which they looked after all the delegates and visitors including our own people that used the venue throughout the conference. While this ceremony maybe a necessary requirement for all

UN Conference, for Samoa it marks a very important part of the journey that we took together with the United Nations to enable our country to host the Conference.

In this connection, I would again like to thank the Secretary General of the Conference, Mr Wu Hongbo and through him the Secretary General of the United Nations and the staff of the United Nations for the close guidance they provided throughout the preparation of this Venue to meet the requirements for the Conference.

To all our partners from UN member states, NGOs, Civil Society, Private Sector and International Government Organisations, I would like to thank you for being such marvellous guests in graciously accepting the modest arrangements Samoa was able to provide during your stay with us.

Finally, I thank again from the bottom of my heart His Highness the Head of State, the Cabinet, the Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and Members of Parliament, the Chief Justice and the Judiciary, the Church Leaders, Traditional Leaders and Village Councils and all our people for the tremendous pride in our country that has shown throughout in Samoa's hosting of the Conference.

Faafetai. Faafetai tele lava.

God Bless, Soifua