



Intervention

by

Hon Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielgaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa

during

Inaugural Meeting of High-Level Political Forum

On Sustainable Development.

Global Partnerships for development to create jobs and improve sustainable lifestyles

UN Trusteeship Council Chamber, 24 September 2013

Mr. President,

The global Economic and Financial Crisis impacted Samoa and adversely affected different sectors of the economy and employment levels generally. This has also sharpened our focus on the development and the creation of opportunities for our young people in full recognition of their key contribution to the sustainability of our economy and the cohesion of our community. The strategy for addressing youth issues including employment opportunities is articulated in our national Youth Policy 2011-2015.

Mr. President,

Samoa will be the venue for the Third International conference on Small Islands developing States in September 2014. It is our intention to launch a Youth-for-Youth Partnership program during the SIDS conference which will focus on maximizing local employment and economic development opportunities for youth in Samoa with a view to promoting sustainable employment beyond the SIDS conference.

The inclusive partnership will involve the young people, government ministries, the private sector and non government organizations with the support of the UN country team and other bilateral partners. Leadership will be provided by the National

Youth Council and supported by the Ministry of Women Community and Social Development.

The partnership program will focus on;

- firstly, creating a youth employment network through the establishment of an electronic platform that will act as a one-stop-shop facility for youth and the creation of a cadre of youth national volunteers that could be mobilized to cover major events including responses to emergencies;
- secondly, the creation of a market place for young entrepreneurs that will be demonstrated at the SIDS conference venue and the creation of sustainable livelihoods for young people through legal and socioeconomic empowerment.

There is also a whole host of activities to empower women in recognition of their key role in the community and the development of the economy. The government's partnerships with women include: the protection of their rights, the strengthening of their participation in private sector businesses and the promotion of their greater involvement in political governance.

For the overall economy, our periodic "Strategy for the development of Samoa" guides the actions that are being implemented and planned to create employment opportunities and address the challenges that our island economy must overcome if we are to achieve sustainable development and lifestyles.

Thank you.