



Statement
by
Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi
Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa
during the
United Nations Summit for the adoption of the
Post-2015 Development Agenda
“Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

26th September 2015, U.N. Headquarters, New York.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the start of this new millennium, the world leaders aspired to a shared commitment for a stronger global effort to overcome the grim ills that robbed so many of the world’s people of the opportunity to live in dignity and in freedom. This aspiration was captured in the Millennium Development Goals.

The new Sustainable Development Goals we adopted yesterday appropriately inspired great hope. Together, they provide a framework for a balanced global development across the economic, social and environmental pillars.

Samoa is proud to be part of this momentous event, a fitting way to mark the commemoration of the seventieth (70th) anniversary of our United Nations. “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” sets out the totality of our sustainable development priorities and represents an inclusive agenda initiated, led and driven by our UN members.

Our UN family can justifiably take satisfaction in the strong leadership and collective commitment that finalized the new development agenda and made this summit a reality. Our attention must now squarely turn immediately to establishing required

partnerships and the mobilization of the needed resources if the new development agenda is successfully implemented and the Sustainable Development Goals achieved.

Co-Chairs,

Last September at the closing of the SIDS Conference my country and our Pacific region were honoured to host, I ventured the hope that the UN community will not treat or view the outcome document of the conference, the SAMOA Pathway "as an end in itself." I am very grateful therefore to the Small Island Developing States and all their partners for ensuring that SIDS challenges and priorities captured in the SAMOA Pathway are part of the SDGs including the Means of Implementation.

Integrating the SAMOA Pathway in our new agenda ensures that we are faithful to our call of "leaving no one behind".

We welcome the reaffirmation in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the special case of SIDS as a recognized UN group with special needs and inherent vulnerabilities in the context of sustainable development, not by choice but due to factors outside of their control. Recognizing these specificities are critically important to repeatedly remind that while the Agenda is universal, this does not equate to "one-size-fits-all" for purposes of implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Recognising the different national realities and challenges, capacities and levels of development of member states and different groups will be crucial for the effective achievement of the SDGs across the board. Obviously, the availability of accurate data and statistics will be vital to their monitoring and evaluation at national, regional and the global level.

The work by the UN to find meaningful and relevant indicators is underway. During the SDGs process, the applicability of the MDG's and their indicators to small island developing countries proved difficult and much tailoring was necessary before these global targets were seen as relevant for us to meaningfully participate in. It is important therefore that indicators being developed take into account the realities and experiences of small island states like Samoa to be applicable to our situations.

Co-Chairs,

I alluded earlier to the monumental task ahead of us all. Samoa has always been and continues to be a firm believer in the worth of genuine and durable partnerships. We know from our own journey as a nation that with the right combination of different

kinds of partnerships, we can make our development agenda and its implementation truly transformational. The agenda we have endorsed speaks to the need to – and I quote - *“mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focussed in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.”* - End quote.

Co-Chairs,

The adoption of the new SDGs is timely for Samoa. Our new Strategy for the Development of Samoa for the next 5 years is scheduled to come out in 2016. This gives us space to integrate the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs into the new strategic direction for the development of our country.

Thank you.