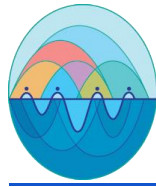# ACTION FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

United Nations High-level Week, 21–27 September, 2019

SAMOA Pathway High-Level Midterm Review

27 September • Trusteeship Council Chamber

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- Small island developing states are among the most vulnerable countries in the world, at the forefront of the intertwined challenges of climate change and development.

- Small island developing states face a unique set of issues relating to their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and exposure to external economic shocks and global environmental challenges, including the impacts of climate change, which threatens not only health systems and infrastructure, but a country's very survival.

- The SAMOA Pathway – Small island developing states Accelerated Modalities of Action – is an international framework that articulates the aspirations of small island developing states, recognizing that genuine and durable partnerships play a crucial role in advancing the sustainable development of small island developing states.

- Five years after the SAMOA Pathway agreement to support sustainable development in small island developing states, the High-Level Review will discuss measures to combat the devastating impacts of climate change, build resilience, and address other complex challenges faced by small island developing states, such as non-communicable diseases.

- The High-Level Review offers an important opportunity for the international community to assess the status of implementation of the SAMOA Pathway agreement, address the gaps, and suggest actions that reaffirm solidarity with and support for small island developing states. The unique challenges facing small island developing states will also feature prominently in the Climate Action Summit, the SDG Summit, and the High-Level Meetings on Financing for Sustainable Development and Universal Health Coverage.

- As part of the High-Level Review, governments, private sector, civil society, academia and a wide range of other stakeholders will be encouraged to build and launch new and additional partnerships that advance the implementation of priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals in small island developing states.

- Genuine and durable partnerships for small island developing states play an important role in enhancing international cooperation and action to advance sustainable development and address the unique vulnerabilities of small island developing states.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT?

After the opening segment, there will be two multi-stakeholder roundtables each accommodating 22 high-level speakers. The themes of the roundtables are:

1. Progress, gaps and challenges

2. Priorities, solutions and the way forward

WHAT OUTCOMES ARE EXPECTED?

The meeting is expected to result in a political declaration as well as the announcement of new partnerships.

WHAT ARE THE LATEST FACTS AND FIGURES?

- Small island developing states have a combined population of around 65 million people contributing to less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

- Small island developing states are extremely important for global biodiversity as islands harbor 20% of all plant, bird, and reptile species on only about 3% of the Earth's land surface.

- On average, almost 30% of small island developing states' populations live at less than 5 meters above sea level.

- The economic costs of climate change for small island developing states are projected at 15% of GDP or more.

- In 2018, while the average external debt in small island developing states reached 60% of their GNI, worsened by the need to borrow for the cost of natural disasters recovery, Official Development Assistance flows to small island developing states declined.

- Climate finance to small island developing states has increased over the past decade. The Global Environment Facility for instance, invested close to US$1 billion on SAMOA Pathway Priorities 2014-2018, including climate finance.

For more information:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids/samoareview