



**Remarks
by
Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi
Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa
at Meeting of Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and
the United Nations Secretary-General
21 September 2019, UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 7**

Mr. Secretary-General,

The SAMOA Pathway is the UN blueprint of SIDS sustainable development agenda - and its 5-year review will be held next Friday.

My brief remarks will focus on one important but sometimes overlooked and unappreciated partner in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, namely the UN Secretariat and UN agencies under your command.

Samoa, Fiji and Papua New Guinea are fortunate to have a physical presence of the United Nations in their respective capitals - something other Pacific island countries had been deprived of. Yet the importance of having a UN presence in our SIDS regions either on the ground or nearby to spearhead implementation of our UN global agenda is a clear necessity.

I thank you for your clear and unequivocal recommendation for the establishment of a UN Multi Country Office in the Northern Pacific. Those who were caught napping when the consultations were held should not try

to derail the momentum by coming up with veiled excuses not to proceed with the MCO. As our Chair had already alluded to, the earlier this recommendation is implemented the effectiveness the UN's service to the Pacific SIDS and our region will be more pronounced. That will be a tangible contribution to the SAMOA Pathway implementation and the Mid-term review.

On the UNDS reform, we appreciate the fact that the UN Resident Coordinators are being supported in their new role with real additional human resources on the ground to implement other aspects of the reform. The UN should deliver as one both in theory and in practice to avoid duplication of responsibilities and a clear definition of roles against diminishing resources. We hope that the Resident Coordinator's reform will provide a coordinated, effective and efficient response to member states' priority needs.

The SIDS Unit and OHRLLS require dedicated and sufficient resources to match their expanded mandates if they are to support Pacific SIDS in meeting the SDGs.

The various UN Funds and Agencies should ensure that the SAMOA Pathway is integrated into their Business and Strategic Plans with commensurate resources and dedicated funds that are ear-marked for SIDS and Pacific in budget programmes for projects on priorities. They should focus on their respective comparative advantage and stop competing with each other and with countries.

Monitoring and evaluation of the value added of UN overall contribution to SIDS is essential so that future pathways for assistance are better informed from past experience.