

UNITED NATIONS



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**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**REMARKS AT UN CHIEF EXECUTIVES BOARD HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT  
AT THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SIDS**

**Apia, 1 September 2014**

Your Excellency, Mr. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished United Nations colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I thank His Excellency Prime Minister Mr. Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi for his heartfelt remarks.

He has helped us all to better understand the challenges SIDS face and their vision for the future.

The United Nations is committed to working with SIDS and their partners for sustainable development and a life of dignity for all.

The level of representation today – from SIDS and the United Nations system -- is a testament to our partnership.

The UN Chief Executives Board is the highest inter-agency body for coordination in the UN system.

It is composed of the heads of 29 UN entities, many of whom are here today.

Together, we work to advance cooperation and coherence among our organizations in policy, programme management and operations.

I Chair the Board, and, in convening this event, I wanted to show how the UN system is united for SIDS.

Mr. Prime Minister,  
Colleagues,

The SAMOA Pathway, agreed by this conference, provides a roadmap for SIDS to reach their development goals.

By adopting it Member States have confirmed their support for SIDS.

The agenda is broad and deep.

And the UN system -- in all its diversity and with all its technical expertise – will be an essential partner in its implementation.

SIDS governments and their people have high expectations of us.

This afternoon's discussion has shown that the UN system is heeding the calls from SIDS to pool expertise, share knowledge and to act together for the benefit of small island nations.

Today we have heard – and will continue to hear throughout the week – announcements of new UN system initiatives to deepen and strengthen our commitment to SIDS.

Today I offer three pledges.

First, each of our organizations will focus on delivering as one for SIDS. Our actions will be coordinated and coherent.

We will seize synergies whenever possible and learn from one another – and from our partners.

Second, we will do more to help build capacity in SIDS, reflecting differing needs and strengthening ownership.

Third, we will foster strong partnerships.

Most of the new initiatives launched for this Conference are either led or supported by UN entities.

But it is not the quantity that matters – it is the quality.

This Conference marks the start of a new level of engagement and action.

I look forward to the positive and lasting impacts that our work will have over the months and years to come.

Mr. Prime Minister,  
Colleagues,

As I said this morning at the Conference opening, SIDS are on the front line of global climate action and the quest for a sustainable future.

I expect SIDS to have a strong voice in the Climate Summit I am convening on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in New York, and in the deliberations on the sustainable development goals and a post-2015 development agenda.

The issues that face SIDS, though often magnified, are issues for all the world.

In supporting SIDS, we are pursuing a common cause, a shared destiny and the collective vision set forth at Rio+20.

The United Nations system is committed to working with SIDS and your other partners to implement the SAMOA Pathway and achieve a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future for all people everywhere.

I thank each of you for your commitment and leadership.

Thank you.

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