



UN Conference on
Small Island
Developing States
Apia, Samoa | 2014

United Nations press release

In Apia, Samoa, international community shows support for small island developing states in largest conference of its kind in the Pacific

(Apia, 1 September) – Heads of State, policymakers, business leaders and representatives from civil society have gathered in Apia, Samoa, to pledge their support for and establish new partnerships with small island developing states, a group of nations that faces unique circumstances and challenges due to their remote location.

“We are here to seek a renewed commitment to small island developing states by focusing on practical actions and durable partnerships,” said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressing the Third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The conference – the largest international meeting ever held in the Pacific – will run from 1-4 September and seeks to focus the world’s attention on issues faced by small island nations, such as climate change, environmental degradation and access to energy.

With the slogan, “Island Voices, Global Choices,” and with genuine and durable partnerships as its theme, the conference has brought to the spotlight the need to strengthen island initiatives that can help address pressing global issues.

In his remarks, Mr. Ban stressed that the world needs to listen to small islands as their issues have global consequences.

“I see small island developing states as a magnifying glass,” Mr. Ban said. “When we look through [their] lens, we see the vulnerabilities we all face. And by addressing the issues facing small island developing states we are developing the tools we need to promote sustainable development across the entire world.”

Over the next four days, participants will take part in a series of partnership dialogues, where governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations will have the opportunity to establish new joint initiatives on six priority areas: sustainable economic development; climate change and disaster risk management; sustainable energy; water and sanitation, food security and waste management; oceans, seas and biodiversity; and social development, which includes health and non-communicable diseases as well as youth and women.

More than 120 side events will also be taking place throughout the conference.

The SAMOA Pathway

The outcome document, named *Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action* – or SAMOA Pathway – was agreed by Member States earlier this year, an



unusual occurrence for conferences of this kind. In the 124 points of the SAMOA Pathway, countries agree to strengthen their support for small island developing states.

“The early agreement of the SAMOA Pathway is a reflection of the solidarity of the international community regarding small island developing states,” said the Conference Secretary-General, Wu Hongbo. “Having an agreement on the outcome document also allows countries to fully concentrate on forging long-lasting partnerships, which are at the heart of this event.”

Almost 300 multi-stakeholder partnerships, of which a quarter are new initiatives, have already been registered through the Small Island Developing States 2014 Partnerships Platform. Partners include 166 governments, 85 UN entities or inter-governmental organizations, and nearly 1,200 civil society organizations.

These newly established partnerships have the potential to mobilize at least US\$625 million, while financial commitments from existing partnerships for the period beyond 2014 amount to US\$1.28 billion.

One of the new partnerships is the SIDS Lighthouse Initiative which seeks to raise some US\$500 million to increase the use of renewable energy in this group of countries. Transitioning to renewable energy is of particular importance for small islands as the price of fossil fuels such as petrol is as much as three times the price in mainland markets.

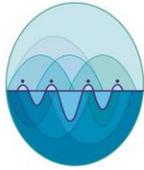
The Pacific Islands Oceanic Fisheries Management Partnership, supported by the UN, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Global Environment Facility, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, seeks to mobilize over US \$94 million to support 15 small island developing state countries in the Pacific to meet their commitments on sustainable fishing.

Climate change has been a recurrent topic for small island developing states, who have been warning for decades of the consequences of this phenomenon. Many of them are already experiencing its impacts and are taking measures to prepare and adapt to extreme weather conditions and rising sea levels. Mr. Ban and the Prime Minister of Samoa Tuilaepa Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi both called attention to the urgency of global action this issue.

“Climate change is a global problem, yet international action to address it, remains grossly inadequate,” said the Samoan Prime Minister.

“The plight of small island developing states highlights the moral case for climate action,” Mr. Ban said. “By failing to act, we condemn the most vulnerable to unacceptable disruption to their lives.”

The Secretary-General urged governments to commit to significant action at his Climate Summit on 23 September at UN Headquarters in New York. “Small island developing states will have an important role. You can tell the largest emitters what action you



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expect from them. And you can show how you are working to build resilience and create the green economies of the future.”

For more information see: <http://www.un.org/islands2014>

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