

4 September 2014

## **Statement at the Sustainable Energy for All side event during the Third UN Conference on Small Island Developing States**

"The proximity of the Caribbean States and the close regional relationships of those in the Pacific lend themselves to the building of new partnerships, harmonized policies and approaches, and the creation of economies of scale through the sharing of energy solutions and grids. With this in mind, there should be no limit to the partnerships, provided we move from stated intentions to strong implementation," UN General Assembly President, John W. Ashe told participants attending the Sustainable Energy for All side event held during the Third UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa from 1-4 September.

President Ashe expressed encouragement for greater national and regional ownership for the future development of SIDS by simply saying: "SIDS help yourselves."

The Third International Conference on SIDS with its overarching theme The Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships opened on 1 September. In his opening remarks to the Conference, the President of the General Assembly highlighted the leadership of SIDS in confronting issues for which they bear a disproportionate burden, but which are global in nature. Emphasizing the theme of the Conference -genuine and durable partnerships, the President stressed the need to engage broadly with all stakeholders to ensure that the SIDS agenda can be realized.

President Ashe underscored the challenges SIDS face with climate change. In light of the Secretary-General's upcoming Climate Change Summit and the looming deadline to conclude a new climate agreement, he joined other high-level speakers in encouraging demonstrable leadership and strong partnerships involving all stakeholders to tackle this fundamental threat to sustainable development. The President reaffirmed the important link of the SAMOA Pathway and the larger Post-2015 Development Agenda. He emphasized the need for that agenda to reflect in an integral manner, SIDS priorities.

"As Member States proceed to define the Post-2015 Development Agenda, it will be crucial for SIDS to create strong linkages between the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway and the post-2015 framework articulated as a vehicle through which SIDS priorities can be achieved," President Ashe told attendees at the Opening Plenary of the SIDS Conference.

During his visit to Samoa, President Ashe participated in a number of key events at the Conference including the Launch of the Exhibit on the International Year of SIDS, the Opening Plenary of the Third SIDS Conference, the Private Stakeholders Partnerships Forum, and held several interviews with UN public information teams and Samoa and New Zealand-based media outlets, along with bilateral meetings with top government officials attending the Conference.

*Statement attributable to the Spokesperson*