



**Brief Remarks from the floor**  
**by Aliioaiga Feturi ELISIA,**  
**Samoa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations**  
**during the Ministerial Round Table No, 2 of the**  
**High-Level Conference on Financing for Development**  
**and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda**  
**for Sustainable Development**  
**Doha, Qatar, 18 November 2017**

Mr. Co-Chairs,

I want to join the unanimous chorus of appreciation extended to the Government and people of the State of Qatar for being generous and gracious hosts of our High-level conference. In the same vein, I want to thank the UNDESA for partnering with Qatar to hold this preparatory meeting on Financing for Development and the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda ahead of the ECOSOC Forum follow up on Financing for development next year and the 2018 High level Political Forum.

As a country, the State of Qatar is almost synonymous with the concept of Financing for Development. It hosted the meeting on Financing for development to achieve the MDGs in June 2007 and a year later in 2008 it

also played host to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. And less than a decade later, we are meeting here again in Doha on the same topic ahead of important scheduled UN events next year. Are these just happy coincidence of planned and purposeful interventions? Whatever it is we are happy to be back in Doha to explore ways and means to implement our ambitious 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

In response to your guiding questions, let me share with you how Samoa mainstreamed the Addis Ababa, the SDGs and the means of implementation into our national development strategies.

For Samoa, the sequencing of events was perfect and the timing ideal.

The SIDS Conference was held in Samoa in 2014. Its Outcome document the "SIDS Accelerated Modalities Of Action or the **SAMOA Pathway** represented the blueprint of SIDS sustainable development needs. The fact that the SAMOA Pathway was adopted by the international community while negotiations were ongoing in 2015 for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the SDGs, The Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement meant SIDS needs were allowed to be integrated and captured in these global agendas, frameworks and agreements.

For Samoa this presented a unique opportunity to integrate the various inter-governmental frameworks in to our own Strategy for Development which was being developed and finalized at the time. It allowed us to use

our sector-wide consultations to localize the global SDGs and the Addis Agenda with our own strategy to harmonize definitions and concepts as well as to advocate and raise awareness of the SDGs amongst all stakeholders at both community and national level.

And for good reason too. We had always maintained that while all these multilateral frameworks are important, they don't, unfortunately come with identified and dedicated streams of funding to help implement what they stand for. At the end, they will only make sense to the very people that these agreements and outcomes are supposed to help if we localize or Samoanized them so that the ordinary people can understand and relate to them.

When we mapped the SDGs against the indicators for our national development strategy, there was a reasonable degree of alignment between the two. Similarly, a review of development financing to determine whether there were sectors under-funded was carried out to maximize synergies where they exist and be able to share resources and knowledge. Budgetary allocations including development assistance through ODA were allocated to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable of the community were accorded priority.

Implementation was based on the different partnership arrangements appropriate for each sector. Samoa greatly values the importance of partnerships based on its experience since attaining independence 55 years ago. It was the strength and quality of those partnerships that facilitated

Samoa's graduation out of the LDC category in January 2014. And a partner will always be a partner where none is subservient to another or its contribution insignificant and unimportant. This was the motivating factor that led to Samoa choosing as the overarching theme of the SIDS Conference in 2014 "*the sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships*" where a genuine and durable partner will help and support you no matter what which in turn gives you the level of confidence and trust to allow you at times to take a leap of faith and do things that under normal circumstances you normally wouldn't do.

That is why Samoa considers SDG 17 as the most critical one upon which the successful implementation of the other 16 SDGs are dependent upon. True we need a different set of partners for each SDG but at the end of the day there is no way we can go it alone either nationally, regionally or as a group. We will always need a partner or a suite of partners depending on how big, complex and costly the needs to address are. For Samoa, partnerships translate policy into action. They will enable different stakeholder groups and communities working on different priority areas of our national Development strategy at sector level to share experiences and lessons learned, harmonize approaches, support national monitoring and evaluation and collaborate more closely in working towards the collective goal of building and supporting Samoa's journey towards sustainable development. Let me be bold and say that Financing for development and the Means of implementation of the SDGs is Partnerships all wrapped in one. Thank you.