



**Symposium on  
“Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States:  
Equipping Public Institutions and Mobilizing Partnerships”**

21-23 February 2017

Nassau, Commonwealth of The Bahamas

Organized by the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas with the support of  
the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**



**OPENING SESSION**

(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&B)

<p>9:00 – 10:00</p>	<p><b>Opening remarks by Host Government and UNDESA:</b>  The Hon. Khaalis E. Rolle  Minister of State for Investments, The Bahamas</p> <p>Mr. WU Hongbo  Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs  United Nations</p> <p><b>Special remarks</b>  H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sareer  Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)  Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava  President of the Economic and Social Council  Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Dessima Williams  Special Adviser for Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the President of the General Assembly</p> <p>Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi  Secretary-General of UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p> <p>Ms. Grete Faremo  Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)</p> <p>Mr. Nikhil Seth  Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</p> <p>Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox  Director, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)</p> <p>The Right Honourable Perry G. Christie  Prime Minister, The Bahamas</p> <p><b>Master of Ceremony:</b>  The Reverend James Moultrie  Chairman of The Bahamas Public Service Commission and former Ambassador of The Bahamas to the United Nations</p>
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10:00 - 11:00 am	<b>Coffee Break</b> (Venue: Partnerships Café) <i>Press Conference (by invitation only)</i>
11:00 - 12:30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION I</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Integrated plans and policies for realizing the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway</b></p> <p><b>High-level Roundtable</b> (Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&amp;B)</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Mr. WU Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs United Nations</p> <p><i>Lead speakers:</i> Dr. Nicola Virgill-Rolle Director of Economic Development and Planning Office of the Prime Minister, The Bahamas</p> <p>The Hon. Mr. Oliver Joseph Minister of Economic Development, Planning, Trade and Labour Grenada</p> <p>The Hon. Hazel Brandy-Williams Minister of Social and Sustainable Development, Nevis</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Elisaia Ali'ioaiga Feturi Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations</p> <p>Ms. Grete Faremo Executive Director, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)</p> <p>Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi Secretary-General, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> <i>Interventions by other participants</i></p>
12:30 – 2:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b> (all participants) (Venue: Aqua Restaurant)
12:30 – 2:00 pm	<b>World Bank Working Lunch</b> (by invitation only): <i>World Bank technical consultation with SIDS government officials on the Strategic Roadmap on Small States</i>
2:00 - 4:00 pm	<b>Breakout Groups</b> <b>Group 1: Supporting integrated and risk-informed Implementation of 2030 Development Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS</b> (Venue: Room Arawak A&B)

*Moderator:*

Dr. Rhianna Neely

Senior Adviser to the Minister on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment The Bahamas

*Lead speakers:*

Ms. Sharon Miller

Director, Economic Affairs Department

Ministry of Trade and Foreign Affairs, Jamaica

Mr. Troy Torrington

Deputy Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations

Mr. Nikhil Seth

Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Ms. Elina Palm

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Acting Head, Liaison Office (New York)

*Group Rapporteur:*

Ms. Rubyna Boodhoo

Lead Strategic Policy & Planning Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Mauritius

***Discussion: Interventions by other participants***

**Guiding Questions:**

1. How far have SIDS gone in incorporating SDGs and targets in their national plans and policies?
2. Have they also incorporated the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, Sendai Framework and Climate Change Agreement? What capacities are needed in the public sector, private enterprises and civil society organisations to incorporate those agendas into policies and plans?
3. What kind of mechanisms have worked to allow the development and implementation of integrated policies and plans?
4. How can policy making incorporate risks related to climate, disasters and economic and other shocks?
5. What kind of leadership is needed in order to put in place coordinated, integrated and risk-informed policies and plans and build the necessary capacity?

*(Refer to think piece 1)*

**Group 2: Regional and Global Policy Coherence: Supporting the sustainable development of SIDS (Venue: Ballroom C)**

*Moderator:*

	<p>Mr. David O'Connor Sustainable Development Economist, World Resource-Institute</p> <p><i>Lead speakers:</i> H.E. Ms. Malgorzata Wasilewska Head of the European Union Delegation to Jamaica, Belize, Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands International Cooperation and Development of EU (DG DEVCO)</p> <p>Ms. Charmina Saili Regional Planning Adviser, The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</p> <p>Ms. Ebba Dohlman Senior Advisor, Policy Coherence for Development Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</p> <p>Dr. Allan Wright Country Economist, Inter-American Development Bank</p> <p><i>Group Rapporteur:</i> Dr. T. Suka Mangisi Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> <i>Interventions by other participants</i></p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the main areas where lack of policy coherence negatively impacts on the situation of SDIS?</li> <li>2. What has worked nationally and internationally to improve policy coherence?</li> <li>3. What can SIDS Government do to minimize the impacts of derisking?</li> </ol> <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 1)</i></p>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Coffee Break</b> <i>(Venue: Partnerships Café)</i>
4:30 – 6:00 pm	<p><b>Plenary round table:</b> <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&amp;B)</i></p> <p>Lessons and recommendations from the Breakout Groups</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> H.E. Ms. Marlene Moses Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nauru to the United Nations</p> <p><i>Rapporteurs from the Breakout groups</i> Ms. Rubyna Boodhoo</p>

	<p>Lead Strategic Policy &amp; Planning Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Mauritius</p> <p>Dr. T. Suka Mangisi Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations</p> <p><i>Lead Discussants</i></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> <i>Interventions by other participants</i></p>
6:30 pm	<p><b>Photo Opportunity &amp; Welcome Reception</b> (Venue: Estavida Terrace Melia Nassau Beach)</p>

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017**

8:00 - 9:00 am	<p>Breakfast Conversations: Regional groupings (Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS) (By invitation only)</p>
9:00 – 11:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION II</b></p> <p><b>Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to realize our commitments</b></p> <p><b>“Show and Tell”- learning from each other:</b> (break-out groups with short lead presentations followed by three-minute interventions by other participants on their experience)</p> <p><b>Group 1: (Venue: Room Arawak A&amp;B)</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>a) Shaping institutional arrangements and mobilizing institutions</b> <b>b) Equipping and building capacities and tools</b></p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Dr. Louis Meuleman University of Leuven, Belgium; Wageningen University &amp; Research, Netherlands; University of Massachusetts Boston</p> <p><i>Lead speakers:</i> Ms. Rubyna Boodhoo Lead Strategic Policy and Planning Officer Prime Minister’s Office, Mauritius</p> <p>Mr. Uchita de Zoysa Sustainable Development Advisor Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Ms. Marion Barthélemy Director, Division for Public Administration and Development Management UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p>

Mr. Raymond Saner  
Professor, Basle University, Sciences Po (Paris), University of Applied Sciences  
and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW)

**Discussion:** *Interventions by other participants*

Guiding Questions:

1. What are the challenges SIDS are facing in readying their institutions to SDG implementation – at the national and local level?
2. What institutional mechanisms are SIDS putting in place to address those challenges? What are the potential benefits and trade-offs of such arrangements?
3. Is implementation led by the Head of state and government, and/or an influential ministry? Are parliaments, local authorities, supreme audit institutions and stakeholders being engaged? Is policy integration being improved?
4. What are the constraints and opportunities arising from SIDS' specific conditions in developing accountable, inclusive and effective institutions in pursuit of SDGs? What have been good practices in overcoming the constraints?

*(Refer to Think Piece 2)*

**Group 2:** *(Venue: Ballroom C)*

**(a) Delivering public services**

**(b) Building trust and ensuring public participation and accountability in SDG implementation**

*Moderator:*

Ms. Beatrice Margaret Saner  
Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration

*Lead speakers:*

Mr. Samuelu Penitala Teo  
Special Envoy for Disaster Management  
Office of the Prime Minister, Tuvalu

Ms. Elibeth Lopez Parra  
Sector specialist, Deputy Minister of Planning, Dominican Republic

Mr. Sam Erepan  
Internal Audits and Compliance Division  
Department of Finance, Papua New Guinea

Dr. Tunji John Asaolu  
Chairperson, Committee on Social Affairs and Health  
African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOC)

	<p><b>Discussion: Interventions by other participants</b></p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are key challenges in delivering public services for realizing the SDGs? What are some innovative practices for public service delivery and what have we learned?</li> <li>2. What are the successful experiences in engaging various development actors in policy making and implementation for the SDGs, including the poorest and most vulnerable?</li> <li>3. Are there specific processes to inform people about their rights and the pursuit of the SDGs?</li> <li>4. What are good experiences in ensuring good governance and tackling corruption and crime?</li> </ol> <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 2)</i></p>
11:00 - 11:30 pm	<b>Coffee break</b> (Venue: Partnerships Café)
11:30-1:00 pm	<p><b>Plenary Town Hall meeting: Dialogue on lessons from the show and tell sessions “Equipping public institutions for realizing the SDGs”</b> (Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&amp;B)</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Nikhil Seth Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</p> <p><b>Moderators from the groups’ discussion:</b></p> <p>Dr. Louis Meuleman University of Leuven, Belgium; Wageningen University &amp; Research, Netherlands; University of Massachusetts Boston</p> <p>Ms. Beatrice Margaret Saner Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration</p> <p><i>Lead Discussants</i></p> <p><b>Discussion: Interventions by other participants</b></p>
1:00 – 2:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b> (all participants) (Venue: Aqua Restaurant)
1:00 – 2:00 pm	<b>Lunch Dialogue with the Private Sector/Partnerships</b> (by invitation only) (Venue: Ballroom C)
2:00 – 4:30 pm	<p><b>SESSION III</b></p> <p>Effective Partnerships for implementing the SDGs</p>



**Round Table:** *“Effective Partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway: what works, what’s new and what has been done at international level (Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&B)*

*Moderator:*

Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox

Director, United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

***Dialogue:***

**What does it take for Governments to successfully mobilize partnerships for reaching the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway?**

*Lead speakers:*

Ms. Aishath Saadh

Deputy Director, Sustainable Development Goals Division  
Ministry of Environment and Energy, Maldives

Ms. Cristiana Mele

Counsellor-Sustainable Development and Environment  
Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN

Ms. Grete Faremo

Executive Director  
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Mr. Jamil Ahmad

Deputy Director  
UN Environment, New York Office

Ms. Amber Barth

Senior Programme Officer, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Mr. Franklyn Michael

Programme Specialist  
Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD)

***Discussion: Interventions by other participants***

**Guiding Questions:**

1. What policies and institutional arrangements have best worked for enabling governments to engage in successful partnerships for sustainable development? What are the critical elements of a national enabling environment for this purpose? What competencies and capacities do policymakers need?
2. Do partnerships engage relevant constituencies, including local communities, in shaping their objectives and deliverables? Do

	<p>partnerships aim to leave no one behind?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. What are some of the innovative approaches of partnerships in helping Small Island Developing States tackle the SDGs?</li> <li>4. What are some of the successful governance, structures and models for ensuring accountability for multistakeholder partnerships? How can these models be improved?</li> </ol> <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 3)</i></p> <p><b>Partnerships Flash Presentations:</b>  <i>Sharing case and announcing new partnerships (4-minute each)</i>  <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&amp;B)</i></p> <p>Mr. Weimin Guo  Assistant Director, International Organisations Directorate,  Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore</p> <p>Ms. Charmina Saili  Regional Planning Adviser, The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat</p> <p>Mr. Francielle Lacle  UNDP Centre of Excellence for SIDS</p> <p>Mr. Frederic Malaud  Air Transport Development Manager  International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)</p> <p>Ms. Terri Raney  Senior Economist, FAO Trinidad and Tobago Office  Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States (GAP)</p> <p>UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p> <p>Mr. Amjad Umar  SDG Advisor (ICT4SIDS Partnership)</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> <i>Interventions by other participants</i></p>
4:30 – 5:00 pm	<i>Coffee Break (Venue: Partnerships Café)</i>
5:00 – 6:00 pm	<p><b>Special Session on Global Food Programme</b> <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A &amp; B)</i>  Organised by Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO)</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b>  Ms. Sharon Haycock Brennan  Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, The Bahamas</p>

<p>8:00 - 9:00 am</p>	<p><b>Interactive Dialogue with Civil Society</b> (<i>by invitation only</i>) (Venue Ballroom C)</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Anastarcia Palacios</p> <p><i>Discussants:</i> Mr Shaun Ingraham CEO of One Eleuthera Foundation, Eleuthera, The Bahamas</p> <p>Mr. Joshua Chambers Editor, GovInsider</p>
<p>9:00 - 10:45 am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION IV</b> Mobilizing ICTs for delivering on the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway</p> <p><b>Round table 1: Innovative ICT policies and strategies - Journey into innovative ideas to mobilize ICT for delivering on the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway</b> (Venue: Plenary Ballroom A &amp; B)</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Ms. Rowena Bethel Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration</p> <p><i>Lead Speakers:</i> Ms. Dorcas Tan Director, Strategic Planning &amp; International, Government Technology Agency, Singapore</p> <p>Dr. Raymond Wells Senior Deputy Director of IT The National Insurance Board Nassau Bahamas</p> <p>Mr. Siim Sikkut Digital Policy Adviser, Government Office of Estonia</p> <p>Ms. Hyunjin Byun Executive Principal Department of e-Government, Republic of Korea</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> <i>Interventions by other participants</i></p> <p><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. For which SDG Targets and SAMOA Pathway commitments can ICTs best accelerate implementation?</li></ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. What innovative policies and strategies have worked for deploying ICTs for realising the SDGs?</li> <li>3. How can governments mobilize the private sector, partnerships and cooperation for mobilizing ICTs, including e-government, for sustainable development?</li> </ol> <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 4)</i></p>
10:45 - 11:15 pm	<p><b>Coffee Break</b> (Venue: Partnerships cafe)</p>
11:15 - 1:00 pm	<p><b>Round table 2: Mobilizing resources and leaving no one behind</b> (Venue: Plenary Ballroom A &amp; B)</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Ms. Rowena Bethel Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration</p> <p><i>Lead speakers:</i> Dr. Amjad Umar Director and Professor of ICT Programs Harrisburg University</p> <p>Mr. Yann Bonnet General-Secretary, French Digital Council</p> <p>Mr. Nelson G. MacQuhae Chief Technology (Transformation) Officer, Latam New Markets (LNM) Microsoft Corporation</p> <p>Mr. Leon Williams CEO, The Bahamas Telecommunications Company Ltd</p> <p>Mr. Luis Guillot Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> <i>Interventions by other participants</i></p> <p><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What lessons can be learned from past successes and failures in making ICTs and digital services available to the poorest and the most vulnerable? How can we ensure that ICT helps combat inequality?</li> <li>2. What practical steps can governments and other stakeholders take to bridge the persistent digital divide?</li> <li>3. What are innovative approaches to build ICT infrastructure in SIDS?</li> <li>4. How can SIDS tap on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, as indicated by the 2030 Agenda? What support and funding sources can assist SIDS in fast-tracking their ICT needs?</li> </ol>

	<i>(Refer to Think Piece 4)</i>
1:00 – 2:30 pm	<b>Lunch</b> (all participants) (Venue: Aqua Restaurant)
1:00 – 2:30 pm	<p><b>Lunch Dialogue with Youth</b> (by invitation only) (Venue: Ballroom C)</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> Hon. Frederick A. Mitchell Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, The Bahamas</p> <p>Mr Tavarrie Smith Youth Activist, Juvenile Justice Specialist and Youth Rights Attorney with the Law firm of Bostwick &amp; Bostwick, The Bahamas</p> <p>Discussants</p>
2:30 – 4:00 pm	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SESSION V</b> <b>Building statistical capacities and reviewing</b></p> <p><b>Roundtable:</b> SDGs and SAMOA Pathway implementation (Venue: Plenary Ballroom A &amp; B)</p> <p><i>Moderator:</i> H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sareer Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations</p> <p><i>Lead speakers:</i> H.E. Mr. Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava President of the Economic and Social Council Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe to the United Nations</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Aroldo Cedraz de Oliveira Minister, General Auditor, Brazil</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Elisaia Ali'ioaiga Feturi Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations</p> <p>Ms. Pamela Monroe-Ellis Auditor-General of Jamaica</p> <p>Mr. Paul G. Larsen Special Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> Interventions by other participants</p>

	<p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the most critical gaps in capacities of SIDS national statistical offices and in existing data sets? Are there examples of initiatives that helped bridge those gaps? Can SIDS national statistical offices effectively keep track of progress towards the SDGs?</li> <li>2. Have SIDS identified ways and systems to regularly review their situation regarding the SDGs at national level? What is the main role of their existing institutions in this area?</li> <li>3. Are parliaments and Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) engaged in reviewing progress in implementing the SDGs at national level? How can they contribute in this regard? Is civil society able to provide inputs? What are key challenges?</li> <li>4. How can SIDS engage in carrying out voluntary national reviews (VNRs) in the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development? What are the main lessons from the first round of VNRs and what are the next steps?</li> <li>5. How can global and regional organisations better support SIDS in the monitoring, reviewing and reporting of the implementation of the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway?</li> </ol> <p><i>(Refer to Think Piece 5)</i></p>
4:00 – 4:30 pm	<b>Coffee Break</b> <i>(Venue: Partnership Café)</i>
4:30 – 5:15 pm	<p><b>THE WAY FORWARD: From Nassau onwards</b> <i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&amp;B)</i></p> <p>Hon. Khaalis E. Rolle Minister of State for Investments, The Bahamas</p> <p>Mr. WU Hongbo Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations</p> <p><i>Discussion: Interventions by other participants</i></p> <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the most critical recommendations emanating from this symposium?</li> <li>2. How can we follow-up on these recommendations at national level and through development cooperation and partnerships?</li> <li>3. What political statements and actions could be reflected in the Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF? What are some issues that should be further discussed in the HLPF, other UN system Fora on oceans, climate change, trade, financial, or in the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and ECOSOC?</li> </ol>
5:15 – 5:30 pm	<b>Closing</b>

	<i>(Venue: Plenary Ballroom A&amp;B)</i>
6:00 pm	<b><i>Closing Cocktail at John Watling's Distillery</i></b> <i>(Transportation will be provided for international participants)</i>

Note:

- Simultaneous interpretation (English/French/Spanish/Portuguese) will be provided for all plenary session and Breakout Group 2 in Ballroom C
- Programme subject to final changes