

UN SIDS Summary Presentation- Equipping Public Institutions

Introduction

The Honourable Minister will express pleasure at the fact that the definition of '*development*' is now more careful to integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions which is most critical for Small Island Developing States. Emphasis will then be placed on the development of effective systems for nationalizing and localizing the principles of the SDG's which permeate the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway, as these are but mere guiding documents which have to be fleshed out by proper national action plans.

The premise for the argument of equipping public institutions will be based on ensuring that we have the proper personnel in place to carry out the work and also, that we forge appropriate partnerships between the public and private sector so as to ensure that there is cohesion in implementing the SDG's.

What works and what doesn't work – Public Consultation/Lack Thereof

This category of the presentation will focus on how public consultation between various stakeholders at the grassroots level is key to successfully implementing the 2030 Sustainable Agenda. This is necessary to ensure that the general citizenry is involved, empowered and can work alongside public sector departments to implement the SDG's in their communities and thereby reduce the burden on the public sector.

One Challenge – Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and Reporting is a critical theme underlying the Sustainable Development Agenda. SIDS have traditionally struggled with data collection and this will be highlighted as one of the main areas needed to ensure that public institutions are able to meet their targets under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

One Recommendation for SIDS – Building Statistical Capacity and Database Management

This area of the discourse will focus on the need to ensure that all critical Departments and Ministries which touch and concern the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda are equipped with statistics personnel or a statistical division, and also leverage the use of information and communication technology in order to efficiently manage data and communicate with citizens on a regular basis.

One Recommendation for Political Statement at the High Level Political Forum

The statement will centre on a request for increased mobilization of resources to assist SIDS and that the developed countries of the world take greater cognizance of the inherent constraints of SIDS when implementing certain policies.

One issue for further discussion in the UN forum

How can the UN further lend its technical expertise and mobilize resources to help build capacity in Small Island Developing States?