

Guidance note for participants

**Symposium on Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States (SIDS):
Equipping public Institutions and mobilizing partnerships
21-23 February 2017
Nassau, Commonwealth of the Bahamas**

This Symposium aims to reflect on how SIDS can integrate the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway in their national plans, policies, and strategies. It will place a special focus on how best to equip public institutions and mobilize partnerships and cooperation for realizing the 2030 Agenda. It will give special attention to the special vulnerabilities of SIDS to the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters, and reflect on ways to strengthen resilience.

The Symposium will identify recommendations that SIDS and other countries and actors could implement moving forward. It also aims to identify political messages and recommendations for the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF)¹ and the UN General Assembly as part of its follow-up on the SAMOA Pathway, and issues for further discussions in other United Nations platforms such as the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration². The Symposium will also provide a unique opportunity to reflect on what is needed for mobilizing effective partnerships to advance progress in the SIDS Partnership Framework as outlined in the SAMOA Pathway.

Participants will be able to ask for the floor in all sessions. It will be tried to accommodate as many interventions as possible, but this may not be possible in some cases.

The lay out in the room will not allow all participants to be seated at a table with a name plate. But participants will be able to ask for the floor and intervene even though they are not seated at a table.

There will be various kinds of sessions:

¹ Note: The follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway takes place at the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the high-level political forum on sustainable development which is also the UN overarching platform for reviewing implementation of the SDGs <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>; the HLPF usually dedicates sessions to the follow-up to the SAMOA Pathway.

² Refer to website on the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration: <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/cepa>

- Roundtables, with interventions from the podium by several panelists and then a discussion with other participants.
- Break-out groups, for more informal discussions engaging a few lead speakers and the audience
- “Show and tell” where a few lead speakers and then all participants will have a few minutes to share an experience/policy/initiative (session on institutions)
- Flash sessions when participants will be able to announce new partnerships and initiatives (session on partnerships)
- Townhall meetings, with two or three moderators and participants intervening from the floor (for reporting on break-out groups or discussing the way forward)

After the interventions of the panelists or panelists or lead speakers, the moderator will open the floor to all participants.

Participants are warmly encouraged to ask for the floor and engage in a discussion. They can ask questions to the panelists and/or can also share the experience of their own country or institution on the topic and/or comment on experiences shared by other participants.

In referring to country or other cases that are directly relevant to the session, participants should identify lessons learned and good practices they feel may be useful to other participants, as well as recommend actions or flag areas where they would like to hear ideas or advice from other speakers. More detailed interventions may also be provided to the Secretariat in writing to be shared among the participants and posted online before or after the meeting.

Participants’ interventions should be 2 or 3 minutes. Speakers from the floor are invited to briefly identify themselves and to speak into the microphone. The intervention should be concise and to-the-point and help to spur an interactive discussion. Reading prepared statements is strongly discouraged throughout the meeting.