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SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR THE UN CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14**

**Press Remarks
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”**

Nassau, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, 21 February 2017

Thank you, Minister Khaalis Rolle.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to be here at Nassau.

On behalf of the United Nations, I extend our gratitude to the Bahamas Government for its generosity in hosting this Symposium.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out a transformative approach. It integrates and balances the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and aims to leave no country, no person behind.

We are in Year Two of its implementation. Yet, I still sense the same level of enthusiasm and commitment that marked its adoption in 2015. Indeed, it is very much present in this Symposium.

I also sense that the “spirit of SAMOA” -- the conference that adopted the SAMOA Pathway in 2014, is going to pervade this Symposium.

We need to keep up the momentum for implementing the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement on climate change and other milestone international agreements. We are mindful that countries face many risks and challenges and are called to respond to multiple emergencies.

But this Symposium aims to look beyond the emergencies and issues of the day. It aims to help us focus on our common future and deliver on the commitments we made.

Let us reflect on how SIDS can integrate the 2030 Agenda, the SAMOA Pathway and other agreements, in their national plans, policies, and strategies.

Let us give particular attention to the special vulnerabilities of SIDS – the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters – and on ways to strengthen resilience and elaborate risk-informed policies.

Let us look at how best to equip public institutions, and mobilize partnerships and cooperation for realizing the 2030 Agenda.

I am convinced that we will have a set of policy conclusions and recommendations at the conclusion of this Symposium, which SIDS and other countries can implement moving forward.

The Symposium's outcome will also be followed in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July, the Ocean Conference in June, as well as the General Assembly and other UN processes.

We are here, together, to make this Symposium a significant milestone for the small island development States.

Thank you.
