



ROUND TABLE MEETING OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

2018 United Nations Statistics Commission
6 March 2018 / 13:15 – 15:00
Rm 22, 15th Floor (S1522), Secretariat Building

Global development agendas such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway recognize the necessity of reliable data and statistics to inform progress in achieving the goals and objectives highlighted in both agendas. It also recognizes that small island developing states (SIDS) are among those that would need greater and stronger support and collaboration on statistics to achieve sustainable development. SIDS are located in three geographical regions - the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS), the Caribbean, and the Pacific. It constitutes small islands and low-lying coastal countries and territories characterized by their small size, isolation, and common vulnerabilities and development challenges, specifically relating to environmental and climate change concerns.

Three years into the implementation of these global agendas, some initiatives have been launched which aim at strengthening the statistical capacities of SIDS. For instance, a regional statistics strategy to address SDG requirements is being designed in the Caribbean, a proposed regional SDG reporting is underway in the Pacific, and several SIDS countries are in various stages of developing and/or implementing national strategies on statistics (NSDS) that incorporate sustainable development policies of their governments. However, challenges still persist that hinder further progress and sustain any gains made. Stronger partnership in statistical development of SIDS is crucial to ensure continued support of the SDGs and SAMOA Pathway at the country and regional levels. These programs range from generating data and statistics on sustainable development concerns crucial to SIDS to strengthening statistical institutions to adequately monitor and report on development progress.

This meeting aims to take stock of various SIDS initiatives in statistics and provide perspectives of SIDS representatives on statistical issues they face in implementing both agendas. Further, this event will endeavour to propose ways forward and forge agreement to ensure a stronger and united voice of SIDS in statistics development (i.e., establishment of statistical coordination in Africa and Indian Ocean SIDS; sharing of SIDS good practices through stronger cross-regional learning and south-south cooperation; establishment of centers of excellence on statistics; greater advocacy through statistics champion for SIDS, among others).

Provisional Agenda

- 13:15 – 13:25 **Welcome Message**
- Sai Navoti, Chief of SIDS Unit, UN DESA (5 min)
 - El Iza Mohamedou, Deputy Manager, PARIS21 (5 Min)
- 13:25 – 13:35 **Opening Remarks**
- Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (10 min)
- 13:35 – 13:45 **Statistics in SIDS: Overview of progress, challenges and proposals**
- El Iza Mohamedou, Deputy Manager, PARIS21 (10 min)
- 13:45 – 14:15 **Perspectives from SIDS regions / countries**
- Philomen Harrison, Caribbean Community (10 min)
 - Ofa Ketu'u, Pacific Community (10 min)
 - Osvaldo Monteiro Borges, Cabo Verde (10 min)
- 14:15 – 14:45 **Discussion and proposed next steps** (30 min)
- 14:45 – 14:55 **Closing**
- Johannes Jütting, Manager, PARIS21 (5 min)
 - Sai Navoti, Chief of SIDS Unit, UN DESA (5 min)