

(Delivered by Samoa Government Statistician: Ms Malaefono Tauā-Faasalaina)

Item 3(b): Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Report of the Friends of the Chair group on Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Mr. Chair

- (a) Samoa would like to thank PARIS21 for conducting the **Self-assessment global survey** which provided facts and evidences from 80 Member States. The results clearly highlighted the great need for:
- a. **strengthen coordination** within the national statistics systems, and with the providers of administrative data including new data sources;
 - b. **crucial management skills** to improve planning and reporting systems amongst producers of statistics and also within the NSOs itself, and,
 - c. **efficient and effective communication skills** within the national statistics systems and the NSO in order to reach a better understanding of their specific roles

We firmly believe that these are the core elements that our development partners must prioritize in their capacity-building programs to regional organizations and member states before even engaging the NSOs in more complicated statistical developments.

Item 3(b): Open data

Mr. Chair

- (b) Samoa welcomes the document on Data interoperability with: **A Practitioner's Guide to joining up data in the development Sector**. The most useful for the Pacific small island states is: **Legal and Regulatory Framework**. This section explains the governance of sharing and integration of datasets between organizations and across national borders. The Guide emphasizes **the use of MOU or Agreement that best suits the organization**.

Mr. Chair

Samoa fully supports the preference for MOUs based on our small population of less than 200,000 people. As colleagues will appreciate it, detailed disaggregation will not be appropriate for our small population. There is a lot of work needed to anonymize our microdata sets, but due to current capacity constraints, this is a challenge – hence why we need technical assistance and relevant tools at the country level in that specific area to help address this concern.

Mr. Chair

We would also like to acknowledge the work that has been done on the **International Open Data Charter**. But again we would like to emphasize that Open Data will not be appropriate for small

populations and that Open data should **not** be a determining factor for releasing of funds or technical assistance to small populations.