United Nations Statistical Commission
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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda
Items for discussion and decision: data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development


**Statement provided by:**
Samoa

**Statement:**
Samoa remains committed to the ongoing work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The current COVID19 situation has increased the demand for data, yet it has also disrupted some of our ongoing work of collecting data for the Sustainable Development Goals.

As highlighted in our Second Voluntary National Review Report (VNR) at the HLPF in 2020, we lost five months in the process due to the Measles epidemic in December 2019 followed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This contributed to the delays in finalising some of our key surveys (HIES and DHS-MICS) that were important for our National SDG Indicator Matrix. Nevertheless, our Second VNR confirmed that we currently have data available for more than 70% of the SDG indicators.

While there were highlighted success stories in our SDG implementation efforts, many challenges remain and clearly setbacks as well, given the current COVID19 situation. Therefore we welcome the background document on the COVID 19 and the global SDG indicators framework to examine areas of high impact; as well the practical guide and information will assist our efforts in data disaggregation for the Goals. Limited capacity particularly in data analysis and management continues to be a key challenge in our SDG implementation efforts.

Finally we support the annual refinements and the proposed programme of work for the Expert Group for 2021, but would like to request to consider the time zones especially for us in the Pacific region when carrying our virtual meetings of the group, so we can continue to actively engage in this important work of the IAEG.

Submitted on: 2/19/2021