

Mr. Chair,

Speaking from the Chair of Samoa, I also speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Island UN member countries national statistical offices.

Mr. Chair - we welcome the concise report by Secretary General's *Expert Advisory Group on a Data revolution for Development*, and lend our support to the **general spirit** behind the list of recommendations spelled out in Annex III of the paper. We are particularly pleased to take the floor on this topic, given the importance attributed to it in the **SAMAO Pathway**, the outcome document of the recent 3rd International Conference on Small Islands Developing States, held in my country mid last year.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to make 2 observations for consideration by the Commission:

1. We would welcome for the Independent expert group to perhaps have another look at its comprehensive list of 68 recommendations – 41 of a general nature, and 27 specific ones, to perhaps add some structure, in what they, as experts, would consider most useful for immediate, or more medium- to longer-term implementation.
2. Secondly, and given the **magnitude** of the upcoming statistical challenges associated with establishing some 300 plus indicators for the 169 SDG targets, we like to thank the authors for its call for **new investments in statistics**.

Mr. Chair – regarding my second point, we believe it is **imperative** that these investments are not only focused on capacity-building (which of course we welcome), **but include dedicated finds for data collection**, to assist developing countries, **particular SIDS and Fragile states**, to collect quality and timely statistics to be able to regularly monitor SDG implementation.

Mr. Chair, with substantial international development assistance required to implement a very comprehensive SDG agenda – I believe it is an opportune moment for the international statistical community to remind our respective development partners, **to also allocate dedicated funds for statistics, so we can do our jobs as statisticians**, are “Not left behind”, and can provide the indicators to allow our respective Governments to track development progress and measure results.

Thank you Mr. Chair