

UNITED NATIONS
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Division for Sustainable Development

Narrative Report (2014)

Reporting Period: **1 Jan 2014 – 31 Dec 2014**

Programme Title & Project Number

Project title: **Support to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, Apia, Samoa, 2014**

MPTF Office Project Reference No.: **14155**

Participating Organization

Organizations that have received direct funding from the MPTF Office under this programme: DESA/Division for Sustainable Development

Programme/Project Cost (US\$)

Total project budget as per project document:	\$4,185,975
MPTF /JP Contribution:	\$200,000
Other contributions:	\$3,017,000
Total:	\$3,217,000

Programme Assessment/Review/Mid-Term Evaluation

Assessment/Review - if applicable *please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

Mid-Term Evaluation Report – *if applicable please attach*

Yes No Date: *dd.mm.yyyy*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. It focused the world's attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

The project provided funding to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, Small island developing states (SIDS) and major groups and other stakeholders in the preparatory processes of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States and the Conference and pre-conference activities.

The Conference was successfully implemented with robust participation of government representatives from the SIDS and other developing countries and representatives of Major Groups and other stakeholders and at the end adopted the SAMOA Pathway that charts the avenue for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States. The facilitation of the participation of government representatives of Small Island developing states, government representatives from other developing countries and Major Groups and other stakeholders representatives to Conference and its preparations using resources from this project enabled the United Nations to ensure that all voices were heard and also perspectives of all SIDS were reflected in the outcome document. The other successful outcome of the Conference was the pledged of 1.9 billion US dollars for the 297 sustainable development partnerships that were announced at the Conference.

I. Purpose

The objectives of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States were to: (a) assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the previous SIDS conference outcomes, (b) seek a renewed political commitment to SIDS sustainable development, (c) identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for SIDS sustainable development and ways to address them including through collaborative partnerships, and (d) identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

The overall theme of the Conference was “Sustainable Development of SIDS through Genuine and Durable Partnerships” and the working definition of partnerships in this regard is inclusive of North-South, public-private, SIDS-SIDS and tripartite partnerships, among others.

The project aimed to mobilize resources in order to support the participation of government representatives from SIDS and other developing countries in the Conference (including key pre-Conference activities in Samoa) and its preparatory meetings, as well as the participation of civil society representatives from SIDS. While the SIDS Conference addressed the challenges and opportunities of Small island developing states, it is a global conference, and the issues it covered have relevance for the sustainable development of all countries. Full participation, including not only SIDS delegates but also delegates from non-SIDS developing countries as well as civil society representatives, ensured that the Conference is enriched by a multiplicity of perspectives. It also raised the likelihood that the outcome is embraced and implemented by a wide array of stakeholders.

II. Results

II.1 Outcomes/Outputs

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. It focused the world’s attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. It concluded by adopting the Conference outcome document, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action - or SAMOA Pathway - in which countries recognized the need to support and invest in these nations so they can achieve sustainable development. The SAMOA Pathway was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/69/15. The following links provide the full contents of the SAMOA Pathway, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and the GA resolution:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sids2014/samoapathway>

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/15&referer=/english/&Lang=E

A total of 297 partnerships were announced during the four days of the Conference between governments, businesses, civil society organizations and UN entities with a total pledge of \$1.9 billion in sustainable development partnerships. The partnerships covered areas of sustainable economic development, climate change and disaster risk management, social development, sustainable energy, ocean health, and water and sanitation, food security and waste management which were also aligned with the conference's outcome document, the SAMOA Pathway.

The main beneficiaries of the project are the small island developing states, the major groups and other developing countries that benefitted from the implementation of the project.

II.2 Delays

There were no delays encountered with the project. The only challenge faced at this time is

II.4 Qualitative Assessment

The project was successful in supporting the participation of various segments of the population in the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States. These included government representatives of Small Island developing states, government representatives from other developing countries and Major Groups and other stakeholders representatives. It contributed its share to the successful conclusion of the Conference, including the adoption of the Conference outcome document, the SAMOA Pathway. The total amount pledged for the 297 sustainable development partnerships announced at the Conference was at the level of 1.9 billion US dollars.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

	<u>Achieved</u> indicator targets	Reason for Variance	Source of Verification
Outcome/Outputs The successful implementation of the Third International Conference, including the establishment of partnerships and robust participation of government representatives from SIDS and other developing countries and representatives of major groups and other stakeholders Indicator: N/A Baseline: N/A Planned target: N/A	A negotiated outcome document owned by the beneficiaries – the SAMOA Pathway and 297 sustainable development partnerships with pledges amounting \$1.9 billion US dollars	None	United Nations Reports and websites

III. Other Assessment or Evaluations (if applicable)

Not applicable

IV. Programmatic Revisions (if applicable)

Not applicable

V. Resources (Optional)