

8th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
Intervention under Agenda Item 3: Linking national, regional and
global dimensions of the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development by the
Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Trade, Francella Strickland
Thursday 25th March 2021

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I thank the Secretariat for the documentation provided to inform discussions on this agenda item. Samoa submitted its Second Voluntary National Review last year and we confirm the added benefit and importance of second generation voluntary national reviews in the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda. Our SDG implementation was informed by the lessons learnt and challenges identified in the first review with the second report assessing progress on all the SDGs with a focus on the People Goals. We also looked at how to respond better to the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs. Goals. Since our first report, we managed to:

- i. improve integration of SDGs into national processes for better data collection, monitoring and evaluation
- ii. Strengthen the linkages of budget and planning processes, development assistance and other international obligations.

- iii. Ensure better stakeholder engagement by using existing platforms and processes. This allowed for further contextualisation of the goals. We also managed to improve engagement of a wider group of stakeholders especially the vulnerable groups.
- iv. Submit an indicator matrix identifying the key data sources for an increased number of indicators compared to our first report in 2016

Some of the important lessons learnt from the second review is that it is critical to align our SDG reporting and review timing with the surveys and policy reviews that provide key data to help report on progress. Linking to the review of other international and related obligations such as the human rights conventions or aid effectiveness reviews are also key.

Lastly, we wish to take the opportunity to again stress to all UN agencies the importance of recognizing the data collected and provided through the national SDG indicator matrices, for the different UN SDG portals and UN reporting,

Thank you