Expert Group Meeting on the 10-year Pacific SAMOA Pathway Review

Session 6: Identifying Pacific Priorities for the New SIDS 10-year Development Agenda

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SDG progress in small island developing States
Leveraging ocean resources for sustainable development of small island developing States

• They have great potential to benefit more from the Blue Economy;
  • Blue economy refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem
• Fisheries and tourism can be the key drivers of sustainable development in Asia-Pacific SIDS;
• However, SIDS need to: (a) better integrate these sectors into their local economies and with their populations, (b) enhance international and regional cooperation, (c) ensure sustainability of these sectors; (d) have access to factual, transparent and harmonized data, and (e) better enforce international frameworks, norms and standards.
• Regional platforms, such as the Asia-Pacific Day for the Ocean, can raise the bar for regional and collaborative actions and leverage the existing partnerships on oceans data, such as the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership, to jointly support the production of harmonized data.
Financing a sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and beyond in Asia-Pacific countries with special needs

• Additional financing needs per year: 19% of GDP in LDCs and 8% of GDP in LLDCs
• Only a fraction of the required amount can be currently mobilized
• Post-pandemic needs will be even greater
• Traditional sources of financing will continue to dominate but they will be inadequate and must be complemented by innovative sources
• Countries with special needs can take advantage of expanding global markets for thematic bonds
• 11 are classified as ‘high risk’, out of which 8 are SIDS
• COVID19- Public debt increased from 51% of GDP in 2019 to 61% in 2020 and 63% in 2021
• Debt-for-climate swaps could reduce debt exposure while also increasing investments in climate adaption or mitigation.
Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity

**Transport connectivity**
- Scaling up multimodality
- Promoting transport corridor cooperation
- Supporting resilient and sustainable maritime connectivity in SIDS

**Power system connectivity can bring significant economic and social benefits**
- Several connectivity initiatives exist, but most remain at the study stage or at best bilateral
- For SIDS, cooperation needs to include harmonization of regulatory frameworks and technical collaboration

**ICT connectivity**
- Mobile broadband Internet is several times more expensive in these counties, especially in SIDS, than the Asia regional average
- Promoting public-private partnerships (PPP) for digital infrastructure
- Strengthening digital capacity and adopting digital technologies and applications
- Promoting the safe and secure use of data through capacity building and regulatory policies
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