Mr Chairman, Distinguished delegates ladies and gentlemen

The Government of Samoa extends its gratitude to UNESCAP for the opportunity to be part of this crucial platform leading up to the finalisation of the Post-development agenda and the sustainable development goals and discussion on the means of implementation.

We join others in thanking the Royal Thai Government for hosting this meeting

Mr. Chair,

We acknowledge the collective effort that has gone into integrating the 3 dimensions of sustainable development in recognition of their interdependence and we agree that there is an urgent need to look at operationalising and contextualising the SDGs as we see the SDGs as a global platform out of which we can set appropriate regional and national targets and indicators to suit our contexts. At national level this is also an ongoing process with regard to our national strategic development plan

In line with the objectives of this session, we wish to reiterate that Samoa supports and agrees that the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs must be institutionalised at all levels to clarify roles and responsibilities of all key players- in order to facilitate ownership and inclusiveness of the SDGs and more importantly Accountability given the integrative nature of the SDGs.

We would like to reiterate that Implementation of actions towards the SDGs will utilize existing national and regional frameworks which will be guided by actions articulated in the SAMOA Pathway. Further, we note that once the SDGs are finalised they will need to be mapped against the priorities articulated in the SAMOA Pathway. In this regard let us not lose sight of the fact that where there are existing mechanisms for monitoring and review; let us not duplicate efforts.
We support the call from our fellow Pacific Panellist from the Civil Society Group that strategic Pacific sub regional meetings be held to facilitate and coordinate the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs.

We acknowledge the importance of cross-sector coordination for integration and note that Samoa advocates and actively pursues the full integration of sustainable development initiatives through multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral partnerships that are government led and aligned to the goals and objectives of its national development strategy which is currently being reviewed and updated in line with the SAMOA PATHWAY and the SDGs.

Finally, Chair,

As noted in the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, the outcome document to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. There is no doubting the merits of the SIDS’s "special case", defined largely by small size, extreme isolation, limited and narrow resource bases, geographic dispersion and isolation from markets, diseconomies of scale, capacity limitations, susceptibility to climate change and natural disasters, and global crises. This “special case” needs to be a key consideration for the FfD process.

Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) continues to be a priority for SIDS and need to be a central part of global SDGs and targets that will primarily concern developed countries. SCP strategies should emphasise enabling small and medium enterprises, including in sustainable tourism and sustainable food systems, to promote rural development and enhance opportunities for the poor and vulnerable. Many SIDS are exploring ‘green economy’ approaches that emphasise social equity and ecological integrity because it means development that is economically viable and resilient, self-directed, self-reliant, pro-poor development, protects the rich natural resource base, and leverages opportunities for regional collaboration.

Scaled-up climate finance presents SIDS with major opportunities to leverage larger shares of ODA, given their disproportionate exposure to climate change. It will be important, therefore, to ensure that countries
are adequately prepared to apply for, and make effective use of, such resources.

Climate finance and funding for Global Public Goods are likely to be allocated to those countries where it can achieve the biggest impact at the lowest cost. This means that it will be predominantly large middle-income countries which will benefit.

Notwithstanding the complexities involved, it will be important to separately – and accurately – define, measure and count funds allocated to ‘traditional’ development assistance from funds allocated to climate change and Global Public Goods. This work should be a key objective in the post-2015 financing for development discussions.

We would also welcome support to strengthen and align national institutional arrangements, policy and legislative frameworks for SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting.

THANK YOU.