

Statement at the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable development post 2015

- Thank you Chair to allow me to make this brief intervention on behalf of the Pacific Community.
- Very briefly the Secretariat of the Pacific Community is the longest serving regional entity in the Pacific, established in 1947 and serves its 26 members, soon to be 27, in providing scientific, technical and policy advice and implementation support across in the 3 pillars of sustainable developing ranging from agriculture, climate and disaster resilience to statistical development etc and has worked with countries in trying to realise their development aspirations, including the various global commitments they have made.
- Much has been said and discussed regarding the Regional Monitoring and Reporting mechanism and I would like to congratulate the presenters and key note speaker for raising the importance of statistics and the need for a data revolution so to speak.
- Our Key note speaker for this session spoke about the regional commissions of the UN being the lynchpin for the mechanism and I would like offer some additional food for thought
- In 2013, the Pacific adopted a Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, TYPSS, which aims to provide the much needed support to its island members in building statistical capacity in a number of areas including
  - Self sufficiency in core statistical collections;
    - Regular collection of core economic and social statistics
    - Ability to enter and process data collected and maintain such databases
    - Ability to tabulate key statistics
    - Ability to provide brief/concise descriptive reports
    - Actively disseminate data and statistical information to increase their use and usefulness.
  - From collection of numbers to production of information – ability to analyse the data
    - Larger and well-staffed NSOs (such as, at present) PNG, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Tonga) are expected
    - to be able to undertake standard demographic and economic analyse, produce estimates/forecasts, population projections, and economic modelling)
    - Smaller NSOs/PSIDS to be assisted by regional bodies, such as SPC
    - (and also, of course by other technical providers, such as ABS, SNZ, PFTAC)
    - Larger NSOs to assist smaller ones through South-South type arrangements
  - From collection of numbers to ongoing database/information management which enables ongoing monitoring of policy performance and development progress
    - Regularly update core demographic, economic, education, environmental, gender, health,

- natural resources (agriculture/fisheries), social (labour force, youth) statistics, which feed into SPC's NMDI database ([www.spc.int/nmdi](http://www.spc.int/nmdi)), which contains a dedicated MDG-Indicator subfolder
  - This provides essential benchmarks for evidence-based policy development and planning
  - It enables ongoing monitoring of policy performance and development progress
  - It contributes to/helps sustain culture of good (informed) governance
- This work and implementation of the TYPSS remains a core function of the Secretariat and we do believe that monitoring development progress through the SDGs platform and what our situation is at the moment will be virtually impossible unless of course there is this data revolution that the Executive Secretary for UNESCAP mentioned in her opening address takes place and additional resources are mobilized for it.
- The call for a dedicated Regional Trust Fund for Data and Statistics is welcomed BUT the modality of this trust fund will be critical. We would call on the UN System to work very closely with entities in the Pacific such as ours to assist our member countries.
- The director of our statistics for development division has been working tirelessly with UN Stats and the SDG inter agency expert Group to review the feasibility of coming up with shortened set of a limited number of headline indicators for SDGs which could make it possible for SIDS and other nations to can commit to for global monitoring.
- We urge all statistical technical assistance providers to form a close alliance and work in partnership to support to our countries in their commitment to the SDGs and global monitoring.
- Thank you Mr Chair.