Background

The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development with endorsement from Pacific Leaders in Apia, Samoa in September 2017, will guide regional responses for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals within the context of national plans and priorities, the SAMOA Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. It was prepared by the Pacific SDGs Taskforce through an open, consultative and country-driven process, and is premised on the underlying principle of leaving no one behind. The roadmap builds on the strong leadership demonstrated by the Pacific in shaping the global agenda and reaffirms the need for national ownership backed by regional and international cooperation. The destination is a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.

The planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability for sustainable development is first and foremost a country-led endeavor. International and regional cooperation and collaboration will, however, be essential to supplement limited resources and capacities in some Pacific countries, and in response to global and regional public goods and transboundary issues that cannot be addressed by any one country alone. A Pacific specific collective response to the multitude of global commitments on sustainable development is therefore necessary. This roadmap charts a new path for achieving sustainable development in the region requiring a transformational shift in how we approach, implement and communicate our efforts in pursuit of development outcomes that improve the lives and livelihoods of the people of the Pacific.

Scope

The Side Event will explore the Pacific’s collective and integrated approach to contextualizing, and streamlining the implementation and reporting on the 2030 Agenda, the SAMOA Pathway, Paris

The side event will highlight how the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development demonstrates the key factors critical to the implementation of sustainable development commitments in the Pacific:

- **Leadership, ownership and inclusivity** – the Pacific Sustainable Development Roadmap demonstrates collective leadership and ownership and how the Pacific islands are helping each other, through south-south cooperation and an exchange of lessons learned, while ensuring Pacific countries actively lead their National Voluntary Reports processes.

- **Coordination, alignment and harmonization** – the Pacific Sustainable Development Steering Committee and the Sustainable Development Working Group are key regional coordination mechanisms that fosters strategic partnerships between Pacific countries and regional and multilateral agencies working, where possible in collaboration with each other.

- **Transparency, mutual accountability and managing for results** - the production of Pacific Sustainable Development Reports every four years, with the first to be produced in 2018. These reports will facilitate collective monitoring of sustainable development progress in Pacific countries; report on the effectiveness of regional cooperation and provide analysis on the contribution of development partners. The reports will help facilitate integration of multiple global and regional reporting in the Pacific’s regional monitoring process, indicators and report.

**Key Questions**

The key questions to be considered in this side event are: (asked by the Moderator to a Panel on the Roadmap and help guide the interventions/presentations by the Pacific reps).

- **Why a Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development?** Isn’t the Roadmap just an additional framework to add to the existing complex global and regional policy architecture? Doesn’t it duplicate what the Asia Pacific Roadmap intends to do? What is so different and special about the Pacific Roadmap?

- **What are the benefits of a ‘regional collective approach’ to supporting sustainable development efforts?** Isn’t working on your own more efficient and effective? Do regional coordination mechanisms such as the Sustainable Development Working Group really work?

- **What are the benefits and challenges of Voluntary National Reviews?** Are these an additional burden of reporting that may distract governments from their own accountability responsibilities? What have been the lessons learned so far?

- **How can stakeholder engagement in government-led planning and budgeting for sustainable development be better acknowledged and go beyond consultations on priorities?**

- **How effective has the partnership approach, so important in the SAMOA Pathway, been retained in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs?**

- **How does the Pacific region plan to integrate the SAMOA Pathway Mid Term Review in the Pacific Roadmap implementation and the Pacific Sustainable Development Report 2018?**

- **Has the Pacific Roadmap process been inclusive?** Or is engagement of civil society a tick the box exercise?

- **Are south-south cooperation initiatives really that useful?** Or aren’t they expensive and a waste of time?
• Many of the priority SDGs for the Pacific such as climate change and oceans have a limited number of indicators that can be measured. How will the Pacific tell their story about oceans management and climate change action (when data availability is also an issue)?
• This is the first time that developed countries are reporting, how is Australia approaching its reporting process? Are there any lessons learned with the SIDS in the Pacific?
• How is the regional report going to tackle the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand in the Pacific Sustainable Development Report? How is the VNR process linked, if at all, to the Pacific Sustainable Development Report?

Tentative Programme

• 5 min presentation by UNESCAP on the links between Asia Pacific Roadmap and reporting and the Pacific regional processes, 5 min Q&A
• 5 min Overview Presentation by PIFS on the Pacific Roadmap and 5 min presentation by SPC on the Pacific Regional Sustainable Development Report, 5 min Q&A
• 10 minutes for country comments on VNR Processes (focus on big lessons learned), 5 min Q&A
• 45 Minute Moderated discussion for a Panel from the Pacific – use the questions above (Samoa, Kiribati, Australia, CSO, PIFS and SPC, UNDP, UNESCAP)

Panelists/discussants

One representative each from PIFS, SPC, Government of Samoa, Government of Kiribati, Government of Australia, Pacific CSO, UNDP Pacific Office, UNESCAP Pacific Office

Moderator

Garry Wiseman, UNDP, Suva, Fiji

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