



## High-level Political Forum 2019

### **Thematic Review: Perspectives of Small Island Developing States including main findings from mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway**

**Wednesday, 10 July 2019  
9:00 am - 11:00 am  
conference room 4, UNHQ**

I am Amasai Jeke, from Fiji, representing the Rainbow Pride Foundation, and the Women's Major Group.

From a regional perspective, the SAMOA Pathway is, a groundbreaking commitment by countries to recognize the need to support and invest in SIDS to achieve sustainable development. It recognizes SIDS's ownership and leadership in overcoming the challenges they face. It is important to note that the SAMOA pathway was developed to cater specifically to 'special circumstances' facing SIDS, which cannot be allowed to be lost in the wider South, and Global negotiations.

Persistent systemic barriers and mutually reinforcing structural inequalities in SIDS include neoliberal capitalism, fundamentalisms, militarism, racism, ageism, colonialism, patriarchy and misogyny that fuel inequalities. These drivers of inequalities are exacerbated further by declining economic growth; climate change and related disasters; oceanic pollution; food and nutrition insecurity; lack of WASH facilities; unsustainable consumption and production patterns; loss of biodiversity, including desertification; and land degradation.

Faced with all these challenges, it is imperative that SIDS governments take a human rights-based approach with a clear justice-focused definition of prosperity that fully recognizes justice for ecological sustainability, climate and development.

So how do we build processes, which will be meaningful for SIDS:

- At the regional level, the processes have not lived up to its potential. So a space for peer learning and dialogue where similar countries can share experiences, best practices and lessons learned have to be created.

- All countries must review, monitor, and uphold all human rights and gender instruments and commitments. This must be included as part of all review processes at the sub-regional and regional levels for the SDGs.
- Sub-regional-level trends and challenges need to be identified and monitored.
- Identify priorities as well as strategies to address challenges, including through cross-border approaches; and
- Facilitate south-south and triangular cooperation to accelerate implementation.

Then only we will not leave anyone behind!