



HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Review of SDGs implementation: SDG 5

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QA Response Delivered by Masina 'Fusi' Tietie, YWCA Samoa

I am Fusi Masina Teitei from Samoa representing the Women's Major Group.

It is commendable that through the SAMOA Pathway there is a deeper understanding and consideration for the realities of small island developing States in a global arena of competing priorities and demands, where those with influence and resources are always the winners. Inclusion of SIDS concerns and aims in all UN negotiations must be a priority and as such due time needs to be secured as per the agreed resolutions.

A few key issues to highlight:

- In our region it is increasingly important to always visibilise the interlinkages between climate change and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as it is an urgent issue that must be addressed in sustainable development. As the most vulnerable group, we need to ensure that our communities demonstrate resiliency needed in the adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects and for this our governments need to be supported in implementation of climate action plans.
- Increasing deforestation and biodiversity loss has major consequences for food security and human health. Achieving the necessary global targets, for example, of halting deforestation by 2020 and reducing biodiversity loss, requires national policies to reflect strong rights-based approaches. These approaches must be bottom-up and fully respect the rights and the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and other rightsholders groups.
- The role of women's traditional knowledge and their participation in decision-making processes over access and use of oceans, forests and biodiversity must be promoted in sustainable development.
- The WMG recommends equitable and non-market based approaches such as community-based conservation initiatives and related traditional knowledge that have proven to be more supportive of sustainable livelihoods, food security and in promoting effective conservation of the environment.