



Policy Coherence Dialogue: Accelerating the implementation of the development agendas in the Pacific Small Island Developing States

March 14, 2024, 09:30--17:00

Conference Room, Lava Hotel, Apia, Samoa

Background

In the Pacific, policymakers and stakeholders remain committed to advance the sustainable development goals (SDGs), 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent SIDS global programme of Action and other development agendas. Sharing of best practices and lessons learned provide important opportunities for policymakers to advance their strategies and ensure policy coherence at the regional, subregional and national levels. Furthermore, these efforts are key to localise the SDGs and other global and regional frameworks, including through their national development plans and the preparation of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of the progress around the 2030 Agenda.

Over the recent years, there are various models and approaches being used when countries engage in the preparation of their national strategies through stakeholder consultations. By reviewing these frameworks and strategies, Governments can identify their suitability with respect to their national context in accordance with the availability of resources and expertise, and the robustness of their processes, institutions, and systems.

At the regional level, with the endorsement of the implementation plan of the 2050 Strategy, Governments are considering their level of readiness to apply the existing principles and practices to this new Pacific vision based on previous experience with mainstreaming and localization.

In his backdrop, policymakers must regroup and rethink their strategies. To reinforce those processes and means that have contributed to progress on some of the SDGs, as well as to re-strategize areas that require strengthening around the Pacific-wide development agenda. Effective development planning, strategic coordination, and meaningful partnership are critical considerations for national-level SDG implementation, the upcoming SIDS4 agenda and 2050 Strategy.

However, because of the variety of frameworks and approaches, policymakers and practitioners frequently face practical challenges in delivering these global regional, subregional and national development strategies on time due to a lack of resources, expertise, and the robustness of their processes, institutions, and systems. The question is, can it work? With the changing nature of climate change, post-COVID 19 recovery and geopolitical uncertainties, policymakers are considering realistic options and seeking peer-learning opportunities within and outside of the Pacific. With the new 2050 Strategy implementation plan, opportunities for synergy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SIDS4 outcomes and the advancement of the target are emerging.

The Policy Coherence dialogue is intended to create space for policymakers and experts to guide and advise decision making on how to accelerate implementation of SDGs and other development agenda, particularly those targets that are still lagging. To ensure that policymakers are given adequate resources and expertise to adopt an integrated approach to scale up policy coherence and partnerships for the SDGs, this policy dialogue will showcase meaningful peer-learning opportunities among multi-stakeholder and how these frameworks and approaches contribute to the formulation of national policy agenda and regional collective actions.

Key Questions and Outcomes

This dialogue can enhance interaction of policymakers and stakeholders on the common goal of working on national, subregional and regional case studies, including a focus on promoting gender equality. The links between different levels of indicators and targets to advance policy coherence for the people and planet.

- Provide a forum for policymakers and practitioners, and other stakeholders to share best practices, case studies and lessons learned in their efforts to localize and implement the SDGs and apply the same principle to the 2050 Strategy and other development agendas ;
- Facilitate the exchange of progressive policies, promising practices, and forward-looking initiatives that contribute to advancing gender equality, economic empowerment, and the overall well-being of women and girls in the Pacific region; and
- Strengthen capacity for partnership formation across sectors and government entities.

Participants

The dialogue will bring together government representatives and policymakers from various ministries, representatives from civil society organizations and the private sector, representatives of United Nations agencies, CROP agencies and other relevant stakeholders working in diverse sectors, promoting gender equality and achievement of SDGs, 2050 Strategy and SIDS agenda.

Organization

ESCAP and Government Tonga co-hosts the Policy Coherence Dialogue, along with the support of the CROP and UN system, including the Resident Coordinator Office in Samoa.

Hours	Draft Program
09:30-10:00	Arrival and registration
10:00-10:30	<p>Welcome and opening session</p> <p>Master of Ceremony for the Dialogue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. La-Toya Peka Lee, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Samoa <p>Welcome Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mau Leha, Director, National Planning Department, Office of the Prime Minister, Tonga • Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Themba Kalua, Resident Coordinator, UN Multi-Country Office, Samoa <p>Dialogue Objective and Introduction of Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, UNESCAP
10:30-11:30	<p>Session 1: Policy coherence in the Pacific: Global to regional and subregional agendas</p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, UNESCAP</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SDG progress in the Pacific<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Alison Culpin, Statistics Advisor, SDGs, the Pacific Community (SPC)• 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy Overview<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Henry Cocker, Engagement Adviser – Sustainable Development, Pacific islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)• Pacific Climate change resilience<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)• Regional to national Perspectives:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Neelesh Gounder, Chief Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance, Fiji• Mr. Sylvain Kalsaku, Head, United Nations Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade, Vanuatu <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Brenda Heather-Latu, Regional Pacific Expert• Ms. Simona Marinescu, Senior Advisor SIDS, UNOPS <p>Open discussions</p>
<p>11:30-12:00</p>	<p>[Group Photo] Break</p>
<p>12:00-13:00</p>	<p>Session 2: Policy coherence in the Pacific: National development priorities</p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, UNESCAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National development agendas<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Mau Leha, Director, National Planning Department, Office of the Prime Minister, Tonga• Mr. Justin Lima, Assistant Chief Executive Officer - International Relations Division, Samoa• Ms. Valery Wichman, Director of Central Policy and Planning, Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands• Mr. Michael Pasikeni, Director, Ministry of National Planning and Development Coordination, Solomon Islands



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• National coordination and collaboration<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Travis Klaus Mitchell, Team Leader, ai, UN-RCO Samoa <p>Discussant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. George Carter, Co-Director RESI and Deputy Head of Department/Senior Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, Australin National University• Ms. Vashti Maharaj, Adviser, Digital Trade Policy, The Commonwealth Secretariat <p>Open discussions</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-16:00	<p>Session 3: Accelerating actions to advance Gender Equality and SDGs in the Pacific</p> <p>Keynote Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Mereseini Rakuita, Principal Strategic Lead – Pacific Women and Girls of the Pacific Community (SPC) <p>Overview Presentation on Gender Equality and the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, UNESCAP [<i>Moderator</i>] <p>Panel discussion: Accelerating actions to advance gender equality in the Pacific at the mid-point of the SDGs and in the context of the Beijing+30 review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflections on key challenges faced by Pacific Island States in achieving policy coherence and partnerships for gender equality and the SDGs, and how they can be overcome through a holistic and innovative approach, and integration into policy development;• Key priorities on advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the context of accelerating SDGs <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Junior Aini, Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the Republic of Fiji

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Valery Wichman, Director of Central Policy and Planning, Office of the Prime Minister, Cook Islands • Ms. Amelia Nairobi, Principal Research Officer, Ministry of Women, Children & Social Protection, Fiji • Ms. Miliana Carpenter Iga, Coordinator, Pacific Youth Council <p>Open discussions</p>
16:00-16:15	<p>Closing session and way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mau Leha, Director, National Planning Department, Office of the Prime Minister, Tonga • Ms. Andie Fong Toy, Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific, UNESCAP
16:15-17:00	Refreshment

For information, please contact:

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Mr. Sudip Ranjan Basu, Deputy Head, Subregional Office for the Pacific, Fiji, at basu@un.org



Subregional Office for
the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

