**Concept Note**

**Sub-Regional Stakeholder Capacity Development Workshop**

**Pacific Small Islands Developing States**

***Strengthening Stakeholders Capacities to Contribute to the Implementation and Follow Up of the 2030 Agenda***

**WORKING DRAFT**

**August 16 2018**

**28 September 2018**

**Tanoa Int’l Hotel, Nadi, Fiji**

**Background**

In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to guide sustainable development efforts from 2016 to 2030 (A/RES/70/1*)*. The 2030 Agenda sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets which jointly constitute a comprehensive and universal plan of action to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development. Additionally, the SDGs seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The SDGs are “integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development”.

All stakeholders are called upon to support the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda and to participate in a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Member States agreed to set up an inclusive and effective architecture for follow-up and review, built on a strong interaction between governments and stakeholders from economic, social and scientific spheres, including policy makers at local and sub-national. Engaging all stakeholders, government, media, civil society organizations, including youth, women as well as local communities is the cornerstone for realizing the 2030 Agenda.

The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) has a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level. It is mandated, among other functions, with conducting voluntary national reviews (VNRs) which are expected to be ‘state-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants’ and should ‘provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders’ (MGoS). In 2019, six Pacific Small Island Developing States[[1]](#footnote-1) will be presenting their VNRs at the HLPF, in New York.

Building on this positive political momentum and in order to explore ways to create more opportunities for meaningful engagement by all stakeholders, including parliamentarians, scientists, the private sector and civil society, in the follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the UN/DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals, through the generous grant from the European Union, UN-ESCAP and UNDP proposes the organization of a Sub-Regional Capacity Development Workshop for relevant stakeholders in the Pacific Small Islands Developing States.

The one-day workshop “**Strengthening Stakeholders Capacities to Contribute to the Implementation and Follow Up of the 2030 Agenda**” will be held on 28 September 2018, in Nadi, Fiji, back-to-back to the Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) (24-25 September) and the Voluntary National Review Workshop for Pacific Small Islands Developing States (26-27 September). By organizing the stakeholders capacity building workshop back-to-back with other relevant sub-regional meetings, this activity will benefit from intergovernmental discussions as well as maximize the use of available resources, expanding the reach and diversity of participants.

# Objective of the Sub-Regional Stakeholder Capacity Development Workshop

The objective of the workshop is to provide a learning space for the exchange experiences and the development of strategies for mutual support across stakeholders from different sectors in the Pacific Small Islands Developing States. This is intended to contribute to strengthening their capacity for constructive, multi-stakeholder engagement in the the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda at national, sub-regional, regional and global level.

The workshop would:

1. Review major groups and other stakeholders engagement experiences in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda in the Pacific Small Islands Developing States.
2. Provide an opportunity to draw on the experience of stakeholders that engaged in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to identify best practices, gaps, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned both in the national review processes and in the presentations at the HLPF;
3. Provide a space for stakeholders to generate recommendations for meaningful and sustainable engagement of stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Pacific Small Islands Developing States as well as for regional and global related processes.

# Approach and Methodology

The recommended format for the one day workshop would consist of a plenary sessions and working groups. The workshop will be facilitated by representatives of DESA/DSDG, UN-ESCAP and other partners. Brief presentations might be included but the priority will be to provide interactive exchange between participants.

The following is a tentative list of questions to be addressed:

***Stakeholder Engagement at the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda in the Pacific SIDS***

* How have stakeholders engaged in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda in the Pacific SIDS? What are the main opportunities and challenges for meaningful participation in this sub-region?
* What are the sectors/groups that would demand further efforts for inclusion in the implementation and follow up processes?
* What are the requirements for meaningful/quality engagement of stakeholdersin the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda in the P-SiDS?
* What are the recommendations for strengthening meaningful engagement of stakeholders at the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda in the P-SIDS?

***Engagement at VNRs***

* How can the national processes to prepare for VNRs be inclusive and engage different stakeholders, in particular those most often left behind? What mechanisms could be used in this regard?
* What support is available to encourage stakeholder engagement in the preparations for VNRs?
* How can stakeholders of P-SIDS engage in regional processes related to the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda?
* How can stakeholders from P-SIDS engage in the HLPF?
* How can feedback from the national VNR reach the relevant stakeholders in order to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

# Expected Outputs

The main product of the meeting will be a set of recommendations on meaningful engagement, enhanced stakeholder capacities to articulate and develop more effective stakeholder platforms at P-SIDS to engage on the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda at several levels. A summary report of the meeting will be produced and publicly shared.

# Participants

The workshop will aim at representatives from civil society and other national stakeholders engaging on processes related to the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda in the P-SIDS. Representatives from partner UN entities will facilitate the workshop. Participants will be identified through active and relevant networks from MGoS in accordance with the most contemporary and inclusive practices for follow-up and review at all levels.

It is estimated that 25-30 participants will attend the meeting.

# Venue, Logistics and Other Details

The Sub-Regional Stakeholder Capacity Development Workshop for P-SIDS will be held in Nadi, Fiji, at the Tanoa Int’l Hotel on 28 September 2018. The main language of the meeting will be English.

**DRAFT AGENDA**

Detailed guidance for each session to be developed.

| **Time** | **Suggested session** | **Suggested objectives of session** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **09:00** | **Introductory session**   * Introduction and welcome to the day * Objectives, outcomes and expectations * Overview of the workshop programme | Participants know what to expect from the workshop |
| **09:20** | **A review of major groups and stakeholders engagement in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda in the P-SIDS**   * An assessment of MGoS engagement on the implementation and follow up at the P-SIDS since the beginning of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda | Review main achievements, opportunities and challenges for MGoS engagement at the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agend in the P-SIDS |
| **09:50** | **Opportunities for MGoS engagement at regional and global levels**  Briefing on the HLPF and MGoS Coordination Mechanidm and Asia-Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM) | Participants understand mechanisms of MGoS engagement at regional and global level. Participatns understand the link between the 2030 Agenda, HLPF and VNRs. |
| **10:20** | **Break** | |
| **10:40** | **Developing concrete recommendations for meaningful engagement**   * Discussion on what meaningful engagement looks like in the P-SIDS. * National Platforms for stakeholder engagement in the 2030 Agenda implementation and follow up at P-SIDS. | Participants discuss process and content for concrete recommendations to achieve meaningful engagement at follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda at P-SIDS. |
| **12:30** | **Crafting concrete recommendations for meaningful engagement – preparing for group discussions**   * Agreement on the process for crafting concrete recommendations * Review of working groups and working process. | Preparation for group work and process of drafting and agreeing on recommendations |
| **13:00** | **Lunch** | |
| **14:00** | **Drafting Concrete Recommendations**   * **Group 1**: Enhancing MGoS engagement at 2030 Agenda implementation and follow up at national level * **Group 2:** Enhancing MGoS engagement at VNRs related processes at national, regional and global level. * **Group 3**: Enhancing networking and coordination at P-SIDS | Participants come up with specific recommendations on the different topics. |
| **15:15** | **Break** | |
| **15:30** | **Feedback from group discussions**   * Short presentations by each group * Interactive plenary discussion | Participants present concrete recommendations followed by plenary discussion |
| **16:15** | **What’s next?**   * Review of recommendations and discuss of action points and responsibilities | Participants gain an understanding of next steps and responsibilities on the implementation of the recommendations |
| **17:30** | **Closing**   * Reflections * Evaluation of workshop * Next steps | Recap of discussions of the day, evaluation of the workshop and next steps. |

1. Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Timor Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)