

**Background Note on the Third International Conference on Small Island
Developing States
1-4 September 2014, Apia, Samoa,**

Background Note

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will be held on 1-4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. The decision to hold this conference was an important outcome of the Rio+20 conference. Preparations are currently focusing on a robust, SIDS-led, multi-stakeholder national preparatory process. These national preparations will feed into regional meetings in July 2013, followed by an inter-regional preparatory meeting scheduled for late August 2013. Preparations are guided by the UN General Assembly resolution on the modalities of the Conference (A/Res/67/207) which outlined the basic objectives of the conference, namely to (a) assess the progress and gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Plan

partnerships at the Conference but also featuring ongoing partnerships that can be held up as best practices. Samoa will graduate from Least Developed Country status in 2014, and they have made many public references to the major role that partnerships played in driving their progress.

Through the ECESA Plus, DESA has been encouraging efforts within the UN system to spearhead initiatives to strengthen existing SIDS partnerships, provide SIDS focus to broader ongoing partnerships, and to develop new partnerships in five concrete thematic areas of particular importance to SIDS, areas which have emerged for special attention ahead of the 2014 SIDS Conference: climate change, oceans and seas, waste management, sustainable tourism and natural disaster resilience (COWTD).

Resource mobilization

DESA has been mobilizing and already received several strong pledges from a number of traditional and non-traditional donors to support participation of SIDS delegations to attend regional and inter-regional meetings from the capitals. UNEP also provided financial contribution towards regional preparatory process. Some donors are providing contributions in kind.

Communications

DESA is working closely with colleagues in DPI and at the national level to develop and implement a comprehensive communications strategy. The SIDS2014.org website will be a cornerstone of that strategy, with all relevant information posted and updates made regularly. The strategy will also encompass traditional media outlets as well as social media and other innovative approaches. The slogan for the Conference around which communication products are being developed is as follows:

Island Voices Global Choices

Inter-agency collaboration

Many agencies are undertaking important initiatives of relevance to SIDS. Regular and open communication about these activities through the ECESA Plus mechanism is important.