Mr. Chairman,

Samoa associates itself with the statements made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States and Benin on behalf of the Least Developed Countries.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to focus my remarks on a few issues relating specifically to Small Island Developing States.

Firstly, Samoa is appreciative of your effort Mr. Chairman in hosting the SIDS Special Event last Friday on “Strengthening the resilience of SIDS within the context of sustainable development”. The panel presentations further highlighted the specific challenges Small Island Developing States face daily, and some of the possible initiatives that could help build and strengthen their resilience.

My delegation believes that strengthening and increasing the resilience of Small Island Developing states as a goal, is critical for their long-term sustainable development and survival. But building resilience should be a common goal for all our nations as the breadth and width of our Committee’s agenda and statements made so far all underscore.

Secondly, the High Level Political Forum provides an opportunity to look at how we can do things better, differently. It shouldn’t be just a change in name, structure,
format, governance and processes. If we are serious, then shortcomings and lessons learned from the Forum’s predecessor, the Commission on Sustainable Development [CSD] should be discarded and not repeated while advantages and good practices are retained and improved upon in the new setup.

The High Level Political Forum should contribute significantly to the advancement and effective review of the global commitments made in international conferences on sustainable development, including the most recent RIO+20 Conference, to ensure that there is successful implementation of past decisions taken in good faith by all our leaders.

For SIDS, we hope that the High Level Political Forum will be the catalyst that will result in a more serious and concerted effort on the part of SIDS and their partners, so that individually and jointly they can translate undertakings and agreements reached by UN member states in Barbados and Mauritius in 1994 and 2005 respectfully, including any commitments coming out of the Samoa Conference in 2014, and move more to greater on-the-ground implementation and follow-up on commitments, so that there is accountability and certainty by all concerned.

Thirdly, Samoa is positive that the designation of 2014 as the “International Year of SIDS” and the global conference on SIDS in 2014 will provide a strategic platform for the UN community to focus and address SIDS resilience, and an opportunity for creativity, innovation and to firm and concrete commitments to support SIDS legitimate aspirations.

The UN community has long accepted that SIDS are a special case given their vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change and to external shocks not of their making, and beyond their control and coping capacity. Even with all the best intention and maximum effort on SIDS part, left on their own, they can only do so much when trying to address the sustainable development challenges they face.

Because if the truth was that SIDS could solve their problems unassisted, one doubts whether some of us will be here today discussing sustainable development. And maybe, just maybe, SIDS would not be insisting on a Third International Conference next year.

But the simple reality Mr. Chairman, is that the support of all delegations is vital as SIDS cannot go it alone. SIDS need to work with all their partners, developed and developing, with NGOs, civil society, major groups and the private sector through
genuine and durable partnerships, to try and mitigate against these structural realities that couldn’t just be wished away.

**Finally,** we want to thank all delegations for their contribution so far to the different phases of the Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014. Specifically, my delegation would like to acknowledge the support you all provided,

- initially, through the decision in the RIO+20 Outcome Document, “The Future We Want” in June last year, calling for the convening in 2014 of a Third International Conference on SIDS,
- subsequently, through last December’s UNGA resolution which was pivotal in confirming the objectives of the 2014 Conference on SIDS and more importantly allowing SIDS to start their national, regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings,
- and recently, for the unanimous decision by the General Assembly in May this year for the Conference to be held in Samoa from 1-4 September 2014 to be preceded by activities related to the Conference from 28 to 30 August 2014 also to be held in Samoa.

Mr Chairman,

The resolutions that I’ve just referred to, the path that we have traversed beginning from Rio last year, to the three SIDS-regions and now to New York, with Samoa in sight but still some distance away, and where we are at this point in time now, admittedly, are probably nothing of significance but just normal and routine UN resolutions and happenings to some delegations.

But for SIDS, and especially for my own country that rarely brings a resolution before the Second Committee, or to the General Assembly for that matter, it will be remiss of me if I don’t acknowledge with sincere appreciation the support from all delegations without which, the preparatory process for the Samoa Conference could have faulted and collapsed along the way.

There is still unfinished but critical business that remains to be done and we will continue to count on your understanding, empathy and support as we move to finalize the modalities resolution for the Conference which will be a task entrusted to this Committee. The elements of the resolution in their entirety are crucial to ensure a successful conference on SIDS next year.

Needless to say, an equally tangible expression of support to the preparatory process of the 2014 global conference is through contributions to the SIDS Trust Fund
with UNDESA to facilitate the active participation of SIDS delegates and other groups in the remaining preparatory meetings and the Conference itself. To this end, we want to thank those genuine partners of SIDS who had not been deterred by the global economic environment and pressing national considerations but had contributed generously to the Trust Fund.

Mr. Chairman,

When pursuing our sustainable development aspirations, we have to be attentive and conscious to the unique needs and circumstances of every individual country. That’s should be given. These differences aside, Samoa is convinced that to have true sustainable development for all nations, we need a joint global response that addresses our different challenges. It is therefore important to bear this in mind when we deliberate on this agenda item, that while we all aspire to have resilient nations and peoples, the undeniable truth is that “some of us need a lot more help from others in order to strengthen our resilience and achieve sustainable development.

Thank you.