Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 Pacific Island Forum countries with Missions to the United Nations, namely Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country Samoa.

We wish to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive reports prepared to inform our discussions under this agenda item and we welcome the opportunity to engage on issues that are of critical importance to the Pacific Islands Forum Group.

Mr. Chairman,

The SAMOA Pathway represents the Small Island developing states sustainable development roadmap outlining their priorities and the means of achieving them. Its full and effective implementation is a priority concern for Small Island Developing states, and the Second Committee is well-placed to play a critical role in ensuring that the necessary implementation actions are taken.

The annual resolution of the SAMOA Pathway on the follow-up to, and its implementation of the recommendations from the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on UN Systems Support for Small Island Developing States, if implemented in full will greatly assist in the attainment of the sustainable development goals of Small island developing states.

We also look forward to the mid-term review of SAMOA Pathway in 2019 to determine whether SIDS priorities and sustainable development needs had been met, and if not, the reasons why. The proposed review makes it crucial for the SIDS, United Nations and the International community to assess progress made, identify gaps plus new and emerging challenges to be addressed.
The High Level Political Forum plays a facilitative role in the effective implementation and follow-up of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda. It provides a global platform for dedicated focus on SIDS issues and for the follow-up and review of implementation phase and to consider challenges and structural barriers that require coordinated action at the global level.

Mr. Chairman,

Climate change and extreme weather events that devastate our small island states as evident in the recent extreme hurricanes in the Caribbean can cause unpredictable setbacks to our hard-earned sustainable development efforts. Climate change impacts on SIDS are more profound because their capacity to respond quickly and effectively is constrained by their realities. Our islands limited resources and the lack of adaptive capacity makes the burden of rehabilitation a mammoth undertaking. The resilience of our small island developing states must be enhanced to mitigate the effects of natural as well as manmade disasters to ensure that our economies and national sustainable development efforts are not negatively impacted and that “we are not left behind”.

We look forward to participate actively in the COP23 under Fiji’s presidency in what has been billed appropriately as the Islands COP.

Our collective Commitments in the implementation of SDG 14, through advancing the health, productivity and resilience of our Ocean is one of the immediate priorities for the Pacific Island Forum countries. The PIF countries remain committed in implementing our pledged voluntary commitments during the Ocean conference last June and will continue to advocate for the support for realization of our SDG 14 sustainable development goal in the work of this committee and in other fora.

Mr. Chairman,

We reiterate the call by Member States to the United Nations entities to continue to mainstream the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development into their work and strategic plans as reflected in General Assembly resolution 71/243 on QCPR policy review. We welcome the work of the Funds and Programmes in mainstreaming the sustainable development agenda into their Strategic Plans and we further encourage the UN Funds and programmes to mainstream in their new Strategic Plans the SAMOA Pathway for an increased focus and assistance on our SIDS issues including reducing vulnerability, building resilience and greater access to concessional finance and climate funds taking into account the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by SIDS.
We also welcome steps taken by United Nations organizations to develop a range of internal performance monitoring systems for reporting results towards mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into their programming.

In the Pacific region, our Leaders at their 48th Meeting in early September endorsed the “2030 Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development” and its implementation strategy. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) is central in *contextualizing global commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway*. There are five elements of the Pacific Roadmap which provides essential guidance for our region to achieve the 2030 Agenda, these elements are: (i) leadership and coordination; (ii) advocacy and communications; (iii) regional monitoring and indicators; (iv) integrated reporting; and (v) supporting the means of implementation.

This demonstrates the commitment of our Pacific region to achieve the 17 SDGs and the importance of a regional approach to meeting these international commitments. We continue to count on the important role of the UN and our partners to support regional and national efforts for SDG implementation particularly the building of our capabilities.

Lastly Mr. Chairman,

To achieve our sustainable development goals and to fulfill our commitments to the international frameworks, securing adequate financial and non-financial resources is very much needed. A wide range of capacities, technology, knowledge and expertise is required by SIDS to promote the achievement of the 2030 Agenda implementation. Building capacities at all sectors including data and statistics is a need for PIF countries and financing for development is fundamental.

There is a need for adequate and predictable funding to support efforts of the SIDS and our Pacific countries will require simplified access to international climate change finance. We are pleased to note that the Green Climate Fund has approved the simplified approval process as a pilot scheme at its recent meeting in Cairo, Egypt, something that we have been advocating strongly for years.

We look forward to actively engage in this Committee’s work to ensure our region’s priorities in terms of its SDG roadmap and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, Paris Agreement, the Call for Action for Our Ocean Our Future and other regional needs and objectives are considered and achieved. Thank you.