Statement to be delivered by Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States
Adoption of SAMOA Pathway
Friday November 14, 2014

Mr. President,

Nauru has the honor to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

At the outset allow me to once again congratulate the Government and the people of Samoa for hosting a very successful UN Conference on SIDS. We also acknowledge the leadership and efforts of those who have contributed and played an instrumental role for in this strong outcome document.

The SAMOA Pathway has made its place in the United Nations history books as the first-ever UN Conference to close its negotiations in New York – and thereby allowing the time in Samoa to deepen discussions on partnerships.

Mr. President,

As the General Assembly adopts the outcome for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, allow me to highlight a few key points.

Despite progress in addressing our challenges, SIDS still experience gaps in the implementation of BPoA and MSI. The SAMOA pathway aims to rectify this by drawing on lessons from the past 20 years. The SAMOA pathway, if fully implemented, will set the course for a shift in the way we collaborate on development.

The SAMOA Pathway is a concise, focused and action-oriented document that requires us to transform from the business as usual approach. Providing a roadmap and an implementable strategy is only a first step. The question now: how can we effectively implement the pathway and deliver on the commitments made to SIDS? How do we leave no-SIDS behind in the post-2015 development agenda?

First, meeting the sustainable development needs of SIDS require efforts from all of us. The theme of the Conference, “the sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships” highlights that commitments are made to strengthen international cooperation at all levels. It stressed that such partnerships should be based on mutual trust and accountability and should count SIDS as equal partners. Genuine and durable partnerships are key to support the implementation of our concrete and targeted goals. They must involve the private sector, civil society, youth, women, persons with disabilities and older persons. Capacity building and institutional strengthening for SIDS, rather than endless workshops, are critical for SIDS to take ownership of their sustainable development and build their resilience.
For our partners, more discipline will be required to fulfill longstanding promises in the form of commitments that give us the tools and resources we need to plan for the future. For our part, we must exercise more discipline in identifying where we most need support and demonstrating that investments are put to good use. And the international and regional systems must build an implementation mechanism that ensures we are meeting our goals and makes corrections if we start to veer off course.

In this light, we welcome the approximately 300 partnerships that registered in Samoa that address key priorities of SIDS, namely Sustainable Economic Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk management, Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity, Social Development in SIDS, Health and NCDs, Youth and Women, Sustainable Energy, Water and Sanitation, and Food Security and Waste Management.

Second, effective implementation requires sufficient and predictable means, including financing; capacity-building; technology transfer; data collection and management; partnerships and technical cooperation; and institutional support. The provision of adequate means of implementation will help deliver on all commitments. In this sense, we stress the importance of including SIDS priorities in the discussions and future outcome of the third international conference on financing for development, which shall be one of the important inputs regarding means of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda.

Third, we need to track progress. We need a robust global monitoring system that strengthens the accountability at all levels in the follow up to the implementation of the BPoA, MSI, and SAMOA Pathway.

The review of the UN system support to SIDS agreed in Apia will most certainly contribute to improve accountability and improve delivery of commitments made for the sustainable development of SIDS. This will allow the UN system to be more effective as a key partner and may also require the SIDS to ready themselves for the global development ‘shifts.’ We should prepare to transform the SAMOA Pathway into action including through national sustainable development strategies and goals. We look forward to the SG recommendations on parameters for this review.

The role of the High level political forum in the follow up to the implementation of SAMOA pathway is critical. We reiterate our strong request that adequate time [a full day] is allocated to the follow up on the SAMOA pathway in the body’s meetings.

Lastly, the SAMOA pathway is a fundamental and critical roadmap for us SIDS. However, it will not deliver on its objective of achieving our sustainable development if it is not integrated in the post-2015 development agenda relevant processes. An inclusive post-2015 development agenda needs to address the needs and priorities of countries in particular situations, such as SIDS. Not addressing climate change or ocean degradation, which are two of the main development inhibitors for SIDS, will result in leaving many behind.
To conclude, I would like to reiterate our sincere gratitude to colleagues and partners who have heard SIDS’ concerns throughout the process and have made efforts in reaching consensus. It is my sincere hope that the next international conference of SIDS will include not include a section entitled “implementation gaps”.

Thank you.