THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES, SAMOA, 2014

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

High Level Round Table: Bridging Broadband Barriers for SIDS sustainable development through genuine and durable partnerships

Faleata Sports Complex, 2 September 2014 Conference Room 1
15:00 hrs – 16:30 hrs

Draft Programme

Opening Remarks

Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

Keynote Speech

H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa

SIGNING COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ITU AND PARTNERS FOR SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY PROJECT AND LETTER OF INTENT WITH THE COMMONWEALSECRETARIAT

Moderator

Ms. Helen Clark, Administrator UNDP

The sustainable development of Small Island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships
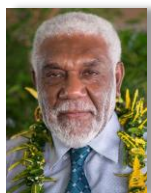
Panelists:

H.E. Mr. Tuilaepa Sa'ilele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa

H.E. Mr. Lord Tu'ivakano, Prime Minister and Minister, Ministry of Information and Communications, Kingdom of Tonga

H.E. Mr. Joe Natuman, Prime Minister and Minister of Telecommunications, Republic of Vanuatu

H.E. Mr. Enele Sopoaga, Prime Minister of Tuvalu

H.E Mr. Baron Divavesi Waqa, MP, President of the Republic of Nauru

H.E. Mr. Manasseh Maelagag, Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands

H.E. Mr. Anote Tong, President, Republic of Kiribati

The sustainable development of Small Island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships

H.E. Mr. Emanuel Mori, President and Head of Government of the Federated States of Micronesia

H.E. Mr. Christopher J. Loeak, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

H.E. Mr. Alvin Dabreo, *Minister of State (ICTs)*, Ministry of Communications, Works, Physical Development, Public Utilities and Information Communication Technology, Grenada

H.E. Mr. Jim Mirigtoro, Minister of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Papua New Guinea

H.E. Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Minister, Ministry of Justice and Communications, Fiji

Mr. José Toscano, Director General, International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO)

Bridging Broadband Barriers for SIDS sustainable development through genuine and durable partnerships.

2 September 2014, 15:00-16:30 Apia, Samoa

The main goal of this high level dialogue is to share knowledge on broadband barriers facing SIDS that limits the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in achieving sustainable development. The idea is to identify concrete actions and commencement of partnerships to ensure concrete projects are created and implemented through partnerships between governments, private sector and academia. The outcome of this forum is to agree strategies and actions that can be proposed for the post 2015 sustainable development agenda.

The objectives are:

- To create regional and international partnerships for improving access and affordable access to broadband and information and communication for all. To do this, ITU (the United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications) shall take the lead in creating genuine and durable partnerships to assist SIDS improve connectivity in order to improve broadband access and ICTs in SIDS. These partnerships are between governments, private sector, academia and civil society.

- To ensure remote islands and rural areas of SIDS have access to the Internet through broadband. Internet based applications powered by broadband helps SIDS achieve social and economic development in these areas. ITU during its World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-14) held the event "Connectivity for SIDS". It was agreed that "connectivity" is an issue that is a priority for SIDS, and to be included in the post 2015 sustainable development agenda.

- To design, develop and implement projects for connectivity with a goal of increasing capacity of SIDS in order to own such projects ensuring sustainability.

In the first instance, ITU has already designed and developed a pilot project for connectivity that will provide satellite broadband to 11 countries in the Pacific.

The pilot project has two main objectives:

➢ To provide broadband through satellite to help with social and economic development; and

➢ To provide emergency telecommunication for saving lives when natural disasters strike.

The partnership in this project are ITU, ITSO, Intelsat, Inmarsat, Kacific and 11 Governments including Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

The aim of this project is to improve connectivity in remote islands and rural areas of these 11 countries so people living in these areas have access to broadband and faster Internet to foster electronic applications for education, health, agriculture, tourism and all other development issues. The idea is to set up e-centers in schools. These e-centers will be equipped with computers, printers, scanners, etc. Satellite broadband will be provided free of charge in the first 6 months followed by a discounted cost per month.

This pilot project is being implemented from 2014 to 2017, a period of 3 years. The cost of the project is shared among partners. Each government will appoint local service providers to be a partner to international satellite providers. Training will be provided as regional workshops to provide capacity to local partners on satellite operation and maintenance. Train the training workshops will also be provided to deliver basic computer and Internet training to people where the e-centers will be located.

At the 4th quarter of 2016, a thorough assessment will start to capture lessons learnt, usage statistics, costs and best practices, to develop a better product that can be replicated in SIDS of other regions.