**Statement by Samoa made by the Regulator for Samoa Mr. Donnie Defreitas**

Mr. Secretary-General, Ministers, Excellencies, representatives of partner international organizations, respected colleagues: On behalf of the government and people of Samoa it is my duty and pleasure to express thanks for allowing us the opportunity to present our views on the development of the global information society.

Samoa wishes to harness the power of information and communication technologies to “create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge” in order to achieve sustainable development and improving the quality of life of our people. As a Small Island Developing State with a small market, low disposable income, limited indigenous manufacturing and content provision mainly from outside sources, we trust that you share our position of the need for a multi-stakeholder approach.

In recognizing achievements, let us acknowledge that much needs to be done and it can only be achieved through the multi stakeholder approach. There has been increased awareness of the need to build an ethically improved Internet. Multi-stakeholder cooperation with improved communication and better relations as well as genuine partnerships among stakeholders is key. Increased access and connectivity with improved technology is not enough. We all need to make the Internet a safer place, ensure that this technology serves the goal of improving lives rather than further widening the inequality gap.

Focus on people oriented policies & advocacy, emphasis on the need for ethics on the Internet and for an un-politicized charter involving all, citizens, governments, civil society and technicians is what is required.

Samoa shares the vision of public governance for the Internet where ICT is used as a tool for governance and protecting resources.

It is only through a global platform that we address the issues of: a people centered Internet with cultural diversity; cybercrime; increased penetration; protection of civil liberties; and technological inequalities.

* Samoa is committed to eliminating technological inequality and transforming its economy utilizing the true potential of information and communication technology. We share the goal of building a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented information society.

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, to be preceded by activities related to the conference from 28 to 30 August 2014, also in Apia, Samoa. The overarching theme is "*The sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships*". The view is that the support of the international society is essential to achieve our development goals. Small Island Developing States like Samoa advocate for new financial mechanisms to eliminate the economic divide. This would also include the digital divide and removal of the contents gap, together we can create the new information society.

We reaffirm the call for action on a multi-sector, all-inclusive platform to be addressed in the post 2015 development agenda.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.