

## **UNFPA Media release**

Government officials from Pacific Small Islands States (SIDS) and development partners will this week gather in Nuku'alofa, for the Pacific Small Island Developing States Regional Preparatory Meeting on the Mid-Term review of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Among the priorities in the SAMOA Pathway are gender equality and women's empowerment, social development, health and NCDs, economic growth with decent work for all, climate change, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, oceans and seas, water and sanitation and implementation of durable and sustainable partnerships.

The United Nations Population Fund convened a side event on 'ICPD Implementation in the Pacific: SAMOA Pathway Actions in Health, Gender, Youth and Partnerships'. Convening allowed participating countries to share some actions in implementing national priorities in the areas of Health and NCDs, Gender, Youth and Partnership. The side event was moderated by Ms. Fekitamoelea Katoa 'Utoikamanu, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS). The panelists were Lord Fakafanua, Lord Speaker of the House, of the Legislative Assembly of Tonga; and Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, of the Government of Samoa.

The side event was also opportune to see how national efforts and investments in these priority areas have progressed in the context of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. The ICPD Programme of Action adopted in 1994 took a human rights approach to addressing population and development dynamics. The ICPD goals focused on reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality and the achievement of universal access to reproductive health services including family planning. The ICPD was instrumental in recognising that reproductive health is a basic human right.

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