

On 21-23 February 2017, the Government of the Bahamas hosted a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Symposium on "Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States: Equipping Public Institutions and Mobilizing Partnerships".<sup>1</sup> The Symposium, supported by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, was well attended by ministers and high-level officials from over 40 SIDS and other countries. An informal communiqué containing key messages from the Symposium was issued and presented by the Government of the Bahamas at the UN Committee of Experts of Public Administration that took place on 24-28 April 2017. It will contribute to the discussions at the HLPF.

Focus areas of the forum were integrated implementation of the SDGs, effective and inclusive institutions, mobilizing information communication technologies, monitoring and reviewing, and partnerships. Much attention was given to how countries are organizing their governments and institutions to further support the realization of the SDGs.

The Symposium revealed that several SIDS are well advanced in implementing the SDGs. It reconfirmed that while SIDS face many common challenges, each country has different contextual circumstances and that there is no one-size-fits-all for implementing the 2030 Agenda, SAMOA Pathway and other international agreements. While international agreements including the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Change Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction were found to be mutually reinforcing, this does not seem to have been translated into an integrated framework yet, which would be helpful to optimise implementation efforts. The symposium underlined the importance of engaging finance and other ministries as well as civil society and the private sector in developing integrated policies for implementing the SDGs. It found that the SDGs are usually consistent with national priorities and strategies. Much attention was devoted to ensuring that SIDS have access to technologies, including ICTs, as well as to concessional resources.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the Symposium and the informal communique, please see [https://publicadministration.un.org/bahamas\\_symposium](https://publicadministration.un.org/bahamas_symposium).