

OSAA’S INPUTS TO THE 2019 SG’S REPORT ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAMOA PATHWAY

During the period under review, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA) continued to strengthen its support to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the African Island States including by raising awareness of the peculiar sustainable development challenges and opportunities of these countries through its analytical, reporting and monitoring and global advocacy work. Through this, the office has continued to mobilise international support for their development. Since the priorities of the SAMOA pathway are aligned with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and the AU Agenda 2063, UNOSAA’s activities in support of the implementation of the 2 agendas also contributed to the goals of the SAMOA Pathway.

In all its activities, UNOSAA highlighted the nexus and synergies between the SAMOA Pathway, African Union Agenda 2063 and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable development. It also highlighted the need for the international community to find synergies and build coherence into the implementation of the developmental agendas, bearing in mind the limited institutional capacity of SIDS and be mindful to not over stretch the capacities of the latter by duplicate and redundant processes.

During the period 2017-18, UN OSAA has carried out activities to support the following key priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway:

A. Gender equality and Women’s empowerment

African Women’s Decade: Stepping Up Action for & with Rural Women to 2020: On the 15th March 2018, UNOSAA in collaboration with UN Women and the African Union organized a High-Level Side event on the margins of the 62nd Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on the theme “*African Women’s Decade: Stepping Up Action for & with Rural Women to 2020*”. This activity contributed to raising awareness at the global level on the African Women’s Decade and its 10 thematic areas. Since the majority (80% of African women) are in rural areas, the High-Level Side event through the thematic issues addressed aimed to promote economic empowerment of rural women through entrepreneurship and mobilize strong political leadership for accelerated implementation of the Decade priorities within the broader context of Agenda 2030, the Agenda 2063 and the Samoa Pathway.

The key messages and policy recommendations disseminated to the relevant stakeholder included UN Member States, NGOs, Private sector and Women groups and sought to build the capacity and confidence of rural women in Africa, in particular young women and girls and to increase their participation in political processes, attain decent work and relevant education and skills. The implementation of the key policy and action-oriented recommendations made by practitioners aims to increase opportunities for women's meaningful participation in decision-making in local or provincial government settings, economic activity.

B. Social Development

As part of its global advocacy to galvanize international support for Africa’s development, UN OSAA has endeavoured since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda to promote the opportunities presented by increased urbanization in Africa. In this regard, OSAA co-organized with UNECA, UN-OHRLS and UN-Habitat a side event at the Ninth Session of the World Urban Forum which took place

from 7-13 February in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on the theme “*Supporting effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda to facilitate poverty eradication through urban job creation and entrepreneurship development in Africa*”. The event aimed to highlight the sustainable urbanization-wealth creation-poverty eradication nexus within the context of Africa’s structural transformation Agenda. It engaged stakeholders in the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda with a specific emphasis on ending all forms and dimensions of poverty and leaving no one behind with a strategic focus on addressing income inequality, job creation and sustainable livelihoods within the context of SDG 11 of Agenda 2030 and the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway. The meeting provided a set of key policy recommendations to Governments, private sector, CSOs and other stakeholders to ensure sustainable, people centred urbanization coupled with the creation of decent jobs.

Similarly, to help amplify the voice of Africa’s youth in global development debates, OSAA co-organized a Breakout session on Africa during the ECOSOC Youth Forum in January 2018 on the theme “*Role of African Youth in Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A sustainable Path to Resilient Urban and Rural Communities*”. The event discussed the means for the effective implementation of Agenda 2030 as well as the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway and youth’s role and responsibility in their implementation.

C. Sustained and Sustainable, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth with Decent work for All

To mobilize resources and strengthen partnerships for Africa’s development, UNOSAA prepared the Secretary General’s Report on the Review of Commitments made toward Africa’s development which was reviewed by the General Assembly in October 2018. The UN Secretary-General’s report on Monitoring Mechanism mentioned and addressed 13 commitments relevant to the SAMOA Pathway priorities including **Industrialization and regional integration, Health, water and sanitation, Climate change, Financing for sustainable development**. **Industrialization and regional integration:** industrialization and regional integration, which are key underpinnings of Africa’s socioeconomic transformation agenda set out in Agenda 2063 and essential to enabling resource-based economies to diversify and increase value addition. Industrialization is the subject of Sustainable Development Goal 9 and is consistent with the proclamation by the General Assembly of the period 2016–2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa. **Health, water and sanitation:** of which improved health care is a central goal in both Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals. The provision of clean water and sanitation is a key development objective and essential to achieving improved health outcomes, including with regards to maternal and child mortality. **Climate change:** whose negative effects pose major challenges to Africa’s peace, security and development. Addressing the challenges will be indispensable to achieving both agendas, as well as to promoting peace and stability on the continent. **Financing for sustainable development:** the availability of which from domestic, external, public and private sources is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the SAMOA Pathway and Agenda 2063. It followed progress after the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and provides an opportunity to revisit issues raised in the first biennial report.