



SAMOA'S

SMOOTH TRANSITION

STRATEGY REPORT

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Samoa graduated out of LDC status on 1st January 2014. The Government decided that the best transition strategy following graduation would be to ensure that it was able to fully implement the national development strategy namely the Strategy for the Development of Samoa through the sector programming framework with subsequent sectoral resource allocation.

As determined by the various impact studies that had been conducted pre graduation, it was apparent that there would be minimal impact on the development of the country. Beside these minimal 2 1 Tf-0()JT-a.002 T4d4.93j0.002 5c 0.2

Improving aid coordination and management- regular review of Effective Development cooperation policy and implementation of targets

The commitment of the Government towards the implementation of the principles of effective development cooperation has changed the relationships with its development partners and enhanced donor confidence in the use of country systems as evident

LDCs, the United Nations offers policy space to countries that have graduated such as Samoa.

The National Development Strategy: the basis of the smooth transition strategy

The Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2012-2016 is focused on the long term Vision for an: **“Improved Quality of Life for All”** which is supported by the Theme: **“Boosting Productivity for Sustainable Development”**

The current SDS identified fourteen (14) key national outcomes from the four priority areas

transformational options there are in terms of economic

water supplies. Through the many support schemes including water tank harvesting in drought prone areas, the total population have access to a water source.

- x At the end of the ~~SI~~, Samoa has achieved over half of the MDGs with a few targets remaining under Goals 1, 3 and 6. The Government has already embarked on an accelerated program for the achievement of the MDGs and will continue to meet its commitments towards the unfinished business of the MDGs and addressing its SDG priorities at the same time. The 2015 Human Development Report currently ranks Samoa as a high human development country a shift up from being a middle HD country.

- x Under bilateral ~~with~~ each of its partners, Samoa has finally conferred a transition period of three (3) years since Samoa's graduation from LDC status on 1st January 2014. Within the transition period, Samoa will still be enjoying Duty-Free Treatment for products originating from itself into China which correspond to 95 percent of tariff lines. As of ~~the~~ Samoa is ~~also~~ for the Japan GSP scheme due to its graduation from LDC status while Samoa has been granted a ~~3~~ ~~year~~ for Everything But Arms, this period is to end 1 January 2017 after which normal tariffs will apply.

Despite having graduated in 2014, Samoa continues to benefit from the programs funded under the IF and EIF particularly those for trade facilitation and implementation of institutional reforms for the Trade Commerce and Manufacturing sector.

- x In terms of climate change impacts, climate financing and environmental financing facilities Samoa has been able to access the highest levels of resources including through the GEF-LDCF among the Pacific countries. These resources have ensured the implementation of the National Adaptation Program of Action and mitigation strategies. Samoa continues to implement to completion an economy wide program to enhance community resilience funded under the LDCF.



There have ~~been~~ from Samoa's development and trade partners. The changes in the means of implementation and/or the

engagement framework have been discussed in policy level dialogues with the various development and trading partners.

ODA levels have been maintained at 2014 levels and in some cases increased. Partnerships are becoming the modus operandi of engagement and Samoa is prepared to meet its commitments as a partner such as co-financing parts of the development framework as the willingness to use country systems grows with evidence based outcomes of the extensive public finance management reforms the government has undergone. The advances made in reforms have made Samoa a centre for the execution of south-south cooperation. Two thirds of the Forum island countries have sent officials for attachments in Samoa particularly in the areas of budget and planning policy development and processes, aid management and effective development cooperation good practices. Samoa has also undertaken the majority of the 13 country peer reviews as well as development partners peer reviews (NZ and Australia).

The fact that Samoa is also a small islands developing state could mean that it will continue to be regarded as a country with special needs assistance; this is a significant consideration as it prepares to address the implementation of the SDGs and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) pathway using an intego4(w)66

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x Working together

The initiative by the World Bank Group is in line with the Pacific Framework for Regionalism and will support the Pacific small islands developing states in their approach to addressing the SDGs implementation as well as the SAMOA Pathway. AS part of the Pacific regional Framework for Regionalism, leaders endorsed the collaboration between the Pacific Islands Forum Countries Secretariat and the multi-lateral financial institutions to support the development of prioritized growth strategies, consider within the Pacific context what constitutes a 'reasonable standard of living', develop uniquely Pacific indicators of poverty and progress and continue to update the case for regional integration.