

- the importance of annual NFP meetings that allow NFPs to share information, lessons learned, and best practices in responding to the pandemic and other development challenges;
- the effects of COVID-19 have exacerbated the existing vulnerabilities present in SIDS; the need for global economic restructuring that would allow SIDS to emerge cleaner, greener, and more resilient from the crisis; and
- policies that not only help with the recovery from COVID-19 but also allow for the continued achievement of the SDGs, 2030 Agenda, and the SAMOA Pathway.

Session 1: Global and Regional Response to COVID-19

6. This session was chaired by Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, OHRLLS. This session provided background on:
 - the initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the global and regional level; the successes and challenges of these initiatives and how they could be integrated into SDGs and SAMOA Pathway implementation;
 - the emerging priorities of the SIDS in the Pacific region and how they are being addressed; and
 - how international and regional platforms can support these priorities along with the implications of the MCO and Regional reviews.

Ms. Rosemary Kalapurakal, Director of Policy and Programming Branch, Development Coordination Office (DCO) gave a presentation, supported by Ms Azeema Adam (DCO) on the emerging priorities in response to COVID-19 and how they can be supported by international platforms. Mr. Sanaka Samrasinha, UN Resident Coordinator (Fiji MCO), also gave a presentation on regional efforts that can address the emerging priority areas. After the presentations, an intervention was made by Mr. Alifeleti Soaki from the PIFS.

7. The meeting highlighted that the established UN response framework has proven successful in its response to the socio-economic challenges of the region. It was noted that there are five pillars for the UN Development system that complement the health and humanitarian response. The socio-economic response has aided in addressing the issue of health – now the boosted health systems need to be supported and maintained throughout the duration of the crisis. Social protection measures have ensured that people’s needs for basic services are met, especially the most vulnerable groups in society such as women, children, the elderly, and those with disabilities. Economic interventions have supported the informal sector, workers, small and medium-sized businesses, so that they may have a future to look forward to post-crisis. Macroeconomic responses have been based on

private investors. Trust between governments and their constituents is also an issue as many do not have faith in the national governments' socioeconomic response plans.

15. The meeting noted that the PIFS

19. Presentations highlighted the early health response measures by Member States, some of which were already in place from the measles epidemic that occurred in Samoa in 2019. These measures included not only border closures, but targeted funding directed at the health sector for preparedness and prevention, quarantine facilities, essential treatment infrastructure, testing, contact tracing, and reporting. It was noted that work on the acquisition of medical supplies has been supported by bilateral and multilateral partners, the WHO, and other UN system agencies.
20. Presentations highlighted the tremendous impact that the pandemic will have on their economies. Across the region, economies will expect economic contractions due to the reduction in activity in key industries such as tourism and travel and the overall reduction in internal economic activity as countries have put public safety measures in place.
21. Presentations noted that Governments in the region have also been forin ivep (he)4 (e)4 (nt)(n pl)-2 ((s r

Interactive Discussion

26. After the presentations, an intervention was made by Ms. Ma'u Alipate that highlighted the best practices and lessons learned from the pandemic thus far in Tonga. The intervention highlighted the 60-million-Pa'anga (25.2-million-U.S. dollar) stimulus package passed by the national government that provided, government support capacity development in the fishery, agriculture, and livestock sectors, the importance of data and statistics in national planning frameworks, development of digital capacities, and the need for broad stakeholder collaboration.

Closing

27. Ms. Simona Marinescu, UN Resident Coordinator (Samoa MCO) provided a brief summary of the second segment. Concluding remarks were received from H.E. Ms. Lois Young, Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations, Chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and H.E. Ms. Fekita 'Utoikamanu, High Representative, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS).
28. The meeting underscored the best practices and lessons learned by national focal points as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic at the national, regional and global levels. The meeting also stressed the importance of continuing to share experiences and best practices on mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway and SDGs into national development processes as well their implementation and follow up, in the context of COVID-19, in line with the principle to “build back better”.
29. The meeting noted that discussions would continue at the in-person meetings of the focal points, which are still scheduled to be held in Antigua and Barbuda, when circumstances allow.

Participant List

Mr. Sanaka Samrasinha	UN Resident Coordinator (Fiji MCO) Serves 10 countries (10 SIDS) Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu)
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5. Other UN and international organizations

Name	Surname	Organization
Rosemary		

- *What are the COVID-19 response initiatives at the global and regional level? What have been some of the successes and challenges? How has the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs factored into these initiatives?*
- *What are the emerging priorities for small island developing States in the Pacific in the context of the COVID-19 response? How are these priorities being addressed?*
- *How can international and regional platforms support these priorities? What are the implications for the Multi-Country Office and Regional Reviews?*