

Presentation 17th July, 2016 NY

Samoa is the only Pacific Island country of the 22 countries that volunteered to report at this HLPF. As the National President of the Samoa National Umbrella body of more than 170 member organizations of both NGOs and CBOs, I have the pleasure to present the current process for Samoa and the level of engagement for local CSOs on the SDG process.

Samoa Civil Societies has recently held its SDG consultations. The first consultation was recently held on June 23rd June, 2016 through an initiative by the UNDP Regional office. Its primary aim was to gauge feedback from both CSOs and Private Sector on the question of *“How can UN support the implementation of SDG?”* Though it was a UN initiative, it nevertheless provided an avenue for awareness raising and dialogue on SDG implementation on how CSO’s and Private Sector can best make intervention into the SDG implementation process.

From this forum, Civil Society and Private Sector members highlighted specific actions and issues for a more meaningful engagement in the implementation of SDG and a way forward for Samoa. The following were presented as a combined position paper from both CSOs and Private Sector at the Government consultation a week later

1. Develop a Legal framework for CSO engagement.
2. Increase Awareness and capacity level to minimize gaps between the actors
3. Localization of indicators.
3. Research and data collection for identifying gaps and measure progress
4. Engage all stakeholders at design level of projects to ensure ownership and effective implementation

This second Consultation was an information process, to inform CSO on the Government agreed process in implementing SDG. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the focal point for the SDG implementation. With the Data collection system being the responsibility of the Department of Statistics.

The implementation modality adopted by Samoa was SDG Goals integrated and aligned with the Samoa Development Priorities (SDS 2016-2020.) SDS has several sectors and outcome of these sector reviews will inform the SDG progress. CSO intervention is made through these Sectors reviews. There is room for improving this partnership, through a more meaningful and genuine dialogue if we are truly committed to ensuring **“no one is left behind”**.

Challenges and Issues:

- Representation of CSO at the sector level is not standardized and often CSO are under-represented. Need a more robust mechanism that will generate a meaningful partnership where CSOs are “consulted” prior rather than being “inform”
- Poor flow of information or lack of information facilitation often leads to uninformed CSO input and collaboration for genuine partnership.
- Absence of a national comprehensive data collection system
- Localization of indicators, e.g using the measure of poverty below \$1.00 US/day is not relevant for Samoa.
- Need for a more robust, and well coordinated CSO that has the capacity to engage as a partner at the National level not only in planning but also in the implementation of SDG.
- The unbalance in the 3 pillars for SDG as in SDS: Environment, Economic and Social. More emphasis on Economic and very little on Social. Note the 3 pillars must be balance in order to ensure sustainable development.
- CSO requests to Legalization of CSO engagement.
- Pilot one Goal and see how this will make sure that “no one is left behind”

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