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# PHILIPPINES

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## Philippine Statement

Delivered by

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At the

**Third UN International Conference on**  
**Small Island Developing States**  
1-4 September 2014  
Apia, Samoa

Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi  
UN Secretary-General Ban ki-Moon,  
President Baron Waqa,  
UN Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honor to convey to you the warm felicitations of the Philippine delegation for the hard work of the Government and people of Samoa in hosting this conference, and for the warm welcome you have bestowed upon us.

Mr. President,

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement made by Bolivia, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

My delegation has embarked on a long journey to your beautiful island country to lend support to the international community's efforts to provide new traction to the sustainable development agenda of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

We started our global effort on this agenda in 1994 with the adoption of the Barbados Program of Action to comprehensively address the economic, environmental, and social developmental vulnerabilities facing SIDS. We followed it up in 2005 by adopting the Mauritius Strategy which set forth actions and strategies in 19 priority areas, including the original themes of the Barbados Program of Action.

Twenty years down the road, we now have to ask ourselves: What was the progress achieved by SIDS in the implementation of the said program and strategy? What should be done to ensure that SIDS, with the support of the international community, can take forward their development agenda beyond 2015?

Two separate reports of the Secretary-General: the 2010 Five-Year Review of the Mauritius Strategy; and the 2011 Concrete Recommendations to Enhance the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, as well as the present outcome document "S.A.M.O.A. Pathway" provides many of the answers to these questions.

Let me refer to an important item in the Secretary-General's Five-Year Review Report concerning progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The report indicates that despite some progress made in 2009, several small island developing States were not on track to achieve the MDGs and some had even regressed.

Small island developing states are not alone in this struggle. Many developing countries, including the Philippines, are also grappling with their efforts to attain the MDGs.

Recent progress report indicates that my country is on track (90 percent and above) in achieving eight (8) MDG targets. However, there is a need for us to fast track efforts in four (4) other targets.

I am sharing the Philippine experience because my delegation believes that the Secretary-General's Five-Year Review report and the outcome document we have today, contain a good assessment of the progress made by SIDS with regard to MDGs, and meaningful modes of action by which they could address the challenge of attaining the various targets related to MDGs.

Reflecting on these assessment and modes of actions, and with less than 500 days left to meet the MDGs, my Delegation is of the view that it is worthy to share with SIDS the following elements which my country deems consequential in its own efforts to attain the MDGs:

First, economic growth must be accompanied by creation of new, decent jobs;

Second, there is a need to strengthen good-quality data collection and analysis as a tool for measuring our MDG efforts and decision-making;

Third, adequate financing, including Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), is essential to maximize our capacity to implement MDG initiatives and other development objectives; and

Fourth, we should be able to address the effects of climate change as it threatens the sustainability of the impact of our MDG and other development achievements.

This leads me now to the critical issue of disaster risk reduction (DRR) which brings into sharp focus the similarity between the Philippines and numerous small island developing States as the most disaster-prone places in the world.

Despite our government's efforts, the ferocity of Typhoon Haiyan which hit the Philippines last year, has wiped out some of the progress we have achieved, and have even reversed development, particularly in the affected areas of the country.

Considering the lessons we have learned from such catastrophe, we strongly support the mode of actions outlined in the outcome document to strengthen the resilience and adaptation of SIDS to natural disaster. After all, the challenges of climate change require action from all of us, individually and as a family of nations, if we are to pursue a common goal of sustainability and development.

In this spirit, the Philippines looks forward to the forthcoming Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan in March next year and to the first-ever global Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey in 2016 during which we hope to share lessons learned from Haiyan and best practices on partnership with the private sector, which is unique in its own way as an effective strategy to disaster response and recovery.

Speaking of partnership, my Delegation supports the high importance placed by the outcome document on the critical role of international cooperation as a means of implementation in areas of financing, trade, capacity building, technology, data and statistics, and institutional support.

We are also pleased to note that the outcome document reaffirms that these partnerships with SIDS should be based on the principle of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability. From our perspective, ownership and accountability are critical in building domestic capacity and strengthening local institutional arrangements and initiatives as we address our own development priorities.

Finally, my Delegation welcomes the S.A.M.O.A Pathway's thrust on the pursuit of inclusive and equitable growth with poverty eradication, sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protection and management of the natural resource base of economic and social development as the overarching objectives of sustainable development.

We all must work together to ensure that inclusive growth flourishes in the small island developing states as they tread their way to the post-2015 development era so we can live up to our commitment to leave no one behind.

Thank you.