

## STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, AMBASSADOR ISAURO TORRES

**Mr President**

**Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,**

**TALOFA**

Mr. President,

- It is a great honour for me to be here representing Chile to the Third SIDS Conference. We are grateful for your generosity in hosting -- with such excellence -- this Conference. The unparalleled beauty of these islands can only be matched by the great hospitality and warmth of the Samoan people and its government.
- Mr. President, the conscientious preparatory work that had led us to be here today is a testament to the complexity of the challenges and vulnerabilities that SIDS face. Challenges that, alas, are not new, but require prompt and decisive action.
- Chile supports the results of Rio+20, highlighting the need to move forward on the sustainable development agenda, with special emphasis on SIDS, and considers the Barbados Program of Action, the Mauritius Strategy, and the follow up actions taken for its implementation, as crucial for achieving SIDS sustainable development. In this regard, we welcome the SAMOA Pathway as a new and closer step towards growth that is equitable and sustainable.
- Chile acknowledges the SIDS' special needs and challenges. These are, unfortunately, not new and not exclusive to SIDS. The consequences of climate change, terrible impact of natural disasters, the high costs of transport and energy, the increasing

demographic pressures on fragile ecosystems, food and nutrition security, to name a few, have a familiar and ominous ring to many of us.

- There is no doubt that the role international partnerships have in overcoming these challenges is crucial. This is why we salute the SAMOA Pathway as a strategy that streamlines the work of all stake holders under the principle of national ownership, mutual trust, transparency and accountability. These efforts cannot be episodic, but rather be built on genuine and durable partnerships as the theme of this conference states.
- This is our interest too. Chile understands the significance of contributing to SIDS development through useful and concrete partnerships, as previous speakers have also highlighted. Through the Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI), we have focused our efforts and limited resources on the Caribbean SIDS, striving to transfer skills and knowledge in public policy through Technical Assistance in developing human capital. We are also exploring modalities of triangular cooperation to take advantage of synergies with traditional donors.
- Our priority areas in this relationship with CARICOM, the Caribbean Community, are Education (focusing on Spanish language training in Chile), Agriculture, Prevention and management of Natural Disasters, and International Relations.
- We have developed a strong program in Haiti aimed at improving the quality of preschool education and helping to cope with the challenges of reconstruction after the devastating 2010 earthquake. More recently, Chile initiated jointly with the Haitian government and the participation of triangular partners such as Germany

and the US, the design of initiatives in the areas of youth employability and an assessment system for public investments.

- In the Dominican Republic, Chilean cooperation focuses on youth entrepreneurship with the support of triangular partners. In other CARICOM nations, we have also contributed in health and fishing sectors through bilateral projects. However, we believe that human capital is a priority that runs across the whole of the SIDS.
- The focus of our cooperation in the Caribbean region has allowed for a direct and close learning experience for Chile in articulating dialogue with our partners, coordinating programmes and working projects with different actors and stakeholders.
- It is through this shared knowledge that we can project a future where Chile is able to establish cooperation initiatives with SIDS of other regions. In particular with the Pacific Nation States, a region with which we enjoy a unique and special Polynesian link in Rapa Nui or Easter Island.
- We value to be in Samoa this week, where we have been able to learn first-hand during the many informative side events from local stakeholders new possibilities of collaboration with Samoa and other Pacific Island nations.
- Fa'afetai. Muchas gracias.