



**STATEMENT BY FRANCELLA STRICKLAND-SIMONET
GOVERNMENT OF SAMOA**

**SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**VIENNA INTERNATIONAL CENTER
AUSTRIA**

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Mr. President

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentleman

The Government and people of Austria have been gracious and generous hosts to my delegation, and for this we are truly grateful.

We also congratulate the President of the Conference and the Bureau for the excellent manner in which they have been conducting the work of the Conference. We also thank and congratulate the Secretary General of the Conference, Under Secretary General Acharya, Office of the High Representative for Least developed countries, Landlocked developing countries and Small island Developing States and all the of the UN Secretariat for their hard work to ensure the success of the LLDC conference.

My delegation would also like to pay tribute to the leadership of His Excellency Mr. Michael Sata, late President of Zambia, as Chair of Landlocked Developing Countries Group. We express our sincere condolences to the people and the Government of Zambia for their sad loss.

Mr. President,

Samoa is not a landlocked country, a transit country and definitely not a development partner. But the lack of those credentials notwithstanding, our participation in the conference is founded on the following principles:

Firstly – Two months ago Samoa was honoured to host the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which resulted in the outcome document called the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, that is, the SAMOA Pathway. Like this conference, it was a once in a decade opportunity for SIDS to work with their partners to address their priorities in order to meet their sustainable development needs. Therefore we know all too well the importance of this Conference for LLDCs especially the outcome and its implementation. Samoa therefore participates to stand in solidarity with all Landlocked Developing countries to underscore the importance of these Conferences that come every ten years for countries in special situations.

Secondly - While Landlocked developing countries face challenges due to lack of direct territorial access to the sea, Samoa as a Pacific SIDS on the other hand is surrounded by the ocean. We are, “sea-locked”. However we do share common challenges, such as remoteness and isolation from markets, the need for adequate infrastructure and most importantly our vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and disasters.

These common challenges provides opportunities to forge possible partnerships and share successful experiences and even failures so that we can focus on lessons learnt and how to do things better, differently. Samoa firmly believes in the critical and important role, genuine and durable partnerships can play in implementing sustainable development needs, and thus welcome the

theme of this Conference “partnerships for harnessing the full development potentials of LLDCs”. We add our voice to the call for comprehensive partnerships needed to address the special concerns of the LLDCs and help them realize their full development potentials including through the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

Lastly, in an increasingly interrelated world, critical problems do not recognize borders and hold no respect for sovereignty. Our common concerns make it necessary for us to stand united to address issues of mutual concern such as climate change. With the structural challenges LLDCs face, climate change related impacts can continue to affect populations and hinder the achievement of sustainable development aspirations. For Samoa, we continue to struggle to mitigate against the destructive impacts of climate change and have had our fair share of disasters which reverses within days any development gains that may have taken years to achieve.

Mr. President,

This is an international conference for Landlocked developing countries so it is important for us as a UN family to combine efforts where relevant to address their challenges. After the conference, the most important stage will be the implementation of these commitments as elaborated in the Vienna Programme of Action.

Samoa believes that given a number of shared concerns between countries with special situations, there is endless opportunities for this sea-locked SIDS nation to work in the spirit of genuine partnership with landlocked nations, to unlock the door to opportunities for the betterment of the lives of LLDCs peoples.

My delegation wishes all participants much success in the remaining deliberations of the 2nd UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and reiterates its support for the successful implementation of its outcome.

Thank you.