

UNITED NATIONS



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ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

CEB HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

Apia, Samoa, 1 September 2014

Dear Colleagues,

The Secretary-General will be joining us later due to his ongoing engagements. He has asked me to convey to all Executive Heads his warm greetings.

As Conference Secretary-General, allow me to thank you all for attending the Conference in person.

It is a long journey to Samoa and your personal participation has sent a clear signal to the international community about your organization's commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS.

Indeed, many of you were engaged from Day 1 of the preparatory process of this Conference, offering support at the country and regional levels, funding the participation of Major Groups in regional and inter-regional consultations, launching outreach campaigns, and contributing to the intergovernmental negotiations.

Many of you have also taken a leading role in promoting partnerships, answering the call of the General Assembly.

We are gratified to note that among the 300 partnership initiatives to be launched during the Conference, the majority of them involve the UN system organizations, either as a lead agency or as an active partner.

I want to take advantage of this CEB High-level Event to extend a special thanks to my UN colleagues. You have been truly great partners.

I look forward to continuing working with you in follow-up on the outcomes of the Conference and in implementing the partnership initiatives.

Thank you.
