

**SAMOA REMARKS FOR THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE AD HOC OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON GLOBAL PACT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT.**

20 – 22 MAY, 2019

NAIROBI, KENYA

Co - Chairs,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Samoa is pleased to be part of our collective effort to fashion a consensual global Pact for our Environment, a pact that we can all claim ownership and be proud implementers of.

We have made good progress in our previous sessions and we look forward to a positive outcome from the current one. We continue to share the view like others, that there is a necessity and urgency to address gaps in international environmental law, in light of current and emerging challenges, and that we are open to exploring feasible and practical options to developing a comprehensive international framework to improve clarity, strengthen coordination, better streamline processes in planning, allocation of resources, capacity building, implementation, monitoring and reporting of international environmental laws and agreements.

Co-Chairs,  
Global treaties, conventions or agreements provide a positive incentive for states parties to implement them fully so that their stated goals and aspirations are achieved. But for these to be relevant and make sense to our people and communities on the ground, we need to integrate and tailor them to reflect our local realities. The challenge therefore is to ensure that existing environmental laws and agreements do not undermine our environmental domestic laws and policies. A conscientious and fully consultative stakeholder engagement process is crucial and of uppermost importance.

Equally critical is the need to be attentive to the regional dimension so important to resource-constrained Small island developing states like most of us from the Pacific. We see the role of regional environmental organizations as crucial in bridging the gap between international and national environmental laws.

Thus, as we make headway and start to gain tractions on some of the key elements for the proposed Pact, at least while discussions are still open, we should not lose sight of the national and regional dynamics. Towards that goal, we would like to propose that language be included in Part 2 of the Draft Recommendations, to reflect the critical role regional environmental organizations play and contribute to. Moreover, regional environmental organizations should be encouraged and supported to play a key role in strengthening complementarities between regional environmental agreements and international agreements and to ensure they play a more active role in building the capacity of member states in facilitating the domestication of international environmental agreements and their subsequent implementation and enforcement, in line with national priorities.

Finally, Co-Chairs,  
We acknowledge and commend your sterling leadership throughout the process and especially our hardworking Secretariat in ensuring that all inputs are reflected accordingly.

Thank you.