



**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER TUILAEPA SAILELE
MALIELEGAOI AT THE FOURTH CONFERENCE FOR LDCs ISTANBUL TURKEY
9TH – 13TH MAY 2011.**

Mr Chairman
Excellencies,
Secretary General of the Conference
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of my delegation; I would like to thank the Government and people of Turkey, for being generous and gracious hosts as evidenced by Samoa's well – represented participation at LDC4. It is a pleasure to be here in Istanbul, the city that spans two continents and exemplifies globalization and the compactness of our global family.

Mr Chairman, LDC 4 is of special significance to Samoa. It serves as the launching pad of a new journey for us as we prepare to graduate from LDC status in 2014. Despite the impacts of additional challenges on our vulnerabilities, unforeseen in Brussels ten years ago, and which have watered down the gains achieved by Samoa, we are looking forward to focus on a strategic direction to strengthen partnerships with our development partners. Naturally therefore, our interests in terms of the Istanbul Program of Action would lie mainly in the support measures called for countries in transition towards graduation. After all,

since graduation is a common objective, we would therefore call for commensurate support measures particularly for countries in transition to graduation. Furthermore, if regression is to be avoided, Samoa is ready to continue and deepen dialogue with its development partners to set a realistic and consolidated pathway forward into the future. In this regard, we would welcome technical support from the international agencies to assist us in mapping out such a pathway.

In this connection also Mr Chairman, I wish to acknowledge the generous support of all our development partners, to whom we would attribute our readiness to graduate out of LDC status. I thank especially our traditional partners with whom we have a long history of engagement as well as the emerging donors which have been forthcoming in providing their assistance on a timely basis particularly to address gaps in our infrastructural development. Together with our partners, we have aligned available international support measures with improved domestic policies towards a pathway to sustainable development. In this connection also, I am happy to acknowledge and underscore the important roles played by our parliamentarians, civil society and private sector to help achieve national ownership of development in general, as well as the implementation of the envisioned Istanbul Plan of Action at national level.

Mr Chairman, we acknowledge that as a least developed country, the responsibility of meeting the pervasive challenges lies with us. However we would continue to look to the international community for financial, technical, institutional support as well as a higher degree of preferential trade related treatment. I wish to reiterate that Samoa has demonstrated its commitment to the partnerships as evident in my country's recently concluded Paris Declaration

Evaluation of aid effectiveness and completed Diagnostics Trade Integration Study. Samoa already receives a significant proportion of Overseas Development Assistance through budget support. This is testament to our improved performance grounded in the achievement of results and mutual accountability between Samoa and its development partners.

Mr Chairman, we are all too aware of the fact that the Brussels Program of Action represents an unfinished agenda. Therefore, LDC 4 should consider how we can best make effective the existing international measures by enhancing the modalities through which they are delivered and to provide for a streamlined approach towards compliance. In this regard, we would call on improved commitments from the donor community towards the implementation of the Paris Declaration recognizing the importance of country led and owned development process. LDCs should revisit their development strategies from time to time and to view these from new perspectives in order to assess the relevance of international support measures. Furthermore, adding shared risk management as a guiding principle will openly acknowledge that there are many uncertainties and risks in development and in partnerships. It will also express a mutual commitment to confront and manage risks and disagreements jointly, in the spirit of a mature partnership.

More importantly, Mr Chairman, there is a need to find an appropriate and adequate mix of aid allocation between the social sector, infrastructure and productive sectors. The sectoral distribution of ODA must reflect country priorities and that these are consistent with achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Program of Action for LDCs. In Samoa, we need a dynamic economy and income generating activities to create sustainable growth

and employment opportunities. There is reinvestment in the agriculture sector and increased investment in the tourism sector. Underpinning these key objectives is the simultaneous development of human resources.

Mr Chairman, it has taken more than a decade for Samoa to accede to the World Trade Organization. Improved market access will not suffice to improve trade in our case unless we are able to address supply side constraints. While we acknowledge that the Enhanced Integrated Facility for Trade promoted for the LDCs is a promising initiative, we would urge that it be expanded and implemented expeditiously.

Mr Chairman we see the Istanbul Program of Action as an opportunity to strengthen and improve on international support measures for LDCs. Necessarily it should introduce new measures and strategies at both the national and international levels that are better specified and tailored to defined objectives, country specificities and emerging challenges. More importantly, there should be a balance between the number of international and domestic targets on the one hand and the resources and support measures that may realistically become available on the other. Perhaps it is timely that consideration be given to the clustering of LDCs so that there are more targeted and tailor made responses to address particular common problems faced by certain such countries. One such cluster could be that of small island states, which have relatively high income but are vulnerable to environmental and economic shocks. They stand to benefit from such tools as an insurance mechanism against catastrophic events which could be facilitated by development partners through aid.

Mr Chairman, the Istanbul program of action must address climate change and the impact on LDCs in terms of food security, water stress, disease, disaster

risk, ecological degradation and migration. Sustainable development already provides a framework within which the development pathway can be constructed. Support measures should include new global arrangements for climate change financing, especially adaptation financing and must respond to the particular and differing needs and constraints of LDCs. We see climate related financial cooperation as new financing in addition to ODA. The unprecedented coalition in the international campaign for more effective aid under the Paris Declaration needs to be further widened to involve other forms of aid, such as climate change financing, and other actors with their own approaches and innovations.

Finally Mr Chairman, there is a need to enhance policy coherence by consolidating the links between the international strategies and those emanating out of the Istanbul Program of Action as well as between the latter and national strategies. Furthermore the Istanbul program of Action should continue to be based on the principle of national ownership and must avoid having an unrealistic list of goals matched by only a few tools. We look forward to a strong, coordinated and targeted Plan of Action that is well matched with resources availability that are adequately supported by the international community.

Thank you for your attention.