Localizing the Agenda in SIDS: Palau’s Aspirations with the SDGs

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Regional Knowledge Exchange:
Supporting Policy Coherence for Accelerating Progress Towards the 2030 Agenda
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Palau’s aspirations ...

... are expressed in the National Anthem, the Constitution and the National Master Development Plan.

Consistent message in all of them is not so much about sustainable development but about continuing to exist and survive in a changing world.

The 2030 Agenda offers Palau a systematic approach to improve its efforts to achieve these aspirations.
SIDS’ Emerging Issues

• Rapid urbanization & unplanned development
• Rapid technological advances
• CC-induced loss of land (thus loss of sense of place & identity)
• Changing cultural values, beliefs & expectations, which need to be ‘re-calibrated’ to get us on the same page

❖ Data and information management is even more critical for effective communication, coordination and management of resources

❖ Regional cooperation more critical to help Pacific nations to ‘keep up’ and achieve the SDGs – we could not do it alone.
Guides for Implementing National Priorities

- Master Development Plan
  - Government’s only long long-term national development guide

- Medium-term action plans (e.g., Medium Term Dev. Strategy & Management Action Plan)

- Sector-based strategies
Health & Education
- Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Roadmap
- Education Master Plan

Disaster Risk Management Framework

Marine Ecosystems
- Protected Areas Network (PAN)
- Palau National Marine Sanctuary

Missing the big picture – ensuring our survival & security
SDGs to Improve National Budgetary Planning and Process

How?

- By providing quantifiable targets and performance measures

- Implementation efforts to date have focused on consultations toward establishing the National SDG Core Indicators
Initial implementation focus

- Achieving SD requires ‘all hands on deck’
- However, SD is primarily a national government’s responsibility – gov’t must lead

THUS...

- To lead effectively, start with improving data and information management
  - Determine reportable relevant & priority SDG indicators
  - ID capacity strengths and limitations
  - Improve communication, coordination, M & E and reporting
Progress to date

• Held two national meetings to obtain endorsement on the initial focus towards integrating SDGs into the budgetary process

• Identified SDG Contact Points from all ministries and semi-gov’t agencies

• Developed & endorsed National Core SDG Indicators

✓ Mapped national priorities against SDGs
✓ Matched National Core Indicators with Pacific regional indicators
### Palau’s Core Indicators (draft)

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<th>Core Indicators</th>
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<th>Accepted</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Shared Pacific Indicators</th>
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<th>56</th>
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Implementation challenges

- Government-centered due to initial focus on national budgetary process, w/c excludes NSAs

- Presently, coordination and reporting is led by one agency in MOF - staff spread too thin

- Other gov’t priorities compete for staff attention – cannot dedicate full time for SDGs
  - Held only 2 national meetings since 2016
  - Limited engagement and communication with stakeholders with different needs and interests
  - Missed VNR 2017
  - Slow progress
Opportunities

- Improve national budgetary process (e.g., accountability, transparency)
- Provide platform to increase engagement with various stakeholders
- Improve communication and coordination of key stakeholders both at the national level and regional level
- Provide opportunity to utilize existing cultural values and practices to achieve SD aspirations (e.g. concept of reciprocity)
- Provide a holistic platform for SIDS to not only articulate how they need global support, but also their contribution (e.g., Oceans)
Moving Forward in next 12 months

- Complete 1st national SDG report
- Test it through next year’s budget call
- Refine Core SDG Indicators (customize and/or add new localized ones)
- Identify capacity gaps for data collection and reporting
- Submit VNR
- Increase engagement with NSA and initiate steps to incorporate their needs into the budgetary process
Thank you!