

**(Delivered by Samoa Government Statistician: Ms Malaefono Tauā-Faasalaina)**

**Item 3(e) Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on statistical development in Asia and Pacific**

**Mr. Chair,**

We welcome the report by ESCAP and acknowledge a lot of significant statistical developments in Asia and Pacific involving many donor partners and member countries. Samoa and our Pacific island countries have benefitted from these timely developments. In fact, Samoa piloted the *“EPIC tool” in 2018 using our 14 Sector Plans to link policies to statistical indicators, and, we have just piloted the compilation of the “Ocean Accounts” in the first week of February this year, aiming at having ‘healthy oceans’ in the Asia-Pacific region. We hope to share all the lessons learned with ESCAP members and all other UN member countries in due course.*

**Mr. Chair**

The ESCAP **“Declaration on Navigating Policy with Data to Leave No One Behind”** is our shared commitment to ‘make a difference’ in our Asia-Pacific region. This declaration will be an important contribution to our drive in achieving our shared vision i.e. : *“by 2030, national statistical systems including national statistical offices are enabled and empowered to lead the development of and to deliver innovative, trusted and timely statistical products and services for the urgently needed and evolving statistical requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*

For Samoa, our government’s development mantra is that *‘whatever development is good for the urban communities, that development is equally good for the rural communities’*. Briefly therefore, if the ESCAP Declaration is benefitting its members, then it should equally be beneficial for the global community. On that note, we support the ESCAP declaration to be elevated and shared with the rest of our global family. We also support the call for assistance by development partners in all planned programs in the Asia-Pacific region.