



**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA  
PRIME MINISTER OF SAMOA**

at the

**10<sup>th</sup> Summit of the OACPS Heads of State and Government  
General Debate**

*3 Continents 3 Oceans 1 Common Destiny: Building a Resilient and Sustainable OACPS*

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Intercontinental Hotel**

**Luanda, Republic of Angola**

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President of the Summit

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly allow me to welcome Maldives as the newest member of our OACPS family.

Samoa reaffirms its belief in the potential of the OACPS to be a key global player on issues of critical concern to our organisations such as climate change and oceans. In addition to the key areas I highlighted on behalf of the Blue Pacific continent, I wish to add the following three points on how we see a resilient and sustainable OACPS.

Firstly, engaging our people and stakeholders.

We welcome the efforts by the Government of Angola and OACPS to hold the different Forums for youth, women, business and diaspora in the margins of this Summit. The strategic dialogue with partners is also a positive step forward. We must continue to improve our efforts in engaging all of our key stakeholders. We must ensure that there is enough space to allow effective and meaningful engagement between the participants of these forums and the Leaders and Member states. On diaspora engagement, Samoa is keen to learn from the experience and much more developed models of other countries in Africa and Caribbean, on how to benefit from diaspora led actions that feed into national strategic development plans.

Secondly, importance of private sector development.

When we speak of efforts to build the competitiveness of SMEs in the global market, for Samoa we have very few Export products. The size and capacity of SMEs also vary between our OACPS regions. Therefore, a contextualised approach to the solutions we come up with is essential.

In terms of market access, Samoa stresses the need to look within our own regions and to explore better opportunities within our own OACPS. Let us pursue and create successful opportunities with Intra OACPS south south cooperation. I hope we can take some of the solutions and lessons from the Business Forum in Luanda forward, including a process for more frequent and structured engagement between the OACPS member States and the Private sector.

Lastly, we need an improved OACPS Secretariat and stronger Membership.

Excellencies, commitment for a better and improved OACPS will require dedication and solidarity. It means as Member States we need to pay our contributions and ensure the financial sustainability of our Secretariat and organisation. It should also mean a more efficient and effective Secretariat with work delivery at the highest international standards to support all our efforts as member states. This is conducive to building trust in our organisation

Just as our Secretariat relies on the support and proper guidance of the members, so should the members have the confidence to rely on the Secretariat and ensure they meet the required level of expectations to take us forward together.

We all need to play our part to ensure that we achieve the ACP we want, when we endorsed the Revised Georgetown agreement.

Thank you