



**SAMOA'S MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON
AGENDA ITEM 24: PARTICIPATION OF MEMBER STATES IN WHO
MEETINGS – VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR SIDS TOR (A76/34)**

Chair/Madame Chair,

We align our statement to the SIDS Joint Statement delivered by FIJI.

The unique and inherent vulnerabilities that define us as Small Island Developing States, also constrain our capacity to develop our national health systems. And as we have experienced through the pandemic, our systems and response need to be resilient, in the face of global crises. We need to engage and participate in global health discussions to ensure that multilateral disciplines have meaningful implementation at home.

Chair, our delegation has travelled two days across the globe from the Pacific to participate, and engage, in the Assembly, and contribute our voice to the important work of this organisation. It is costly to be present. At the same time, we



endeavour to uphold our international obligations and commitments. Our inherent challenges, and our “smallness” as SIDS, should not deter us from international engagement, rather, we should stand with our partners and share our particular circumstances to mould and influence the development of international health policies.

Samoa supports the Voluntary Health Trust Fund for SIDS, to support our participation in WHO meetings, technical assistance and capacity building. We call upon our partners, and thank you in advance for your contributions to the Fund, and through the good offices of the Director General, fast track this work so that the Fund is operational much sooner, than later.

I thank you.