

# The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations Inc.

## - SUNGO -

**National President:**  
Lavea Peseta Lua Nafoi

**National Treasurer:**  
Taule'ale'ausumai F Toni T

**National Secretary:**  
Mataafa Faatino Utumapu

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia

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13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Stakeholder Engagement and Preparation Meeting Ahead of the Samoa Agreement**

13<sup>th</sup> November 2023, SUNGO Office, Vaitele - In a pivotal gathering hosted by the Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations, in collaboration with the European Commission representatives, stakeholders from diverse sectors around the Pacific convened to discuss and strategize on the impending Samoa Agreement, previously called the Post Cotonou Agreement, between the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

The meeting, held at SUNGO office, served as a crucial forum for participants to delve into the intricacies of the new Partnership Agreement, emphasizing the need for open and transparent mechanisms for structured consultation with stakeholders, as highlighted in Article 95 of the agreement. This commitment to inclusive participation was reiterated in Article 7 of the Agreement's Pacific Regional Protocol, underscoring its relevance for the Pacific region.

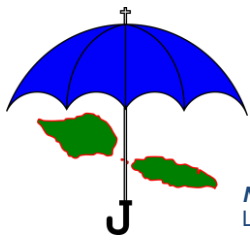
Organized in collaboration with the European Commission and facilitated by SUNGO, the meeting aimed to gather insights and recommendations from Pacific civil society and youth on their engagement in the new Partnership. The event provided a platform to discuss the way forward, ensuring that the voices of all stakeholders are considered in the implementation of this historic agreement.

The objectives of the meeting were met with enthusiasm, as participants engaged in robust discussions, providing valuable perspectives that will contribute to shaping the framework for stakeholder engagement in the Partnership Agreement. The event successfully raised awareness and fostered dialogue, setting the stage for a more inclusive and participatory approach in the implementation of the Samoa Agreement.

As we approach the official signing ceremony on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 in Samoa, the insights gained from this meeting will play a pivotal role in steering the course towards a more inclusive and people-centered agreement.

SUNGO expresses gratitude to all participants, moderator, and the European Commission representatives for their active involvement and commitment to advancing the principles of openness, transparency, and collaboration.

**End of Release**



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