



Initiative on Empowerment
of Civil Society in
Democratic Samoa



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Representatives of Malie, Faleula and Afega engage in the second Consultative Discussion for IOE Samoa Project.

Malie, Apia, Samoa, 3rd October 2024 – The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO), in collaboration with Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI), initiates the second of eight Consultative Discussion activities under the IOE Samoa Project. This project, launched in June, is funded by the European Union.

The local communities of Malie and the neighbouring villages of Afega and Faleula are participating in this consultative discussion to share knowledge and engage in dialogue with WIBDI family networks. Emphasis was placed on the inclusion of youth, equality, and people with disabilities. The discussion focuses on the impact of climate change, vulnerabilities, and strategies for engaging with the government on these issues.

SUNGO's Chief Executive Officer, addressed the participants, highlighting the significance of the initiative on Empowerment of Civil Society in Democratic Samoa (IOE Samoa Project) for the communities of Samoa.

SUNGO's Program Team Leader, Ms. Faapito Opetai, led the discussions and provided critical information regarding climate change awareness, including definitions, its effects on communities, and ways to connect with current government initiatives.

Civil Society Organizations are integral partners of the European Union in the Pacific, working on shared values and visions such as human development, peace, and security. IOE Samoa is committed to supporting democratic resilience and sustainable development in Samoa.

The IOE Samoa project focuses on capacity-building workshops, community engagement programs, and policy advocacy. These efforts aim to strengthen the democratic process, enhance transparency, and promote inclusive decision-making at all levels of government in Samoa.

END OF RELEASE

About International IDEA:

The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) is an intergovernmental organization that supports sustainable democracy worldwide. With a global network, International IDEA provides knowledge, policy development, and advocacy to enhance democratic governance.

About SUNGO:

The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organisations (SUNGO) is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of NGOs in Samoa, promoting effective governance, and supporting community development initiatives.

About WIBDI:

Women in Business Development Inc. (WIBDI) works to empower women and families in

Samoa through sustainable business development, with a focus on organic agriculture and fair-trade practices.

About the European Union:

The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The EU is committed to promoting peace, its values, and the well-being of its citizens. It supports democracy, human rights, and sustainable development worldwide.