



Initiative on Empowerment  
of Civil Society in  
Democratic Samoa



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **"Community Representatives of Leauvaa, Nono'a Saleimoa and Tuana'i in Action at IOE Samoa's third Consultative Discussion"**

*Leauvaa, Apia, Samoa, 16th October 2024* – The Samoa Umbrella for Non-Governmental Organizations (SUNGO), in collaboration with Women in Business Development Incorporated (WIBDI), is hosting the second of eight Consultative Discussion activities under the IOE Samoa Project. This project, initiated in June, is funded by the European Union.

Local communities from Leauvaa and neighbouring villages, including Nono'a in Saleimoa and Tuana'i, are actively participating in this discussion to share insights and engage with WIBDI family networks. The forum emphasizes the inclusion of youth, equality, and individuals with disabilities. The dialogue centres on the impacts of climate change, vulnerabilities, and strategies for governmental engagement on these issues.

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

Civil Society Organizations are vital partners of the European Union in the Pacific, working on shared values and visions such as human development, peace, and security. The IOE Samoa project is dedicated to bolstering democratic resilience and sustainable development in Samoa through capacity-building workshops, community engagement programs, and policy advocacy. These efforts aim to reinforce the democratic process, enhance transparency, and promote inclusive decision-making at all levels of government in Samoa.

**END OF RELEASE**

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#### **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.