CONCEPT NOTE

I. Introduction/Background

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven". These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC.

The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the 2020 HLPF scheduled for July, four countries from the pacific will present their VNR; Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). In order to assist the government of the FSM progress their VNR preparations, a national workshop has been organized for the SDG Working Group, involving participation from Civil Society and the four States making up FSM.

II. Objectives/Outputs

Members of the FSM SDG Working Group have already received training on the VNR process, both at the pacific regional level (Apia, 23-25 October) and global level (Oslo, 19-20 November), and this will once again be provided during the national workshop. Having said that, the focus of the national workshop will be more on progressing key activities of the VNR process to ensure a well planned out process is put in place, including a solid draft of the outline of the VNR report.
itself. With this in mind, the key outputs desired from the mission from this national workshop include:

1) A raised awareness of the VNR process across all key stakeholders engaged in the production of the FSM VNR report
2) A solid workplan outlining all key activities FSM need to undertake, including at the State level, to ensure progress remains on track throughout the VNR preparation process
3) A clear outline of the structure of the FSM VNR report, catering for State inputs, and including details of priority issues FSM Government and State Government wish to address in the VNR report, mapped to global initiatives FSM wish to report against (SDGs, SAMOA Pathway, HR Initiatives, etc)
4) Identification of data need to support the stories on priority issues planned for the FSM VNR report
5) Development of a strategy for future support required by FSM to complete their VNR reporting process

III. Target Participants

The workshop will primarily target members of the FSM SDG Working Group, along with SDG focal points from each of the four States of FSM (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae), and representatives from selected Civil Society Organizations

IV. Resource Persons

Resource persons for the workshop will include the following:

1) Representative from ESCAP, Suva Office
2) Representative from UNDP, Suva Office
3) Representative from SPC, Noumea

V. Timing and Venue

Timing: The proposed timing for the workshop is 2-4 December, 2019
Venue: Government Offices, Palikir, FSM