



Press Release

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Samoa Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signing the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement

The United Nations Development Programme today signed with the Government of Samoa the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA), which is the legal document that provides the basis for the provision by UNDP of support to Samoa. UNDP and the Samoa Government have a long standing relationship that dates back to 1962, when Samoa first gained its independence. UNDP has since been operating based on a number of separate agreements, which over time have become outdated, and unable to reflect current practices and principles governing international cooperation for development.

The SBAA contains the provisions, which have been approved by the Governing Council of UNDP on behalf of all member states. The agreement replaces the provisions contained in various previous agreements, notably the Technical Assistance Agreement (signed by Samoa on 20 January 1962), the Special Fund Agreement (signed by Samoa on 5 June 1963), the Standard Agreement on Operational Assistance (signed by Samoa on 20 January 1970), and the agreement on the provision of support services by UNDP to nationally executed projects (signed by Samoa on 28 September 1998). Signing the SBAA by the Government replaces all these agreements, and precludes the need to negotiate separately the legal arrangements for each single project, and the conditions governing the provision of assistance.

"I am deeply honoured to be signing the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (commonly referred to as the SBAA) with the Government of Samoa on behalf of UNDP. The SBAA is the legal document that provides the legal basis for the provision by UNDP globally, of assistance to their programme countries, and for the maintenance in programme countries of the UNDP missions, headed by Resident Representatives. To date, over 100 countries have signed the SBAA with UNDP. On this historical occasion, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the government, for officially endorsing this long partnership between Samoa, and UNDP and its programmes through the SBAA." stated Ms Naheed Haque, UNDP Resident Representative.

This agreement or the SBAA, also applies '*mutatis mutandis*' and *without prejudice to the activities, personnel and assets of UNFPA*, United Nations Fund for Population, in Samoa.

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