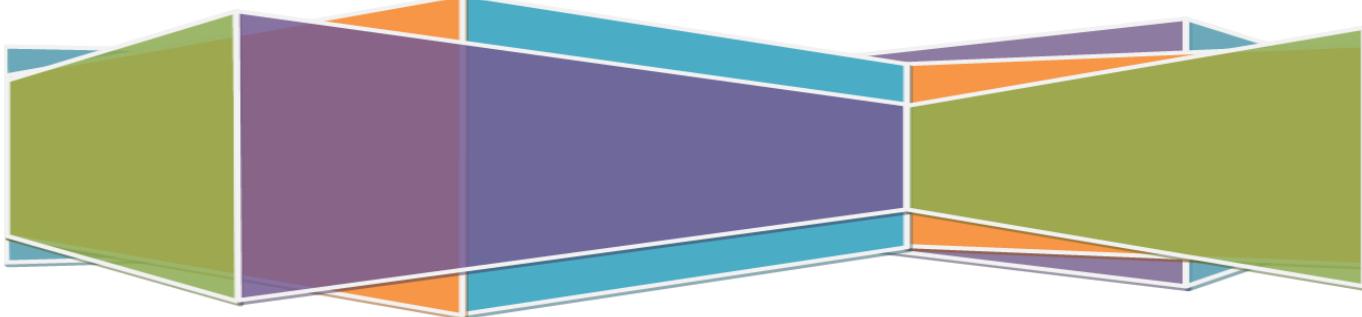




Government of Samoa  
**Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture**

# NATIONAL SAMOAN LANGUAGE FRAMEWORK 2023 - 2033



# **NATIONAL SAMOAN LANGUAGE FRAMEWORK 2022 - 2032**

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**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND CULTURE**

***VISION:*** “*The Samoan Language continues to be strengthened, relevant and promoted to safeguard its vitality for posterity.*”

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AG	Attorney General
CDMD	Curriculum Design and Materials Division
CSS	Centre of Samoan Studies (NUS)
ESCD	Education Sector Coordination Division
HR	Human Resource
ICH	Intangible Cultural Heritage
JAWS	Journalists Association of (Western) Samoa
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
MCIL	Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour
MESC	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOH	Ministry of Health
MWCSD	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
MWTI	Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
NARA	National Archives and Records Authority
NARF	National Archives and Records Framework
NatCom	National Commission of UNESCO
NCF	National Culture Framework
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSLF	National Samoan Language Framework
NUS	National University of Samoa
PDS	Pathway for the Development of Samoa
PIMA	Pacific Islands Museums Association
PPRD	Policy, Planning and Research Division
PUMA	Planning and Urban Management Agency
SAC	Samoa Arts Council
SAME	Samoa Association of Manufacturers and Exporters
SBEC	Small Business Enterprise Centre
SBS	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDS	Strategy for the Development of Samoa
SLC	Samoan Language Commission
SLRC	Samoa Law Reform Commission
SNYC	Samoa National Youth Council
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SQA	Samoa Qualifications Authority
STA	Samoa Tourism Authority
SUNGO	Samoa Umbrella for Non-Government Organisation
SVS	Samoa Voyaging Society
TCH	Tangible Cultural Heritage

TVET	Technical Vocational Education Training
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
USP	University of the South Pacific
WIBDI	Women in Business Development Inc

## DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

### **Culture**

UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity defines culture as "the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterise a society or social group. It includes not only the arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs."

### **Cultural Industries**

Cultural industries refer to the production and dissemination of cultural goods and services which use, embody or convey cultural expressions. Cultural industries offer income generation opportunities for cultural practitioners and entrepreneurs whether in the visual and performing arts, craft, fashion, publishing, music or digital media sectors.

### **Culture in Education**

Culture in Education refers to the mainstreaming of culture (tangible and intangible forms) in our formal and non-formal education systems. A strong indicator for the push to preserve and exercise culture in Samoa has been the inclusion of Samoan as a subject for teaching and learning, research and set programs from Early Childhood Education to Tertiary levels. Non formal learning in everyday domestic and community life is also critical to the maintenance of language and culture.

### **Heritage**

UNESCO defines Cultural heritage as "the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations."

### **Indigenous**

Born, belonging to or originating and developing naturally in a particular land or country. The Samoan language is the indigenous language of Samoa. Samoans are the indigenous people of Samoa. The term "native" is sometimes also used to refer to a person born to a specified place with the associated language or languages being the native or indigenous language or languages of a person or people from a particular place or country.

### **Inter-generational Transmission of Language**

Where a language is passed from older generations to the younger generation mainly through grandparents, parents and children communicating through the use of a language or several languages. Inter-generational transmission of language is important for language survival especially for indigenous languages where the mother tongue is used and passed on within families from generation to generation. Language decline and loss results from lack of inter-generational transmission and therefore the role of the family is very critical for language survival

### **Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)**

Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) refers to "the practices, representations, expressions, as well as the knowledge and skills including instruments, objects, artefacts, cultural spaces, which communities, groups and in some cases, individuals recognise as part of their cultural heritage. ICH is sometimes called living heritage".

### **Language**

The systematic, conventional and unconventional use of sounds, signs or written symbols in a human

society for communication and self-expression. Language is made up of patterns, sounds and symbols (as in writing) combined and utilised systematically to convey meaning. Studies to understand how language is formed and used can be divided into the some of the following subdivisions of language:

- Morphology:** the study of how words are formed or structured
- Phonetics:** the study of speech sounds, how they are produced, transmitted.
- Phonology:** the study of sound systems of languages
- Prosody:** the patterns of stress and intonations in a language
- Semantics:** the study of word meanings
- Syntax:** the arrangement of words and phrases to create well-formed sentences in a language.
- Lexicon:** the vocabulary of a language or a list of words as in a dictionary.
- Linguistics:** the study of languages
- Neologism:** newly formed words or phrases emerging from a particular context. Sometimes a neologism is derived from an old or existing word. Neologisms can provide evidence of language and social change reflecting new experiences and trends in a society.
- Sui-generis:** of its own kind, unique and special

### **Tangible Cultural Heritage**

According to UNESCO, tangible heritage refers to physical or touchable cultural heritage such as buildings and art work, historic places and monuments which are considered worthy of preservation for the future. These include objects significant to the archaeology, architecture, science or technology of a specific culture.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS .....	ii
DEFINITIONS OF TERMS .....	iv
FOREWORD .....	vii
1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
2. GLOBAL COMMITMENT .....	3
3. OBJECTIVES .....	4
4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES .....	6
5. GOALS .....	8
6. POLICY AREAS .....	9
7. IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPLEMENTERS .....	12
8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION .....	17
9. REFERENCES .....	18
10. ENDORSEMENT .....	19
11. APPENDICES .....	20
Appendix 1: National Language Framework Structure .....	20
Appendix 2: Related Documents .....	21
Appendix 3: Risk Management Plan .....	23
Appendix 4: Implementation Plan .....	24
Appendix 5: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework .....	25

## **FOREWORD**

Our language is one of our most important and valued “measina” or treasures. Retaining our language means that we retain our culture and our identity as Samoans for today and tomorrow. As a vibrant and living language this is our main resource and tool for clear communication, good governance, retaining our cultural heritage and to develop and link our society together at home and abroad. As part of our heritage, we need to protect and enable our Samoan language to be relevant and vibrant for our current and future generations.

We are not alone in our plight. As part of the global community, we join other countries and people in declaring the value and importance of our indigenous languages. Under various conventions which Samoa is party to; we become part of the universal effort to preserve, protect and sustain our languages and cultures which are an inherent part of our continued development as nations and as part of the diverse global community.

The Framework therefore highlights the key priorities and responsibilities for all of Samoa from the home to all the various domains where the Samoan language is used. As people of Samoa, we are responsible for ensuring the survival and continued development of our language to facilitate economic and social development as well as peace and stability in our nation.

Hon. Seuula Ioane Tuaau  
**MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SPORTS & CULTURE**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Samoan is the indigenous language of the Independent State of Samoa, American Samoa and the Samoan diaspora. In Samoa it continues to be the main language of communication in everyday life in its various forms depending on the context. English which was introduced through the early missionaries and the colonial era became established as a second and international language for Samoa. Both Samoan and English are widely used in Samoa, in government, schools, businesses, homes and the wider community. Concerns have been noted regarding the strong influence of English amongst Samoans in Samoa and those living overseas. With more English being used and prioritised for educational, economic and other reasons, Samoan can gradually lessen as a priority and as the main language of communication in general including family domains whereby inter-generational transmission of the Samoan mother tongue is at a high risk. Such a situation poses a real possibility of language loss. In addition, the influence of modernisation and globalisation on Samoan society is also inevitably reflected in language use as evidenced in neologisms; the creation of new words or expressions, modified pronunciations and mixed sentence structures together with many other new ways of using the Samoan language. Such conditions have prompted concern with regards to 'maintenance, preservation and safeguarding' the Samoan language. In adapting to changes in a modern world, Samoan society has demonstrated a resilience in holding on to its culture and traditional values. Within an era of climate change posing further threats to the survival of small island states including Samoa, the importance of retaining and developing indigenous languages is vital for the protection of the environment. The Samoan language needs to develop its capability to articulate domestically the constant changes, challenges and threats posed by climate change to the environment and livelihoods of the Samoan people. This is part of Samoa's adaptation for resilience and survival. The role of the Samoan language is inherent in this stance as not only does it unite Samoan people in having and using their indigenous language but the role of language in providing information and engagement for environmental protection and social stability as well as memory and cultural production. These considerations underscore how central language is to the survival of the Samoan people, their identity, complex systems of knowledge, culture and way of life.

A National Samoan Language Framework (NSLF) was therefore deemed necessary to put in place a national vision, strategic approach and implementation measures that will enable and guide the development of language policies to strengthen, safeguard and ensure the continued relevance and survival of the Samoan language in today's world. This affirmation is commensurate with the Samoan Language Commission Act 2014. The SLC Act 2014 officially declared the Samoan language as an official language of Samoa and also established the

Samoan Language Commission together with its functions, duties and powers. Prior to the passing of this Act no legislation definitively stated the official status of languages in Samoan except for the Constitution of the Independent State of Samoa 1961 where Samoan and English are given official recognition with reference to: the right to a fair trial (Section 9), languages of the Legislative Assembly (Section 54) and Authoritative Texts (Section 112).

The **Pathway for Development of Samoa 2022-2026** states its vision as: “Fostering social harmony, safety and freedom for all” and its theme as “Empowering communities, building resilience and inspiring growth.” To achieve the 5 Key Strategic Outcomes of this national planning document it is undeniable that the Samoan language plays a key role in effective communication on a country wide level. Widespread communication and understanding through the Samoan language enable people to own and share the responsibilities that are inherent in achieving the Pathway Goals and other national initiatives for the development of Samoa.

In this environment of constant change and development, the National Samoan Language Framework (NSLF) provides direction for a robust strategy for safeguarding as well as the continued development and maintenance of the Samoan language for current and future generations in Samoa and beyond. The Samoan Language Commission; through its legislative mandate, will ensure that mechanisms and policies are in place for these purposes. Already established within the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture (MESC) is the National Archives and Records Authority (NARA) mandated under the Public Records Act 2011. Together, NARA and the NSLF will strengthen national efforts to reinforce cultural heritage and language development as well as record keeping and documentation of archival materials, genealogies and other forms of cultural heritage (measina). For this reason, NARA plays a crucial part in preserving and safeguarding our Samoan language through its commitments and priorities set out in NARF.

## 2. GLOBAL COMMITMENT

Samoa is party to global conventions and obligations which also correspond to its commitment to strengthening and maintaining its indigenous language.

- Article 13 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their languages, oral traditions, writing systems and literatures. Articles 14 and 16 furthermore state indigenous peoples' rights to establish their educational systems and media in their own languages and to have access to an education in their own language. Moreover, that indigenous people can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate means.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, aims to ensure equal access for indigenous peoples to all levels of education and vocational training under the Sustainable Development Goals Target 4.5. The use of indigenous languages in education and training has been strongly put forth as an approach to meet this target.
- The International Year of Indigenous Languages 2016 drew attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote them at national and international levels. UNESCO as the lead agency for this advocacy was further supported by the UN General Assembly resolution for an International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032.
- The Global Action Plan of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032) maintains the momentum from the 2019 International Year of Indigenous languages in the continued engagement of civil society organisations, academia, public and private partners and the UN system entities to protect, revitalize and promote indigenous languages around the world.
- The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) 2003 and UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005 which Samoa ratified in 2013 and 2015 respectively also encompasses the vital link between language and culture. Language embodies unique cultural and ecological knowledge, perceptions and practices. The role of language in memory and cultural production underscores also how central language is to culture. This is referenced in NARA's obligation to preserve our indigenous language through digitization of documents and archival materials to ensure its survival for generations to come.
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child amongst other affirmations also supports language as an important element of social justice. Articles 29 and 30 explicitly protect

children's rights with respect to "...his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living..."

- The World Heritage Convention 1972 is also key in that the preservation of cultural heritage sites inevitably requires the safeguarding of indigenous languages which are integral conduits of the culture, history, traditional stories, cultural proverbs and values associated with these heritage sites. These and other Conventions reflect and confirm Samoa's commitment to universal human rights and values which also relate to a society's and person's entitlement as a human being to use and sustain their own language for their benefit and development.

The National Samoan Language Framework therefore provides direction for sustaining the Samoan language as living, vibrant, prominent and relevant to all domains of life for all Samoans. The work of the Samoa Language Commission is underpinned by local needs and priorities as well as the above international conventions and policy frameworks which value human rights, linguistic diversity, equal opportunity and the critical role of the elderly, children and youth in sustaining language through inter-generational transmission.

### **3. OBJECTIVES**

This Framework will set a clear national vision, principles, strategic priority areas and a set of implementation measures that will enable and guide the development of language policies in line with the Samoa Language Commission Act 2014. It will be the driving mechanism to support the work of MESC and the Samoa Language Commission, its social partners, stakeholders and agencies to achieve our collective vision for the safeguarding and development of the Samoan language.

The Framework will also provide the basis for coordination and monitoring of programmes, activities and services to develop, enhance and safeguard Samoan language. It takes into account the complexity of issues at play when trying to promote and safeguard a language for posterity. Strategically the National Samoan Language Framework will guide and facilitate decision making and policy development to the Samoan language.

#### **The Key Objectives of this Framework are therefore:**

1. To provide guidance in the safeguarding and development of the Samoan language.
2. To identify critical areas for safeguarding and developing the Samoan language
3. To enhance and monitor progress corresponding with national and international obligations and the wellbeing of our communities.

The National Samoan Language Framework (NSLF) shall encompass a sectoral and national approach to language preservation, maintenance and safeguarding of the

Samoan language. The NSLF shall focus on advocating and taking action in the following priority areas as identified in the SLC Act 2014:

(i) *Language ownership, standardisation and translation rights*

Language provides a sense of belonging to culture and society as well as a capability and a resource to be used in different contexts. The Samoan language belongs to Samoan society however because of different contexts which bring about diverse language change there is a need to have both a prescriptive and descriptive approach to the use of language. This involves the development of dictionaries, grammars and relevant resources which underscore standards of usage which enable consistency in usage and meanings to be clear. A descriptive approach enables inevitable language change often parallel to social changes. Samoa needs to develop its linguistic capabilities to determine standard and non-standard ways of using language for translation and other purposes.

(ii) *Language maintenance and cultural heritage*

Samoa needs to continue strengthening the use and development of the Samoan language to maintain its relevance to cultural heritage

(iii) *Language and cultural safeguarding*

Safeguarding the language also enables the survival of the Samoan culture amidst the inevitable local and outside social changes.

(iv) *Language use and development in Samoa and abroad*

A language grows in its environment therefore Samoans at home and abroad will maintain and develop the Samoan language in their own contexts; creating new words and ways of using the Samoan language for their own purposes.

(v) *Commercialisation of language through publication and other media*

Economic benefits derived from the Samoan language will be addressed through commercial publications and other media for different purposes. Widespread commercial usage of the Samoan language in different forms using different media also contributes to its survival as a language.

(vi) *Language through formal and informal education*

The teaching and use of Samoan in formal and informal education contributes to its relevance and maintenance in all domains. High quality resources for learning the Samoan language and using the Samoan language to teach are essential in educational environments.

## **4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

**The National Samoan Language Framework (NSLF) is guided by the following principles**

### **4.1 Participation**

Increase and enhance community participation in the learning, usage and safeguarding of the Samoan language through the Education System and also through policy and best practice in government institutions, public service, workplaces, professions, through artisans, writers, composers, creative artists, the home, the church and in the community at large

### **4.2 Rule of Law**

This NSLF is premised on the Samoan Language Commission Act 2014 and guided by other relevant local legislation, regional and international conventions which seek to safeguard human rights with respect to language and culture.

The Constitution of Samoa (54) declares the use of Samoan and English as the official languages of debate and records within Parliament. Other Samoan legislation such as the Youth Offenders Act 2007 Part 2 (2) 93) also subscribe to the importance of using the Samoan language within the certain domains such as the Court so that young offenders are assisted in their understanding of their predicament.

Article 13, 14 and 16 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, the World Heritage Convention 1972 and others require compliance from Samoa through their ratification and membership within the United Nations Organisation. Samoan language is also included in the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Although these international conventions refer broadly to culture and heritage; safeguarding local and indigenous languages are inextricably part of these international resolutions.

### **4.3 Quality**

Quality is achieved when standards are established and qualifications validated by relevant agencies. Key agencies for the validation process for standards and quality in the Samoan language are the Samoa Language Commission, Samoa Qualifications Authority, NUS Centre of Samoan Studies, Theological Colleges, Ministry of Education Sports and Culture, Samoan Culture and language advisors, elders, linguistic experts and other relevant qualified personnel and quality assured agencies.

### **4.4 Relevance**

Language vitality is strengthened by its relevance to everyday life where common usage in its many forms by a broad spectrum of people and continued adaptation to change ensures that a

language is dynamic and vibrant. Language Policies and Strategies are relevantly informed and guided by representatives of Samoan society and other stakeholders whose vested interest lies in language sustainability and continued enrichment and applicability to everyday life.

#### **4.5 Transparency**

Achieving the goals of this Framework involve sharing with stakeholders a clarity of vision and purpose and being accountable for subsequent strategies and actions undertaken. Information regarding language developments and policy directions for schools, homes, workplaces, public service and community must be freely and widely disseminated for people to understand, engage and have a national sense of responsibility.

#### **4.6 Equity and Inclusiveness**

Equal access and inclusion using Samoan language with regards to education, employment, artistic initiatives and other opportunities are key to mainstreaming a language. Ensuring that using the Samoan language will not provide disadvantages and all people are treated equally, irrespective of nationality, ethnic origin, language (including sign language), gender, socio-economic background, ability, disability, religion and other differences.

#### **4.7 Effectiveness and efficiency**

Provision and optimum use of human, financial and material resources is an important dimension of quality assurance in the work of the Samoan Language Commission primarily and other agencies vested with Samoan language development and maintenance. Safeguarding the Samoan language also links intrinsically to also sustaining cultural heritage and its potential contribution to social stability and economic development.

#### **4.8 Accountability**

Continued development, strengthening and survival of the Samoan language is a collective and an accountable effort on the part of Samoans in Samoa and throughout the world. Language communities are held accountable in their beliefs, attitudes and practices which can lead to either a weakening or strengthening of a language. A nation and its people are inherently held accountable to guarantee the relevance and survival of its indigenous language.

Responsible actions and attitudes in all decision making and in the management and use of all human, financial and other resources in the development and maintenance of the Samoan language are needed.

#### **4.9 Gender sensitivity**

Equal access, participation and contribution to language development by men and women of all ages must be equally valued in the context of various domains where language is used. The responsibility required in the assurance of freedom of expression for all and gender

representation in language use in various forms and domains must also be equally encouraged, valued and visible.

#### **4.10 Sustainability**

Language Planning and Management for sustainability is part of the protection, promotion and preservation of the Samoan language and cultural heritage largely undertaken by the government. Language learning and maintenance takes place through meaningful use and interaction not only in government environments but also in the home, educational institutions, the playground, churches, workplaces, meeting places and other language domains inclusive of online virtual spaces. A strong creative and artistic movement in a country strongly supports language sustainability and enrichment through compositions, performances, publications and other outputs using different media. A vibrant and living culture is also facilitated by language use. The link between environmental sustainability, climate change and cultural development is also integrated with language use and communication. This is particularly significant in the current climate change environment where important new phenomena require formulation of new terminology. As well, language holds valuable traditional and cultural knowledge and terminologies which can contribute to finding solutions for climate change challenges.

#### **4.11 Partnerships and Collaboration**

Encourage collaboration and coordination with international development partners, across government sectors, the private sector, local community and Samoan diaspora. Establish effective partnerships to achieve common goals established by international conventions and global action plans. Collaborations for language development between home, school, workplace, church, Samoan diaspora and other language domains are key to developing a sense of ownership and responsibility for progress and success in widespread language maintenance. Academic affiliations between international and local linguistic experts, language practitioners and researchers are also essential for developing scholarship and academic outputs for Samoan language study and associated endeavours for language maintenance. Partnerships between young and old for inter-generational transmission of language are also critical.

### **5. GOALS**

This Framework aims to improve, strengthen and address both the traditional and contemporary aspects of the Samoan language through the implementation and achievement of the following goals:

#### **5.1 advance the official status and use of the Samoan language within Samoa**

#### **5.2 strengthen and develop the Samoan language for all Samoans**

## 5.3 mainstream the Samoan language in Education

### 6. POLICY AREAS

This section describes the policy areas for each of the three (3) Goals as mentioned in Section 5 to ensure they are successfully implemented and achieved.

#### **Goal 1: advance the official status and use of the Samoan language within Samoa**

This Goal consists of 7 Policy Areas which incorporate planned strategic directions for its achievement.

Safeguard and develop Samoan Language through its official status and widespread use.

- **Integration**

Integrate relevant Samoan language usage, practices, requirements and concerns into all Ministries and other workplaces and agencies. Integrate and enhance visibly and audibly the official status of Samoan language into the community, public service and other institutions. Identify common language concerns within Ministries and address collectively through integration. Integrate language planning and advocacy for Samoan language into the National Culture Framework and into the planning framework ***Pathway for the Development of Samoa***. The Educational Sector Goals 2019-2024 (1) (3) can be achieved with quality teaching in Samoan for clarity of understanding and contextualising. The international conventions and global action plans which Samoa is party to must also be relevantly integrated into national plans so that there is harmony in the international and local goals for development.

- **Coordination**

Strengthen National Coordination with Stakeholders in relation to the status of language within all ministries, stakeholders and agents. Encourage coordination and inclusion of Samoan language in all official, national and stakeholder events, signages and other naming domains. Coordination with the National Culture Framework and Policies is also highly feasible and recommended.

- **Data Management**

Upgrade and implement the National Database Management to incorporate data on population trends in Samoan language use, and distribution. MESC and CSS data on Samoan language teaching and learning assessments, for Samoan (*SLC, SBS, MESC NUS – Centre of Samoan Studies*).

- **Capacity Building**

Conduct capacity building initiatives for implementing relevant aspects of International Conventions International Decade of Indigenous Language 2022-2032; local plans as well as twinning with relevant initiatives undertaken for safeguarding cultural heritage (UNESCO Convention of Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH)).

- **Promotion and Awareness**

Establish awareness raising tools and mechanisms to promote the strengthening and safeguarding of the Samoan language as an official language.

- **Legislation**

Review Legislation that treats Samoan as an official language less favourably and address reasons and processes which bring about the need for such legislation to exist and continue to be applied. Ensure that in official documentation, Samoan is regarded and used with English and any other language with a parity of esteem.

- **Accessibility**

Enable access to Samoan language resources and opportunities for further developments to enhance status as the official language.

## **Goal 2: Strengthen and develop the Samoan language for all Samoans**

This goal consists of 5 policy areas incorporating planned strategic directions to achieve it. Future proofing to strengthen the use, development and continued relevance of the Samoan language.

- **Coordination**

Enhance strategy coordination of different ministries, agencies and stakeholders for Samoan language advocacy in their workplaces.

Enhance coordination of quality assurance processes for Samoan language use in education and training. Coordinate strategies and activities with National Culture Framework and Policies to include language as part of Cultural Heritage.

- **Capacity Building**

Strengthen MESC and NUS Faculty of Education capacity in teacher training for teaching and learning Samoan at all school levels

Strengthen linguistic and academic capacity of staff at NUS Centre of Samoan Studies to undertake in-depth training, research in the field of linguistics. Build institutional and HR capacity to produce Samoan language programmes and

associated texts on Samoan Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Semantics, Syntax, Prosody, Translation and other fields of linguistic study and activities.

Language documentation training and implementation in production of grammars, dictionaries, texts, literature and other media for Samoan language development.

Strengthen Samoan language resources and personnel capabilities in translation for MESC, NUS, the Courts (MJCA) and other relevant ministries and organisations.

- **Research**

The Education Sector Research Strategy 2022 enables a collaborative approach to conduct scientific and academic research in linguistics, language development, language change and language maintenance for Samoan language. Any Research into Samoan society to also include consideration for Samoan language.

- **Promotion and Awareness**

Promote strengthening the Samoan language through education and engagement with the wider community as relevant and useful as a first language of the home to establish cultural identity and safeguard intergenerational transmission of Samoan language from parents and elders to children. The absence of inter-generational transmission will result in the gradual decline and loss of a language because elders will die and there are no children speaking the language to keep it alive. This is more prevalent in the diaspora; however, safeguarding in all contexts is still important.

- **Knowledge Based Innovation**

Strengthen Samoan language production and promote entrepreneurship utilizing the diaspora as well as local population. Work with NUS and other organisations to develop and collaborate in knowledge-based innovations and research

### **Goal 3: Mainstream Samoan language in Education**

This goal consists of 5 policy areas which incorporate planned strategic directions to achieve it.

- **Integration**

Strengthen Samoan language through robust inculcation into meaningful contemporary roles which include its use in daily life domains; civil service, commerce, education, the arts, the media with economic and political support provided by local community, theological colleges, agencies, stakeholders and national government. Strengthen development and use of the Samoan language and associated materials and resources in all levels of education from home to ECE to post school and tertiary.

- **Coordination**

Strengthening coordination capacity of the Samoan Language Commission with local community, agencies, stakeholders and national government.

- **Advocacy and Partnership**

Improving Language in Education Advocacy and partnerships **at a local, regional and international level.**

- **Research**

Using Education Sector Research Strategy 2022 and other avenues, conduct scientific and academic research in the area of Language and Linguistics; to address the urgent need for development of language resources and reliable data and information about the linguistic situation of Samoa as a basis for policy support and further developments.

- **Innovation and Entrepreneurship**

Enhance informal and formal education and training in Samoan language to be accessed by Samoan diaspora. Collaborate with MESC implementation of *UNESCO Guideline for Educators: Learning with ICH for a sustainable future* which inherently includes Samoan language.

MESC, CSS and SLC in collaboration with SQA to develop national competencies and standards for all genres of Samoan language and other forms of tangible and intangible cultural heritage which are inextricably linked with the development and use of the Samoan language.

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPLEMENTERS**

Based on the recommendations of the Samoa Public Service Functional Analysis Report endorsed by Cabinet in October 2016, a proposed Ministry for Culture and Heritage is being developed for Samoa. The outcome of this recommendation will impact on the implementation of this Framework because language is part of cultural heritage. In the meantime, the Implementers or stakeholders below will be consulted and engaged for the successful implementation of the NSLF.

This section details the collaborative responsibilities of key stakeholders in achieving the 16 policy areas and the 3 Goals as mentioned in the previous Section 5 of this Framework.

## **Goal 1: Advance the official status and use of the Samoan language within Samoa**

**1.1 Policy Area: Integration:** Integrate Samoan language advocacy and prioritizing into the national planning document *Pathway for the Development of Samoa* (PDS) FY2021/22 - FY2025/26.

MESC and the Samoan Language Commission will consult with the relevant Stakeholders (MOF, MNRE, STA, MAF, MOH, SUNGO, MWCSD to include or enhance the use and promotion of the Samoan language in their planning, documentation and everyday communication. Inclusion in the PDS will accord more recognition to strengthen and influence funding, planning and management of language in all relevant stakeholder domains. The Samoan Language Commission will integrate and work collaboratively with the Heritage Committee to realise common and related goals between the National Culture Framework and the National Samoan Language Framework.

**1.2 Policy Area: Coordination:** Strengthen national coordination with stakeholders.

The Samoan Language Commission and MESC together with other educational institutions such as NUS, theological colleges will coordinate with relevant stakeholders (MOF, MNRE, STA, MAF, MOH, SUNGO, MWCSD, SQA, MFAT, NUS, USP) to deliver on Samoa's international obligations under Conventions which protect and advocate the revitalization, use, development and transmission of indigenous languages to future generations.

**1.3 Policy Area: Data Management:** Upgrade the National Database Management to include Samoan language related elements.

MESC, SLC and NUS Centre of Samoan Studies (CSS) will lead in collaboration with Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS), the Media, MWCSD to devise and compile a national inventory of language corpora (data) which can trace frequency and spread of changes in community language use and create relevant policies to urgently address identified challenges.

**1.4 Policy Area: Capacity Building:** Develop capacity building initiatives for the development and maintenance of the Samoan Language.

MESC, SLC, NUS will lead in collaboration with MFAT, Donor partners, MWCSD, to build capacity for teachers, researchers and practitioners through in service training, professional development and education in general and in specialized areas of linguistic and applied linguistics that will support the use, study, teaching, research and maintenance of Samoan language. Collaborative efforts undertaken to achieve common goals in capacity building between SLC and Cultural Heritage Committees.

**1.5 Policy Area: Promotion and Awareness:** Establish awareness raising tools and mechanisms to promote and safeguard the value and importance of language development and maintenance.

MESC and SLC will lead in collaboration with MWCSD, STA, JAWS, SUNGO, Heritage Committee and MFAT to develop publications and media promotions for all age groups but with an emphasis on nurturing positive language attitudes and affirmative reinforcement of Samoan language use in the home, in the community and within education from early childhood to tertiary levels and in the workplace and other domains.

**1.6 Policy Area: Legislation:** Revise and establish legislation to strengthen and maintain the Samoan language. Input into drafting of Samoan legislation on the sui-generis protection of the Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture which inherently includes language.

SLC to call for a revision of legislation that regards Samoan language less favourably and devise strategies and procedures which result in languages being regarded equally and fairly with parity of esteem.

Statutes Part XI Article 112 Authoritative Texts. The Samoan and English Texts of this Constitution are equally authoritative but in the case of difference, the English text shall prevail. This is also stated in the Legislative Drafting Handbook.

**1.7 Policy Area: Accessibility:** Strengthen access to traditional and contemporary resources in the Samoan language.

MESC with SLC working with MWCSD, SUNGO, STA, MFAT, the Courts to enable access to Samoan language resources in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Committee. Accessing further education and training at the Centre of Samoan Studies with scholarship funding for students. Accessing and reciprocal sharing of learning resources available locally and in diaspora (FAGASĀ NZ) to assist Samoan language development for all. Encouraging universal access to information in the public domain through the global network

## **GOAL 2: Strengthen and Develop the Samoan Language for all Samoans**

**2.1 Policy Area: Coordination:** Strengthen coordination and collaboration to support strengthening and developing the Samoan language.

MESC, SLC and Centre of Samoan Studies will strengthen coordination within the Public Service and the community for the development of Samoan language protocols in spoken and written Samoan. MESC, SLC and CSS to coordinate collection of language data from national cultural events with relevant ministries and other stakeholders. Ministries, workplaces and other institutions to contribute word lists from their domains or workplaces to add to Samoan

lexicon. SLC has oversight of appropriateness and standardization of new terminology. Also coordinate literary, artistic, creative and digital media production using Samoan language. Undertake research into traditional well as modern and contemporary use of the Samoan language.

**2.2 Policy Area: Capacity Building:** Strengthen MESC and SLC, Samoan Diaspora and CSS HR capacity in Samoan language and linguistic expertise to be able to produce Samoan grammars and dictionaries as well as texts on Samoan phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, syntax and other aspects of language. In collaboration with MFAT, MWSC provides sufficient human and financial resources for related activities and implements specific projects for Samoan language maintenance.

**2.3 Policy Area: Research:** MESC together with SLC, CSS and members of the community will conduct relevant research in linguistics, language development, language change and language maintenance for the Samoan language. SLC to collaborate with the Culture Division to study and record the use of the Samoan language in traditional, contemporary, and cultural contexts. NUS Research language in the home and playground to foolproof inter-generational language transmission and survival.

**2.4 Policy Area: Promotion and Awareness:** Establish and promote Samoan language standards in publications and media through legislation and advocacy to use freedom of speech responsibly.

MESC, SLC and ICH Committee will coordinate with MWCSD, MOH, MNRE, STA, WIBDI, SAME, and other organisations, agencies and communities to promote the value and importance of safeguarding the Samoan language in the home, school, workplaces, professional bodies and communities for everyday communication and also to retain traditional knowledge and expressions of culture inherent in Samoan language use and development.

**2.5 Policy Area: Knowledge Based Innovation:** Production of written and oral material and a wide range of language resources using television, radio and social media in Samoan which appeal and are relevant to all age groups and across the diaspora. Promotion and marketing of Early Childhood Education (ECE) programmes, Samoan films, books, songs and other cultural activities using Samoan language. Promotion and marketing of Samoan language by CSS and other registered providers locally and internationally. The provision of paid and quality assured Samoan translation services.

SLC and MESC will coordinate with ministries, agencies responsible for digital connectivity and infrastructure to ensure language-based productions are quality assured, promoted and protected within the publishing, broadcasting, film and digital sphere especially when provided for commercial purposes.

## **GOAL 3: Mainstream Samoan language in Education**

**3.1 Policy Area: Integration:** Strengthen Samoan language inclusive education and mainstream Samoan language into Formal, non-formal Learning and School TVET Programmes. Collaborative development and integration of Samoan terminology quality assured by SQA and for use in Education at all levels. TVET terminology to be approved by SLC and appraised by SQA in academic quality assurance processes. PSET community courses in Samoan language integrated into continuing and lifelong learning. Revise and update School Based Samoan Language Curriculum and textbooks to cater for traditional and modern Samoan language.

**3.2 Policy Area: Coordination:** Strengthening coordination capacity of the Samoan Language Commission in influencing policy development and legislation to consistently consider and prioritise Samoan language. Coordinate development of appropriate language resources using different media to appeal to all ages.

**3.3 Policy Area: Advocacy and Partnership:** Improving Language in Education Advocacy and partnerships. Improve Samoan language in education advocacy without impacting negatively on achieving needed competency in English. Improve partnerships with PSET providers to upskill and upgrade Samoan language competencies for the workplace and for a body of first-class professional translators. Samoan language in education advocacy through teacher development and in partnership with the home to strengthen intergenerational transmission of Samoan language.

**3.4 Policy Area: Research:** SLC to prioritise research for Samoan language and literacy at the primary level to ensure it is aligned with the goals of MESC Sector plan as well as the Sector Research Strategy 2022. MESC and SLC to collaborate with key sector agencies which are SQA and NUS to ensure relevant research priorities are defined through closer cooperation.

Conduct Scientific and Academic Research in the area of Language and Linguistics particularly in Climate Change where language holds traditional knowledges for adapting to environmental changes. Undertake action research and draw attention to advantages of using and retaining Samoan to address modern challenges of livelihoods and survival.

**3.5 Policy Area: Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Enhance both informal and formal education and training opportunities which use, require and promote the Samoan language. MESC, CSS and SLC in collaboration with SQA to develop national competencies and standards for Samoan Language. Collate, market and disseminate appropriate language resources for different domains.

## **8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

This Framework has been developed to express the needs of stakeholders working towards strengthening the Samoan language in all domains of life in Samoa and beyond. This Framework will not only address local needs and wants but also enable compliance with both national and international obligations which benefit our Samoan communities wherever they may be situated.

The Samoan Language Commission Legislation 2014 has very clear objectives to support the development of Samoan language, its status and widespread use within Samoan society. The Samoan Language Commission itself also has very clear mandates which enable it to administer and achieve the goals as set out in this Framework.

It is also inevitable that there shall be collaboration in some common objectives shared with the National Culture Framework because language is an inherent part of Intangible Heritage and Culture (IHC). Activities will be implemented with the intention of building capacity of key institutional, community stakeholders and strategic partners to effectively implement the aims and goals of the National Samoan Language Framework through subsequent policies and procedures which will cascade from this Framework document.

Though the National Samoan Language Framework is set for 10 years, the Samoan Language Commission is obligated to carry out the mid-term review of its national plan, to ensure its vision and goals set out in this document are measured accordingly towards successful completion by 2032.

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**10. ENDORSEMENT**



**Ministry of Education, Sports, and Culture**

Government of Samoa

**CERTIFICATE OF ENDORSEMENT**

EFFECTIVE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDED REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

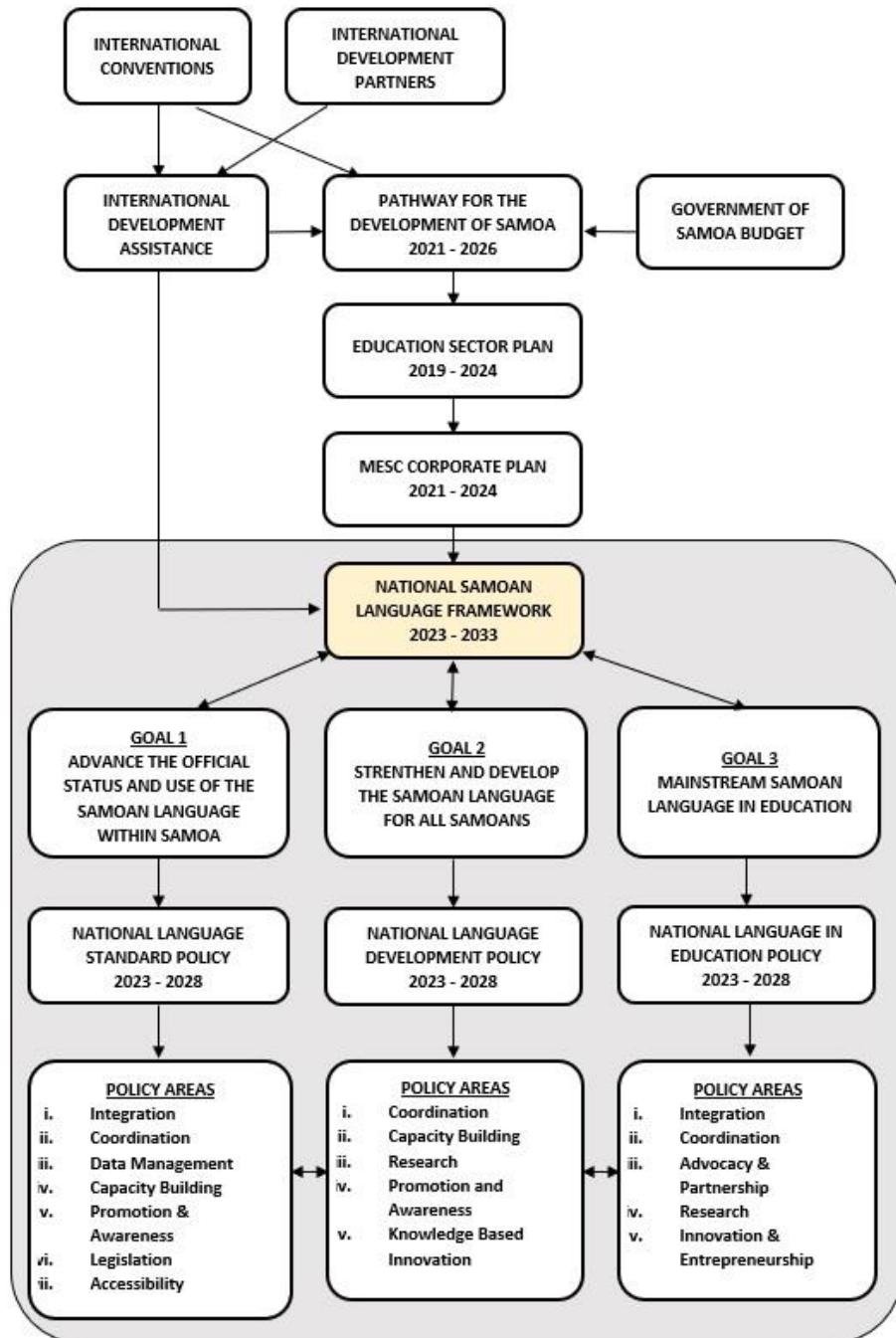
**SIGNED AND APPROVED BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER**

.....  
**Hon. Seu'ula Ioane**

.....  
**Date**

## 11. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: National Language Framework Structure



## Appendix 2: Related Documents

RELATED DOCUMENTS	LEGISLATIVE & AUTHORITY	YEAR
2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. (Samoa is party to this Convention).	UNESCO	2005
Bilingual Education Policy 2011	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2011
Communications Sector Plan 2017-2022	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology	2017
Community Development Plan 2016-2021.	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	2016
Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970 (Not yet ratified).	UNESCO	1970
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001 (not yet ratified).	UNESCO	2001
Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage: Monuments and Sites 1972 (ratified in 2001).	UNESCO	1972
Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 (ratified in 1994).	United Nations & Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	1994
Copyright Act 1998	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour	1998
Early Childhood Education Policy 2017	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2017
ECE National Curriculum Guidelines 2016	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2016
Education Act 2009	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2009
Forestry Management Act 2011	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2011
Government Teachers Appraisal Policy 2018-2023	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2018

Heritage Conservation Policy 2002	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2002
Lands and Titles Act 1981	Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration	1981
Minimum Service Standards for Primary and Secondary Schools 2016	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2016
Model Law for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture 2002	SPC, UNESCO, Council of Pacific Arts	2002
National Assessment Policy Framework 2010	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2010
National Curriculum Policy Framework 2006	Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture	2006
National Conservation of Biological Diversity Policy 2005	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	2005
National Professional Development Policy 2018-2023	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2018
National Sports Framework 2018-2028	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2018
National Teacher Development Framework (NTDF) 2018-2028	Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture	2018
National Youth Policy 2001 – 2010	Ministry of Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs	2001
Pathway for the Development of Samoa Public Records Act 2011	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture	2020 2011
Public Service Act 2004	Public Service Commission	2004
Samoan Language Commission Act	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	1991
Samoa Antiquities Ordinance 1954	Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	1954
Samoa Education Sector Plan 2013-2018	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2013
School Governance Framework 2018-2028	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2018
School Governance Policy 2018-2023	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2018

School Management Policy 2018-2023	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2018
Teachers Act 2016	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2016
The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage 2003 (Samoa is party to this Convention).	UNESCO & Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture	2003
The Government of Samoa Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2016-2020	Ministry of Finance	2016
The Samoa National Youth Policy 2011-2020	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	2011
TVET Framework Policies and Strategies for Secondary Schools in Samoa 2018	Ministry of Education, Sports & Culture	2018
UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage 2003	UNESCO	2003
UNESCO Convention on the means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970	UNESCO	1970
Universal Copyright Convention 1952.	UNESCO	1952
Village Fono Act 1990	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	1990
Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Act 1993	Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture & Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	1993
UNESCO Guideline for Educators: Learning with ICH 2015	UNESCO	2015

### Appendix 3: Risk Management Plan

Risk/Activity	Risk Level	Implications	Mitigation Plan
Full understanding and acceptance of NSLF	Moderate to High	Inconsistency of positive perceptions and acceptance	Strengthen stakeholder awareness of NSLF
Full understanding of Policies & Strategies	Moderate to High	Inconsistency of implementing the policy	Conduct awareness workshops, promote

			awareness through media to enhance understanding of policy outcomes
Monitoring	Moderate to High	Policy areas cannot be implemented in planned timeframe	Regular review of strategies with key stakeholders
NSLF goals not achieved	Moderate to High	Ineffective implementation of policies	Stakeholder/implimenters consultation to address implementation challenges and define solutions. Review the NSLF.

#### Appendix 4: Implementation Plan

Phase	Action	Timeframe	Responsible Ministry/Organisation
Strategic Phase	Framework Formulation	July – Aug 2022	MESC & PPRD
Endorsement Phase to finalise NSLF	Ongoing follow-up	Sept – Oct 2022	MESC & Cabinet
Awareness Phase	Conduct Workshops with key stakeholders	Nov – Dec 2022	MESC Language & PPRD
Implementation Phase	Implement Strategies	2022 - 2032	MESC & Stakeholders
Review Phase	Evaluate, Conduct Review the effectiveness of policy implementation	Biennial reviews 2024, 2026, 2028, 2030 & 2032	MESC Stakeholders

## Appendix 5: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

POLICY MONITORING & EVALUATION FRAMEWORK																
1. National Samoan Language Framework (NSLF) 2023 - 2033																
SDG TARGET	SDG INDICATOR	PDS KEY OUTCOME	GOALS	Strategy	Outcome	Indicator	Baseline Data	Year 1 22/23	Year 2 Target FY 23/24	Year 3 Target FY 24/25	Year 4 Target FY 25/26	Year 5 Target FY 26/27	Means of Verification	Policy Documentation	Responsible division	Comment
By 2030, devise and implement policies to safeguard and ensure continued Samoan language development	KPA 3: Quality Education KPA 4: People Empowerment	GOAL 1: Advance the official status and use of the Samoan language within Samoa	Safeguard Samoan language retention and development through implementation of the six policy areas stated in the framework	Samoan language and infrastructure safeguarded	% of increased and sustained Samoan language use determined as evidence of stability	N/A	Establish baseline	5% increase of baseline	Update database in collaboration with Census Survey. Progress Reports on implementation of Language in Education Policy	Language Standard Policy	Samoan Language Commission					
		Goal 2: Strengthen and develop the Samoan language use and development in Samoa through implementation of the five policy areas stipulated in this Framework	Strengthen the Samoan language use and development in Samoa and Diaspora through implementation of the five policy areas stipulated in this Framework	Samoan language training programs for local people and Diaspora are strengthened	% of Samoan language and culture programmes developed for local people and Diaspora	N/A	Establish baseline	5% increase of baseline	Reports of Training and workshops	Language Development Policy	Samoan Language Commission					
		Goal 3: Mainstream the Samoan Language in Education	Strengthen the mainstreaming of Language in Education	Role of Samoan language in delivering school curriculum is strengthened	% Samoan language is mainstreamed into Formal, Non-formal Learning and School TVET programmes	N/A	Establish baseline	5% increase of baseline	Samoan language and Culture Day visits, Samoa Nei Galo School Festival	Language in Education Policy	Samoan Language Commission					