



Draft AOSIS Statement
ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment

UNSDG Chair's Report on Development Coordination Office (DCO)
Tuesday, 14 May 2024, ECOSOC Chamber

Madam Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Vice-President, ladies and gentlemen

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We align with the statement of the Group of 77 and China delivered by the distinguished Representative of Uganda.

AOSIS wishes to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, in her capacity as Chair of the UN sustainable development group for her report and its annexes on the work of Development Coordination Office (DCO) and for her presentation this afternoon. We believe the reports articulated well the accomplishments of the system as a whole and for that we also extend thanks to your team.

We appreciate the information provided both in the report and the results framework. Overall, we believe the reports have improved but we are still a bit disappointed that, in this QCPR year, they did not fully explore the gaps, challenges and recommendations to be considered as we proceed to develop the new guidelines for the system. We also believe that at this critical point we should be speaking to tangible outcomes on the ground and less on performance based on perception.

Madam DSG, AOSIS joins your deep concern about the continued global unrest and its impacts on addressing and advancing development issues, noting that there are only six more years to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

AOSIS as small islands and low-lying states are even more concerned with the inaction on climate change and the recent survey of climate scientists that expect the global temperature to rise to at least 2.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels in this century, which will blast past the internationally agreed 1.5 target and cause catastrophic consequences for humanity and the planet.

Meanwhile it is very obvious that there seems to be no limit or hesitance in providing billions and in some cases even trillions of dollars to other activities and causes, while there is less

enthusiasm to fund development. We are of the belief that by providing people with their basic development needs would assist in alleviating political and social unrest, as well as mass human movement.

As we head to Antigua and Barbuda at the end of this month to come together as the international community for the fourth SIDS conference, we still remain hopeful that this ten-year programme of Action will give SIDS the resilient prosperity they desire. Negotiating the outcome document was very painstaking as the very ambitious path SIDS aspired for was continuously curtailed, locking us into current processes and commitments, which do not take into consideration the special circumstances of SIDS but gives broad global narratives.

Madam DSG, AOSIS is generally pleased with the changes made to the Multi-country Offices (MCO). We look forward to the further fine tuning to enhance efficiency and delivery on the ground recognizing that the UN system should aim to ensure that Resident Coordinators can carry out their functions in respect of the SIDS they serve. We wish here to urge the Resident Coordinators and the entities of the UNs to make themselves available for the discussions on the establishment of the monitoring and evaluating framework for the new programme of action for SIDS, which is to be completed by the second quarter of 2025.

The RCs servicing SIDS should commit as a matter of priority and at the top of their agenda to support all relevant SIDS activities and follow-up processes. We were disappointed that the RCs did not attend and fully engage in the preparatory process for the SIDS4 Conference. This must change because they are critical partners in our achieving sustainable development and must participate in activities and events that directly link to the population they serve. So we also look forward to seeing SIDS RCs at SIDS4 in Antigua and Barbuda.

AOSIS thinks there is a new culture that has moved away from funding development, as the lack of funds are not just targeted to the RC system but to the whole development agenda. We must therefore ask ourselves why this is happening and find ways to rectify them, so that we do not end up with greater numbers of countries in distress with humanitarian and peace issues.

In closing, Madam DSG, please be assured that AOSIS fully supports to the UNs and the RC system and we will continue to do our part in making sure that this continues to be a success story.

I thank you.