



AOSIS Statement
ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment
High-level dialogue between the Secretary-General and UN Member States
Tuesday, 23 May 2023, ECOSOC Chamber

Honourable Foreign Minister, Mr. Secretary-General, President of the General Assembly, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. 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 Cuba.
2. From the onset, AOSIS wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his reports, and its addendum and annexes to the ECOSOC – OAS and for his presentation today. We greatly appreciated the comprehensiveness of the reports this year and their timeliness, for this we congratulate you and your Team.
3. We also take this opportunity to thank Vice President, His Excellency Chimbindi of Zimbabwe and his team for engaging the Member States in an effort to enhance the programme for this Segment and in this regard, we look forward to the discussions, as we believe this forum has a critical role in informing the General Assembly as it prepares to guide the UN development System through the 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), which already is fast upon us.
4. Mr. Secretary-General, as always, we can look forward to you speaking truth to form, and as you have articulated, our world is in a critical place with so many crises, and we are failing the most vulnerable and the ones furthest behind, which means we are not delivering on our strong commitments made in 2014 - to leave no one behind and to eradicate poverty.
5. As you have stated throughout your report, without development we will have no peace or stability, and the sad reality is we all know this, so we should really examine why development remains underfunded, unattended, and unaddressed.
6. We continue to make strong commitments from development agenda to development agenda beginning way back in Rio in 1992. Today, on review what we would find is that we have renamed and repackaged everything, but we are yet to seriously address one development challenge, and on top of this, we are seeing the constant derailment of multilateralism and a walking away of development financial obligations.

7. Although this is daunting, AOSIS still has hope that we can turn things around and course correct. We owe it to the most vulnerable among us and those furthest behind to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs. We no longer can continue to kick the can further down the road nor engage in band aid fixes and pretend all is good, or that we would get a different result. This we know is just ludicrous.
8. Mr. Secretary-General, AOSIS remains committed to make the repositioned UN development system and the invigorated RC system successful, because as programme countries we rely on the contribution the system brings to us. However, asking us to help fund the system would be a tall ask as we are already grappling with high indebtedness, continual outrageous financial and economic impacts as a result of climate change inaction, along with the numerous other economic, financial and health shocks, of which we contribute very little to or none at all, but are the most affected.
9. We still look forward to your recommendation to convene discussions on the funding of the RC system later this year. We appeal to you, Mr. Secretary-General to provide us with a few options with pros and cons for our consideration, and we urge all delegations to be open to engaging in constructive dialogue on this.
10. We thank you for the details on the funding compact and we also look forward to discussing this further. Even though the Compact was not a binding agreement there were some benefits in agreeing to work together to improve coordination and operate more effectively and efficiently.
11. Mr. Secretary-General, as we move towards the new QCPR cycle next year it is imperative that we get a clearer understanding of what exactly has been implemented from the mandates of the last QCPR, best practices, challenges, gaps and recommendations. We need to engage in some frank and difficult discussions in an effort to be able to deliver tangible development results on the ground that would bring programme countries closer to the realization of the 2030 Agenda.
12. It would be remiss of me if I do not appeal to the international community to constructively engage with us as we evaluate our implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and map our path to our new sustainable development blueprint at the 4th International Conference for SIDS in 2024. We look forward to truly genuine and durable partnerships that would launch SIDS on a new dynamic trajectory for the next 10 years.
13. We wish to acknowledge the benefits the reformed Multi-Country Offices have been providing to the SIDS countries serviced through them, and we look forward to continuing working to further enhance them. We also note with appreciation the contribution of the RCs in the Muti-dimensional Vulnerability Index process and we are hopeful that the MVI would be a part of the larger discussions on the reforming of the international financial architecture.
14. In closing, please be assured Mr. Secretary-General of AOSIS' continued cooperation and support.

15. I thank you