

AOSIS Intervention
Session 4b: Regional Dimension
Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Operational Activities Segment
Virtual meetings
22 May 2020

Thank you, Mr. Moderator, All protocols observed.

- I have the honour to speak on behalf of AOSIS, and we align ourselves with the comments made earlier by Guyana on behalf of G77 and China.
- Firstly, I would like to thank the panelists for their insightful presentations and for their indications that this process is moving in the right direction.
- AOSIS welcomes the first steps in the process of the revamping of the Regional Dimension and we look forward to closing this part off and beginning needed implementation.
- We believe it is important to recognize that in any regional arrangement, the policy leadership, substantive research and convening power of the Regional Economic Commissions remains very important, as distinct from the role of the Development Coordination Office, which is oriented towards oversight, management and operational country support.
- We wish to reiterate the following:
 1. The need for this reform to enhance what is already working well and to improve and fix the broken areas and fill the gaps, so that it neither duplicates nor undermines the regional work done thus far, especially around their convening power and their intergovernmental platform, as well as their technical and policy guidance;
 2. The need to have an assessment region-by-region as the regions are at varied levels of development and therefore the changes would not be or should not be generic. We need to harness each region's particularities.
- We continue to stress National ownership and leadership, and that Member States have to be consulted in all discussions regarding the regional dimension.

- We believe Member States need to be involved with the Issues Based Collision (IBCs) process, including their approval. Therefore, clarity is needed on the participants in developing the scope and content of the thematic topics for the IBCs, which were presented. Also how they are reviewed and approved, and whether or not countries are consulted.
- Finally, how does the system intend to address smaller sub-regional priorities, which are not reflected in the thematic topics of the IBCs.
- I thank you.