

28 February, Afternoon session: dialogue with the Executive Heads of UN Funds, programmes and specialized agencies.

I would like to make this intervention on behalf of the Member States of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Let me also align with the intervention of the Group of 77 and China.

1. Firstly, we would like to thank the Heads for being here with us today. We appreciate the important work carried out by the UN Funds, programmes and specialized agencies. Let me also

congratulate those who held open workshops on their strategic plans and integrated results frameworks for 2018-2021. We are hopeful that this practice will be adopted by all the entities as it provides an opportunity for small states such as ours to be represented and participate in activities of critical importance, as most of us hardly ever get the chance to sit on the Boards of the entities.

2. SIDS understands that with the limited resources available, there is an increase among the entities to position themselves to secure their relevancy and their place in this development sphere. However, SIDS believes there is a place at the table for each one of you but we just have to learn to collaborate and coordinate more effectively.

3. For SIDS and other vulnerable groups, it is extremely important that entities when formulating their strategic plans and activities take into account their specific challenges, as this will better assist them in responding to their national priorities. As has been reiterated on several occasions “there is no one size fit all approach”,

4. Furthermore, operation on the ground is vitally important to SIDS, and therefore having a well

coordinated UN team is of utmost importance. Even though we fully ascribe to the voluntary nature of “delivering as one” from the country perspective, this does not preclude the UN from organizing itself to deliver in a more effective manner. Therefore we call on the entities to work more closely with the Resident Coordinator in an effort to strengthen the UN country team.

5. We call on UNDP to revisit the RC System to make it more representative of the various disciplines in an effort to have a better fit with the priorities originating from programme countries.

6. SIDS calls for entities to find ways to pool funds more frequently in an effort to accomplish tasks on the ground. We also encourage entities to utilize the technological advancements where possible as cost saving mechanisms.

7. Once again we thank each of you for your dedication and service and we remain ready to support and assist.