



**Interventions by the Republic of Maldives
on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States
at the 35th session of ECOSOC
Concluding session of the Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations System
7 July 2016**

1. Mr. Vice President, I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and align with the statement by the Group of 77 and China.
2. Firstly, we thank and congratulate you, Mr. Vice President, for your excellent stewardship of this process, and for your hard work and dedication to this process.
3. Mr. Vice President, through you we wish to extend our thanks to the members of the Independent Team of Advisers (ITA) for their papers, which were bold and definitely heightened our deliberations and thoughts on how best to readjust the UN Development System (UNDS), so that it can effectively and efficiently address in a holistic, coordinated and coherent manner the needs of countries, especially developing countries, towards achieving the new mandates of the 2030 Agenda.
4. The mandates embedded within the 2030 Agenda calls for a collective effort to achieve the ultimate goal of “Leaving no one behind” while balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. Noting that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has to be country-led, developing countries, including SIDS which are defined as a special case for sustainable development, will still requires the United Nations Development System (UNDS) to be fully prepared to assist with the implementation process.
5. It is therefore important for AOSIS, that the UNDS start to recognise the unique vulnerabilities that SIDS face in their work. The SAMOA Pathway, which is the blueprint for sustainable development of SIDS, and which is fully integrated into the 2030 Agenda, in paragraphs 116 and 117 calls on the UN system to continue to support SIDS in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes, by incorporating the priorities and activities of SIDS into relevant strategic programmes,

including the UNDAF, as well as to take fully into account the issues of SIDS and include support for SIDS and the development of their capacities in their programmes.

6. It is within this context that for AOSIS it is vitally important that we continue to discuss how best we can improve the UNDS in a timely and efficient manner, so as deliver holistically the support necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda. We note that the dialogue has been particularly illuminating, especially with the proposals of ITA. Several of the proposals of the ITA warrant our attention, consideration and further discussion, as they seem to provide some valid options for the improvement of the UNDS, some were already highlighted by the G-77.
7. As eminent fixes, AOSIS strongly believes that:
 - Strengthening the scope and effectiveness of the QCPR resolution this year by transforming it into a system-wide tool to assess, monitor and report on operational activities for development, is a high priority.
 - A mapping exercise of the current UNDS to have a clearer insight into which agencies covers what, where are the gaps, overlaps and duplications. This will be extremely crucial for determining what needs to be addressed/adjusted to ensure that the System is positioned to deliver on the 2030 Agenda
 - An assessment and reformatting if necessary, of the executive boards and governing councils to ensure that they function at their highest potential to provide the sort of outputs that assist with the advancement of the 2030 Agenda's implementation process.
 - Strengthening the Resident Coordinators role to ensure that they are better equipped to coordinate all UN activities on the ground, ensuring that the UN truly delivers as one, coherent, efficient and cost effective unit.
8. Mr. Vice President, AOSIS' achievement of the 2030 Agenda depends heavily on partnerships, and that is why it was so extremely important that we established the SIDS Partnership Framework, and we remain thankful for the international community's support. The UNDS has a crucial role to play with partnerships and therefore must strengthen its approach to partnerships including establishing standardized reference guidelines and policies on engaging in partnerships, along with a mechanism to monitor and report on partnerships.
9. We remain concerned but very optimistic that we will continue to look into ways to address the funding challenges. the UNDS has to find some way to consolidate its funds, which will be greatly tied to the matters of function and governance of the UNDS. At present the

UNDS entities seem to be all competing for funds from the same donor pool. This further exacerbates the need or desire to work in silos.

10. The UNDS should be driven by the needs of developing countries, not determined by their income levels, and should work to enable national priorities, while supporting capacity building to see full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. National implementation capacity must be improved for countries to be self-sustaining.
11. . The capacities within the system need to be enhanced tremendously to meet the growing demands of developing countries with limited resources and expertise. The System must be able to adapt to the various needs of developing countries. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to sustainable development, therefore the system needs to move away from a rigid routine manner of operation.
12. Lastly, Mr. Vice President, we look forward to the summary of this dialogue and the forthcoming Report of the Secretary-General on this issue, which we hope will provide more insight into how best to adjust the UNDS to be better positioned to address the 2030 Agenda.
13. In closing Mr. Vice President we once again reiterate our fullest commitment to the realization of the 2030 Agenda of “leaving no one behind”.

I thank you