



**Statement by
Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States**

**UN Deputy Secretary-General's briefing to ECOSOC
on the repositioning of the United Nations development system,
in the context of the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of
operational activities for development of the United Nations system.**

6 October 2017

Madam President, Deputy Secretary-General, Excellencies and Colleagues

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, and align with the remarks made by the Representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Firstly, Madam President, I wish to thank you for convening this meeting, once again giving us the opportunity to dialogue with Deputy Secretary-General Mrs. Amina Mohamed on matters as they relate to the repositioning of the UN development system in the context of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR).

Through you Madam President, we wish to convey our gratitude to the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for the June Report on the repositioning of the UN development system in the context of the implementation of the QCPR, which guides the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and also for their tireless efforts to hold consultations with all stakeholders.

We also thank the Deputy Secretary-General for the briefing today, and for her briefing two days ago to our Group. We are heartened by her tremendous efforts to remain engaged and transparent in this whole process.

AOSIS, noting the complexities of this exercise, believe that the Secretary-General in his June Report went beyond the mandate in the QCPR and has left us with some questions and the need for clarity. It is in this vein, Madam Deputy Secretary-General, that AOSIS wishes to highlight the following critical matters for our Group, which we hope will be addressed in the December Report.

For AOSIS, the December report as mandated by the QCPR is to address the Resident Coordinator System, which we believe to be the most vital component as this would

most likely determine our success or not in our strive to implement the 2030 Agenda and to build a more sustainable future for our citizens.

First and foremost for AOSIS is having a clearer understanding as to how the UN development system would address our Blue Print, the SAMOA Pathway. We need the UN development system and the UN system as a whole, to have a coordinated and coherent approach to operationalizing the SAMOA Pathway into their activities and plans. This must also be done for all countries in special situations in accordance with their respective Plans of Action, so that we are not left behind.

Secondly, Madam Deputy Secretary-General, we noted that in the June Report that there was no mention of matters relating to the review of multi-country offices, and therefore we wish to reiterate the importance of this to AOSIS. This for AOSIS is not about having a Resident Coordinator in every country but it is about having the appropriate skills and expertise in country to advance our development priorities, preferably an international civil servant with the right skillsets. We know formulating multi-country offices is no easy task, especially for SIDS in the Pacific where there are so many other dynamics to take into consideration, such as highly dispersed islands and peoples, transportation and connectivity issues, to name a few. This is why we called for a review, with the hope that a more comprehensive and holistic approach will be taken to establishing multi-country offices. We therefore look forward to this matter being addressed in the December Report.

Thirdly, with the intensification and frequency of natural disasters, made worse by Climate Change, we see the need for a more highly functional Resident Coordinator system that would be able to respond to country context. We need better tailored Resident Coordinators and UN country teams that can provide more high quality policy advice to countries in an effort to effectively and efficiently deliver results on the ground. We need to see more coordination between the RCs and the entities on the ground, therefore we need some form of guidelines or framework principles, beyond the firewall, which does not seem to work. We also do not need a politicized RC system. RCs must work with Governments, the UN entities, and other stakeholders on the ground and globally to advance and address development issues, recognizing that Governments hold authority and ownership.

Fourthly, we believe that it is a country's prerogative to opt in for the UNDS to collectively Deliver-as-One according to their national requirements. Therefore, the system must not be rigid in its approach but must be flexible and ready to adapt to varied country context, for there is no one size fit all approach. However, this does not prohibit the UN development system from operating in unison and coordinating and collaborating effectively and efficiently in delivering services.

Fifthly, in regard to your proposed "funding compact", we look forward to more details on how exactly this will function. We are happy that we are speaking to the funding of the system and not financing, as we believe that the latter introduces a whole new dynamic to the system; and the system is ill equipped to handle the high risk that comes along with financing. On the matter of funding, we would like to know, since most of the

boards have either already completed or in the process of completing their respective strategic plans, how they would be able to adapt to proposals that may emerge from this “funding compact” such as pooled funding, etc?

Finally, it will be remiss of me not to speak to the proposals as they pertain to ECOSOC, seeing that ECOSOC has convened this meeting. As we reflected on the proposals around ECOSOC and its operational activities segment, some questions emerged. One such question is that if ECOSOC is to become responsible for greater horizontal guidance to the UN development system, how would its role differ from the work of the QCPR? Furthermore, would reporting still go back to the General Assembly, which has universal membership, or would it remain in ECOSOC? It would be useful to have more details on this.

Madam President, Madam Deputy Secretary-General, please be assured of our commitment and support to this process. We really look forward to these continued engagements, on our collective journey to reposition the UN development system to assist countries to deliver to their peoples a better and brighter future.

I thank you.