



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

**High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the Auspices of ECOSOC
ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review**

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Session 17: Our HLPF in the next 15 years

Mr. Moderator,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Through you Mr Moderator we wish to extend our thanks to the distinguished Keynote speaker, Panellists and lead discussants for their very informative and visionary insights to our HLPF in the next 15 years.
2. For SIDS we envision the HLPF as having a key and critical role in the coordination and advancement of a sustainable development agenda for SIDS, as it takes on the role of the CSD as the “sole forum to review the implementation of the outcomes of global conferences on Small Island developing states”. Whereby not only continuing to devote adequate time to discussing the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS, but help to guide and monitor the UN Secretariat, governments, civil societies, private sector and other partners responses and activities to assist SIDS in attaining the huge development agenda before us.
3. The HLPF has to ensure that systems are put in place to assist countries, especially developing ones like SIDS, with reporting, so that it does not become overly burdensome. In addition, it should also assist with implementation mechanisms that are not a one-size-fits-all approach, but one that is crafted with the assistance of all relevant stakeholders at the national and regional levels, with total ownership by all, with a bottoms-up approach, engaging the poorest and the marginalized, and bring each and every one to the table to be heard and contribute to the process.
4. How can the HLPF sessions be most useful? The HLPF must not become a “talk shop” or a forum to “name and shame” countries, but one that would provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review global progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development

challenges, as in keeping with its mandate.

5. We foresee the HLPF translating discussions into action, policy impact and implementation through the UN system. Using the copious lessons to be learnt from the CSD, and its on going follow up and review systems. The latter, we believe can be extremely helpful if it is used as an opportunity to provide guidance, lessons learnt and for identifying and disseminating good practices.
6. We belief that due to the enormity of the agenda before us, its high complexity and the varied levels of development of nations call for the HLPF to be focused, yet not rigid, so that it can address emerging issues, along with the multitude of already identified ones, which are in themselves interrelated and multitudinous in scope. We cannot think of things in silos, but must address each matter as being a critical aspect of the whole, with no one goal or target taking precedence over another.
7. "Leaving no one behind" is a very tall order but a doable one if all stakeholders do their part. All stakeholders have to buy into, own and contribute to the better good of the entire cause, and this is where the HLPF can play a critical role not only as a repository of information on sustainable development indicators by the collection of data, but must ensure its access to stakeholders as well as analyse the information gathered, facilitate and be visionary to improving mechanisms that can enhance the process. It is expected that the work of the HLPF will be extensive and will require significant resources, planning and implementation.
8. The HLPF must learn from the experiences of the CSD, which are addressed above. But it should also learn from other existing followup and review mechanisms. One such example is the Partnership Framework identified in the SAMOA Pathway for following up and reviewing the partnerships announced at the Third International Conference on SIDS, as well as attract new ones. In this regard, the Partnership Framework is envisioned to include partnership dialogues between partners and SIDS, to share experiences, best practices and challenges, and to assess the impact on the ground of these partnerships through reviews and followup at all levels. Other such mechanisms are also in place and there are lessons to be learnt.
9. For the HLPF to be effective it must be a forum where the world's needs as it pertains to a sustainable development agenda of "leaving no one behind" forms synergise at the national, regional and global levels.

I thank you.