



**Statement by the Republic of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States
Seventh Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post 2015 Development
Agenda**

20 July 2015

Co-facilitators,

1. AOSIS aligns itself with the statement by the distinguished delegate from the G77 and China and supports their submissions to the process. We speak today on behalf of AOSIS.
2. AOSIS greatly appreciates the work conducted by fellow member states and you, the co-facilitators, in working to strengthen this draft and finds it an improvement from its earlier iterations. It is a very solid document, which we believe brings us closer to a text we can all approve.
3. We note with great appreciation your efforts to take on board the concerns and inputs made during the last negotiations session, and SIDS are beginning to truly see ourselves emerging in this document, which is crucial for us as we are among those most likely to be left behind. In this regards, we have submitted AOSIS' specific suggestions to change language electronically and wish to summarize issues we know are of paramount importance to our countries and peoples.
4. Overall, AOSIS requests that the text accurately reflect agreed language as adopted in previous agreements. As such, we request clarification on the categorization of some countries as "vulnerable" and suggest that **all listings of countries in special situations be consistent throughout the document with Rio+20 language.**
5. On the title, as has been iterated by G77, AOSIS prefers the words "Sustainable Development" be included to best reflect the content. We suggest the title to read: **"Transforming our world for 2030: A Sustainable Development Agenda for Global Action."**
6. AOSIS feels this version of the preamble offers a slight improvement from the previous version as it goes further in citing the goals, but unfortunately it still reorganizes the goals into new categories and is not an accurate representation of the declaration or the comprehensiveness of the SDGs. AOSIS feels that there is potential for the preamble to

overshadow the declaration and we are not married to its inclusion in the final text. However, as we continue to work on the document, **we suggest adding “people-centered” and “resilience” to the preamble and have specific places for these phrases.** We thank the chair for including the important issue of resilience throughout the declaration and thus feel it is valuable to include in the preamble to fully represent the document.

7. In paragraph 1, the word “agreed” was changed to “decided;” AOSIS urges the word be changed back to be more action oriented. We also would like to flag the reference to 193 member states as concerning because in order for this document to be universal, it needs to allow for all countries to participate.
8. In paragraph 3 we recommend taking on board AOSIS’ original amendment to change the 2nd sentence to say: “combat inequalities within and between countries” and we call to delete “extreme” as a descriptor of “poverty.”
9. In paragraph 5, we welcome the attempts from co-facilitators to streamline the document by merging paragraphs and we offer small suggestion to add in the 3rd paragraph: “taking into account different levels of national development capacities,” as implementation should account for different capabilities of each country.
10. In paragraph 6 we request adding “based on mutual respect” after “partnership,” and urge maintaining the end of the paragraph as it references the important issue of resilience.
11. In paragraph 7, please add “sufficient” to the description of food, to be consistent with agreed language.
12. In paragraph 9, we request the co-facilitators include “and seas” after the reference to oceans to align with SDG goal 14, and to maintain this reference as such, throughout the document.
13. Paragraph 10 begins the new sub-section and we recommend returning to its previous title of “Our Shared Principles and Commitments.”
14. In Paragraph 11 we recommend adding the following sentence (after “is a major concern”) to recognize that climate change is not just as a result of environmental degradation, but as a driver: “Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its negative impacts undermine the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.” We also recommend adding “more frequent and intense natural disasters” to begin the following sentence, and adding ocean acidification to the beginning of the list including drought and desertification. We also look to referencing the risk related to natural disasters in para 22, along with reference to displaced persons.

15. We like the new paragraph 12 to emphasize the value of ICT and suggest a reference to the ability of ICT and global interconnectedness to “bridge the lingering digital divide and develop knowledge societies;” this can be added to the last sentence. It recognizes that we still have a great deal more further to go in terms of making ICT accessible, and technical capacity is one of the best available tools in addressing the SDGs.
16. In paragraph 13, we request to add SIDS between “Africa and LDCs,” as supported by the MDGs report, and say in the final sentence, “full realization of the MDGs, including off-track MDGs.”
17. In paragraph 23 we would like to repeat our comments from the previous negotiating session and request that either the list of “primary, secondary and tertiary” education be erased, or to add “technical and vocational training” to the list. This is necessary to be consistent with the SDG on education as it addresses education for all. We should also cut “in vulnerable situations” as all people should have access to learning.
18. In paragraph 24 we suggest that there be a change to prevent any misinterpretation of ending preventable deaths of pregnant women to not include women during or after childbirth. This can be achieved by shortening the 3rd sentence to read: “ending all such preventable deaths by 2030.”
19. In paragraph 25 we request clarification regarding “modern energy provision” and request the language revert to the SDG and the last sentence instead read “access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy services.”
20. In paragraph 26, the last two sentences completely reframe Target 12.1 and should be amended to reflect the agreed language in Target 12.1. They should also reflect the voluntary nature of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.
21. We have all agreed that climate change is a serious threat to sustainable development. We therefore must ensure it is properly addressed in the context of this agenda, and adequately reflected in the Declaration. In agreeing that the UNFCCC is the main arena for discussing climate change, we must understand that we cannot finalize the Post-2015 Agenda without including specific references to climate change that go beyond reiterating the content of the UNFCCC, and address the nuanced relationship between climate change and sustainable development. We have submitted language suggestions on para 27 addressing these issues.
22. In paragraph 34, we suggest flipping the order of the paragraph, putting the first sentence on ODA beneath the list of the Rio+20 follow up agreements, and for it to end with listing the agreements and then saying, “all of which are integral to the New

Agenda.” We also emphasize the importance of keeping reference to the SAMOA Pathway, as well as other agreements, as SAMOA is our major contribution towards the Post 2015 Agenda and achieving policy coherence between it and this Agenda will be critical for the success of our mandate.

23. In paragraph 39 we suggest moving “LDCs and SIDS,” to the following sentence so the final sentence reads: “...increase the representation and participation of developing countries, and in particular LDCs and SIDS in decision making, in these institutions.”
24. In paragraph 41, we would like to add “and follow up and review” to follow implementation.
25. On paragraph 42, we fully support that governments must have the primary responsibility on follow up and review. However, we have a slight language proposal to make on this paragraph. We would like the second sentence of the paragraph to say “implementation” instead of “accountability” to better communicate the purpose of the review.
26. While Paragraph 43 correctly identifies the key role that high quality disaggregated data plays in strengthening national statistical offices and data systems, we propose that the disaggregated data should be “reliable and timely” as well. We also welcome the inclusion of SIDS in this paragraph. However, as noted previously, efforts must be made to reduce the reporting burden as it adversely affects us due to our limited capacity. We therefore wish to reiterate our proposal to include the sentence: “data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible.”

Thank you Co-Facilitators, for your time and again, we will submit these particular language tweaks electronically to support time efficient edits of the document.