

Mr Co-Chair

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the Pacific Troika of Nauru, Palau and my own country, Papua New Guinea, as well as on behalf of the 9 other Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS), represented at the United Nations; namely, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. We are pleased to be joined by our neighbour Timor-Leste in this Statement.

We associate with the Statement to be delivered by AOSIS Chair and our fellow Pacific Island member, Nauru.

We support the call by Timor-Leste for a stand alone goal on building peaceful, stable and resilient societies and capable institutions.

We do so in recognition of the fact that these elements are fundamental to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development, as recognised by the Millennium Declaration, the Rio+20 Outcomes and the September 2013 MDG Outcomes.

We also recognise the imperative to build and sustain the institutional capacity to equitably and effectively deliver services, and bolster local and national ownership of our development progress.

Together, these dimensions of the proposed goal set the framework to build inclusive societies that are best equipped to cope with economic, social and environmental shocks.

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The people of the Pacific are amongst those on the frontline of climate change. Our region is also particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. The potential for displacement and disruption is very real.

Peace creates resilience. Peaceful societies are better equipped to support inclusive economic growth, the equitable distribution of resources, the sustainable management of natural resources, and the fulfilment of human potential.

We view this agenda rightly in its totality. Peaceful societies are not just those focused on averting or reducing violence, crime and conflict, but that have the resilience, means and access to all of the benefits of sustainable development and avert any slide back against gains made in poverty eradication.

We know there is no enduring development without peaceful societies, and societies will struggle to maintain peace and stability in the absence of sustained and equitable development. This is an integral part of a universal and mutually reinforcing sustainable development agenda, and warrants a stand alone goal that will support and enhance other targets but which cannot be left to that.

We endorse the targets to be presented by Timor-Leste and note the opportunity to include some of the cross cutting climate change targets proposed previously by the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Thank you.