



TALKING POINTS

Session on Means of Implementation on the post-2015 development agenda Targets

21 April 2015

SESSION 1: Joint Meeting of the FfD and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Co-Facilitators

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of South Africa, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. Although separate and distinct processes, there must be coherence between both the FfD and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We recognise that they are linked; especially towards targeting the realisation of the very ambitious set of Goals we have set ourselves. In this regard, in addition to the specific Means of Implementation highlighted in Goal 17, the goal-specific targets related to Means of Implementation must also be fully integrated into the FfD outcome document. The specificities of how these linkages are manifested are to be resolved. However, as we move along both tracks, we look forward to identifying ways in which both processes complement, and not duplicate the work on MoI, and identifying the specific and clear responsibilities under the two processes.

Co-Facilitators,

3. SIDS have been recognised as a special case for sustainable development. Special consideration must be given to building resilience, increasing competitiveness, and expanding the flow of funds for the financing of sustainable development with specific attention to the particular diversity of needs of the SIDS and our unique sustainable development challenges¹. Our unique challenges must be given due consideration in both processes.

¹ AOSIS stocktaking statement, January 2015, general

4. Cooperation and partnerships at the national, regional and international levels are vital. Effective partnerships should be anchored in national ownership and based upon mutual trust, equality, respect, and accountability². They are a means of building understanding, providing support, and expressing and fulfilling commitments to support SIDS efforts over the long term taking fully into account their challenges, development priorities and national circumstances³.

Some of our priorities in this regard are as follows:

1. We recognise that our persistent development challenges require an enhanced global partnership for development, adequate provision and mobilisation of financing from all sources, domestic and international, public and private, the facilitation of trade, technology transfer, capacity building, and an enabling institutional and policy environment at all levels, as well as strengthened partnerships at the national, regional and international level.
2. And while we recognise that financing from all sources is important, the most critical source of financing remains international public financing. In SIDS, our small size and narrow economic base hinder efforts to realise adequate resources for financing domestically. Our remoteness and geographical disparity entail high cost of service delivery on Governments. But these social services are required to sustain high levels of human development. With regards to private financing, the private sector is characteristically under-developed in SIDS, requiring additional support towards stimulating investment. Therefore ODA needs to be strengthened, as a matter of priority, and better targeted to complement national priorities.
3. Debt sustainability remains an issue of concern for SIDS. Data shows that many SIDS suffer from high debt, which hinders their ability to achieve resilient societies and ensure that development gains are continued and assured. Addressing debt sustainability is also important for countries that graduate from the List of LDCs, out of which the majority have been SIDS.
4. Sustainable Development policies can only be adequately implemented through building and retaining human and institutional capacity, in addition to ensuring access to appropriate, reliable, affordable, and modern technology. We need increased financial and technical assistance in this regard, to strengthen national

² AOSIS statement, 6 OWG, MoI

³ AOSIS Leaders Declaration, September 2014, para 8

institutions, to retain and enhance knowledge and, to effectively participate in the multilateral trading system⁴

5. The threat posed by climate change to SIDS cannot be under-scored. It is not merely an “environmental” challenge: it is a persistent “developmental” challenge that undermine the ability of all countries, in particular developing countries, to achieve sustainable development, and threaten the viability and survival of nations. Mitigation from, and adaptation to the effects of climate changes pose additional costs for countries. And while climate change should be considered under the discussions on financing, a distinction must be made between climate finance as governed and defined by the ongoing processes under the UNFCCC and traditional ODA. For SIDS, climate finance must not be double counted as ODA, and considered separate from and additional to ODA.
6. Lastly, we view the inclusion of Data, Monitoring and Followup in both processes as crucially important. Effective monitoring depends on appropriate qualitative and quantitative data and statistics. We ask that both processes consider the importance of collection of data from SIDS in the least burdensome way, and recognise the need to strengthen data collection and monitoring capabilities of SIDS. We also call in this context, for the consideration of alternative measures of development, than GDP per capita, as it measures fail to adequately capture the development progress and challenges in SIDS.

I thank you.

⁴ AOSIS Leaders Declaration, September 2014, para 13