



**Statement by the Republic of Maldives
on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States
at the General Debate of the 2017 ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment**

01 March 2016

Mr. President,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the Distinguished Permanent Representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. From the outset I wish to thank you and your Bureau for the in-depth programme for this year's ECOSOC operational activities for development segment. We are grateful for this opportunity to share our views on how the UNDS should respond to the newly adopted QCPR, which we strongly believe is the main instrument to guide it on the UN operational activities for development.
3. It is therefore extremely important that we do not attempt to renegotiate the delicately balanced text of the QCPR, but find ways to reiterate and ensure that the mandates and guidelines of the QCPR are embedded in the operational activities of the entities of the UNDS at all levels.
4. For SIDS, in addition to the very crucial elements already highlighted within the statement of the Group of 77 and China, it is also very important that the entities of the UNDS take into account the specific challenges of SIDS, and find ways to address the various Programmes of Actions of vulnerable groups, such as SIDS, as pursuant to operational paragraphs 10 and 11 of the QCPR.
5. Recognizing that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is to be country-lead, we believe that the UNDS has to be in a position to facilitate countries with their implementation. Therefore, the entities of the UNDS must be in a position to respond to the varied and specific priorities of countries in a very transparent, coherent and coordinated manner that would result in the maximization of all resources.

6. The UNDS must also be in a position to strengthen synergies with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), the private sector and other stakeholders to identify innovative financing options in an effort to assist member states in accessing resources for sustainable development. In addition, it must also actively engage with the IFIs to ensure stronger alignment and integration among the various multilateral processes, and pursue opportunities to enhance the funding criteria beyond income taking into account the more multidimensional aspects that have shown to be critical factors in countries development, such as SIDS.

7. The UNDS must work on enhancing current guidelines and policies to meet the demands of the new Agenda. These must be rooted in the vein of mutual respect, transparency and accountability, while maintaining an approach that is inclusive, coherent, integrative and balanced.

8. Mr. President, we live in a fast changing world, and therefore we must keep up with the times. In this regard, we cannot afford to design a stagnated and inflexible system; we must continue to re-evaluate the system in an effort to ensure that the mechanisms, guidelines and policies remain current and relevant.

9. In this regard, we wish to highlight the call of the General Assembly in OP 67 of the QCPR for a review of the multi-country offices, this is very important to SIDS, as we strongly believe that having the right support on the ground is the key to our successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

10. In concluding, Mr. President, we wish to reiterate the need to strengthen capacity building at the national level, this is vital in order to ensure coherence and coordination. We also believe that global partnerships play a critical role in facilitating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for most programme countries. We also take this opportunity to call on our developed partners to meet their ODA commitments, to contribute more to the core funding, and where possible to ensure their non-core contributions are more flexible in an effort to address the priorities of programme countries and not their own specific priorities.

11. I thank you, Mr. President