



**Statement by  
Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)  
Working Methods Discussion**

**12 November 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of G77 and China.
2. As outlined in our previous statement at the discussion on working methods of the Second Committee, AOSIS welcomes this discussion, given that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) signals a very critical time for the work of the United Nations and for member states, as it maps out a vast agenda addressing sustainable development that speaks to eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind.
3. In this regard, we appreciate the work the Bureau has put into the “food for Thought” paper circulated. We see the paper as a way of continuing our discussions on the matter.

Mr Chairman,

4. We agree with a lot of what was stated in the paper: starting with the suggestion to start an **informal process of consultations** in the beginning of 2016. We reiterate our view that this discussion is something that cannot be rushed, or concluded in this regular session of the Committee.
5. However, despite the linkages, the question of revitalisation and rationalisation of the second committee agenda must be assessed separately from the question of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.
6. The ultimate goal of an evaluation of the working methods, and indeed of this discussion, should be to effectively implement the development priorities we have set for ourselves. This includes the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the various programmes of actions highlighted in the agenda including the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS. In our decisions, we must ensure that the quality and substance of the Second Committee's work is not lost in favour of ensuring efficiency. Any approach we take must ensure a fine balance between realising our core objectives and timeliness.

7. At the same time, the question of revitalisation and rationalisation is beyond the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. It also relates to how we achieve substantive coherence between the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, and that of the work of the Committee.

Mr Chairman,

8. We also agree with the notion that the first step in the process of review of the Agenda of the Second Committee could be to agree on broad principles. In this regard, let us outline a few key issues we believe should be our principles.
9. **First is the need to ensure effective and adequate linkages between the programmes of work and the 2030 Agenda.** AOSIS has been one of the strongest advocates for ensuring these necessary linkages and repeatedly asked to ensure that all processes lead to the same end point: the realisation of sustainable development, the eradication of poverty, and the building of resilient communities. This message stems from our belief that development cannot be tackled in silos: but only through approaching our challenges holistically.
10. This brings me to our second point: **the need for a holistic approach.** The Agenda encompasses 17 goals, which are integrated in nature, and inter-linked. This is why we believe that the 2030 Agenda not only requires a re-think of the work of the Second Committee, but also a discussion on how the 2030 Agenda relates to the work of other Committees, and in fact the entire UN system.
11. This discussion should also explore how the work of the Second Committee will complement the work of other Committees and the UN system in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular the High Level Political Forum, given that the latter is tasked with reviewing the follow-up and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
12. This includes in particular the work of the Third Committee, and also the work of the Fifth Committee. While we may set the political mandates and the direction of the work, let us not forget that it is our colleagues in the Fifth Committee that oversee how the tasks we set for the UN System in particular, can be implemented.
13. Regrettably, we note that the discussion we are having here have not translated across to the work of the other committees. We urge the Second Committee Bureau, as an immediate step, therefore to ensure that our discussions here are transmitted to the Bureaus of other committees, and urge for greater consistency in how we approach

the rationalisation of the 2030 Agenda. We cannot continue to work in silos if we want to address the true spirit of the 2030 Agenda.

**14. Thirdly, the purpose of our discussion on rationalisation should ensure that we make use of existing mechanisms as far as possible.** We haven't yet considered how the work of the Second Committee, as an existing mechanism would feed into the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. However, we acknowledge that there could be a linkage. A key reason to ensure the use of existing mechanisms also relate to reporting coherence, and reporting burdens, which are particularly worrying for small delegations like the SIDS.

Mr Chairman,

15. Having outlined what we believe should be key principles, let us now turn to the purposes and intent of an informal process on rationalisation and reviewing of the Second Committee's work. We believe the discussions could focus on three key issues:

- a. The Agenda of the Second Committee including possible clustering and re-arranging, where necessary
- b. The issue of reporting and ensuring coherent reporting mechanisms
- c. The relationship between the work of the Second Committee and that of other Committees, as well as the relationship between the HLPF, the ECOSOC, the UN System and various other relevant entities and how they relate to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.
- d. In order to have a robust discussion on these three issues, we agree with the need for an analysis to be conducted of the work, items and resolutions on the agenda of the Second Committee, as well as other main Committees and ECOSOC, and to see the where there are direct linkages or clear impact on the 2030 Agenda

Mr Chairman

16. We believe that the work we are doing have far reaching implications on how we approach development issues at the United Nations, and how we approach the realisation of the 2030 Agenda, in a truly transformative manner.

17. We therefore see the need for due consideration to be given to these matters. And see the need for this session of the Committee, to reflect the status quo, pending further consultations on the revitalisation and rationalisation of the Agenda.

18. We look forward to further considerations and to support your efforts in this regard.

I thank you.