

**Statement delivered by HE Ambassador Marlene Moses
Chair, Pacific Small Island Developing States
AOSIS Special Plenary Meeting with HE Deputy-Secretary-General Amina Mohammed
Wednesday, 4 October 2017, UN Headquarters**

Madam Deputy-Secretary-General,

Good afternoon to you and your delegation.

The Pacific SIDS welcome your report and the process of consultations.

We would like to underscore two points delivered by our AOSIS Chair, namely the mainstreaming of the SAMOA Pathway throughout the UN System, and the conduct of multi-country offices.

With respect to both, I call your attention to the findings of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on Support for SIDS. Their report was intended to bring a critical, independent eye to the ways that SIDS are under-served by the United Nations System. Their findings, including 13 discrete recommendations, are of direct relevance to your efforts to reform the UN Development System.

Foremost among them is the need to ensure that the priorities of the SAMOA Pathway are mainstreamed throughout the UN system, including in the mandates and relevant governing documents of various entities. Given that the 2015 outcome documents all recognize the Special Case of SIDS and recommit to support implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, this is a top priority.

The JIU also spent considerable energy analyzing work of the Secretariat, where they found inefficiency and lack of coordination among organizations that have mandates involving SIDS. In particular, this concerns two central entities: the SIDS Unit of UN-DESA, and OHRLLS. It is critical that these entities work together more effectively. A mechanism for them to jointly plan, execute and report on their work would be extremely helpful. The JIU report speaks directly to these concerns, in particular the section under the header "*System-wide strategic document,*" where it looks at gaps, overlaps, strengths and opportunities within the UN system.

We echo the AOSIS Chair's points regarding multi-country offices. We would like to add that this mechanism, intended as a cost-saving measure, often does not serve our countries well, particularly when only one office is intended to support numerous remote States scattered across the vast Pacific Ocean with limited options for air travel. Indeed, the JIU found that this structure, in creating a need for frequent travel, actually tended to increase net costs.

We need an on the ground presence to serve our countries effectively – an international civil servant who has appropriate skill sets, that also includes a deep understanding of risk informed development, to help us implement the SAMOA Pathway and 2030 Agenda. The QCPR Resolution created a mandate to re-assess the Multi-Country Office System – we kindly request that this mandate be taken up in your forthcoming report.

Finally, the JIU report echoed something that we have been saying for some time: *there are simply not enough resources devoted to SIDS to execute on the relevant mandates.* Those mandates have been expanding, as intergovernmental agreed outcomes have consistently recognized the vulnerability and "Special Case" of SIDS. But resources have not increased commensurately. We support your focus on generating adequate and predictable core resources in the UNDS, including through a new funding compact, but reiterate this fundamental challenge facing United Nations System support to our Islands.

Finally, Madam Deputy-Secretary-General, I would like to raise a point related to the broader reform efforts for the UN System. There is a stream for management reform, a stream for the peace and security architecture, and one to address the development system. But there remain concerns that cut across these silos, such as the growing security implications of climate change.

The recent extreme hurricanes that devastated our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean are further evidence that climate change will be the defining security issue of this century. We reiterate our call for the appointment of a Special Representative on Climate and Security as the appropriate organizational response in this moment of reform.

I thank you Madam Deputy Secretary General.