

**STATEMENT BY H.E. TUILOMA NERONI SLADE  
Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations**

**On behalf of the**

**ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS)**

**to the**

**FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION  
of the  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**SECOND COMMITTEE  
Implementation of the Barbados Program of Action**

**New York, 30 October 2001**

**Please check against delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the thirty-seven members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) that are represented at the United Nations.

Let me also say that as developing countries the AOSIS membership associates fully with the statement delivered by the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

As stated in the General Debate of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Committee, AOSIS places great importance to the discussions at this session of the further implementation of the Barbados Program of Action (BPOA). We recall that the BPOA was the first UN global programme to translate into action the principles and ideals of Agenda 21. It is therefore extremely important that the WSSD process be informed by the experience of the BPOA and what has been done to implement it. We also believe that the WSSD is an occasion to find inclusive ways for the future consideration of Agenda 21 and the BPOA. AOSIS will deliberate on this aspect in greater detail, and we will make known our views at a later time.

I should note Mr Chairman that the full and rapid implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, and of the outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly, are amongst the recommended strategies for action identified in the Secretary General's Road Map towards the implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration. Our group very much appreciates this recommendation.

It remains a concern for AOSIS that the UN system is still incapable of coordinating its efforts in support of SIDS and the BPOA.

AOSIS would also like to take this opportunity to raise a matter of concern for our group, namely the lack of adequate representation of our group of countries within the UN secretariat and organizations. While the details of this issue is handled in the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee, I would like to raise it here in this

debate as a matter of grave importance to the capacity building of SIDS and of our experts. We recognize the value and importance of training received within the UN system and call on the Secretary General to ensure that SIDS nationals are adequately represented within the UN agencies.

Thank you.

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