



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS)

Ambassadorial Meeting of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

30 May 2025
Conference Room 1
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

I have the honor to deliver the following statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

At the outset, allow me to express the Group's gratitude for your tireless efforts and leadership in guiding the work of the Steering Committee. We deeply appreciate the consultative process that you have carried out to collect inputs and ideas from Member States, the UN System, civil society and other relevant stakeholders on strengthening the SIDS Partnership Framework.

On this occasion, AOSIS recognizes the importance of the Partnership Framework, and the role of the Steering Committee, in driving meaningful, effective and durable partnerships for SIDS. The Framework, established under the SAMOA Pathway, remains an important tool in mobilizing partnership-driven solutions, and will be a key pillar in ensuring the full implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).

Therefore, Distinguished Co-Chairs, as we look towards the next nine years of implementation, we stress the importance of a strengthened Framework that delivers on its mandate to ensure the implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships, identify new opportunities to advance SIDS' sustainable development and ensure the full implementation of the ABAS.

In this regard, turning to the recommendations, AOSIS appreciates the broad spectrum of ideas and proposals that have been presented. We have noted, with keen interest, recommendations that aim to strengthen the Steering Committee, build further Secretariat support for SIDS partnerships, and strengthen the SIDS Global Business Network and its Forum.

At the same time, many of the proposals require further elaboration and clarity as we aim to build a strengthened Framework that will deliver on our goal to achieve resilient prosperity. In this regard, allow me to make the following broad points.

First, it is important that the strengthened Framework supports the mandate set forth in resolution 70/202, which operationalized the Framework and set out the role of the Steering Committee. While we are open to exploring how engagement in the Framework can be improved, it is equally important to maintain the intergovernmental nature of the Steering Committee.

Second, we have noted that many of the recommendations propose to create or establish new mechanisms, funds, events or platforms. For AOSIS, it is important to ensure that such proposals are considered carefully and do not duplicate or replace existing mechanisms or initiatives. In fact, we would be cautious about creating a complex ecosystem that becomes challenging for SIDS to navigate or spread limited resources too thin. It would also be useful to leverage existing platforms, such as the recommendation to coordinate the SIDS Global Business Network Forum with the Island Investment Forum, for example.

Lastly, it is imperative that the SIDS Partnership Framework retains its focus on fostering partnerships to implement the ABAS. While we recognize that linkages or synergies may exist with other processes or outcomes, the mandate for the Framework remains focused on the achieving the intergovernmentally agreed commitments in the ten-year programme of action. In this regard, while we see value in the SIDS Civil Society Action Plan and Roadmap, it ought not to be treated equally with the ABAS.

In closing, **Distinguished Co-Chairs**, AOSIS once more expresses its gratitude for your efforts in steering the consultative process on strengthening the Partnership Framework. The recommendations give us a good basis for further reflection and food for thought. We look forward to further refinement of these proposals by the Secretary-General in his annual report on the implementation of the ABAS to be issued later this year, as well as our subsequent negotiations within the Second Committee.

Please continue to count on AOSIS' constructive engagement in this exercise towards a strengthened Framework.

I thank you.