



**Statement by the Republic of Maldives  
on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States  
at the first Intergovernmental Consultations on the zero draft of the Habitat III Outcome  
Document**

**19 May 2016**

**Effective Implementation**

1. I have the honour of providing these brief comments on the implementation section of the Habitat III outcome document on behalf of the Alliance for Small Island States (AOSIS), and we align with the statement of the Group of 77 and China.
2. This section addresses both substantive issues, as well as specific mechanisms for implementation. Structurally, there might be opportunity to consider how to make additionally clear the distinctions between the commitments and implementation section. We see the “effective implementation” section as critical as all levels of government and stakeholders will require support and coordination to achieve this agenda. The purpose of this section should be to provide a clear framework for achieving the substantive points in the “transformative commitments” section.
3. It is important to SIDS that the New Urban Agenda include access to support the development of long term, cross-sectoral urban planning, which empowers locally driven priorities. We appreciate the detail on different frameworks, as well as the specifics for financing and capacity building as for SIDS and many other countries, it is important that support mechanisms be accessible to all human settlements. Further, it is important that the information produced either through this text or accompanying materials be able to be contextualized to very different local settings, empowering local ownership, moving beyond “one size fits all” solutions.
4. One method of achieving successful implementation through this process will be coordination and alignment with other agendas and processes. We have spoken to the value of including linkages with other UN processes and we look forward to this document making strengthened efforts to coordinate implementation measures for the New Urban Agenda with those of other UN entities. AOSIS believes that while the New Urban Agenda requires a very clear set of strategies to enable local

implementation of our global vision and specific transformative commitments, this agenda cannot operate in a bubble. As governments simultaneously work to achieve the 2030 Agenda, Sendai Declaration, Paris Agreement, SAMOA Pathway, and others, we should keep in mind how different actors will access the support needed to implement this and other agendas, and work to avoid repetition, or access synergies.

5. We are particularly committed to have accessible and effective capacity building to help countries achieve our ambitious objectives. We welcome the capacity building language throughout and highlight that it should remain a central focus in the coming weeks. It is important that capacity building support and empower national and local authorities. At the same time, the key here will be coordinating across the many entities with existing commitments to provide capacity building initiatives to avoid repetition, gaps and any unnecessary confusion.
6. Another central mechanism for implementation will be partnerships. SIDS are very committed to creating genuine and durable partnerships and expanding these opportunities where possible, as evidenced by the SIDS Partnership Framework, established through the SAMOA Pathway.
7. From partnerships, we would next like to note the importance of an accessible financial architecture. We appreciate the linkages made between financing and capacity building, as well as reflection that implementation “will need the deployment of a wide range of means” and resources. We encourage all of these resources in their development to integrate the three principles of eradicating poverty, economic prosperity, and ecological and resilient cities and human settlements for the sake of coherence. We will need to ensure financing also supports broader efforts by urban authorities around long-term planning.
8. Looking to specific text, we turn to the climate finance paragraph. While we are still reviewing the language, in general we would like to encourage that it be aligned with language from the UNFCCC negotiations and respect the agreements reached there, as well as the respective mandates and decisions of various financing mechanisms and funds.
9. Lastly, SIDS appreciate the focus on data collection and analysis and related support. With regard to data, SIDS face a significant data deficit, particularly baseline data for many urban issues. This often reduces our representation on these subjects. As a

result we encourage capacity building efforts designed to address this challenge and encourage the text to continue recognizing the value of tracking progress in urban areas of all sizes.

10. We are excited to see this section as a space to encourage tangible action in order to make cities and towns of all shapes and sizes more functional, resilient, accessible and sustainable as live-able spaces, while recognizing the vast diversity in cities, towns, and villages, as well as urban-rural relationships.

Thank you.