



**Statement by the Republic of Maldives  
on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States  
at the Informal Consultations on the  
Council forum on financing for development follow-up**

**1 May 2017**

Distinguished Co-Facilitators,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the G77 and China.

At the outset, allow me to express the group's sincere appreciation for your hard work that has resulted in this zero draft. We believe the document is concise, balanced, and comprehensive, and is a good basis for our negotiations. We would like to reflect on a few issues and general observations on the draft that are a matter of priority for the Group.

First, we appreciate that the zero draft covers all the action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda while not compromising on the length of the text. Keeping this in mind, we would like to engage in strengthening, and not lengthening the text. The outcome document should provide for substantial and action oriented language to operationalize commitments under Addis and not necessarily restate them.

Second, the Group believes that some paragraphs in the zero draft club together issues and action areas that might warrant their own separate paragraphs. We will be happy to come back with more textual amendments to that effect during our subsequent readings.

Third, while we take note of the reference to climate finance in the draft text, we believe it needs to be significantly strengthened. As we had stated during our last intervention in the second informal consultations, access to climate finance is a matter of priority for SIDS and its link to the sustainable development of island states is entrenched both in Addis and in the 2017 IATF report.

We would also like to highlight the importance of concessional financing, capacity building, transfer of technology and the significance of small and medium sized



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enterprises on our economies. We believe that these issues warrant more robust consideration and should be reflected as priority areas in the document.

Lastly, co-facilitators, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is not only an integral part of the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, but also of the Samoa Pathway. The special circumstances of SIDS has been established and recognized in all major international agreements and this outcome document must pay due regard to this.

With this I thank you and assure you of the Group's full support and constructive engagement in the upcoming consultations.