Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor to add Samoa’s voice to the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and to congratulate and thank the Co-facilitators Martin Zvachula of the Federated States of Micronesia and Troy Torrington of Guyana as well as Rapporteur Juliet Hay of New Zealand for their hard and dedicated work without which the adoption by consensus just now of this important resolution could not be assured.

In the same spirit, I also want to thank Co-Facilitator Martin Zvachula for the oral amendment to add “Independent State of Samoa” after Apia in the resolution. This is particularly important to my delegation to ensure that there is no ambiguity as to the host country of the conference. Referring to just Apia alone as the conference venue can be problematic for some, as Apia may not be that well known outside of the Pacific region, moreover there are a few APIAs around the world. There is an Apia Football Club in Australia, an Apia Hotel in Lithuania and an APIA Asia Pacific Internet Association, but there is only one Independent State of Samoa in the world. So I sincerely hope that the Secretariat will not, for whatever reason, edit out the name of my country again.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation also want to place on record its deepest and sincerest appreciation to all Member states, in particular our partners for the constructive and understanding manner in which they had engaged in the process. We hope that this collaborative spirit will continue to be the hallmark of our working relationship as we embark on the next important steps in the final preparations of the outcome for the Third International Conference on SIDS next year.

The adoption by consensus of this resolution today is particularly important to Samoa as we work to finalize the venue and other logistics for the Conference.
Needless to say, the success of the Conference relies heavily on SIDS working jointly and cooperatively with all our partners, including the Secretariat.

Let me close by taking this opportunity to wish you Chair and members of your Bureau and through you to the members of the Second Committee, a peaceful and well-deserved Christmas Holiday Season.

I thank you.