Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States upon adoption of draft resolution L6* "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway"

Mr. Chairman,

The EU and its Member States are pleased to join consensus on the outcome document of the 3rd international conference on Small Island Developing States, the SAMOA pathway.

We reiterate our commitment to supporting SIDS efforts to achieve their sustainable development, including through the full and effective implementation of the SAMOA pathway, in particular the setting up of a partnership framework.

The EU and its Member States are proud of our longstanding tradition of partnership with SIDS. We have long supported their efforts to address their specific vulnerability. We have been, and remain, a leading donor and key trading partner for SIDS. The time has come for the EU and SIDS to move our traditional donor-recipient relationship forward, towards a more comprehensive relationship. And the Conference was an opportunity for us to strengthen existing partnerships and help establish new ones, founded on SIDS ownership; mindful of the local cultural context; inclusive of all relevant stakeholders; and based on trust, mutual respect, transparency and mutual accountability, while pursuing measurable objectives and tangible results.

We also express our profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Samoa for the excellent facilities, staff and services provided and arrangements made in hosting the Conference, and for the hospitality extended to the participants.

We are very surprised however to be presented with an oral statement from the Programme Planning and Budget Division on this resolution and see no justification for generating an oral statement and disagree with some of the rationale given.

We understand that these are only estimates presented in accordance with an extensive interpretation of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the GA.

We stress that estimates presented today do not prejudge the Secretary-General's submission to the ACABQ and the 5th committee of the proposed budget for the 2016-2017 biennium. We also believe that some estimates can factually not be considered as requirements under the present resolution. Overall, these estimates should not be perceived as having been endorsed by Member States today.

We are particularly concerned that those estimates came, unexpectedly, long after negotiations were over and at the eve of the adoption by the General Assembly and do not seem to fully reflect the spirit of negotiations, especially as regards paragraph 124b which was negotiated in good faith. At the time of the informals no reference was made to the need for additional resources for supporting SIDs efforts to request UNDESA to continue to maintain a partnership platform nad to continue to convene the existing inter agency consultative group.

Finally, Mr Chairman, we strongly believe that increased transparency regarding estimate budgetary figures for the current or for upcoming budget cycles should be provided during the negotiation process, in full accordance with the relevant rules of procedure.