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## Ordered multilayer films of hollow sphere aluminium-doped zinc oxide for

### photoelectrochemical solar energy conversion

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### **Electronic Supporting Information**

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#### 1. SEM



Fig. S1. a) SEM of hs-AZO; b) SEM of AZO from soaking the polystyrene template for 45 mins leading to incomplete sphere formation.



Fig. S2. EDX spectra (in SEM) of an hs-AZO electrode. Based on the ratio of ZnO:Al gives an Al doping of 1.0 at%.

### 2. Powder X-ray Diffraction



Fig. S3. hs-AZO on FTO substrate, \* = ZnO JCPDS 36-1451, + = SnO<sub>2</sub>, JCPDS 41-1445.



Fig. S4. CdS@hs-AZO on FTO substrate, \* = ZnO JCPDS 36-1451, + = SnO<sub>2</sub>, JCPDS 41-1445, # = CdS, JCPDS 01-075-1545.

# 3. Transmission Spectroscopy



Fig. S5: UV-vis transmission spectra of hs-AZO film.



Fig. S6. Additional TEM of CdS@hs-AZO showing CdS particles on surface of hs-AZO.



Fig. S7. EDX spectra (in TEM) of i) hs-AZO and ii) CdS@hs-AZO fragments scraped from an electrode.

#### 5. Photoelectrochemistry



Fig. S8. Current density as a function of deposition cycles.



Fig. S9 Photostability of CdS@hs-AZO at 0 V vs Ag/AgCl, 100 mWcm<sup>-2</sup> in Na<sub>2</sub>S/Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> (0.25/0.35 M). After each experiment 1-4 the electrode was soaked in the electrolyte for 5 mins to re-establish the initial photocurrent.