

Tuvalu Declaration on Climate Change for the Survival of Pacific Small Island Developing States

Tuvalu, 12 August 2019

1. We, the Heads and representatives of Government from Pacific Small Island Developing States attended the Climate Change Sautalaga in Funafuti, Tuvalu on the 12th August 2019.
2. We express our deep concern at the findings of the report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on 1.5° C which outlines the risks to Small Island Developing States including marine ecosystem impacts, sea-level rise and extreme weather events, threatening the survival of island communities, particularly low lying atoll nations.
3. We further note with alarm that current global efforts to combat climate change are insufficient to secure the 1.5° C limit, unless urgent action is taken.
4. We call on World Leaders (Heads of States and Government; Heads of Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations; CEOs of Business and Finance) and all people to acknowledge that we are already facing a climate change crisis and to dramatically accelerate a global response to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.
5. We encourage all countries to revise their nationally determined contributions so as to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to develop long-term low emission strategies for our own economic benefit.
6. We reaffirm the UN Secretary General's call for an immediate global ban on the construction of new coal fired power plants and coal mines and call on all countries to rapidly phase out their use of coal in the power sector,
7. We call on all financial institutions, including commercial and investment banks, pension funds and other major funds to divest from fossil fuels and to reinvest in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.
8. We invite partners to enhance the capacity of Pacific Small Island Developing States so that they can assess environmental health risks, develop and implement policies for the reduction of health impacts caused by climate change.
9. We welcome the significant role that the Green Climate Fund plays in supporting developing countries in their efforts to address climate change. We call for a prompt, ambitious and successful replenishment of the Green Climate Fund and in particular increase the amount and effectiveness of climate change finance to support Pacific Small Island Developing Countries.
10. We call upon the Green Climate Fund to simplify its procedures to facilitate easier access and disbursement for Pacific Small Island Developing States.

11. We firmly believe that climate change represents the single greatest threat to the security of Pacific Island countries. We therefore, call on climate change funders to dramatically scale up finance to support the efforts of Pacific Island countries to protect themselves from the impacts of climate change.
12. We acknowledge that people displaced by the impacts of climate change significantly heightens the level of tension within countries and the region.
13. We reiterate the call for a regular agenda item on the UN Security Council to address the security implications of climate change on the survival of Pacific Island Developing States and other island nations and reaffirm our call for the United Nations Security Council to appoint a special rapporteur to produce a regular review of global, regional and national security and human rights threats as a consequence of climate change.
14. We further reaffirm our call for the appointment of a special representative to the United Nations Secretary General on climate change and security in recognition of the fact that climate change represents the single greatest threat to Pacific Small Island Developing States and is a growing global security threat.
15. We strongly encourage the international community to carefully consider whether climate change mitigation actions that use carbon removal and climate altering technologies need to be added to the toolbox of options to address climate change. We call for appropriate regulatory measures to be put in place to ensure that such technologies do not create adverse environmental, social or economic effects greater than the benefits they would achieve.
16. We are gravely concerned that climate change is creating a new crisis in our region, including the impacts of severe weather events and sea level rise on nuclear weapons test sites in the region.
17. We further encourage the use of nature-based solutions for carbon removal that do not have an adverse effect on ecosystems and recognize a rights-based approval process from Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
18. We call on the next Conference of Parties for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Chile (COP25) to establish a work program on oceans.
19. We further request a full and effective review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage so that it can continue and make a significant contribution to helping countries recover from the impacts of climate change.
20. We are already suffering loss and damage from the impacts of climate change and that we have crossed a threshold with respect to dangerous interference with the climate system and we are now threatening the existence of current and future generations and hence the imperative to explore other response options, including litigation, to seek recourse for the climate change loss and damage.
21. We welcome the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit and support Palau's regional initiative on enhance sustainable energy and strongly affirm the need for a

powerful voice from youth at the Climate Action Summit and pledge to bring youth representatives on our delegations to the Summit and encourage all countries to sign up to the Youth Pact at the Summit.

22. We recognise the ongoing work program of the Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport.
23. We encourage Pacific Small Island Developing States to consider the proposal for a Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership and explore funding options for this initiative.
24. We encourage all Pacific Small Island Developing States, in collaboration with the private sector, to commit to low carbon development strategies including through policies and changes to the laws and to develop new opportunities to service and maintain new technologies. We agree that public education programs are necessary so that the community can make informed choices about low carbon development pathways.
25. We call on high greenhouse gas emitting nations to introduce carbon taxes and to halt subsidizing fossil fuels.
26. We acknowledge that the cost of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies is dramatically falling, and we commit to engage with the private sector to find cost effective public-private renewable energy purchasing arrangements.
27. We encourage the development of a purchasing consortium to buy battery storage systems in bulk so as to ensure cost effective energy storage.
28. We are deeply concerned about the implications of climate change on tuna stocks in our region which are resulting in the loss of revenue and threatening food security. Consequently, we urgently call for more case studies, research and modelling to inform decision making processes, especially in relation to a resource which provides revenues for Pacific economies; and call for measures to provide compensation for Pacific Island countries that have lost tuna stocks due to climate change.
29. We firmly believe that we should maximize the value of our tuna resources and urgently call for capacity building programs, to allow us to manage more effectively our tuna stocks.
30. We welcome the innovations in the Tuvalu Youth Climate Change Declaration and call for this declaration to be added to the Forum Communique.