



TUVALU

Statement
Presented by

SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

Hon. Otinielu Tauteleimalae Tausi

at

The Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

(Theme: Placing democracy at the service of peace and sustainable development: Building
the world the people want)

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Mr President
Fellow Speakers
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates

1. Greetings to you all in the name of the Good Lord Jesus. May His love and peace be upon us all.

Mr President, it is a great honour for me to be here today on behalf of my Parliament and people.

Fellow Speakers,

2. *The Hanoi Declaration* provides a solid foundation for our Parliaments to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs.

3. Peace, Democracy and Development must coexist to bring about transformational advances in our societies. We cannot have one at the expense of the other; we must have all three to attain true development, equity and equality for all.

4. As Parliamentarians we are to ensure that the leadership and governance structures in our countries support the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As Parliamentarians we are to ensure that our governments are made accountable to the people. As Parliamentarians we are to ensure that legislations enable our people not only to advance economically and socially, but also care for neighbor and environment.

5. In Tuvalu, consultations between government and the people for our next national development plan is currently underway.

6. A two week Seminar for the newly elected members of Parliament, aimed at enabling them to be more effective in the performance of their roles as MPs, was completed last week in Tuvalu under the assistance of UNDP. This seminar also facilitate updates not only on Tuvalu's current achievement

on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but also created awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in light of the upcoming Post 2015 Summit in September here in New York.

Mr President,

7. In the recently released draft outcome document of the UN Summit for the adoption of the 2015 development agenda, Tuvalu is grateful with the inclusion of our deepest concerns of, combatting climate change, and sustainable use of ocean resources, as individual goals (goal 13 and 14 respectively).

8. The recognition of climate change in the *Hanoi Declaration* as adopted by the IPU Assembly early this year as an urgent threat to sustainable development of nations is highly welcome by Tuvalu.

Mr President,

9. As a small atoll nation, Climate Change is a threat multiplier to the peace, security and wellbeing of all Tuvaluans. Climate Change is a global governance issue, as peace and security will be meaningless unless the issue of climate change is addressed with urgency.

10. During the discussions of the Open Working Group for the SDGs, climate change was deemed a cross cutting issue and some argued, that it should not therefore be a GOAL. Indeed it is cross cutting and it should therefore be dealt with urgently.

Mr President,

11. Tuvalu recall the urgency of the Ebola epidemic when many of the UN institutions including the Security Council, collaborated to address the issue as a global security threat. We certainly did not limit ourselves to making that as a WHO ONLY issue; instead in unity, we garnered all the collaborations we can muster from within the UN, and from private sector and individuals, to deal with a threat multiplier as EBOLA.

My Honourable friends, we need that same attention, and urgency, by all UN institutions including the Security Council, to deal with Climate Change impacts.

12. The recent United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report stated that many small island nations, including those in the Pacific which are a few meters above sea level may face permanent inundation from sea-level rise as a result of climate change. Tuvalu have lost four of its islets, two of which from the recent Cyclone Pam devastations in early March this year. In addition, Tuvalu also witnessed significant erosion of precious lands on its islands year after year.

Mr. President,

13. The seriousness, reality and urgency of the climate change problem demands more than our genuine conversation; it simply needs political leadership especially from the industrialized world.

14. Multilateralism and the UN and IPU for that matter, are not simply a fora for interaction, or a platform for non-ending negotiations, OR a production line for Resolutions outputs. We have marched 70 years under this august body and its honorable Charter and we must applaud the enduring achievements of the UN.

We look forward to the UN driven Energy for All endeavors; Technology Transfer mechanism, especially on renewable energy, to be expedited.

We look forward for a genuine outcome for Paris in December that we can all commit to politically and morally.

15. Tuvalu would certainly work with the global goals of the SDGs; the SIDS goals of the SAMOA Pathway; the Regional Plans of the Pacific Framework to collaborate for genuine partnerships and outcomes for its people. However we seek the IPU; the Security Council, the General Assembly and the industrialized world powers to work together on climate change as a global security threat that must be dealt with urgently in order for

the Post 2015 and its honorable goals to be meaningful and progressive for all.

We cannot have, a United Nations that fails on this climate change issue, for all of us who are “We the People”.

May God Almighty bless and guide us all.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.

TUVALU MOTE ATUA
