



## TUVALU STATEMENT

to the

INDONESIA - PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Presented by:

Hon. Kausea Natano

Member of Parliament of Tuvalu

On Behalf of Tuvalu Delegation

July 23rd - 24th, 2018

Jakarta, Indonesia

Your Excellency Honourable Vice President of the  
Government of the Republic of Indonesia,  
Honourable Speakers of Parliament from Indonesia and Pacific Countries  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honour and privilege for me on behalf of the Tuvalu delegation to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, and in particular to the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia, for the kind invitation extended to us to participate in this very important meeting. Through you, Honorable Speaker, I also extend my particular thanks and appreciation for the kind protocols accorded to our delegation in welcoming us during our arrival to your beautiful country.

Honourable Chair, at the outset our delegation fully supports the initiative to establish a stable partnership between the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and Pacific Parliaments. Through this initiative, there is no doubt that greater and stronger cooperation between Indonesia and Pacific Countries will benefit our respective country and our region as a whole.

The specific topics of Human Development and Maritime Sustainability chosen as a focus of closer dialogue and discussion at this meeting are important in setting and enhancing the effective implementation of our partnership in achieving SDG14. In this connection, our delegation would like to make the following brief contributions:

1. For many of us from the Pacific Ocean especially SIDS and LDCs like Tuvalu, the sea is the basis of our livelihoods. Our culture, traditions and spiritual values are intrinsically attached to the Ocean and we are called the Pacific People because of the 27 million sq.km of ocean we have been entrusted to be its inherent custodians. We reaffirm our full support to the call to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources as reaffirmed in Goal 14 of the SDGs.” Our National Priorities and regional mandates support the international Oceans Agenda of 2030.
2. As Parliamentarians, our role is to ensure that all nations are united, must have legislations, fiscal reforms, robust citizenship participation and effective oversight and accountabilities to advance peace, development and human rights. As the pillar of democracy and good governance, Parliaments can ensure ownership of all SDGs including SDG 14; only then can the SDGs be meaningful to our people.
3. Further, as Parliamentarians, our delegation agrees that we are the voice of our people and our one mother-earth, including the 70% of it which is our Oceans. Therefore, the need to have healthy, productive and resilient oceans are critical for sustainable development, poverty eradication, livelihoods, food security and nutrition security and biodiversity.

4. There is no doubt that human induced pollution is accelerating the ravages of our oceans and seas. As a consequence, ocean acidification and coral bleaching, marine debris particularly from plastics, nutrients, fertilizer and industrial runoff, ghost fishing-nets are damaging our reefs and increasing our vulnerability as small island states. The Leaders of the world have recognized the importance of sustaining and preserving our oceans through SDG 14 targets in prevention and reduction of marine pollution.
5. In our pursuits of the Agenda 2030; to "leave no one behind", we must not be exclusive to our human species. Sustainability can only be possible if inclusiveness pertains to all of nature's living and life giving biodiversity. The bounties of the Ocean are not limitless; more than 80 percent of global fish stocks are now over-exploited. We must reverse the decline of populations of threatened and endangered species through national and regional endeavors including a timely conclusion for a legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
6. The Oceans fraternity and the science community should continue to ensure that all the impacts are adequately understood by our respective populations. It is important that accurate and timely availability of information is accessible by communities to cope with climate variability that influence the impacts and migratory patterns and distribution of key target fish species that many depend on for their livelihoods.
7. Despite the increasing impacts of human activities on the marine environment, the ocean remains an important driver in eradicating the global challenge facing the world today: extreme poverty. The ocean is an integral part of our planet, and an essential component of human lives, livelihoods and the environment that sustains us.
8. The multiple economic benefits of sustainable management of marine resources and ecosystems is key to eradicating poverty and many of the SDGs; from fisheries and tourism to transportation and climate regulation as well as equalization of income and welfare especially for SIDS and LDCs. We strongly support activities on eliminating illegal and unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices. Unsustainable subsidies that lead to overfishing must be addressed expeditiously by the UN and its relevant Oceans bodies.
9. The Ocean plays a central role in Earth's climate, absorbing over 90% of the heat added to the global climate system through the greenhouse effect. Scientists now consider that it is virtually certain that anthropogenic climate change is already changing ocean temperature and acidity, and therefore the productivity and the distribution of marine species and ecosystems. The sea-level rise projections are on the conservative end. For

small island states like Tuvalu, barely 3 meters above sea level, this is an existential issue, and one that impeaches on all our pursuits and of ALL other SDGs.

10. Our delegation fully support the conservation of coastal and marine areas by establishing more Marine Protected Areas in the lifetime of the SDGs. MPAs would help conserve and restore marine biodiversity and assist in regenerating endangered fisheries and ecosystems, thus regularizing long term dividends. MPAs can act as an insurance policy if other types of fisheries management do not work. They can be sites for education and research. They can attract tourists and provide alternative livelihoods for communities. Whether on the coast or in the high seas far away from all, safeguarding biodiverse marine sites is vital for ensuring the sustainable long-term use of precious natural resources.
11. The Means of Implementation of all SDGs including SDG 14 should be spelt out in our activities, including the financing, capacity building and technology transfer. Partnerships should pay close attention to ongoing programs; successes from the MDG era and to ensure the diversity and specific needs of individual countries on protecting the Oceans are amicably addressed.
12. The development of national capacities in marine scientific research is a precondition for understanding and preserving the ocean, its environment and the many resources it provides. A healthy ocean is a healthy planet, and a healthy planet is absolutely vital for the well-being of generations to come. Whether in eradicating poverty or regulating the climate, the bottom line is that the ocean matters. Addressing the health of the oceans, and all its relevant objectives and targets, must be based on ways that are inclusive and based on an integrated scientific and human rights framework that addresses inequalities, amongst individuals and amongst nations.

Honorable Chair, in conclusion let me reaffirm our delegation full support for the establishment of a new partnership between Indonesia and Pacific Countries in pursuing among others, issues of Human Development and Maritime Sustainability in our common endeavors to implement and achieve SDG14 successfully. We wish our partnership every success in the future.

I thank you

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