

PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES United Nations Member States

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**Statement of H.E. Mr. Mahe ‘U. S. Tupōuniua
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United
Nations and Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States
At the Second Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015
Development Agenda, Tuesday, 17th – Friday, 20th February 2015, New York**

Check Against Delivery

Co-Facilitators,

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Islands Developing States represented at the UN. At the outset, we align ourselves with the statement delivered by Maldives on behalf of AOSIS, and for those of us with membership in the Group of 77 and China, with the statement delivered by South Africa.

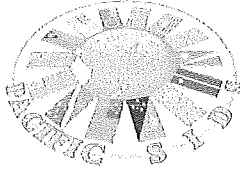
Co-Facilitators,

We are grateful for your “elements” paper in guiding our discussion this week. We find it a solid basis to facilitate the crafting of a concise, yet ambitious, visionary, robust and action-oriented post-2015 development agenda outcome document.

For PSIDS, while all elements of the post-2015 agenda are interrelated, the content of the declaration will strongly depend on the outcomes reached in negotiations over the other three components. Therefore, as regards the process for the crafting of the declaration, we would simply like to stress the importance of keeping the declaration open until all negotiations are concluded. In this respect, we would underline the principle that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.”

As regards the content of the declaration, PSIDS would like to advance the following points:

1. The Declaration should highlight that the SDG framework made up of the 17 goals and their targets as set out in the OWG on SDGs Report sets out the universal ambitious agenda to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development while healing the health of our planet.
2. We strongly approve the point in the “elements” paper that posits “a framework that is accountable, in particular, to the needs of countries in special situations.” In our view, to leave no one behind, necessitates that the declaration must reaffirm that Small Island Developing States such as PSIDS remain a special case for sustainable



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development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness narrow resource and export base, and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and more frequent and intense natural disasters, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all the three dimensions of sustainable development and thus require international support in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda.

3. We strongly urge that the declaration also explicitly underline the priorities of SIDS as expressed in the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway and fully integrate this into the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, along with the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, form the foundation of the sustainable development of SIDS.
4. We strongly agree with the elements paper of the seminal importance of the strong linkage between climate change and sustainable development. PSIDS welcome the stand-alone goal on climate change. Climate change is one of today's and the future's gravest challenges humanity is faced with and without adequately addressing its adverse impacts and healing the planet, it will be a nemesis to our collective vision of the better world we are all aspiring and striving to attain in 2030. PSIDS therefore believe that the Declaration should reflect that climate change is a persistent crisis, and should express concern that the scale and gravity of the negative impacts of climate change affect all countries and undermine the ability of all countries, in particular developing countries (and SIDS), to achieve sustainable development (SDGs) and threaten the viability and survival of nations, including many of our small atoll nations in the Pacific. fore the declaration should underscore that combatting climate change requires urgent and ambitious action.
5. Finally, all elements of the post-2015 agenda, including the declaration, must integrate gender perspectives. The declaration should highlight that gender inequality remains the most pervasive form of discrimination around the world and a pressing human rights concern, and that gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and their full realization of their human rights, are essential for the achievement of sustainable development and for building peaceful, just, and equal societies. An integrated and universal agenda can only be achieved by ensuring coherence and linkages between economic, social, and environmental policies and by pro-actively addressing gender inequalities across all areas.

I thank you, Co-facilitators.