



# PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES United Nations Member States

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## Statement of H.E. Mr. Mahe 'U.S. Tupouniua Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States For the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: General Statements and Declaration

New York, Monday 20 July, 2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Co-Facilitators,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) with presence at the United Nations. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Maldives as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and for those of us that are members of the Group of 77 and China, with the statement delivered by South Africa as Chair of that Group.
2. At the outset, we would like to thank you, co-facilitators, for this "final draft of the outcome document," circulated earlier this month. In June, we welcomed the zero-draft as a very good basis for us to continue our work, and we see this "final draft" as a further step in the right direction towards an agreement. We note the many areas where this draft has taken on board suggestions made in the previous round of negotiation, and will continue to engage constructively to ensure that over the next two weeks we can reach an agreement that is worthy of placing before our heads of state in September.

Co-facilitators,

3. Speaking directly to the declaration, we note an improvement in the attention to and balance of to the three dimensions of sustainable development streamlined throughout the draft text. The first three P's of "people," "planet," and "prosperity," (alongside "peace" and "partnership,") are well represented, tending in turn to the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainable development. There are some areas where some additional fine-tuning is necessary, and we will submit those comments in writing.
4. However, standing in the way of the achievement of sustainable development for all countries is the persistent crisis posed by climate change. Indeed, we in the Pacific are keenly aware of the threat it poses not only to sustainable development, but to the continued viability and survival of nations. In this room, we frequently note that this agenda is unique in its ambition and transformative scope. The declaration must reflect this fact, as it is a key opportunity to mobilize high-level political momentum for climate ambition, for a universal and legally binding climate agreement in Paris, and an effort to limit the increase in global temperature to 1.5 degrees Celsius. And where we speak to climate change, it is as important to take into account the imperatives for both adaptation and mitigation, as well as the important issue of loss and damage.

5. This opportunity- to mobilize high-level political momentum for an ambitious agenda- is one that applies throughout the declaration. Indeed, it is important that we keep in mind at all moments that the very purpose of the declaration is to demonstrate the political will of our leaders behind this agenda. To that end, diluting the language of commitment, especially early in the introduction, is detrimental to our aims. In such places, we suggest reverting to the language in the zero-draft.

#### Co-facilitators

6. We welcome the reference to the specific challenges of the most vulnerable countries, including SIDS. We would like to reiterate that SIDS are recognized as a “special case” for sustainable development, and that therefore recognition of our specific challenges must be correlated with specific commitments to overcome those challenges.
7. We also welcome the recognition of the SAMOA pathway as critical to implementation of this agenda, but think that the reference to accelerating full implementation of its commitments could be sharpened. While official development assistance is a critical means of implementation of both the post-2015 development agenda and the SAMOA Pathway, it deserves attention in a distinct paragraph. Additionally, while we move to accelerate full implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, we need to recognize that the priorities it reflects, its implementation, and follow up all must be integrated with the post-2015 development agenda. The SAMOA Pathway is not merely a means of implementation of the post-2015 agenda, but a fully articulated roadmap to the sustainable development of SIDS, a fact which should be clarified in the zero draft.
8. In all of these areas we will provide specific textual amendments in our written submission. I thank you, co-facilitators.