



TUVALU

Statement
Presented by

Prime Minister of Tuvalu

H.E Enele Sosene Sopoaga

at

Leaders' Summit

**“Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development”**

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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the People and the Government of Tuvalu on the occasion of the Agenda 2030 Summit. May the Good Lord bless us all in this gathering.

2. First, I wish to add my congratulations to the outgoing President HE Gutesha, Your Excellency President, and Agenda 2030 Co-Facilitators for your extraordinary leadership in our work. I also wish to commend the Secretary General and his staff, all Missions and our Partners for your dedicated commitment to produce Goals and targets for our new Agenda.

3. As we adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development today, we are aware that it is also the 70th year for this august body - long live the United Nations, its charter, and its noble values and principles. We have all worked hard and diligently to map out the future we want; a world where poverty and hunger are eradicated; where peace and security, good governance and opportunity is equally shared; where every citizen's human rights and larger freedoms are honored and practiced with dignity; where all individuals are empowered to better their life's and where our planet is healed and sustained for successive generations. This is everybody's Agenda.

4. The new sustainable development goals and roadmap, must be implemented with commitment and dedication in order to transform our world to one focused on peace, security and prosperity. The activities must address the root causes of poverty, human vulnerabilities and human insecurity, free the human race from all discrimination and it must address the increasing disparities including trade imbalance and digital divide.

5. Setting goals is an honorable task, for it was certainly not raining when Noah built the ark. Universal goals and strategic planning, means that we are

seeing, eye to eye. But we still have to be committed to achieve these goals to ensure that the outcomes transform and better the lives' of our targeted citizens.

6. Our primary target must be: the most marginalized; the poor and most vulnerable, the discriminated; those lost their self-worth, fall out of the formal education systems, lacking access to health, ignored human rights, and those who by the nature of their physical geographical features are marginalized. We should focus on these people, for they are the ones closest to being easily “left behind”.

7. Each country will craft and drive their own agenda, but we support wholeheartedly the call for the partnerships in the Means of Implementation, and for the inclusion of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism as agreed in the Addis Conference. This noted, it is also critical to ensure that application of the means is based on inclusive approach to benefit all.

8. May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Government and people of Tuvalu to offer our sincere heartfelt appreciation to the membership of the United Nations who, directly or indirectly, have helped Tuvalu in its development on MDGs. We are also grateful to non-UN members including partners like Taiwan/Republic of China for their continued assistance that has greatly helped our development strides. It is vital that this mode of multilateralism is maintained to strategically attain the new 17 Goals and 169 targets that we have set.

9. Our new Agenda must be supported by targeted institutional reforms in the UN to make the Secretariat, the UN bodies the GA and the Security Council fit for purpose. We must strengthen the capacities and technicians not just in the UN, but also at the country level, in order to better serve the mandates and people at the grassroots and not just the bureaucracy and institutional level.

10. Moreover, it is also our view that the reformed Security Council must include climate change as a security issue and a permanent agenda item given the security threats the impacts of climate change is causing particularly to the most vulnerable countries like SIDS. Our national security is threatened by the impacts of climate change.

11. We must also commit to monitoring and reviewing our progress to sustain and focus our transformative agenda. The role of the High Level Political Forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council Development will be critical. There is a need to contextualize the strategic activities to the variable and special circumstances of national pursuits. We also seek for a proper review of the LDC criteria their application particularly to LDC/SIDS to better account for their unique vulnerabilities.

12. Under MDG, we achieved successes. But there are still many unresolved issues, many gaps and chronic and protracted discords. The world is so technically sophisticated and yet we cannot solve the energy crisis that is linked to climate change. One may ask the obvious questions – Why do we have this anomaly? Why can't it be fixed? Why do we have these disparities? How can we do better?

13. We world leaders are here to formally adopt the new Agenda. I think the answer to the said questions lies with us “We the Leaders” to step up for “we the people”. As much as we need capacity enhancement, science, data and new technology, we must match this with Leadership. Leadership demands that the only things that must be “left behind” are wars, inequality, bad governance, self-interests, greed and profit-only mentality. Leadership is retargeting our efforts away from strife to saving lives. Leadership is about reaching the 0.7% GNI target for ODA, and about helping the most vulnerable. To this end, Tuvalu welcomes the 38 point declaration issued by the UN Speakers of Parliament, encouraging us leaders to be accountable for the SDG outputs.

14. Tuvalu welcomes the “special case” recognition of SIDS in the SAMOA Pathway, and in 2030 Agenda. This special case recognizes, our unique vulnerabilities - socially, economically and environmentally – particularly to the impacts of climate change. If the Post 2015 Agenda seeks to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights, for all peoples, then we need a credible and a comprehensive agreement in COP 21 in Paris, that sets the goal to achieve a temperature stabilization level well below 1.5° Celcius relative to pre-industrial times. It must include a new standalone and permanent loss and damage mechanism separate from adaptation activities. It must also have a mechanism

that facilitates the fast tracking and mobilization of funding resources for urgent adaptation actions.

15. But Mr President, the vast disparity and physical distance of SIDS like Tuvalu from world centres especially the United Nations makes it exceedingly imperative that under the new Agenda there is increased connectivity and inclusiveness in the presence of the UN on the ground in far flung SIDS as Tuvalu. We must not continue marginalizing these most vulnerable Members simply because of the distance, they remain deserving and wanting.

16. In conclusion, I must extend our sincere gratitude to members of the international community, including our own island neighbours and bodies in the Pacific, the UNDP, World Bank, ESCAP, ADB, and others, and bilateral friends from around the globe who have so kindly responded to supporting and helping Tuvalu following the devastations of TC PAM. We deeply value your support, and we look forward to continuing our partnership in our recovery and future protection efforts. We thank you, Tuvalu shall not forget.

17. Tuvalu pledges its full support for the new agenda, “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Let us work together to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want, and to heal and secure our one planet for successive generations. Let us lead by example to shift the world’s development trajectory onto a sustainable and resilient path: a path to save human beings, to save Tuvalu, to save the world.

18. I thank you, Mr. President. TUVALU MO TE ATUA.