Madame Chairperson,

Tuvalu wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Samoa on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, and the distinguished representative of Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Madam Chairperson,

The overarching issue of climate change and its adverse impacts and linkages to all sectors of development in Tuvalu is addressed through specific programs with ultimate objectives to reduce the vulnerability of the population and diversify the required livelihood strategies. Faced with scarce land and natural resources that are increasingly threatened by climate change especially with sea level rise and a dependence on natural systems for livelihoods, these programs are primarily focused on the following general parameters:

- The implementation of Sustainable Natural Resource Management that takes a “bottom up” approach in order to capitalize on traditional knowledge and management systems, and also builds local capacity.

- The implementation of Sustainable Agricultural and Fisheries practices. Reform of existing agricultural and fisheries systems incorporates the risks of climate change through changes in crop cultivation, greater diversification in the agricultural sector and the adoption of sustainable fisheries management.

- The promotion of Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation that takes the long-term perspective necessary for sustainable development that is implemented in close consultation with local communities and their leaders.

Madame Chairperson,

As a cross-cutting issue much has said and well documented about the need for Climate Change to be streamlined across all sectors for sustainable development. However, having the right and appropriate policies in all the thematic issues of sustainable development without being able to implement them in a timely manner leads to no progress. Therefore we need to secure sources of financing and appropriate technology to enable us translate these policies into tangible and concrete programs and projects on the ground. As a small island nation most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, coupled with the drastic impacts of a series of current global crisis we cannot implement these programs without the continuous commitments and assistance of our development partners and the international community. Any further delay in such commitments will only jeopardize the livelihoods of our future generations through unsustainable development.

Thank you.