



# TUVALU

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## **Keynote Statement**

**Delivered by**

**The Prime Minister of Tuvalu, the Honourable Enele S. Sopoaga**

**At the High Level Segment of the COP21, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015.**

Mr President,  
Head of Government,  
Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are on the last week of the COP21 negotiations. We stand here facing one of the greatest challenges of humankind, namely climate change. We have no time left for rhetoric or hiding. We must all stand together and face up to our responsibilities and finalise a legally binding agreement that will deliver a temperature stabilisation pathway below 1.5 degrees Celsius compared with pre-industrial levels.

The Science is clear and indisputable; human induced climatic impacts are already occurring at the current level of global warming and will only accelerate the risk of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts.

At current warming, Tuvalu's future is already bleak. We must urgently cut greenhouse gases, and dramatically transform the global economy to a renewable energy pathway. Any further temperature increase beyond 1.5 °C will spell the total demise of Tuvalu, and other low lying island nations.

We must have the greatest possible political will to set the right path here in Paris that will "leave no one behind". We must agree to a Paris Agreement that is legally binding. Anything less would signal to the world that we are not serious about climate change and that will be morally shameful.

Having committed our INDCs, we must be obliged to action and implement each of our respective. This cannot be a communication agreement, it must be an implementation agreement. We must have a five year review cycle, to gauge and increase our ambition to a desired commitment and target for all Parties.

We need a permanent mechanism for Loss and Damage anchored in the Paris Treaty to give us the assurance that the necessary response to climate change impacts will be forthcoming. This is important to Tuvalu and other low-lying small island developing states to safeguard their survival from increased sea level, and other severe impacts of climate change.

The Paris treaty must also deliver, new and predictable finance, technology transfer and capacity building. With respect to finance we must be assured that the most vulnerable are supported financially in their mitigation and resilience-building endeavours. Easy access and streamlined processes must be established for these financial vehicles like

the Green Climate Fund and GEF. We must also ensure that the financial partnerships are scheduled for delivery in a timely manner.

Mr. President,

The Paris treaty must have clear objectives that protect human rights, it must promote gender equality, respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensure that all actions under the treaty are environmentally sound and do not adversely affect the natural ecosystems.

Mr. President

Time is of essence. We must all stand together to save our future and our one planet earth. A new, comprehensive treaty on climate change is doable. Let's do it now. Let's do it for the future of humanity and all lives on this planet.

Let's do it for Tuvalu. For if we save Tuvalu we save the world.

I thank you.

TUVALU MO TE ATUA.