



**Remarks delivered by
His Excellency the Honorable Baron Waqa M.P.,
President of the Republic of Nauru
COP21/CMP 11 – Leaders Event
Monday 30th November 2015
Paris, France**

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Republic of Nauru, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the people of France. Our prayers are with all of those whose lives have been affected. Even in the darkest of hours, the French people have united the world behind a message of hope and solidarity.

Mr. President,

It is my sincere hope that these same ideals will bring us to a successful conclusion of this Conference. After years of excess and willful ignorance, the climate bill has finally come due. Who will pay?

Right now, it is being paid by the poorest and the most vulnerable. Small Island Communities pay in the droughts that destroy livelihoods and the record cyclones that steal lives. We see a small toll exacted every day as our shorelines are slowly eroded. Larger payments are made when the foundation of our marine ecosystems are bleached away.

Small Island Communities are among the first to pay the price of climate change, but no one will escape forever. The list on the ledger is very long.

But we have a choice. We can pay in human misery, or we can pay by seriously investing in a more equitable, more resilient, and sustainable future. We can invest in ourselves.

Fortunately, the solutions are at hand. Countries and communities around the world demonstrating that a better life – a good life – is possible. Clean energy not only reduces emissions, but also improves our public health. Efficiency measures can save us money as it saves our climate. We already know what we must do.

Any rational decision-making process would have led us to take these actions even in the absence of the climate crisis. That we have yet to choose safety over suffering will likely confound philosophers and psychologists for generations.

The task will not be easy and it will not be cheap. The scale of the transformation required will be unprecedented, requiring all of us to re-examine failed ideologies and to confront powerful entrenched interests.

We have grown complacent in our inspirational rhetoric and good intentions. I do not doubt their sincerity. But this all must change here in Paris. Vulnerable countries and communities alone can no longer be left to pay the price of climate change.

We must leave here with a strong foundation on which to build a new era of multilateral cooperation. By submitting their national contributions, over One Hundred and Seventy (170) countries have already signaled their readiness to join

through their national contributions, including the Republic of China – Taiwan, a country that should rightfully be contributing in these process towards a universal legally binding agreement.

We must now make sure that every country is able to achieve – and over-achieve – their climate mitigation and adaptation goals. Those with resources must step up and help those with the political will.

Mr. President,

We have come to Paris to stand in solidarity with the people of France. We must leave Paris in solidarity with each other.

May God bless us All.

Thank you.