



**Statement
by
Honourable Tuilaepa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi,
Prime Minister
of the
Independent State of Samoa
at the
LEADER'S EVENT,
United Nations Climate Change Conference,
Paris (Le Bourget) France, 30 November 2015**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen.

We meet against the backdrop of the inhuman and brutal terror attacks perpetrated here in this great city. We mourn from the depths of our hearts the victims. If an aim of this senseless act was to stop this vital event to the future of our planet from taking place, then the presence today of the world's leadership is a resounding demonstration that we will not be deterred in our resolve.

We are in Paris with only one goal in mind. We want a legally binding and universal agreement that will keep global warming preferably below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Without that, the continuing existence of some of the low-lying islands in our Pacific region and elsewhere which is an ideal and moral goal to save Planet earth will be in grave doubt. Our Paris agreement must be durable. We need principled action. Member states and stakeholders alike must have a strong sense of ownership of the

agreement and show unequivocal resolve to meet their commitments. Imbedding such principles in the agreement will elevate the level of trust and confidence amongst member states.

Excellencies,

Samoa is a small island developing state. Like other SIDS, our contribution to the causes of climate change is negligible. Yet we are the frontline vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. These are facts. Right now a cyclone "Tuni" is moving through our part of the Pacific. It is just the start of the cyclone season and there will be many more in our Pacific region. The immense destruction and setbacks to the economic development efforts that these natural disasters inflict on our small island states is also established fact. This is why countries like mine over the years have knocked on the door and sought the understanding of the world's leadership of the danger and the need to take decisive action to stop climate change.

Ambitious actions must be taken at the national and international levels to address the root causes of climate change. For Samoa, we have taken steps to reduce even further our very low carbon footprint. Our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) include the commitment to reduce our green house gas emissions from the electricity sector through the adoption of a hundred percent renewable energy target for electricity generation through to the year 2025 starting from 2017.

We know well that for a small island developing country, the achievement of ambitious INDCs will require durable and successful partnerships. This is the reason why the financing component of the new climate change agreement is a game changer for countries like mine, to fund the mix of necessary adaptation and mitigation actions.

Excellencies,

The impacts of climate change are evident in our countries and have been for quite some time now. There is also no doubt that neither climate change nor its impacts will be reversed overnight. Even with the decisive actions that we look to achieve in the new Agreement, these will take a long time to take effect and our countries will continue to suffer until climate change is reversed. It is the reason why we consider "Loss and Damage" an essential part of the Agreement.

Our people are waiting, the world is watching. It is incumbent on our leadership gathered here to make history for the sake of all our countries and planet.

Thank you