



**19th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
UNFCCC/CMP9**

STATEMENT TO THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

by

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Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The vulnerability of Pacific islands to extreme weather events is a fact. Scientific information from the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC 5th Assessment report) confirms that increased storage of thermal energy in the tropical oceans from climate change will result in tropical cyclones increasing in their intensity. And the likelihood of extreme natural disaster events such as Super Typhoon Haiyan can be expected to occur more frequently in a future where human induced warming of the oceans continues to grow.

Climate change is therefore an existential issue for Samoa and other low-lying islands – hence our strong support towards finalizing of a new, universal, ambitious legally binding agreement within the agreed timeframes to reflect the science under the ADP with an effective and equitable compliance regime.

Mr. President

Genuine partnerships are indispensable and a necessity in all our development efforts and actions to try and mitigate against the impacts of climate change. Samoa is grateful to its development partners who share and believe in its concern by providing much needed resources to increase our resilience to climate change impacts.

The roles of the GEF, Adaptation Fund and GCF are even more critical now in ensuring that real money flows expeditiously to the neediest of parties.

The urgent and timely replenishment of these Funds is vital, as such support is critical, without which our adaptive capacity will remain constrained and our decision to embark on an ambitious but essential undertaking to be carbon-neutral in 2020 would not be realized. The centrality of partnerships to Samoa's sustainable development is the underpinning why we had proposed as the overarching theme of the 3rd global conference on SIDS that we are privileged to host in September 2014 "the sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships".

Climate change, and trying to cope with its impacts is a long term commitment. It is a costly preoccupation – hence the adequacy, predictability and the timely availability of resources assume greater significance or we risk weakening our resilience acquired over years. Notwithstanding what the Warsaw COP is able to deliver, one remains optimistic that we can continue to count on the support of our partners and our established multilateral mechanisms as we all share a common concern and a common cause.

Mr. President, (Loss and Damage)

It was in Cancun in 2010 (COP 16) that Parties to the UN Climate Convention were mandated to agree on actions to address loss and damage. Last year in Doha, we agreed to use the Warsaw Conference to set up the institutional arrangements under the Convention to address this important issue.

That time is now. We need to establish the Warsaw International Mechanism to address loss and damage, and remove the prevalent and convenient attempt by some to confuse “disaster relief” with “full recovery”. Disaster relief humanitarian assistance of an immediate and temporary nature for basic survival, while “full recovery” addresses the full return to “pre-extreme event situations”.

On a more practical notion, a process focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency involving submissions, technical papers and expert workshops will ensure fuller understanding of the realities of additional pressures now faced by the most vulnerable among us in this room because of climate change exacerbated disasters. About 12 months ago, Samoa was hit by Cyclone Evan which was unprecedented in severity and damages it caused. The cost to us in terms of Loss and Damage was well in excess of US\$300 million that has set our economic development many years back.

Mr President,

Let me return to the central issue that we continuously face – **ambition** – or the lack of it especially by countries with the capacity, the resources and best placed with the leadership role to lead, have continuously fallen short. The painful reality is that despite all our efforts in the years leading up to Doha to achieve legally binding commitments, which we all said we wanted, only four Parties have ratified the Doha Amendment, and none is a developed country Party. The truth is, we do not have in place a legally

binding second commitment period. Henceforth, 2014 is a year of great expectations and a time for true leadership. A number of Annex B Parties are well towards achieving their commitments - largely because these were not ambitious targets in the first place. We expect the progress they had made to date be reflected in 2014 in commitments to deeper emission reductions for the second commitment period, through adjustments to their Quantified Emission Level Reductions Options (QELROs) over the next 12 months.

Mr. President,

The Pacific island leaders made a commitment in August this year in the Majuro Declaration for Climate change. Their message is simple but powerful. Being small and isolated with limited resource-base should not be a disadvantage. While adaptation efforts against the impacts of climate change remain a priority for us, we are not limiting ourselves to adaptation projects only. In Samoa, we always believe that ambition must begin at home. We have to be part of the global solution by putting our own house in order first through positive contributions within our means. Thus as a government, we have established a National Green House Gas Abatement Strategy premised on a low carbon development pathway that is easily transformed into a comprehensive Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) programme towards a carbon neutral energy sector. We also have exceeded our National Energy Policy target for renewable energy sourcing. The scale of our effort will be negligible at the global level, but being able

to showcase positive examples and being part of the solution, instead of the problem is important to our country.

I highlight this to underscore both the magnitude and cost of climate change and the fact that SIDS like Samoa are right up there with the rest doing our share, often at great expense, to mitigate emissions and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change within the confines of our resources.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reminding this conference, that so long as we try to respond to the symptoms of climate change, and not address its root causes, and as long as vested and narrow interests dictate our national actions, the price we pay for indecisiveness and inaction in human lives lost and material costs will continue to escalate exponentially beyond any one country's capacity to cope alone.

Finally, we express much appreciation to the government and people of Poland for their kind hospitality, and commend the organisers of the meeting for its excellent arrangements.

Thank you.