



Solomon Islands Government

Ministry Of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
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Statement by Hon. Bradley Tovosia, Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands at the COP18/CMP8, Doha, Qatar, 6th December 2012

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your election, I bring warm greetings from the happy isles and the government and people of Solomon Islands. I sincerely thank the government and people of Qatar for the excellent facilities and the warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this fast changing country. I would like to align this statement with the statement issued by Nauru on behalf of AOSIS, Gambia on behalf of LDCs and Algeria on behalf G77 and China.

Mr. President,

I come to this Conference here in Doha to make a plea for action to deliver an outcome that guarantees humanity's survival on this planet. As a Small Island Developing State with LDC status, time is a luxury that, we no longer have. Science tells us that temperature has increased by 0.8 degree Celsius. Sea level rise and ocean acidification are accelerating. The recent UNEP report indicates that emission gap has widened. The World Bank report released only last month indicate we are already heading to a 4 degree Celsius temperature increase under current pledges.

Mr. President,

Here in Doha, we see the Kyoto Protocol as key to our ongoing fight against climate change. The first commitment under the Kyoto Protocol is now 25 days away from expiry. As I present this statement we have yet to see credible unconditional single number QELROS and ambition commitments to stabilize global average temperature increases. We hope this will happen in the remaining twenty four to thirty six hours.

Solomon Islands, would also like to see the second commitments be applied provisionally as of 1st of January 2013 so that there be no gap between the first and second commitment period.



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Doha presents an opportunity for us under your leadership to limit carryover of AAU from the first commitment period to the second commitment to safeguard the environmental integrity of the climate change framework.

My delegation regrets to see some parties not taking a second commitment under the Kyoto Protocol. This is regrettable; there can be no free riders in a global fight against climate change. Those countries without second commitment should not be eligible to participate in the protocol's flexible mechanism; this is a stand we make here in Doha.

Mr. President,

As we continue the negotiations, Solomon Islands like many other most vulnerable countries is faced with chronic onset events of climate change which are triggering relocation of populations, threatens our food and water security and other challenges to our social and economic wellbeing. This is placing much stress on our limited resources. It is in this respect that we support the proposal of establishing a financial mechanism to address loss and damage. We expect progress on this matter and look forward to this Conference to adopt a decision to establish the loss and damage international facility.

On REDD plus, Solomon Islands has embarked on its REDD + readiness. As members of the Coalition of Rainforest Nations, as conveyed by my neighbour Papua New Guinea, the Coalition would like to see the Conference establish a REDD plus Committee under the SBI and launch a REDD+ financing mechanism to support REDD+ activities.

Mr. President,

One of the key outcomes of the Durban Agreement was to ratchet emission reduction. We therefore would like to see the ADP Work Stream One, agree to a set of concrete activities that rapidly and cost effectively drive up ambition level and close the emission gap. Identifying means of implementation necessary is central piece for developing countries. For developed countries our expectation is that they demonstrate leadership and come to the table with ambitious mitigation actions.

As stated by others, climate change has no political boundaries. No one is immune from its impact. It is in this respect, Solomon Islands continue to call for the Republic of China (Taiwan) meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process. It is my delegation's interpretation of this Conference's rules of procedures that States with observers status in other specialized UN bodies can be accorded with similar status in this conference. In this respect, I wish to emphasize that Republic of China (Taiwan) continues to support renewable energy programmes in many developing countries including Solomon Islands.

Mr. President,

At the national level, my Government has launched a comprehensive climate change policy in June this year. We are now considering developing NAMAs on the energy,



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waste and forestry sectors and operationalize the various adaptation, mitigation, other thematic working groups under the policy. Like many developing countries, we need finance to translate policy into action; unfortunately we see no real movement in filling the financial mechanisms under the Convention. This is a real set back on making real progressive action.

Mr. President,

This is my first Conference, my reflection thus far is that everyone say the right things in their statements. Statements unfortunately still do not match what is evolving in the negotiations. The lack of political will, the lack of urgency and the lack commitment continue to stall progress in the negotiations. We must deliver in Doha.

Thank you for your attention.



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