



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
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**Hon. Mr. Tony A. deBrum**  
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**Republic of the Marshall Islands**  
**High Level Segment of the 20<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the**  
**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**  
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*Check against delivery*

Mr. Secretary General, Madame Executive Secretary, Minister Pulgar-Vidal,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank Minister Pulgar-Vidal and the host nation of Peru for your hospitality -  
but also for your strong leadership as COP President.

All of us are in Lima to deliver a strong Paris Protocol next year. We have some  
strong wind in our sails from recent and robust announcements by major economies - the  
EU, China and the US - from world leaders who met in New York at a historic UN  
Climate summit - and from hundreds of thousands, including myself, who marched in the  
streets to say "this is our time." We will not fail.

The Marshall Islands, like other atoll states of Kiribati, Tuvalu and Maldives, lies a little  
more than a meter above sea level. I am not an alarmist - but the science consensus - and  
impacts we are already seeing at home - is rightfully alarming.

Ours is not a story of passive victimhood - we are not waiting for the "climate coconut"  
to fall on our heads - we are the active drivers of change.

This September, as he tabled new national climate initiatives in New York, Marshall  
Islands President Christopher Loeak became the first head of state to confirm his  
attendance at the Paris talks next year.

The future viability of the Marshall Islands - and all island nations - is at stake. Success  
in Paris is more than political compromises. Success is an agreement that gives my  
country a fighting chance - success is not three or four degrees of warming - and success  
is not loss and damage. Despite recent breakthrough announcements from major emitters  
- the world is still way off track. And it is due time that all of us started being much



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more honest in directly addressing this emissions shortfall. What realistic and meaningful answer will the world provide?

Continued silence, or rote recitation of Convention articles like a schoolchild - this is no answer at all. Every country in this room – and I mean *every* country – must play it's part by reaching for the top end of national mitigation potential. Addressing HFCs in the Montreal Protocol is another critical step – as proposed by our neighbor the Federated States of Micronesia.

To be a success, Paris must be about much more than governments and their new Protocol – to build the greatest climate alliance ever, we need to engage more far more effectively with the full range of non-party actors - business and investors, state and local governments, economic entities and the research community, among others -- and for this reason the Republic of the Marshall Islands support's Taiwan's aspirations for meaningful participation in the UN system, and in particular the UNFCCC. No one can be left out. Everyone must act – there are no free rides and we are all in this together.

Typhoon Haiyan last year – which devastated Palau and the Philippines – and Typhoon Hagupit earlier this week – are but signals of far greater risks to come. The Paris moment must be about changing the way we build to the new realities of a warming world.

Nations have already pledged significant resources to the Green Climate Fund -- with more effort to come. But this vast climate finance system too often remains out of the grasp of those who might need it most. It is beyond time that the Marshall Islands reorder it's own national system to better engage multilateral finance -- but the challenge is on all sides of the table. I urge the Green Climate Fund to help us take forward our climate finance readiness work plan - and I urge the donor community to provide continued and strong engagement with finance sources all the way through the pipeline.

2015 is the year where everyone must take action.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands anticipates tabling our own intended nationally determined contribution early next year – to outline our post-2020 energy and emissions - and we expect other island nations to join us. And our message to all of the major economies on delivering strong INDCs – “if we can do it, so must you”. The Marshall Islands is actively advancing even more transformational technologies such as Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion – our strongest contribution to global deep decarbonization.

Our ambition knows no bounds.

Thank you and kommel tata.