



Solomon Islands Statement at UNFCCC COP21

**Hon. S. Manetoali (MP), Minister of Environment, Climate Change,
Disaster Management and Meteorology**

Paris 2015

Mr. President,

I bring sincere greetings from Solomon Islands to the government and people of France. Solomon Islands joins the international community in standing in solidarity with France over the recent tragic events and condemn all terrorist attacks globally.

Mr. President,

Climate change is equally causing havoc around the world. The world is going through one of the hottest years ever recorded, the frequency and intensity of climate induced disasters are now an annual event in my country. It is undermining sustainable development, and fueling poverty and hardship in countries contributing the least to its cause, yet suffer the most adverse climatic impacts.

It is in this connection, my delegation is here to support the French Presidency and working with all 193 Parties in getting a comprehensive, ambitious and legally binding Agreement to save our people.

Mr. President,

Despite the submissions of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) by Parties, regrettably ambition remains low; we are on track to see global temperature increase to more than 3 degrees Celsius. This is in direct conflict with the objective of the Convention. Our task at this historic gathering is to breathe new life into the twenty-three year old Climate Change Convention as climate change is fast creating an uncertain future for all.

In the remaining four days, we must collectively establish medium and long-term emission reduction pathways capable of limiting temperature increase to well below 1.5 degrees. We must also enhance implementation of the Kyoto Protocol which is fundamental to enhance pre 2020 climate action. It lays a solid

foundation for enhanced post 2020 action to secure aggregate emission pathways consistent to achieve a below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Stabilizing global temperature increase to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius will enable my country to sign onto the new Agreement.

My delegation, wish to register its grave concern on last week's failure of the Convention's two subsidiary bodies in not concluding consideration of the 2013-2015 review of the global temperature goal under the Structured Expert Dialogue report. Science should guide the decisions of the Conference and I urge under your leadership that COP 21 address the findings of the report.

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands supports the one hundred and thirty four developing countries in pushing for a Loss and Damage Article under the Paris Agreement. This is spelt out in Article 5 of which we would like to see a Loss and Damage institution to deal with permanent loss and damage as a result of climate change. We would also like to see the institution fully supported to carry out its mandate.

Solomon Islands while it emits a mere 0.01% of global emissions, under our INDC we are punching way above our weight taking on more than our fair share in being part of the global solution. Solomon Islands commits to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 12% below 2015 level by 2025 and 30% below 2015 level by 2030. Furthermore, Solomon Islands can contribute a further 27% reduction in emissions by 2025 and 45% reduction in emissions by 2030 with appropriate international assistance. In this connection, a REDD+ mechanism and support to strengthen carbon sinks and implement INDCs must be part of the new agreement.

Solomon Islands welcomes Republic of China/Taiwan's INDC and its new law to manage greenhouse gas emissions, and would reiterate our support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process because no one should be left behind.

Mr. President,

Climate change is man-made problem and can be addressed, here in Paris. We are the last generation that will be remembered to guarantee humanity's survival. We have one shot at getting it right. Let us not fail our people and the future of humanity.

Thank you!