

Solomon Islands Statement
Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue – SB64

The Solomon Islands aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of AOSIS.

At the outset, we commend your leadership in guiding this important dialogue.

The ocean is our lifeblood. It sustains our people, cultures, and economies. Yet today, it is under unprecedented stress from climate change; warming temperatures, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, and sea-level rise are already causing profound harm to our ocean ecosystems and communities.

For Solomon Islands, these impacts are lived realities. Several communities across our Islands are already experiencing the impacts of sea-level rise, coastal inundation and shoreline erosion, requiring relocation or adaptation measures. As a nation where the majority of our population depends directly on coastal and marine resources for food security, livelihoods and cultural identity, the health of the ocean is inseparable from our future resilience and sustainable development.

In our effort to protect our ocean, Solomon Islands is a part of the first indigenous led, multinational ocean reserve called the Melanesian Ocean Reserve. The Reserve is an articulation of our marine stewardship, a moral claim on our indigenous heritage and multi-national governance framework led by the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu, three nations united by ocean currents, shared knowledge, and a common responsibility to protect and manage one of the world's most vast ocean regions. It is the largest interconnected marine reserve - spanning at least 6 million square kilometres of ocean and islands — an area as vast as the Amazon rainforest.

This initiative reflects the enduring stewardship of Indigenous Peoples and local communities whose traditional knowledge systems and customary marine management practices have sustained ocean ecosystems for generations. We emphasize that Indigenous knowledge should be recognized as an essential component of climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable ocean governance.

Our NDC 3.0 priorities recognizes integrated ocean-climate linkages through alignment with the National Ocean Policy. This policy provides a holistic framework for integrated ocean governance, underpinned by ecosystem-based management, indigenous and local communities' governance and sustainable development principles. Through this policy, Solomon Islands aims to; strengthen marine spatial planning and integrated ocean management; enhance ocean governance coordination across sectors; safeguard ocean health while supporting sustainable blue economies and ensure that ocean action contributes meaningfully to climate resilience and national development goals.

As part of these efforts, Solomon Islands is advancing marine spatial planning as a practical tool for balancing conservation, sustainable livelihoods, climate resilience and blue economy development across our ocean space.

We emphasize that effective ocean-climate action requires coherence between national policies, climate commitments, and sectoral strategies.

The Solomon Islands' National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) further reinforces our ocean priorities by; expanding marine protected areas and locally managed marine areas (LMMAs); conserving, managing and/or restoring critical habitats such as coral reefs and mangrove forests; strengthening biodiversity monitoring and resilience against climate impacts and promoting community-led approaches aligned with customary tenure systems.

These actions support both biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation, illustrating the strong synergies between the CBD and UNFCCC processes. . They also contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the global ambition to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of marine and coastal areas by 2030.

We wish to underscore the following key points:

First, the centrality of the ocean-climate nexus must be fully recognized across all UNFCCC processes. The ocean is not a separate issue—it is fundamental to mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. We therefore call for strengthened integration of ocean-based considerations into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and long-term strategies.

Second, ambition on mitigation remains critical. Without rapid and deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, efforts to protect the ocean will be overwhelmed. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C is essential for the survival of coral reefs and the communities that depend on them. Protecting our blue ecosystems as natural infrastructures must be invested in.

Third, adaptation for coastal and small island developing states must be scaled up urgently. This includes greater support for nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration, coral reef protection, and integrated coastal management, as well as investments in resilient infrastructure and community-led adaptation.

Fourth, we emphasize the importance of accessible, predictable, and adequate climate finance. The unique vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States must be reflected in simplified access modalities and increased support for ocean-related adaptation and loss and damage.

Fifth, we support strengthening the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue as a platform for knowledge-sharing and collaboration. This dialogue should produce actionable outcomes that can inform decision-making and accelerate implementation on the ground.

Sixth, we call for the IPCC, as the best available science, to continue to inform the ocean-climate nexus, including critical tipping points, ripple and compounded effects of inaction, and management measures that the global community can take to safeguard our ocean. In this regard, we note the International Court of Justice's recognition that limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 °C, in line with IPCC assessments, reflects the best available scientific basis for understanding climate risks and guiding State obligations, further underscoring the urgency of science-driven action to protect the ocean and climate system.

Finally, we stress that safeguarding the ocean is not only an environmental imperative—it is a matter of justice, survival, and human dignity for our people.

As a Pacific Small Island Developing State, Solomon Islands reaffirms its commitment to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and calls for strengthened global partnerships to support sustainable ocean governance, climate resilience and blue prosperity for present and future generations.

Solomon Islands stand ready to work with all Parties and stakeholders to ensure that the ocean is fully recognized and protected within global climate action.

Tagio Tumas (I thank you)

//END//