

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement for the Honorable Sihna N. Lawrence
Minister of Finance & Administration
Federated States of Micronesia
COP 24-Katowice, Poland
December 11, 2018

Thank you Mr. President

All Protocol observed

Mr. President,

12 years is not a long time...

Neither my country nor the sum of all emission-reduction efforts of the small islands in the world can make a significant difference to slow down the advance of climate change, though we **MUST AND WE WILL** do our part...Thus we put our hopes in your hands, our global brothers and sisters to sit with us at the table and realize positive global impact and save our planet.

Our reaching a global agreement in Paris encouraged us. It added hope to our positive efforts under the UNFCCC and built up our belief that global cooperation is possible and that the global devastation we are warned about almost daily from our scientists can be avoided. But now I ask you, do we here at this Conference have the collective resolve to make that Agreement real – to turn it into action?

It is NOT a question of whether the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius can be achieved. Rather, the question is, will WE here at this Katowice table allow it be achieved?

Our experts from the IPCC have spoken. Let us not let the environmental damage be the convincing factor. Let us not let loss of peoples be our mind-changer. Our principles, our future and our planet have spoken. Our

scientists can only warn us, and their grave warning tells us that the line of dominoes of climate change is global. It is only a matter of time until all of us are impacted...IF... action is not taken. ACTION that can make a difference, ACTION that can save our planet.

We are aware that while financing and technologies exist, they are not flowing quickly enough to decarbonize the global economy. Billions of dollars are still being spent on oil exploration – Those resources must instead be directed into the raised sails of renewable energies and to help countries like my own to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are already upon us.

It is up to us to listen and not wait until it speaks to us as a drought, a fire, a typhoon or cyclone, or as a wave over our heads.

Innovation and speed is necessary for carbon reduction now, but I urge caution in solutions such as geoengineering and carbon removal, to be careful of the unknown that may yield problems in the future. We have proven means to achieve the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius without putting ourselves at risk.

We also have in our hands a sure-fire solution to prevent up to 1 degree of global warming... the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

I would like to ask all countries to join me in welcoming its entry into force this coming 1 January 2019, and I strongly *urge* any country that has not ratified it to do so, and to make this Amendment a success!

We have to make the rules here, but we must be very clear in our minds that our outcomes are not at the expense of our planet, and will not allow for acceleration of the falling dominoes.

SAVE OUR PLANET, SAVE OUR CHILDREN.

Thank you.