

**Statement for High Level Segment COP27
Tuesday 15 November 2022
Gender Champion
Office of Minister Hon Esa Sharon Mona Ainu'u
Government of Niue Island**

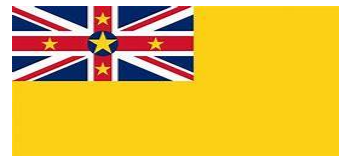
Mr President, Excellencies, fellow small island developing states and especially Niue's Pacific family, Fakaalofa Lahi Atu ke he higoa he Iki ha tautolu ko Iesu Keriso.

I stand before you today, to amplify our voice to the many issues that have been made on this podium over the last 10 days and many years afore.

I stand on the shoulders of my ancestors, beating and echoing the drums for our survival, for our future and the generations yet to come. The drumbeats are getting louder, with greater urgency for action.

COP 27 is an implementation COP. Let's make it happen. Let's turn those drumbeats from our islands to be sounds of celebration, sounds of action and not sounds of despair.

We call for timely access to climate finance, delivered through modalities with the least amount of transaction cost, and commensurate with our absorptive capacity. These are the sounds that we seek, and we look to you our partners to join us in our journey. Let's honour the drumbeats by availing those climate funds promised to us; expedite their release so we can address loss and damage, and streams of program activities set out for execution, and work in unity to reach a common goal.

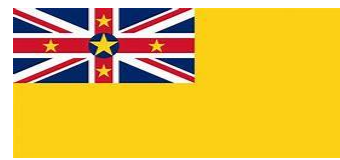


Niue have done everything that we possibly can to access climate finance to help us mitigate and adapt. There are large disparities in accessing Climate finance. This is an unacceptable situation for Island Countries whose existence is under threat.

Niue continues to take bold steps with our new innovative solution. We do this because we simply do not have the time to navigate the camel's eye, to find the passcode, to unlock that illusive treasure chest.

We have developed a home-grown innovative solution; to raise funds for climate adaption and mitigation, using our blue ocean and through our commitments on ocean conservation and protection. This is a world-first, environment and non-financial instrument called Ocean Conservation Credit.

Our objective is to establish a Niue and Ocean Wide Trust Fund, that can provide a consistent funding stream to help our climate mitigation and adaptation priorities. The funding mechanism is scalable and replicable. Our goal is to raise at least \$32 million to capitalise our Trust Fund and making available \$1.5 million annually for 20 years. The \$32 million is based on the aggregated costs of protecting and maintaining 1 square km of the Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area comprising 40% of Niue's EEZ or 127,000 square kms.



As a Champion for Social Inclusion and Gender, I am reminded of the realities women and girls face every day – from experiencing domestic violence, bearing the burden of unpaid work, to barriers limiting their economic empowerment and participation in public life. And if this isn't enough, they with other marginalized communities, have to deal with the disproportionate impacts of climate change. I urge all of us to include women, girls, children, youth, persons with disabilities in all our decision-making and actions.

Our Pacific Leaders have endorsed our *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*, to guide our journey as a one, strong, secure, inclusive, resilient Blue Pacific. Ensuring a future that we can be proud of to leave behind for our grandchildren – *the mokopuna of Moana*.

Let's drown out the cries of despair and calm the beating hearts of fear from our kids and our vulnerable communities, assuring them that all will be ok.

Let's change the drumbeats to action, innovative and sounds of joy. It starts with us as world leaders.

Kia Monuina!