



UNFCCC COP 29

**Solomon Islands National Statement delivered by the Hon. Trevor
Manemahaga
Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and
Meteorology**

**Tuesday 19th November 2024
Baku, Azerbaijan**

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Esteemed delegates,

The Context of Climate Change

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Government and people of Solomon Islands.

At the outset, I congratulate you on your election to the COP presidency and thank the government and people of Azerbaijan for hosting us in this beautiful country.

The urgency to address climate change, demands decisive leadership, and we are confident that you will provide it.

The Solomon Islands, like many Least Developed Countries (LDC) as well as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), are on the front lines of the climate crisis. Climate Change is a lived reality and our stories now are those of loss, displacement, suffering, and erosion of culture and heritage.

We welcome the focus of COP29 on climate finance. But we must not lose sight of the need to keep global warming to 1.5 because our survival and the health of our planet to be able to sustain life depends on limiting global temperature rise.

Mitigation

Mr President,

Solomon Islands is concerned that the latest synthesis report of the Nationally Determined Contributions and outcomes of the first global stocktake point to an overshoot of global temperatures beyond 1.5 degree warming.

High emitting countries must take our plight seriously and increase mitigation ambition and action. It is imperative that major emitters address the root cause of this crisis, which is the emission of greenhouse gases.

Solomon Islands is gravely concerned at the lack of outcome from the Subsidiary Body sessions. We urge all parties to ensure that COP 29 delivers a decision of substance under the Mitigation Work Program.

Global Stocktake

The Global Stocktake (GST) presents a vital opportunity for transparent evaluation of the progress made toward our climate goals. There must be follow-up on implementation of mitigation outcomes from the Global

Stocktake, including the phasing out of fossil fuels, removal of fossil fuel subsidies, tripling of renewables and doubling of energy efficiency.

Finance: A Critical Enabler, But Currently Failing

Mr President,

Climate finance is a critical enabler of effective climate action. However, we operate in an unjust international financial architecture. We cannot effectively address vulnerabilities and enhance resilience when the international finance architecture and the great reliance on debt instruments contributes to exacerbating our existing financial burdens and strained economies.

Funding must be significantly grant-based, predictable, and unburdened by complex and onerous processes

The current system of climate finance is demonstrably failing considering the promised \$100 billion has fallen woefully short, marred by a lack of transparency and accountability.

The lessons learned from the failures of the current climate finance system must shape the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG).

The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) Must Be Transformative.

Mr President,

The NCQG must deliver pathways and timeframes to keep the 1.5-degree goal alive, guided by the most recent science.

It must provide accessible, simplified, predictable, additional, and crucially, *grant-based* finance to meet the needs of developing nations. The NCQG must operationalize the Article 9.4 of the Paris Agreement. It must also establish a minimum floor of allocations for SIDS and LDCs.

Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands acknowledge the swift establishment of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. We urge for its swift operationalization to address the pressing needs of vulnerable communities.

Ocean and Climate Change

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands is deeply concerned by the devastating impacts of climate change on our marine ecosystems, fisheries, and overall livelihoods. We urge the UNFCCC bodies to give this issue the serious attention it deserves.

Strengthening Partnerships

We believe that the success of this COP hinges on transparency, accountability, and equitable partnerships. Together, we can overcome the challenges before us and create a more resilient future for all.

In closing, I want to express our sincere appreciation for the excellent leadership and efforts of the COP29. We must use this momentum to ensure our collective commitment to a sustainable future for all. The 1.5-degree goal is not negotiable for it is a matter of survival.

I thank you.