



Statement by Solomon Islands

Melchior Mataki

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
COP24, Katowice, Poland, 12th December 2018

Mr. President,

I am honoured to represent the Government and the People of Solomon Islands. Let me through you thank the Government and People of Poland and the City of Katowice for hosting COP24 and extend to you our warmest congratulations in your election as President. I trust your able leadership to progress the important work of this body.

Mr. President,

For 24 years, parties have been gathering at these COPs to negotiate and discuss climate change. In that same period, five islands in my country have disappeared, communities have been internally displaced and we are in constant mode of recovery from extreme weather events. As the IPCC 1.5 SR highlights, global efforts are off-track at best from the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Mr. President,

The Science is very clear. IPCC 1.5 SR shows the grave risks of exceeding 1.5°Celsius above pre-industrial levels. While it clearly outlines the gravity of the situation, it tells us that it's still possible to bend the curve and keep global warming to 1.5°Celsius, but this will need urgent and far-reaching transitions in all sectors of society. I call upon the COP to welcome this Report and to establish a work programme on the key findings of this Report under the auspices of SBSTA.

Mr. President,

We are committed to work with you through the Talanoa Dialogue to review and enhance our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to put us back on a 1.5°Celsius trajectory. The global response to climate change must be strengthened and deepened. To this end, the Talanoa Dialogue must result in a formal COP decision.

On adaptation, Solomon Islands supports the call for the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement and we hope to see this concluded at this COP. The need for adaptation is pervasive across all sectors including agriculture, fisheries, water resources, health and human settlements in the Solomon Islands. Consequently, there is a need for enhanced and predictable financing for adaptation. Whilst there is a need for new and additional climate finance, it is difficult to completely separate climate and development challenges in the

context of a very vulnerable and least developed country such as the Solomon Islands. Consequently, climate-funding mechanisms need to acknowledge the intricate and inseparable linkages between climate and development issues and solutions.

On Loss and Damage (L&D), as climate change continues to define our future, we look to your leadership, to ensure that L&D is an integral part of the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and has to be treated separately from adaptation.

It is essential that the Paris Agreement rule book is robust, fair, and drives ambition. It must ensure transparency and compliance on action and support, while adequately addressing adaptation and loss and damage. We look forward to its finalization and adoption here in Katowice.

Mr. President,

Last week, Solomon Power and K-Water of the Republic of Korea, signed the power purchase agreement to progress the implementation of Tina River Hydropower Project. This project also benefited from the Green Climate Fund. The annual GHG emission reduction potential of the project (50,600 tCO₂eq) is more than twice our annual commitment in our NDC. However, we are not complacent with this achievement, the Solomon Islands continues to invest in renewable energy power generation, reform our forestry sector including the promotion of REDD+, and pursue low carbon and resilient development pathway including the application of natural solutions to cope with climate change in line with our national development strategy.

Mr. President,

The IPCC special report on 1.5 °C stressed the importance of collective action to reduce emissions. We urge all countries to maximize climate action, and the global community as a whole should be part of the solution. In this connection, the Solomon Islands supports the meaningful participation of the Republic of China's (Taiwan) in the UNFCCC processes. Let Taiwan help!

Mr. President,

“ Below 1.5 °C to stay alive” remains a relevant call, and the IPCC 1.5 SR has provided the scientific basis of that call. We can negotiate with each other, but we cannot negotiate with mother earth, let us ratchet up ambition to save planet earth and humanity.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.