



NATIONAL STATEMENT

**PRIME MINISTER OF TUVALU
HONOURABLE KAUSEA NATANO**

**UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP27)**

**Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
November 2022**

Mr. President/Chairman, Distinguished delegates, let me thank you for your astute leadership in guiding our 27th Conference of Parties business and wish you and your TEAM, success in our work and outcomes. Let me also thank the Government and People of Egypt, our gracious host for their preparations and the hospitalities extended to me and my delegation.

Each COP, Mr. President, Tuvalu is ever so encouraged, by the good intentions and goodwill, pronounced and announced through countries beautifully crafted speeches made in this institution as well as in other platforms the world over. But this said, we must always gauge our efforts by what is happening to our environment and to the people who are affected in the front line, and one begs the question whether we are delivering in our COP objectives and outcomes!

As we reflect back to the transformative spirit of our Agenda 2030, which is almost in its half way stage; we recall in 2015 that the 2030 Agenda envisages a *‘world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and nondiscrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity’*.

That spirit is now waning as the scientific evidences attest to a pathway of an *increase in the global average temperature to well above 2°C above preindustrial levels*.

Mr President, Tuvalu is proactively seeking solutions and not sitting on its laurels by any imagination. We are developing a Long-Term Adaptation Plan (L-TAP) – Te Lafiga; which is informed by science, experience and best practice. Te Lafiga is an ambitious plan envisaged to save Tuvalu to:

- accommodate our entire population safely beyond worse case sea level rise beyond 2100.**
- offer solutions to pre-existing development and resource constraint issues that have remained difficult to tackle for decades.**
- offer hope for the future of Tuvalu and Tuvaluans.**

We do join the call of COP 27, for enhanced transparency of financial flows, facilitating access of developing countries to predictable and adequate climate finance, be it GCF or any other mechanism, to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts, and achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. Tuvalu as the Pacific regions champion for loss and damage, urges an outcome of COP 27 that delivers a secure, guaranteed Loss and Damaged Financing Facility, especially considering the urgency caused by climate change impacts, as reiterated by IPCC reports.

Mr President, existing gaps in the legal infrastructure for dealing with climate change must also be addressed. Tuvalu and Antigua and Barbuda have established ‘COSIS’, a Commission of Small Islands States on Climate Change and International Law to seek advisory opinions from the International Tribunal for the law of the sea, particularly on their endeavors to clarify States international legal obligations to combat climate change effects. As sea level rises, our population will be displaced from their homes; however, climate refugee is not covered under the categories of the Refugee Convention.

Drowning islands and flooded nations requires a reassertion of our basic human rights. Tuvalu and the Marshall Islands have established a ‘Rising Nation Initiative’, to commit the international community to preserving our sovereignty and basic human rights. These include inter alia the rights to life, health, food and water, livelihood, culture, privacy and home, life and property.

Mr. President we all know that the leading cause of climate crisis is fossil fuels. Tuvalu have joined Vanuatu and other Nations, calling for a Fossil Fuels non-proliferation treaty, to steer our development

models to peruse renewables and a just transition away from fossil fuels.

Today's climate emergency can be reduced to two basic concepts: time and temperature. It's getting too hot, and there is barely time to slow and reverse the increasing temperature. Therefore, it is essential to prioritise fast-acting strategies that avoid the most warming.

Based on time we have already reached 1.1C. By Temperature, the planet is heating disproportionately where most SIDS are. Short lived pollutants deliver fast results. Scientific research confirms that decarbonization alone does not slow near term warming. CO2 must be paired with deep cuts to the short-lived climate super pollutants: methane, black carbon, hydrofluorocarbons, and ground level ozone.

Mr President these are our resources in our L-TAP, Te Lafiga, which is a home-grown strategy backed up by science; one that is more durable and sustainable in our view. We are willing to share to all likeminded partners including ROC Taiwan whose meaningful participation in the UN specialized agencies including

WHO, ICAO and UNFCCC in the global fight against climate change should be applauded and recognized.

Mr. President if we do not make headway in this COP; Tuvalu is quickly losing faith in this institution to deliver a sustainable outcome that does not leave island communities and many of us behind. Nevertheless, I remain positively optimistic in our institutions and global community to deliver; BUT the IPCC reports are science based and their narrative is clear and honest; and may I say, so also the experiences and realities of my country's plight. Tuvalu and many islands are struggling to cope with sea level rise that exacerbates many other development challenges.

I thank you for this opportunity and wish COP 27 all the success.

Tuvalu mo te Atua.

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