



Tuvalu National Statement for the COP 28 Meeting

Honourable Prime Minister Kausea Natano

1. Mr. President.

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen.

2. Mr. President, I wish to convey my deep gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for the hospitality and diplomatic protocols accorded to myself and my delegation.

3. I would like also to congratulate you, on your appointment as President and chair of the COP 28. Tuvalu reaffirms its support for your leadership and presidency.

4. Mr. President, as we gather to bear witness to the relentless march of climate change, we recognize that the entire world has already felt its brutal effects.

...But let me remind you yet again, that Tuvalu and other small low-lying island nations face the worst and most immediate impacts. **This is a fact.**

Imagine an island nation with a land area of only 26 square kilometers, and a maximum height of 2 meters above sea-level.

In fact, during high tide periods, sea-water intrudes and covers 40% of Tuvalu's capital, Funafuti Island. We walk and ride our bikes on roads covered with sea-water.

Climate Change is the single greatest threat to Tuvalu's existence.

5. Every year, Tuvalu and other small island nations come to COP meetings to remind the world, especially the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, of our relentless suffering. How many more COP meetings do we need to drive home to you this message of our loss and anguish? **As a nation we have come to the shocking realisation that we now exist to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.**

6. In the strongest possible terms, Tuvalu wishes to reaffirm the urgency of the climate crisis that Pacific Small Island Developing Nations face, despite our insignificant contribution to global emissions.
7. Despite our size, Tuvalu has taken significant action on its own behalf, and with other Small Island Nations and States in the fight against climate change. We have proactively risen to the climate change's complicated challenges, through several initiatives and programs. We have to be forward-looking and proactive, so that we preserve and maintain our land, statehood, sovereignty, culture and identity. Thus, we initiated or become part of initiatives and programs such as Rising Nations Initiative (RNI), Future Now Project, Long-Term Adaptation Plan, COSIS, Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity, and others.
8. Moreover, Mr. President, recently, Tuvalu and Australia signed a special partnership arrangement, known as the *Falepili* Union Treaty. One of the Treaty's major aspects is our commitment to safeguard and support each other as we face the existential threat of climate change.

It is also a “testament to our proactive stance towards planned, dignified, and voluntary migration”.

9. Mr. President, the numerous climate change related initiatives that Tuvalu has undertaken is an indication of our grave concern, deep commitment to, and our seriousness about the climate crisis. **It signifies our fear of imminent loss, amidst rapidly accelerating climate change.**
10. But while we diligently work to mitigate loss and shore up our future, Tuvaluans are also realistic. We understand that most of these initiatives and programs, including the pledged millions of dollars, are **not** going to resolve the core cause of global warming and climate change. In fact, the Paris Agreement talks about the controlling of emissions, but does not talk about the production of fossil fuel, which is the main cause of global warming. We, therefore, support the call for a global fossil fuel phase out.
11. Mr. President. Before I conclude, I thank all the countries and organizations that intrinsically feel our plight, and fight together with us.

12. Even countries that are not members of the UN family, such as the Republic of China (Taiwan), remain a force for good in the world. Taiwan continues to contribute to the international community, despite encountering multiple obstacles. It is our hope that Taiwan can join the international community to address climate change, and participate in negotiations related to the Paris Agreement. Mr. President, we need all forms of assistance to fight this climate war.
13. I come to this COP with high hopes, and I would like to think of COP 28 as a ‘COP of Hope’. The priority of the Tuvaluan people is to stay and to continue living on their God-given land. Therefore, we need not only hope and reassurance, **but determined action**. Every initiative, every dollar, every commitment, and any assistance to fight against this climate crisis is needed, at this point of time.
14. I thank you, Mr. President.