



Permanent Mission of Tuvalu to the United Nations

Statement at the UN HLPF on SDG “Building momentum towards the SDG Summit”

by

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Mr President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

It is with great honor that I stand here today as the representative of Tuvalu at this auspicious forum. Our shared objective of advancing momentum towards the 2023 SDG Summit holds immense importance for the global community, but it resonates predominantly for Tuvalu. As a small, low-lying archipelago in the vast Pacific Ocean, we find ourselves at the forefront of the profound challenges posed by climate change, notably the rising sea levels that significantly impede our pursuit of sustainable development.

Tuvalu acknowledges the challenging journey we have undertaken in achieving the SDGs. The path has been far from smooth. The ongoing repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath have tested our resilience, strained our meager resources, and hindered our progress. Nevertheless, Tuvalu remains steadfast in its commitment to a resilient and sustainable future for its people.

In Tuvalu, we attach great significance to SDG 13, which underscores the need for immediate action to address climate change and its far-reaching consequences. As a nation standing on the brink of submersion due to the rising sea levels and the grave implications

of climate change, we are acutely aware of the existential threat that looms over us. The gravity of this situation extends beyond our livelihoods, impacting various sectors and intersecting with other crucial SDG goals.

Following closely on the heels of SDG 13, we place considerable emphasis on the importance of SDG 14, which centers on the preservation of life below water. As an atoll nation, our way of life and cultural heritage are deeply intertwined with the surrounding ocean. The well-being of our communities and economy is intricately connected to the health of our marine ecosystems. Therefore, the conservation and sustainable utilization of oceans, seas, and marine resources are fundamental pillars within our developmental agenda.

We accord equal importance to SDG 6, which addresses the crucial aspects of ensuring universal access to water and sanitation in a sustainable manner. In a nation where water is a scarce resource, we are unwavering in our efforts to ensure that every Tuvaluan has equitable and sustainable access to safe and affordable drinking water, improved sanitation facilities, and proper hygiene practices. Our commitment lies in guaranteeing the availability of these essential services to all, leaving no one behind.

Furthermore, we acknowledge SDG 7 which focuses on affordable and clean energy. Tuvalu is committed to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and developing renewable energy capacities. We aim to harness solar and other renewables to meet our energy needs, creating economic opportunities and reducing emissions. Partnerships and international support are crucial for accelerating this transition towards the achievement of our SDG 7 targets.

SDG 17 serves as a vital framework for fostering partnerships and cooperation to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs. Recognizing our nation's reliance on partnerships to address our development needs, Tuvalu actively engages in capacity development

initiatives and knowledge sharing endeavours. We place great importance on establishing, nurturing, and strengthening partnerships through agreements and joint communiques that align with our interests. Through these collaborative efforts, we seek to acquire innovative solutions and secure a sustainable future for our people.

The SDGs serve as a shared blueprint for fostering prosperity and safeguarding our planet. For Tuvalu, the pursuit of these goals transcends mere policy; it is a testament to our unwavering determination to ensure the survival of our nation and preserve our unique cultural and ecological heritage. In this endeavor, we eagerly seek opportunities to exchange experiences and learn from other nations as we strive to transform our economy and society in alignment with the 2030 Agenda. Tuvalu firmly believes in the leadership of the United Nations and like-minded groupings, as we collaborate and enhance our focus to support and strengthen our country's capabilities in achieving our targets. It is imperative that we embark on this ambitious journey together, guided by the spirit of leaving no one behind.

To conclude, Mr. President, the path towards achieving the SDGs is more akin to a marathon than a sprint, necessitating sustained efforts, steadfast commitment, and international cooperation. We must rise, not just to meet our goals, but to exceed them. Together, let us shape a world that truly embodies the spirit of the SDGs: a world that is resilient, inclusive, and sustainable for us, and for future generations.

I thank you.

Tuvalu mo te Atua.