



TUVALU

Statement  
Presented by  
Permanent Representative and Ambassador

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at

United Nations Second Committee of the 68th GA

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Madam Chair

1. It is a great pleasure to contribute some views to this agenda items and I associate myself with the statement made by Benin on behalf of LDC group through Ambassador Shinzou.

2. Earlier in July this year at the seminar reviewing the IPOA in Geneva, LDCs noted their updates and challenges to the OHLLRS and subsequently to the ECOSOC. Tuvalu reported that despite the advances in some progress in IPOA mandates and MDGs, the core fundamentals of our being an LDC and a SIDS have not change, pertaining specifically to our narrow natural resource endowments which hinders any sustainable productivity and development potential and economies of scale.

3. Madam Chair, this committee should take into account the LDCs SIDS-specific recognition to be truly sanctioned in the UN bureaucracy. As we approach the International Year of the SIDS in 2014, and the third international conference on SIDS in Apia, Samoa, we urge the UN inter agency consultative group concerned with the LDCs to be also more decisive on special windows of partnerships to SIDS LDCs to ensure not only sustainable development but also long-term security and survival of SIDS. With confines to Tuvalu's options for economic diversifications, we again request the UN as we have done with the World Bank/IMF to relook at our success story in our sovereign trust fund as a means of enhancing our financial sustainability.

4. Madam Chair Tuvalu for its part have now joined the MDG acceleration programs and in the 2012 MDG progress report, Tuvalu has been assessed to be "on track" on four of its MDGs (primary education, child mortality, maternal health, and global partnerships); have the "potential" with three MDGs (gender, HIV/ AIDS, and environment); but the attainment of the poverty MDG is however elusive and it is very unlikely to be achieved as Tuvalu is highly dependent on aid, leasing gratuities and rental incomes of its national assets (air, sea, its domain) and remittances. We are currently seeking more opportunities for our seafarers who are well trained in our only tertiary maritime institution and who bring in much needed foreign earnings of 9% of GNI and the UN initiatives for connectedness and technology banks is very much appreciated.

5. The report from the Secretary General is very much appreciated and we thank the donors who are doing more proactive action than talking; we also thank the Office of the High Representative and UN agencies for their continued passion and hard work in advocating for LDCs LLDCs and SIDS and their special development challenges. We

applaud also the sincerity of the business houses, think tanks, the churches, the philanthropist, regional groupings and not least each UN member.

6. Tuvalu graciously appreciates ECOSOC's decision to defer consideration of Tuvalu's graduation from the LDC category. It is the humble submission of Tuvalu that this committee looks seriously at why the UNCTAD report on our graduation, based on their envoys to Tuvalu was overruled by the panel of the CDP which is made up of experts who have never been to the fourth smallest country on this planet. When the SIDS meeting takes place next year in the Pacific, I humbly invite some members of the CDP panelist who overruled the UNCTAD report, to come to Tuvalu for some reality doze of extreme natural vulnerability and deficiencies in productive opportunities.

7. Madam Chair, in terms of the well-established criteria's used for LDC graduation, Tuvalu strongly feels that given our extreme vulnerability as a SIDS, and the recognition of structural handicaps - which is the UN definition of LDC anyway; Tuvalu believes failure to satisfy the Economic Vulnerability Index carries more weight for us in considering our graduation from the LDC category. You have heard from the experiences of the Ambassador of Maldives this morning, and we feel exactly the same way.

8. Madam Chair, the situation due to consequences of climate change and sea level rise in Tuvalu is petrifying. The International Panel on Climate Change 5th Assessment Report released last month has further confirmed what we all already know and fear in Tuvalu. In the modern era Tuvalu can become a culture that can become extinct if its land is to be submerged under the grim predictions of sea level rise. As the committees go through their paces, the challenge to this noble institution is; let us not be complacent, and lets not have double standards. If we talk about post-MDGs and SDGs to make a real change, let us not be half- hearted about our duties and obligations to urgently reduce Green House Gas emissions and provide concrete adaptations and recompense especially to slow onset ruins to Small Islands States.

9. I thank you Madam Chair

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