



TUVALU

Statement
Presented by
Permanent Representative and Ambassador

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at

United Nations Second Committee of the 68th GA
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT (AGENDA ITEM 19)

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Madam Chair

1. In contributing some views to this agenda item, I associate myself with the statements made by the respective Ambassadors of Benin on behalf of LDCs and by Nauru - as Chair of AOSIS. The detailed reports of the Secretariat on Sustainable Development under Agenda item 19 are very much appreciated.

2. Twenty one years have passed when the Earth summit puts sustainable development of the Agenda 21 at the Rio Summit.

3. Madam Chair, sustainable development is a universal aspiration to live fulfilled lives in conformity with the Rio Principles. It is a moral directive and shared responsibility in its simplest form to respect and live in a harmonious coexistence with nature. The best gauge for such aligned coexistence is that the impacts of all human economic activities should be beneficial for environment revitalization and human equity in perpetuity. It's an intergenerational yearning and passion that **leaves no one behind**; and as the saying goes **ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL**.

4. Madam Chair, the stresses of unsustainable development, unwarranted production and consumption patterns, have manifested themselves in the growing scarcities of life's vital resources caused by deforestations, overfishing, ocean acidifications, food waste, high carbon emissions, water pollution, droughts, floods and climate change. There is more than enough evidence confirming that we are approaching the tipping point. We have a lot of development pertinent lessons but we are ignoring the ecological signposts and the lack luster Second Commitment Period of Kyoto protocol as an example is not encouraging.

5. The MDGs have certainly necessitated all of us to be more sustainable in our country specific endeavors; be more proactive, be more efficient, through many different approaches and strategies. Through the MDG journey, the members and the United Nations have helped millions of people, refugees, displaced people, impacted communities, the marginalized, women and youth, the poor and neglected.

6. So there are plenty of success stories and lessons to reflect upon; what is sustainable must be kept and replicated; what is worthy must be modified and improved upon; and add new frameworks to cater for the evolving contexts and unique circumstances.

7. Much more is still needed to be done however. Tuvalu has vigorously pursued its MDGs by mainstreaming the eight goals, BPOA, MSI and Agenda 21 into its development

strategies and newly developed Roadmap of our new Government. Our visions for the new SDGs and POST 2015 must reflect a membership of individual countries that needs the same goals as our charter and agreed international frameworks.

8. Madam Chair, in the recent past, the lessons of the Global Financial Crisis caused mainly by espoused inequities, self-centeredness and greed must be mainstreamed in our SDGs. As an LDC and SIDS, Tuvalu calls for rigorous financial governance and monitoring protocols to instill ethical culture to the globalised financial institutions to avoid global depressions that inherently hit the poor and margins of society most distressingly in LDCs and SIDS, for an extended period of slow, painful recovery.

9. Partnerships are key to the success of sustainable development. Whilst the donor countries try to meet their global commitments despite the austerity measures and budget constraints due to the remnants of GFC; the recipient countries of aid assistance should get their houses in order by endearing good governance, strong leadership, good planning and fiscal prudence; and construct and enact regulatory frameworks to squash corruption and by design, incentivize investments.

10. For aid effectiveness to gain traction, the UN and donors should restrain from easily homogenizing strategic redresses and responses to the recipient needs. We can learn from the IMF and World Bank in distinguishing small states, micro states and low income countries. It is also the humble submission of Tuvalu that while the thresh-hold criteria of LDC graduation are well-established, Tuvalu, as both an LDC and SIDS, believes that its extreme vulnerability (under the Economic Vulnerability Index) is an overwhelming consideration for Tuvalu given its structural and productive limitations.

11. Many consultants also come to (Tuvalu for example) with a set predetermined framework of mind. We must intently listen to the voices and views of the people, the local communities, civil society, women and youth. Sustainable development is a partnership, a two way dialogue; top down and bottom up, that will bring about **understanding and ownership** for development intervention and sustainable activities.

12. Madam Chair, sustainable development cannot be embraced without dealing with energy. Sustainable development needs sustainable energy and vice versa. Many recommendations for alternative energy drivers and technologies, be it solar, wind or wave have been proposed but not fully implemented. We look forward to the roll out of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative on clean energy and energy efficient technologies.

13. Finally Madam Chair, - As a sea-locked nation, Oceans-governance is pertinent for Sustainable Development, for obvious reasons. Seventy percent of the planet's surface is covered by ocean and it is the cornerstone of Earth's life support system. The uncontrolled and increasing carbonization of our oceans and its biodiversity is a real issue of concern to Tuvalu as a climate change and sustainable development issue. Tuvalu is steadily being inundated by sea level rise and can become the first endangered culture/race. We must reduce Green House Gas emissions and provide concrete adaptations and recompense especially to slow onset ruins of sea level rise.

I thank you Madam Chair,

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