



Statement by Tuvalu
[Time Limit: 3 minutes]

Interactive Dialogue 1: Transforming global governance and turbocharging the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

UN Trusteeship Council Chamber
22 September 2024
10.25am – 12.55pm

Excellencies,

Introduction

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda signaled the start of a new era of multilateralism. It was, and could still be, our plan of action to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity. With 5 years remaining to meet the 2030 Agenda, we must re-evaluate where we stand on the pledge that “no one will be left behind”.

As we face more frequent and more extreme climate disasters each year, Tuvalu faces the reality that we will either drown in debt or be drowned by the sea. At this time, my country is concerned that without urgent action and commitment from the multilateral system, vulnerable countries like mine will not only be left behind but abandoned.

Challenges and Concerns

The Ocean is vital for regulating the Earth’s climate, supporting SIDS economies, and maintaining biodiversity. SDG14 recognises the need for Ocean protection and creating opportunities for sustainable economic activities for SIDS. Despite this, we are concerned that SDG14 remains underfunded and 4 of the 8 targets have lapsed. The Pacific has long established our role as stewards of the Ocean and its resources, but despite our best efforts, Ocean health continues to decline in the face of acidification, pollution and overexploitation and IUU fishing.

We need international cooperation to establish global governance frameworks that generate meaningful Ocean protection. The recently concluded BBNJ Treaty is an important example of what we can achieve when we work together and Tuvalu calls on all member states to commit to ambitious and effective obligations in the ongoing negotiations for a legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

Global Financial Architecture

Excellencies,

Each year Tuvalu faces cyclones, drought and king tides which increase in frequency and intensity. Each disaster forces us into debt for disaster relief, and with few natural resources to generate GDP we must choose loan servicing over development activities, locking us into the disaster-debt-underinvestment cycle.

Partners continue to double count official development assistance (ODA) as climate finance and continue to prioritize adaptation over mitigation despite the clear calls from SIDS that both must go hand in hand. Despite our calls for reform, the global financial architecture continues to oppress through lending practices of multilateral development banks (MDBs) and partners which contain restrictive procurement conditions and loan repayments at market rates.¹

Conclusion

It would be remiss of me not to emphasize that climate change, driven by continued extraction and consumption of fossil fuels, is the true threat to our world today. SIDS overall produce less than 1% of greenhouse gas emissions (GhGs) but we suffer first and worst impacts of climate change. It is inequitable and unacceptable that we continue down this path which ensures death and destruction of SIDS. We need global governance frameworks to mitigate emissions, and in saving the most vulnerable countries, we will inevitably save the world.

Tuvalu mo te Atua

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/climate-change-loans/>