



Statement by Tuvalu

To be delivered by the

Minister for Home Affairs, Climate Change, and Environment

at the

High-level Plenary Meeting on “Addressing the existential threats posed by Sea-level rise”

Multi-Stakeholder Panel 3:

Livelihoods, socio-economic challenges, and culture and heritage in relation to sea-level rise”

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

15:00 - 16:15hrs

Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

[Time Limit: 3 minutes]

Mr. President,
Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is an honour to address the impacts of sea-level rise on livelihoods, socio-economic challenges, and the preservation of culture and heritage.
2. Tuvalu a low-lying atoll nation, we live and continue to live under enormous pressure and fear of the the impacts of sea level rise. Traditional livelihoods, cultural practices such as fishing and agriculture, are threatened as coastal ecosystems degrade and freshwater resources dwindle. This undermines both our economic stability and food security.
3. In our efforts to address these challenges, Tuvalu is implementing initiatives that critically focused on strengthening adaptive capacity through elevating resilience of coastal ecosystems that can provide the assurance to our future generations that they can remain on their ancestral islands. The most promising measure to keep our island from inundation is to elevate our islands, through land reclamation.

4. Additionally, we have made it a priority for the government to preserve Tuvalu's identity through measures that safeguards our culture, stories, and heritage, even as physical spaces are lost.
5. Sea-level rise disproportionately affects the most vulnerable. Coastal erosion, displacement, and loss of infrastructure exacerbate inequalities. In response, we are strengthening social protection systems to support affected communities, and also advocates for international legal frameworks to protect the sovereignty and identity of vulnerable island states.
6. Excellencies, the challenges are vast, but with bold, coordinated action, we can protect our people, culture, and future. Let us ensure that the solutions developed here are both responsive, effective and inclusive.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Tuvalu mo te Atua.