



SOLOMON ISLANDS

STATEMENT BY

**HONOURABLE MANASSEH MAELANGA, MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

**BEFORE THE
THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

1 SEPTEMBER 2014, APIA, SAMOA

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands Honorable Manasseh Maelanga at the Third SIDS International Conference, 1st September 2014, Apia, Samoa.

Mr. President,

As we celebrate the international year of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), it is even more special marking the occasion in a fellow Small Islands Developing State. Mr. President, Solomon Islands thanks your Government and people for the fa'a Samoa welcome and hospitality accorded to each and every one of us.

Mr. President,

More than twenty years ago at the Rio Earth Summit, the international community recognized the special case of SIDS in the context of sustainable development given SIDS unique and particular vulnerabilities.

Since then, the international community adopted the Barbados Program of Action in 1994 and in 2005, the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI). However, the lack of implementation of the last two SIDS Conferences outcomes is a concern and must change here in Apia going forward.

In the SAMOA Pathway, SIDS and the international community have reaffirmed their shared political commitments to the 19 SIDS priorities. These priorities and commitments can only be translated into action with focused, concrete and results oriented partnerships. These partnerships should transcend all levels of governance and especially the engagement of local governance institutions.

In this regard, Solomon Islands welcomes the theme of this Conference "Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships". Implementation is about partnerships, new partnerships that are SIDS owned, led and driven. Partnerships that sees SIDS as equal partners based on mutual respect, trust and accountability.

Mr. President,

Climate change alone continues to undermine sustainable development in SIDS, and remains a global issue that needs a global solution. Unfortunately, the slow pace of climate change negotiations and the lack of ambitious commitments in reducing greenhouse gas emissions has distorted the path of having an agreement in Paris.

In that connection, Solomon Islands joins all SIDS in supporting the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit later this month. We earnestly hope that the Summit will mobilize and build a momentum that will breathe new life into the climate change negotiations.

The health of our oceans and the sustainability of resources within continue to remain priorities for SIDS. Urgent action and political will is needed to halt sea level rise and ocean acidification. Ocean acidification is an eminent and chronic threat to the economies, livelihoods and cultures of SIDS and SIDS must be supported to monitor and address the impact of ocean acidification.

Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands Honorable Manasseh Maelanga at the Third SIDS International Conference, 1st September 2014, Apia, Samoa.

Furthermore, natural disasters and extreme climate events continue to significantly undermine the development gains that have been made.

In the case of our oceanic resources, we call for effective recognition of our sovereign rights and privileges as already provided for in international law to sustainably manage the pelagic resources in our region in a way that enables us to contribute fully to our own development.

Mr. President,

The 1994 BPOA explicitly recognized that the sustainable development of SIDS is firmly rooted in their human resources, and human resources continue to remain our most significant assets. Today, the productivity of our human resources is threatened by health issues particularly non-communicable diseases.

Solomon Islands future lies in investment in the areas of renewable energy, agriculture, fisheries, eco-tourism, ICT and connectivity and mining. These priorities are identified in the country's National Development Strategy, currently being reviewed to align with green growth and a low carbon economy.

Here in Samoa, my delegation have a number of side events to show case our partnerships. We are sharing our hydro public-private partnership experience in terms of mitigation, and our multi stakeholder partnership and the integrated, holistic, ridge to reef approach taken by national government, provincial government, development partners and stakeholders to help communities adapt to and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. The coral triangle initiative is a successful example of trans boundary partnership involving 3 SIDS in coastal marine resource management and conservation.

For Solomon Islands, the issues of climate change, international trade and development finance, waste management, health-particularly non-communicable diseases, science and technology and communication technologies are particularly amenable to cooperative partnerships.

Mr. President,

There are many opportunities for cooperative partnerships. However, such partnerships must accrue quantifiable benefits.

We are grateful for pre conference events in particular the Private Sector Partnership Forum, which brought together private and public stakeholders and opened up new horizons for partnership that are relevant and SIDS tailored. My delegation supports a SIDS Global Business Network that will provide a sustainable pathway in enhancing targeted partnerships at all levels.

Mr. President,

Looking at the Post 2015 Development Agenda, my delegation is pleased to see climate change, energy, ocean, consumption and Production, and gender, amongst others identified as goals. We are pleased that much of the chapters in the SAMOA Pathway, BPOA and MSI are captured in

Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister of Solomon Islands Honorable Manasseh Maelanga at the Third SIDS International Conference, 1st September 2014, Apia, Samoa.

the SDGs. The SDGs is not just about eradication of poverty but is also about preserving the sustainability of our planet.

In going forward, Solomon Islands is strengthening its national institutions to become implementing agencies. We view this critical development, in rolling out the SAMOA Pathway to our rural communities. We also look to the United Nations to assist us in realizing this goal especially before 2016, when the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will review what we have agreed today under the SAMOA Pathway.

Solomon Islands further hope current UN priorities for the Pacific can now be reviewed and be closely aligned to national priorities articulated in our respective National Sustainable Development Strategies.

Let me take this time to acknowledge a fellow SIDS citizen, President of the General Assembly from Antigua and the Barbuda, Ambassador John Ashe, for his presence here in Samoa, UN Secretary general Ban ki Moon, Bolivia Chair of G77, Nauru for chairing the Alliance of Small Islands State, thank you for your leadership and all my fellow SIDS from Africa, Indian Ocean, Asia, Pacific and our Caribbean colleagues for your friendship, unity and solidarity.

To all our partners, have faith in us, let us define our sustainable future through genuine and durable cooperation.

Mr. President, I thank you.