



PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
United Nations Member States

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Statement of H.E. Mr. Mahe 'U. S. Tupouniua
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations
Chair of the Pacific Small Island Developing States
For Intergovernmental Negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda: "Way Forward"
New York, Friday, 27 March 2015

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Co-Facilitators,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the 12 Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) with presence at the United Nations. We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and for those of us that are members of the Group of 77 and China, with the statement delivered by South Africa.

With regards to the "way forward," The PSIDS have the following thoughts:

- PSIDS reaffirm the view that we have held consistently, that the report of the OWG-SDGs ought not be re-opened, and that any exercise of technical or substantive "tweaking" risks doing just that. We must not risk unraveling the delicate political balance we have achieved.
- PSIDS continue to consider Means of Implementation and a revised global partnership as essential to the success of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, and look forward to next month's session in order to fully devote our attentions to this matter.
- Finally, as regards the development of indicative global indicators, the PSIDS welcome the presentation of preliminary indicators in order to maintain political oversight and guidance throughout the process. Once again, we reiterate the need for a fully open and transparent process, to give member states the ability to engage with this process appropriately.

Co-Facilitators, while we have the floor, the PSIDS would like to contribute our views on the topic of yesterday's afternoon session, regarding the thematic dialogues:

- The PSIDS believe that these conversations should go further than recycling views from states. We all know our positions. The themes should be as such that they bring out clear and concrete outcomes, based upon global partnerships with the purpose of contributing to eradicating poverty and establishing a strong post-2015 sustainable development agenda, such that we leave no one behind.
- PSIDS welcome the six proposed themes for the thematic dialogues for our further consideration, and think that they serve as a good basis for discussion on this item. We also support the proposed themes from AOSIS. In particular, we fully support a dialogue dedicated to the issue of climate change, which is a persistent crisis with cross-cutting global implications, and undermines the ability of all countries, but in particular developing countries and especially SIDS, to achieve sustainable development. This is particularly apt, as climate change brings about more frequent and intense disasters, the devastating impact of Category 5 Cyclone Pam on Vanuatu, Tuvalu and Kiribati shows the urgent need to combat climate change.

- We further support a dialogue focused on international cooperation, a renewed global partnership and means of implementation, in order to ensure that our Agenda becomes a reality, and a dialogue oriented towards promoting peaceful societies.
- Oceans are an integral component of sustainable development, and we fear that the proposed topics do not do enough to address this important thematic area. PSIDS would like to support those delegations who proposed that space be dedicated to discuss topics with relevance to oceans. In particular, we would like to support the proposal of Fiji and look forward to continuing engagement on the topics of the themes.

We thank you, Co-Facilitators.