

Palau Statement at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development
Addis Ababa – July 16, 2015
Delivered by: H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations.

Excellencies, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We join others in congratulating you, Mr. Chairman, for your election and for the excellent leadership of our Conference. May we also, through you, express our sincere gratitude to the government and wonderful people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, especially Addis Ababa, for the warm welcome, hospitality, the excellent arrangements and continued attention to our needs and comfort.

We commend and express our sincere appreciation to Ambassador Talbot of Guyana and Ambassador Pederson of Norway, the Co-Chairs of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, for their hard and excellent work. We also want to appreciate all the colleagues for the understanding, flexibility and solidarity demonstrated in putting together and approving the Addis document which we will soon adopt to crown this historic conference. How appropriate it is that the framework for mechanisms to transform the world is adopted in this historic country and cradle of civilization.

We associate ourselves with the statement made by H.E. Aisake Valu Eke, of the Kingdom of Tonga on behalf of the Pacific Islands Developing States and with the statement made by H.E. Mohamed Jaleel of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), and make this statement in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairman:

We agree with the others that we'll be on the road to making history again when we adopt the agenda for sustainable development for the next 15 years. Together our action in Sendai, Addis Ababa, New York and Paris will not only allow us to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations but will put us on the path that will allow us to potentially be the first generation to end poverty and the last to heal and save our common home, the Planet Earth. The Post-2015 Development Agenda with its 17 goals and 169 targets can truly help us transform the world because they spell out our commitment to 'leave no one behind' on the basis of race, color, gender or sexual orientation; commitment to be inclusive of children, boys and girls and all youth, the aged, women, indigenous persons, the migrants and persons with disability. They spell out our commitment to eradicate poverty, to ensure early, primary and secondary education for all; to achieve the highest attainable health, mental health and well-being for all, by combating malnutrition, communicable and non-communicable diseases, especially the most common risk factor – the use of tobacco. We have committed to build safer cities and communities, with clean energy and sanitation; communities that are safe and resilient through disaster risk reduction and management and where nutritious food is available, and where water is available as a matter of human rights. They spell out our commitment to address climate change, to work for health of the ocean and to achieve stable society through good governance and rule of law. Finally, the framework is people-centered and founded on human rights, therefore, it is universal and transformative. The needs of everyone regardless of his/her status and country of their residence are reflected and addressed.

Four crossroads we come to this year. We've made two hard-fought right choices so far and we expect to make two more, easier hopefully, before the year is over. But reaching our common goal in 15 years will still depend on who will be on the road and how well we walk the road together, yes, the degree of solidarity and political will, to help each other along the way, since some will be needing help while others able to offer help. This is why the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is so important as it indicates those who needs help, and who can render assistance and the various means through which action is taken to ensure that we are all moving together. That is why we appreciate that the special vulnerability of the LDCs, LLC and SIDS, the fragile states and states in conflict are reflected in the Addis document. We also express appreciation to those who, in their statement, recognized the SIDS special vulnerabilities and those who have made specific commitments for assistance, in this regard. We appreciate that partnership is a major mechanism through which assistance can effectively be rendered, be it in finance, technology or capacity building. This was, in fact the main theme of the SAMOA Pathway, the outcome document from the 3rd International Conference of SIDS in Samoa last year – “genuine and durable partnership.”

For us, in Palau, partnership is the main means of implementation for the goals that are important for our development – Goal 14 on Oceans and Goal 13 on Climate Change. Our President has announced his intention to declare our exclusive economic zone of nearly half a million square miles a National Marine Sanctuary as a strategy for achieving goal 14. We will need partners for finance, technology and capacity to address the challenges of this vision, especially with regards to surveillance and monitoring of the area. We need partners to assist us achieve our goal of increased renewable

energy and greater energy efficiency as we participate in addressing climate change.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, 2015 is an exceptional year for great accomplishment. We've shown in Sendai and Addis that THERE IS a desire to transform our world. We are encouraged by the action we've taken so far and are hopeful that the momentum will continue to build up for greater achievement at the Summit in September in New York and at COP21 in Paris. We believe that come 2016 we will be able to hit the ground running – thanks to Addis Ababa and to all of you.

Thank you for your kind attention.