



**PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**  
**United Nations Member States**

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**Statement by**

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**of Tuvalu**

**on behalf of the**

**Pacific Small Island Developing States**

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**Development**

**SIDS Day**

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I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States represented at the United Nations, namely, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, and my own country, Tuvalu.

The Pacific SIDS align themselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We wish to highlight four issues.

First, like all SIDS, one of the major challenges the Pacific countries face is insufficient and inadequate data. Unless we have consistent, quality and internationally-comparable data that is recognized by UN agencies we cannot properly evaluate progress and ensure that projects are targeted appropriately and deliver results. We look forward to working with our partners and the international community to address this critical issue.

Secondly, as raised in the AOSIS statement, it is important to recognize that SIDS remain highly vulnerable to external shocks. The impacts of the global economic crisis have been dramatic in our region and in all SIDS. While we have acted individually and collectively to mitigate its effect on our economies, only through increased international action and support can the realities of the global economic crisis be properly addressed.

Thirdly, many SIDS, including in the Pacific region, depend on marine resources for food security and economic growth. Accordingly, the Pacific has shown global leadership in marine biodiversity protection. In 2008 Kiribati created what was at the time the world's largest marine protected area. Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands are all involved in the Micronesian challenge, which commits those nations to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. This ground breaking initiative assists in protecting resources that supports the livelihoods of the Micronesian people and contributes to global biodiversity protection for the benefit of all.

Yet, marine resources are being depleted by actions beyond our control. As noted in the Secretary-General's report on progress towards

sustainable development (E/CN.17/2010/3), the world's oceans have lost more than 90 percent of the large fish that humans rely on for food, income and other purposes. More fish are caught now than the oceans can replace.

We seek real commitments from the international community for transformative action in the management of fish stocks to ensure sustainability and greater economic self-sufficiency. The international community needs to make concerted efforts and consider innovative options to reduce or restructure their fleets, so as to allow SIDS to further develop their own fisheries. We look forward to this being reflected in the political declaration emanating from the high level review of the Mauritius Strategy.

Finally, as stated in the AOSIS statement, we cannot talk meaningfully about sustainable development unless we acknowledge the reality that the very survival of many SIDS is at stake. The current dialogue in some quarters that appears to embrace lowering of expectations for fear of another Copenhagen outcome is disturbing. Our islands do not have time on their side as we are already experiencing the dangerous impacts of climate change, and climate change displacement has already occurred. We need to build trust through delivering on fast start financing promises urgently, and we need to increase all efforts to ensure that Cancun is an ambitious success.

Further, we reiterate our call for the relevant UN organs, including the Security Council, to take up the security implications of climate change as a matter of urgency.

These issues are common to all SIDS and they highlight how our vulnerabilities affect our sustainable development.

We wish to underscore that the time has come for SIDS to be recognised as a formal category within the United Nations to facilitate increased support by the international community. Let us agree to take this critical step as part of our review process of the Mauritius Strategy.

Thank you.