



# SOLOMON ISLANDS

PERMANENT MISSION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY THE  
HONORABLE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE RELATIONS  
OF SOLOMON ISLANDS**

**HONORABLE PATTESON OTI, MP**

**9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1997**

Mr President  
Honorable Ministers  
Distinguished Delegates  
And citizens of the world

Mr President

Our gathering here in Kyoto today demonstrates the international resolve to collectively and actively arrest a global problem which demands a global solution. The eyes of the citizens of this planet, earth, are upon us here in kyoto. They expect us to take concrete actions and deliver on the promises made in Rio five years ago. Sustainable development of present and future generations depends on a successful outcome from kyoto. Are we going to bury our heads in the sand while await the crisis to strike or must we act now and act decisively to adopt a meaningful Protocol with meaningful targets and timeframes? Will the politics of diplomacy outweigh the merits of the IPCC Second Assessment Report and hence lead to inaction?

Quantified Emissions Limitations and Reductions Objectives (QELROs) approach underpins the premise in which international cooperation is being tested. A large part of the solution has to be a political decision based on the will to act and the moral persuasion to take no-regret measures seriously.

Mr President

While Solomon Islands acknowledges the progress made so far in persuance to fulfill the Berlin Mandate, it is disappointing to note that the matter has not been treated with the urgency and seriousness it deserves. Small Island Developing States are the most vulnerable and least able to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. No one could have been in a better position to inform the conference than the distinguished delegate of Tuvalu, and earlier re-iterated by the President of Nauru and Honorable Tuala Sale Tagaloa of Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS). Lest we forget, I take the liberty to remind the conference of the sentiments expressed by those distinguished delegates.



We plead to those historically responsible for climate change but are still dragging their feet, to commit themselves to real actions. Actions to limit and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to save Mother Earth and its citizens.

Mr President

Listening to a number of statements made from this podium over the last one and half days, we are encouraged to hear expressions of political commitment to take concrete actions, but these words have yet to be measured in deeds.

The outcome of Kyoto is to adopt a Protocol or another legally binding instrument. The momentum must not be lost. To get this far has been a result of nearly three years of intense and difficult negotiations. We urge all industrialised countries to commit to legally binding emission reduction targets. We hope that they take the lead, the first step. They have that responsibility and the capacity to do so. For developing countries to build the necessary capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change, the convention requires developed country parties to transfer the technology and provide financial resources to developing countries.

In spite of what may have been observed as diverging positions in approach, and stated stance of different parties to the UNFCCC, my delegation is optimistic, that consensus will prevail. To assume otherwise, will greatly erode the intellectual credibility of contemporary diplomacy.

Mr President

The position of developing countries is that, we come to Kyoto to fulfill the Berlin Mandate. Our purpose is to adopt a Protocol or another legal instrument to strengthen the commitments of Annex I parties without introducing new commitments for developing countries. To do otherwise will be to detract from the Berlin Mandate.

Mr President

It has been an arduous task indeed which only the spirit of determination to succeed in the midst of perhaps extreme positions will drive us to attaining a meaningful and practical outcome, the expectation of the citizens of Planet, Earth.

In conclusion, there is a custom in Solomon Islands that "as a gesture of courtesy and respect, a guest never leaves his/her host disappointed". My delegation would like to leave Kyoto knowing that this ancient city and its people, who have been our hosts for the past week and half, would be pleased that indeed, Kyoto maintains the honorability to have contributed to the betterment of humanity.

Domo arigato gozaimasu