



Statement by Solomon Islands

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Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
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Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to speak on behalf of the Government and the People of Solomon Islands.

Madam President,

A key expectation of my country for this COP is for us to finalize the Paris Agreement Rule Book. The urgency to do so is underpinned by the impacts of climate change across the earth including the submergence of islands in my country. This dire situation is confirmed by the three IPCC Special Reports and the latest UNEP Emissions Gap Report.

Madam President,

The IPCC has pointed to a climate emergency. Youths, civil society groups and citizens have taken on board the scientific advice and are calling and protesting for ambitious and urgent climate change actions. Unfortunately, we as parties in these negotiations are stalling efforts to avert a climate change crisis. We need to do better than this!

Madam President,

My country strongly believes that science must be the ultimate guide of our work and we welcome the IPCC Special Reports and forth coming 6th IPCC Assessment Report. If we don't take heed of science which is already clear and definitive then this multilateral process is unfortunately taking advice from fake science.

Madam President,

There is a limit to adaptation. Hence, Loss and Damage must be addressed with a focus on implementation through technical support and dedicated financial streams through the Green Climate Fund and other funding mechanisms. On the governance of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, we support that it comes under the mandate of both the CMA and COP.

Madam President,

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement must result in overall increased ambition and action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Similarly, global fossil fuel production must be winded down as well. Kyoto Protocol carbon units need not be transitioned to the Paris Agreement market mechanisms. Five year common time frame for reporting NDCs should be agreed upon. Robust reporting and accounting rules should be in place to avoid double counting, and the mechanisms must adhere to environmental integrity and result in sustainable development and achievement of the overall goals of the Paris Agreement.

Madam President,

Finance is a key means of implementation for the Paris Agreement. The US100 billion goal by 2020 must be honored by developed country parties. The discussion on long term finance must go beyond 2020, and scaled-up financing must ensure a balance between adaptation and mitigation and delivered as grants. We welcome the recent pledges to the GCF, and call for a revised approach to ensure more predictability and flexibility through country based allocations. On GEF, it is vital that the allocation for the climate change focal area is increased and co-financing arrangements revised to reduce the burden on developing countries.

Madam President,

The nexus between ocean and climate needs to be given proper treatment in the UNFCCC processes. For my country, addressing ocean issues is about addressing climate change.

Madam President,

Although there is a sense of uncertainty, division and frustration over these conference halls in these two weeks, let us not forget that beyond the walls of IFEMA, the globe and especially our youths and children are eagerly waiting for us to take decisions and act upon them to save us and safeguard their future. Let us put our differences aside and ensure the Paris Agreement Rule Book is finalized without delay.

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.