

Niue Country Statement
The Minister in Charge of Climate Change,
The Honourable Terry D. Coe.

Mr President
Executive Secretary
Distinguished Heads and Members of Delegation
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr President,

Let me begin by adding my sincere thanks to the Government of Japan and the city of Kyoto for hosting this third conference of the parties. In congratulating your Government, I wish to put on record that the People and the Government of Niue are very proud to take part in this historical gathering as a major cornerstone towards decisively determining the international community response to the global threat of climate change.

Mr President,

Many of us here today have attended a series of ~~past preliminary~~ consultations and international meetings on climate change. While it is appropriate amongst friends to congratulate ourselves for the achievements to date, it is timely to positively consider ways of making this special bond more effective, meaningful, genuine and responsive to the real problem and future challenges. I should therefore look forward to the international community to put aside its differences and focus on a very positive and constructive path over the next two days.

Mr President,

^{support}
I ~~welcome~~ the concerns raised by previous Speakers in relation to the position of Small Island States from the Pacific, Caribbean, Atlantic and Indian Oceans and would like to again echo those concerns.

^{and especially}
~~and that of the IPCC~~
There is no doubt in everyone's mind, ~~that over recent years~~, there has been an unusual weather phenomenon experienced worldwide. Substantive scientific analysis suggests that low lying Small Island States face ^{we} the most vulnerability, ^{real} and holds ^{Temperature, and} fears of rising sea levels, loss of sea food sources, destruction of ^{low lying} crop growing areas and salt water intrusion into ^{our} fresh water lenses. ^{to name a few}

We have recognised that the threat of climate change and environment degradation constitutes real challenges to the ~~developed nations and, in particular~~ Small Island States. Many of us have taken serious initiatives to assist in ^{reducing} ~~confronting~~ these new challenges but ^{it} will require a comprehensive engagement and commitment from industrialised nations.

Mr President,

The Government of Niue fully supported the position of AOSIS countries delivered by His Excellency the President of Nauru and the Honourable Minister from Samoa. ~~We~~ ^I believe ~~that~~ if we are really serious about moving the negotiations forward, we urge all Annex I Countries to adopt a protocol which contains concrete and legally binding reduction targets of the six greenhouse gases before the conclusion of this Conference.

Niue is one of many developing Countries who are preparing its Initial National Communications and within these preparations we have already identified areas for voluntary reductions of the ~~the~~ greenhouse gases emissions. Although these reductions maybe considered ^{small} ~~negligible~~ in relation to the world's total emissions, it nevertheless shows that we are active partners to the Convention on Climate Change.

Mr President,

~~Subject to ^{firm} ~~small~~ numbers and targets~~

~~This Third Conference of the Parties should ignore ~~the~~ new commitments, proposed by Annex 1 countries until next year. The issue of sinks, should be referred back to the IPCC for further analysis regarding uncertainties. Other issues such as emission trading, budget period, ^{banking} ~~borrowing~~ and joint implementation should be referred back for consideration at a later Conference of the Parties.~~

Mr President,

As we prepare to meet the dawn of the next millennium, let us work together and commit ourselves to building a credible commitment that would ensure a secure global environment for our present and future generations. I also wish to thank the Group of 77 and China and seek their continuous support to AOSIS 35 member countries, ~~to achieve~~ ^{a satisfactory outcome at this meeting,}

Thank you Mr President.