

TUVALU STATEMENT

by the Minister of Fisheries and Trade, Hon. Kitiona Tausi

Madame President

Director General of UNIDO Gerd Müller,

Distinguished Heads of Missions

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour for me and my delegation to be invited and participate in this high level event.

I thank the Director General for convening this conference, and as a UNIDO member country, I am proud to say that UNIDO has done a lot to address the many challenges that this world is facing.

If I may share my take on the theme, “Fair Globalization: Innovative Solutions for the Industry of Tomorrow” or in other words, “managing the benefits of globalization while promoting sustainable economic and social development”.

My question is, how can we manage the benefits of globalization that is impartial to every country, and for every citizen to have the same benefit as the other in another part of the world? Who’s responsibility to make sure that poverty will be eradicated in 2030? What is the importance of meetings like this to the lives of our people, who have been waiting patiently for solutions that their leaders have promised them? Tough answers if I may say.

We live in a complicated world that is controlled by the most powerful countries that can start, and put a stop to anything as they wish!

But there are only two answers to the questions I posed, working together and RESPECT! Working together in the sense to feel for what each other is going through and working together towards finding solutions that benefit if not all, but the majority.

We have to respect what situation another person or country is in. We, leaders, have to make decisions that do not affect our people, whether in your own country or in another country.

Climate change is not a new issue and there is scientific evidence presented. Climate change has become a cross cutting issue in every discipline, why? Because we live in an interconnected world, and if one part of the world is impacted by climate change, other parts of the world are also affected! We may lose something that another depends on, because of climate change.

What we need is working together and making decisions that will make this world a better place to live in. As a vulnerable country with very limited resources, as well as being vulnerable to external forces, I urge that we continue to work together for the benefit of our people. We signed up to treaties and conventions, and become members of organisations because we need assistance.

We became independent because we wanted the world to know that we, as a race and a country, existed. Although we are moving slowly in developing our country, but we are working very hard to keep up with the rest of world, and not to be left out.

May I ask that UNIDO continues to assist small and developing countries like Tuvalu, in the areas of capacity building in trade and e-commerce. This will assist our small businesses find ways not only to build their businesses, but also to have access to bigger international markets.

May this conference brings positive outcomes and pave the way forward for a better world.

Thank you.

Tuvalu Mo Te Atua