



## Talking Points for President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.

Pacific Islands Forum-UN Secretary-General bilateral, Saturday 21 September 2019, 11.30am

### Climate Change

- Appreciate work that has gone into Climate Action Summit and tracks to drive energy into developing new partnerships.
- Highlight SIDS Energy Deliverable (part of Energy Transition Track, and overall AOSIS package) that Palau has led on, and UN agency partnership in developing this outcome. Importance of energy transition for islands – to move away from fossil fuel dependence on imports, improve energy access.
  - Purpose of Energy Deliverable is to improve support – from UN agencies, private sector, other stakeholders – so that SIDS are able to implement their ambitions. You know that we are not short on ambition, but the challenge is to implement and overcome resource, technical constraints and build capacities.
  - **Urge you to use your platform** and voice to persuade industrialised countries in Green Climate Fund replenishment – important indicator of partnership and support.
- Need to ensure that the Climate Action Summit is not just an end, but need to carry momentum from this beyond this summit to COP25 and COP26 for enhanced NDCs. Still well-off track to meeting the below-1.5 degree target four years after Paris.
  - Each new assessment we receive – including the IPCC report on climate and the oceans later this week, or the climate and land report earlier this year – tells us that we are moving further away from meeting this objective of the Paris Agreement.
- Appreciate recognition of special needs and circumstances of LDCs and SIDS in Summit process **and that this continues into the future** – impact of climate on SIDS, capacity needs in both mitigation and adaptation. What has happened in the Bahamas and Hurricane Dorian tragically reminds us of the devastation that extreme weather events wreak on entire island communities, and the dangers of cycles of devastation and reconstruction that are not within our control.

## Health (2)

- Non-communicable disease challenge well-known – imported food, unhealthy diets.
  - Development of local fishing industry – part of next phase of PNMS implementation – is a measure to help improve food security and quality of healthy diets.
- Universal healthcare is critical to achieving SDGs, and Pacific islands are fully committed to achieving this.
  - Achieving universal health care has distinct challenges in islands, with rural areas often distributed among far-flung islands. Low-resource contexts (in general) also provide another challenge.
  - Universal healthcare includes a package of interventions that are integrated, including reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent healthcare. These must be made available at primary healthcare level, **and UN is support needed to scale-up this package of interventions as a whole and maintain progress achieved/go further.**
- Climate linkages to health care must also be recognised – intensified risk of dengue outbreaks, such as currently being experienced. Health systems also need to be strengthened to respond to these new climate-related challenges.

## Oceans (3)

- Successful conclusion to BBNJ negotiations on high seas marine biodiversity needed for next year. As Palau National Marine Sanctuary enters into force, need to ensure that what happens in the high seas does not undermine national conservation action.
- High-Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy also issues Call for Ocean-Based Climate Action – the ocean has been neglected in climate response, but with the new IPCC report, Chile’s presidency of ‘Blue’ COP25, and this HLP Call, this needs to change [**and urge deeper engagement**]. We want to both minimise climate impacts on the ocean, as well as use the ocean’s potential to mitigate climate change, and this needs to enter into our conversation further.