



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Intervention by Hon. Dickson Mua Panakitasi (MP) Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology

Virtual Pacific Islands Forum High-Level Roundtable on Urgent Change Action

Friday 11 December 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Agenda 4: High level dialogue – Ambition to Action

[Vulnerability and Loss and Damage]

Thank you Chair,
Good evening Excellencies,

Climate Change remains the single greatest threat to our environment, livelihood, society and economy. To make matters worse, climate change also escalates non-climate drivers of our vulnerability. In the past 5 years, some of us have experienced tropical cyclones that caused economic losses in range of 31% - 64% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in a matter of hours. In my country, a tropical depression in 2014 caused damages and losses equivalent to 9% of our GDP.

Evidently, the Pacific region is in a constant mode of recovery from hydro-meteorological disasters and our vulnerability is rising. On the other hand, science and common sense are clear that ambitious actions (not pledges) by major emitters to drastically reduce emissions and mobilise resources can provide relief to our rising vulnerability.

There is a limit to adaptation and as climate change will continue to define our future, Loss and Damage is inevitable. It is critical to accelerate support for the work on Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, and ensure that efforts to avert, minimise and address Loss and Damage are key elements of financial support distinct from funding for adaptation.