



## SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

### **Intervention by Hon. Peter Shanel Agovaka (MP) Supervising Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade**

5<sup>th</sup> France-Oceania Summit

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> July, 5pm-7pm

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Thank you Chair

A very good afternoon Excellencies

I wish to begin by thanking the French President, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron for convening this very important Summit. Pacific Islands leaders have identified climate change as the single greatest threat to our peoples and planet.

The 5<sup>th</sup> France-Oceania Declaration is very clear in calling for more climate action. This is consistent with the latest UN report that puts ‘the world on red alert’. Science also tells us that the global temperature is now at 1.2 degrees Celsius and it keeps going up. Acidification of our ocean is increasing now at 402 parts per million of carbon dioxide concentration. At 550, coral begins to dissolve.

#### ***Solomon Islands and SIDS Priorities for COP26***

Our two overarching priorities for COP 26 are:

- Closing out the Paris Agreement Work Programme, in other words conclude the Paris “Rulebook”. This means concluding negotiations on carbon markets, transparency and reporting and common timeframes for National Determined Contribution
- Transition to full operationalization of the Paris Agreement.

## **Paris Agreement Rule Book**

On the question of the Paris Agreement rulebook, COP 26 must deliver on a robust rule set to keep a consistent 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway. Weak rules undermine global mitigation ambition. The Rule Book is a critical component in terms of implementing the Paris Agreement.

## **NDC**

Ambition under the Paris Agreement remains low. We repeat our calls all major Green House Gas emitting countries to exceed their Nationally Determined Contributions in order to amplify global efforts to limit global warming to 1.5<sup>0</sup>C. Furthermore, we strongly urge all parties to agree on the “Common Time Frame” to submit NDCs by COP26. Chair, I am also delighted to announce that Solomon Islands already finalised its revised NDC and is in the process of submitting its NDC to UNFCCC.

## **Market and Non-Market Approaches**

The negotiations on the market and non-market mechanisms need to be completed by COP26. Solomon Islands is of the view that credits under the Kyoto Mechanisms should not be brought forward under these new mechanisms. Our concern is this triggers double counting and undermine Environmental Integrity principle.

## **Loss & Damage (L&D):**

On loss and damage we would like to see the operationalization of the Santiago Network for Loss and Damage. It is critical we also 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.

Equally important, Solomon Islands also calls on developed countries to meet the collective finance commitment of jointly mobilizing \$100 billion per year.

Finally, let me assure you, Mr President of Solomon Islands commitment to work collaboratively with you to address the climate change issue to save humanity. The COP 26 later this year is our last hope to keep the Paris Agreement alive. Failure is not an option.

Thank you.