



The 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP29 (UNFCCC) Baku, Azerbaijan

National Statement by Honourable Dalton Tagelagi, Prime Minister of Niue

Honourable Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, and Delegates – ‘SALAM’

Fakaalofa Lahi Atu from my government and the people of Niue.

To the COP29 President, the Government, and the people of Azerbaijan, thank you for the warm welcome and hospitality to myself and my delegation and for the dedication in organizing this crucial conference.

Mr. President, as we gather to confront climate change together, we must ask: Are we truly standing united, with unwavering commitment, to address the shared crisis impacting islands, territories, and continents alike? The goal of staying below 1.5 degrees is slipping from our grasp.

For Niue and the Pacific region, climate change is our greatest threat. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 recovery, we continue to face mounting impacts that threaten our survival and resilience. We must work together to preserve our planet for future generations. Niue, though one of the world’s smallest emitters, bears some of the harshest consequences.

The 2023 IPCC Synthesis Report, while stark, offers hope—if we act with urgency. The report projects that \$127 billion will be needed annually by 2030 for adaptation in developing nations. However, adaptation financing remains below half of this need, currently under \$50 billion.

Developed nations must finalize the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance, dedicating at least 50% to adaptation, and fully support and fund the Loss and Damage Fund established at COP27, as a matter of justice for the communities already enduring the worst impacts of climate change and request urgent, simplified, and additional funding for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

We call on multilateral climate funds to streamline access processes, making them efficient and accessible for the most vulnerable countries. For the Pacific and other at-risk regions, accessible finance is not optional—it is essential to ensure timely and reliable support for our people and ecosystems.

Effective climate funding requires strengthened capacities within our nations. If the \$100 billion annual climate finance target is realized, with 5% allocated to the Pacific, we will need the capacity to effectively manage and implement this support. Pacific Island countries face an increasingly urgent need for adaptation finance as climate impacts deepen.

Although Niue’s emissions are negligible, we remain committed to our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans. To achieve these, access to the right technologies and resources is essential, as is the financing to implement them.

Capacity building will empower us not only to meet climate goals but to access finance effectively. Let us unite in solidarity at this COP and beyond to foster collective action toward true climate resilience.

Sag o! I thank you. God bless, and Kia Monuina.

END