

DRAFT STATEMENT: AMONGST THOSE TO LEAD THE PACIFIC  
STATEMENTS AT THE 2<sup>nd</sup> WCDR

18<sup>th</sup> Jan 2005

NIUE STATEMENT

Chair, Niue associates itself with the statement of Mauritius on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, and Marshall Island on behalf of the Pacific Island countries.

Niue thanks the Secretariat for the hard work culminating in the meeting this week. And echoes the acknowledgement expressed to the host country for the many ways it has supported this Conference not the least of which is the financial support that has enabled many Pacific nations to be here today. To the other donors we thank you as well.

Chair, we are gathered here in Kobe on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake which had unprecedented impacts here in Kobe. Last year SIDS witnessed unprecedented catastrophic events, within the SIDS regions and hitting our islands and coastal zones.

In January, my country of Niue was totally destroyed by the hurricane-strength winds of Tropical Cyclone Heta coupled with phenomenal waves and storm surges that rose 30m to sweep to sea everything in its path. It is an experience I would not wish on anyone, it has set back our efforts in recent years ~~by~~ I believe at least one generation. I recall too the victims in the recent Carribean season, particularly Grenada, which like my own country

