



Official Statement

Sixth Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

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THURSDAY 16 MAY

CICG - ROOM 2

- Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,
- *Iakwe*, it is an honor to share with you the Marshall Islands' perspective and experience on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- As an atoll State, the Marshall Islands are uniquely vulnerable to climate change and disasters. Climate change-related risks are not only threatening the livelihood of our people, but also jeopardizing the very existence of our country.
- For years, the Marshall Islands have been a leading voice for increased mitigation, and are the convener of the High Ambition Coalition, which secured the 1.5 degree target in the Paris Agreement. If the international community does not reduce GHG emissions in line with the latest IPCC report, no adaptation or DRR action will be sufficient to ensure a safe and prosperous life for my people.
- Conscious of the need for coherence between mitigation and adaptation, in August 2018 we adopted our 2050 Climate Strategy, which outlines the main actions in terms of mitigation and lays the foundation for our National Adaptation Plan, and in November we submitted our new and more ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution, which also commits to producing an Adaptation Communication to the UNFCCC by 2020.
- I am proud to announce that the process that will lead to the adoption of our National Adaptation Plan (NAP) has now started, and we aim to complete it by 2020, in line with Target (E) of the Sendai Framework.
- Our NAP will set out immediate, accelerated actions and investments over the next 5 years, as well as medium- and long-term measures out to 2030 and beyond. The NAP will have an important DRR component, as it will be the



successor of the Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management.

- Along with the NAP process, we are already taking a number of disaster risk reduction measures. Special attention will be given to local communities – now involved in a participatory hazard risk mapping – as well as outer islands, which our National Disaster Management Office will soon start supporting in preparing their atoll-based plans for Disaster Risk Management.
- The support of international organizations is proving essential to implement disaster risk reduction measures. For instance, the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund are now supporting us with the implementation of a multi-million-dollar project for better multi-hazard early warning.
- It is clear that much more needs to be done. Once our NAP is completed, its implementation will be the real challenge. The sums needed to help our country become resilient to climate change and disaster risk are multiples of our GDP, and we will need technical support to increase our capacity.
- The fight against disasters and climate change cannot be conducted alone, and we look forward to the support of the international community to ensure a prosperous future to our country.
- Thank you, *Kommol tata*.