



TUVALU STATEMENT

HON. SAMUELU PENITALA TEO

SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

GOVERNMENT OF TUVALU

**TUVALU STATEMENT IN THE 8th ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

Mr. Chair,

Ladies
Distinguished of Delegates,
Honorable Heads of States and Governments, Excellences and Distinguished
Conference
Delegates, "Talofa"

Allow me to
Before proceeding on, I would like to share the same *sentiments* that
previous Speakers have *in* congratulated *ing* the People and the government of
Mongolia for hosting the 8th Asia Ministerial Conference in Disaster Risk
Reduction. I also acknowledged UNISDR for supporting Mongolia on
this important conference.

Country of
My beloved Tuvalu is well known for its famous sandy islands and
pristine
undisturbed seas among the low lying atoll nations of the world. We called
this our only home where we have lived and thrived for the past hundred
years.

Mr. Chair,

weather patterns
unprecedented
The Planet is changing at an *rate* unprecedented speed, storms are on the rise,
extreme weather events are increasing globally and seas are getting
warmer, more uncertainties in the global weather pattern. *are also* "Our island
survival is at stake".

For Tuvalu, Climate Change and Climate Disasters remains our ^{most} ~~frightful~~ feared enemies.

At the outset, I have to pay tribute to my Hon. Prime Minister for his strong Leadership in putting Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in the forefront of our development strategies.

The government of Tuvalu remains firmly committed to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific.

Major Achievement

Since the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, Tuvalu has continued to focus on ensuring that we have the right policies and governance arrangement in place to improve disaster risk reduction. This is reflected in our National Strategic Plan 2015-2020 Te Kakega III under priority one which is on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.

My
The government has established the Climate Change and Disaster Survival Fund and had injected 10 million dollars *into it*. This is specifically to assist our people with their rehabilitation and recovery efforts from the impact of disaster and climate change *helping to* Build back better *them*.

Mr. Chair

The government also ensured that our disperse population received timely and understandable information before a disaster strike. This *has been made possible* through our improved and *Radio* sound *systems* communications backups established for each island. *(Early Warning System)*

The government continued to engage with the Private Sector, Gender and the Vulnerable Groups which may significantly contribute to the enhancement of disaster risk reduction strategies and community resilience.

After the onslaught of TC Pam, *in 2015* the government secured *USD* 35 million from the Green Climate Fund to build our coastal protection *by way of sea walls* for 3 of our vulnerable islands. However, the government will continue to assist in

building coastal protection for the whole group thus enhancing our community resilience.

Constraint in the Implementation of the Sendai Framework

Mr. Chair

Tuvalu faced some remarkable challenges in implementing the Sendai Framework. This includes, our limited financial capacity where Disaster Risk Reduction priorities are competing with our other national development priorities.

And our limited human capacity to fully implement and monitor the Framework across multi disciplines sectors of Tuvalu.

In Conclusion

I appreciate the opportunity to present Tuvalu's perspective. We can all learn from sharing our experiences and gain much from building stronger partnerships across the region. By doing this, we will make a substantial contribution to the stability and prosperity in our region, which benefits us all.

I thank your Mr. Chair