



**The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference – COP28 UNFCCC  
Emirates of Dubai, United Arab Emirates 2nd December 2023**

**National Statement by**

**Honourable Dalton Tagelagi, Premier of Niue**

Mr President, Excellencies, Distinguished guests and delegates

A warm Fakaalofa Lahi Atu to you all from my government and people of Niue. We extend our gratitude to you Mr President and your dedicated team for the tremendous efforts in organizing this conference. We greatly appreciate the Emirates of Dubai, and its warm-hearted people.

Mr President, let us stand in truth and in solidarity, as we portray the common issues on climate change across our islands, territories and continents. We will remain strong to fight and keep the 1.5 degrees to stay alive.

It's a defining moment for this COP28 to deliver what was promised to us, the \$100 billion annually. Time is up and urgent action is needed now to deliver climate finance for Loss and Damage, Adaptation and Mitigation. Niue is a net sink and has no responsibility for the causes of climate change. Niue is at high risk to tropical cyclones this season and to drought.

19 years ago, Niue experienced a category 5 deadly storm. My people are still living in fear of another catastrophic cyclone. Residents at low-lying coastal areas have slowly moved to higher ground to avoid detrimental impacts from damaging heavy swells. We are not quite adapted as yet, we need resources financials and tools to ensure early warning, disaster preparedness and climate resilience for Niue. We call to expedite now access and release of climate finance. The delivery mechanism must be flexible, and modalities reflect the vulnerability of our islands. We applaud those who have made pledges. Pledges must be materialized today not tomorrow.

Niue has been brave and innovative as we have created our own sustainable financing mechanism. Our first Public Private Trust, the Niue Ocean Wide Trust, and a world first innovative financing instrument, called an Ocean Conservation Commitment (OCC). This recognises the value of our ocean space under strict protection, as a global contribution to planet stability as well as a means to build resilience and a sustainable blue economy for our people.

An OCC represents a partnership between us, and others willing to co-sponsor 1 square kilometer of ocean in our large scale marine protected area for a period of 20 years. This will help us mobilize sufficient predictable resources to invest in a sustainable way to achieve outcomes in climate action, biodiversity protection, SDGs, and security and at the same time will deliver invaluable climate outcomes for our region and the rest of the world. This is an example of a non-market mechanism under article 6.8 which we invite others, in particular developed countries, to step up and support so we can actually secure the necessary climate finance we so desperately need and deliver this in a way that will make lasting gains for our people, region and world.

Niue's contribution holds immense global significance in terms of supporting the long-term stability of our planet and its oceans. Without adequate mitigation, we will not be able to adapt. The Global Stocktake ensures our survival and our emissions pathways and targets for the future. Niue is sensitive to the issues on the Just Transition and Fossil Fuel Phase Out and that we must take caution to address these in reference to our small island states. We are not expecting an overnight changeover, but a commitment that considers special circumstances of small Island countries like Niue.

Niue's National Strategic Plan is all about a sustainable future that meets economic and social needs while preserving the environment, social stability, and Niuean culture. We embrace the climate traditional knowledge practices that have also supported climate change adaptation.

We need the support of all countries and individuals present here at COP28 Dubai to unite in solidarity with the people of Niue in our efforts to address the impacts of climate change and to safeguard a more stable future for Niue and the Pacific Blue Continent. Together, we can create a more profound understanding and foster collective action towards climate resilience.

I wish His Highness and the people of the United Arab Emirates all the best today for their national day celebrations.

Fakaue Lahi moe kia Monuina

Thank you and God Bless All

**END**