

KINGDOM OF TONGA

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT UNEA 6,

Nairobi, 01st Mar, 2024

1. **MADAM PRESIDENT.** WITH YOUR INDULGENCE, ALLOW ME AT THE OUTSET TO JOIN ESTEEMED DELEGATES IN **ACKNOWLEDGING** YOUR EXCELLENCY AS YOU PRESIDE OVER THE HOSTING AND FACILITATIONS OF THIS ASSEMBLY.
2. MAY I ALSO EXTEND OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE TO THE **REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOR THE EXEMPLARY ARRANGEMENTS** MADE AND THE VERY KIND HOSPITALITY SHOWN TO OUR DELEGATION
3. IT IS WITH MUCH APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELIVER THIS MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE **PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, HON. HU'AKAVAMEILIKU**
4. **MADAM PRESIDENT.** IT IS IMPORTANT TO HIGHLIGHT THAT THE KINGDOM OF TONGA IS ONE OF THE **MOST HIGHLY VULNERBLE COUNTRIES** IN THE WORLD TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS AND SEA LEVEL RISE. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURAL DISASTERS, INCLUDING TSUNAMI, VOLCANO ERUPTIONS AND COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS, REMAINS A CHALLENGE TO OUR EFFORTS TO REALIZING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS BY 2030, DESPITE OUR COMMITMENT TO REALIZING THESE GOALS.
5. THE KINGDOM OF TONGA PROVIDES OUR **UNWAVERING** SUPPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY AND MULTILATERAL EFFORTS TO TACKLE THE **TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS** OF CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS, AND POLLUTION AND WASTE, AND RESTORE HARMONY BETWEEN HUMANITY AND NATURE, IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE WORLD'S MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE, INCLUDING SMALL ISLAND AND LARGE OCEAN STATES.
6. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE ASSEMBLY IS WHERE ENVIRONMENTAL DIPLOMACY BRINGS UNITY AND WHERE WE CAN DELIVER INCLUSIVE MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS ACROSS THE FULL TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS TOGETHER AS A FAMILY OF WORLD GOVERNMENTS, CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS, THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHAPING GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND A PLATFORM FOR BOLD COLLECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION.

7. WE RECOGNIZE THAT OVER 50 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MULTILATERALISM, THERE IS FRAGMENTATION. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE WE ARE MOVING TOWARDS GREATER CONVERGENCE ACROSS MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS, AND IT IS EVER-IMPORTANT THAT THERE IS POLICY **COHERENCE, HARMONIZATION AND INTEGRATION**.
8. BECAUSE ACTION ON CLIMATE IS ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY, LAND AND SEA; BECAUSE ACTION ON LAND AND SEA IS ACTION ON CLIMATE; BECAUSE ACTION ON CHEMICALS, POLLUTION AND WASTE IS ACTION ON NATURE AND ON CLIMATE. THESE CONVENTIONS ARE INTERCONNECTED, AS THE EARTH'S SYSTEMS ARE TOO, INTERCONNECTED.
9. AND WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO LOOK AROUND THIS ROOM TO SEE PARTIES AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS WITH THE SAME MIND AND HEART.
10. AS A SMALL ISLAND AND ENORMOUS OCEAN STATE, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA RECOGNIZING THAT THE **TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS** IS STILL ACCELERATING, AND THAT MORE MUST BE DONE. AND DOING MORE, WITH LESS.
11. TO THIS END, TONGA IS MAKING CONCERTED EFFORTS TO ENSURE THERE IS COHERENCE FROM NATIONAL TO GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS.
12. TONGA SUPPORTS THE IUCN GLOBAL STANDARD FOR NATURE BASED SOLUTION AS AN EXISTING TOOL TO HELP DESIGN, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS
13. TONGA SUPPORTS THE PROTECTION OF KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS IN AREAS BEYOND NATIONAL JURISDICTION TO ENSURE THAT BIODIVERSITY AND RESOURCES ARE SAFEGUARDED WITHIN OUR EEZ.
14. AS I CONCLUDE, EXCELLENCIES, TONGA REAFFIRMS ITS SUPPORT FOR **MULTILATERALISM**, AND URGES COHERENCE, COOPERATION AND ACCELERATED ACTION TO RESPOND TO THE **TRIPLE PLANETARY CRISIS** AND ENSURE A RESILIENT AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET.
15. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.