

Asia-Pacific Regional Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in Preparation for the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (UNLDC-5)

**30 August-2 September 2021
Geneva, Switzerland**

TUVALU NATIONAL STATEMENT

Delivered Virtually

Session One: Ministerial Dialogue on lessons learned in the implementation of the IPoA Challenges encountered and the way forward.

The IPoA target of having half of the LDCs graduated by 2020 was missed by far as many LDCs continued to face existing social and economic challenges and that they continue to need international support. Now covid19 pandemic has made these challenges even more difficult. It is clear - the LDCs with their inherent economic challenges require an improvement in the international cooperation framework.

LDC5 and the new PoA for LDCs will be an important opportunity to demonstrate improved international support to LDCs that must target the multidimensional vulnerabilities of LDCs in a contextualized manner with the transparent and inclusive engagement on priorities defined by .1 TD9 manner

So, there is an urgent need to mobilize financial resources for building resilience as well as for climate change adaptation. Moreover, accessing development finance remains an uphill battle. LDC5 and the new PoA for LDCs should therefore deliver on increased international assistance to LDCs.

Tuvalu had mainstreamed climate vulnerability and resilience building to its national sustainable development strategy, Te Kete, 2020 – 2030 which also adopted the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs including IPoA targets. However, our remoteness and small geographical size, small population, narrow economic base, and vulnerability to external shocks, means that we need targeted economic interventions and support.

We know that international support will only work for us if they target resilient social economic infrastructure and productive capacities for small economies that lack economies of scale. Productive capacities with the right policies will generate employment and economic activities and bring needed transformational changes to our small economy.

We note the importance of digital transformation

1. The new PoA must ensure that graduation does not exacerbate economic challenges of LDCs but that it is a smooth transition to support graduated countries to achieve sustainable development. In this respect, I wish to call for a more detailed analysis of the consequences of graduation to prepare a smooth transition strategy and request ESCAP to provide Tuvalu with the technical and financial assistance to support the preparation of the strategy that provides tailored solutions to Tuvalu's context and circumstances.

2. Increased international assistance both technical and financial, including ODA, to continue building the resilience of Tuvalu, social protection activities for all, and expand investment in resilient infrastructure. This includes a 10 B71 13.98f1 0 0 1 52.54.4