



*TUVALU*

Statement

by

His Excellency, The Honourable MAATIA TOAFA  
Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of Tuvalu at the  
High Level Plenary Meeting of the Sixtieth Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly

"2005 WORLD SUMMIT"

New York, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005

(Check Against Delivery)

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Tuvalu supports the recommendations in the Secretary General's report 'In Larger Freedom' on the importance of global security. But in so-focussing, we cannot allow unilateralist political agendas to divert attention from other security issues and the main MDG task of eradicating poverty. Global security must be advanced on a multilateral and multi-dimensional approach.

We must focus attention on poverty eradication and sustainable development, as these are fundamental underpinnings of global peace, security, and ensuring human rights for all.

Tuvalu supports the reforms proposed for the United Nations, including expansion of the permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council, reviewing of its working methods, and rationalisation of the General Assembly work. We also reiterate our view that Japan, Germany, Brazil and India should be considered for permanent membership in the expanded Council.

We also support the call for the establishment of the Human Right Council in recognition of the centrality of human rights as the founding pillar of the United Nations ideals.

Mr President

Whilst on security, there is a much broader security issue which relates to environmental security. Living in a very fragile island environment, our long-term security and sustainable development is closely linked to issues of climate change, preserving biodiversity, managing our limited forests and water resources.

As witnessed world-over, a natural disaster like cyclone, made worse by the effects of climate change, can have a devastating effect on economies and lives. For Tuvalu the effects are scary. These are the security issues we believe the UN should be paying more attention to.

Mr President

Small island developing States like Tuvalu face a number of other unique challenges, which are well acknowledged and highlighted in the Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The full and effective implementation of the Strategy is key to SIDS achieving MDGs and sustainable development.

**In saying that, we are making every effort to ensure our own sustainable development. Last year my government held a national conference to map out a national development strategy based on the principles of sustainable**

