



Statement
by
Honourable Fiame Naomi Mata'afa
Deputy Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa
at
World Humanitarian Summit High Level Leaders Roundtable
"Natural Disasters and Climate Change: Managing Risks and Crisis
Differently"
24 May 2016, Istanbul, Turkey

Co-chairs
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Samoa is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and extremely prone to natural disasters and therefore strongly endorses the five core commitments for this roundtable.

Samoa commits to enhance its resilience and increase its capacity to adapt and mitigate against some of these natural and human-induced risks, by adopting a whole of society and whole of Government approach.

Samoa aligns itself with the political commitment made by the Pacific Small Island Developing States to work with UN member states to agree to institutional arrangements for a Special Representative on Climate and Security as announced by the Government of Nauru as the Chair of the group.

Samoa also aligns itself with the collective commitments by the Alliance of Small Islands States submitted by Maldives as its Chair which emphasised the critical need for SIDS to build resilience, strengthen prevention, raise awareness and increase preparedness to respond and recover from disasters as highlighted in our SIDS sustainable development document, the SAMOA Pathway.

Samoa welcomes the emphasis on accelerating the reduction of disaster and climate-related risks through the coherent implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Samoa further commits to mainstream and integrate these global agreements and frameworks into its new national sustainable development strategy for 2016 to 2020 with the theme of 'Accelerating sustainable development and creating opportunities for all'

Samoa is committed to reinforce national and local leadership and capacities in managing disaster and climate-related risks through strengthening our existing local mechanisms and policies on disaster preparedness and response and recovery. We continue to work closely with our partners to ensure proper investment in data, analysis and early warning and developing evidence-based decision-making processes that result in early action

In our new Disaster management strategy, we emphasized the critical role that village-based organisations like the Village Council and Women's Committees play in co-ordinating disaster mitigation and preparedness programmes and activities at the community level. We are committed to increase investment in building community resilience as a critical first line of response, with the full, effective and meaningful participation of women, people with disabilities, youth and the elderly.

Samoa is committed to a partnership with the Government of Japan, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and other Pacific countries to establish and operationalise as a matter of priority the Pacific Climate Change Centre to be hosted at SPREP Headquarters in Samoa. The Centre will encourage partnerships throughout the region and internationally as a key element of building the resilience of Pacific countries to climate change.

Finally, we commit to ensure that regional and international humanitarian assistance genuinely complements and reinforces local capacity and leadership in the Pacific. We will continue to share our Pacific experience in disaster risk resilience to contribute to the global effort of building resilience of populations and countries in particular against natural disasters and climate change.

Thank you.