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Statement of Mele Ikatonga Tupou Vaitohi
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To the Announcement Plenary of the World Humanitarian Summit

Istanbul, Turkey, 23 – 24 May 2016

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Tonga and the Head of Delegation, I am pleased to announce Tonga's commitments to this inaugural and historic Summit. A full version of our announcement will be uploaded to the Summit's official website for delegation's ease of reference.

Mr. Chairman,

Tonga welcomes the Secretary General's "Agenda for Humanity" and its five core responsibilities. Tonga as the third most vulnerable country in the world attaches great importance and commitment to the Agenda and is implementing these commitments at the national level particularly the commitments anchored in Core Responsibility 4. As such, Tonga is pleased to announce that it continues to commit to the following:

1) Reducing disaster and climate-related risks through the implementation of the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other agreed programmes of action;

2) Reducing the vulnerability of people to natural disasters and climate change by strengthening their resilience at the local level through dedication of national and international efforts towards the developing and strengthening of local experts and leaders;

3) Taking a more systematic and multi-sectoral approach to risk management by reinforcing the local and national management of natural disasters and climate change. This includes increasing funding for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and adaptation activities, and the implementation of Tonga's Climate Change Policy with its goal to build a resilient Tonga by 2035, and finally;

4) Strengthening the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative which will significantly increase the capacity of early warning systems to provide accurate predictions of climate events and disasters, and help with evidence-based disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, Tonga calls for this historic occasion to be remembered as the genesis, as a global community, towards ensuring our survival, humanity and climate justice. And that the promise of a truly shared and sustainable global vision and investment for both Tonga and the world's present and future generations, is realized by ensuring we leave no one behind.