



Government of Tokelau

Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government



ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

19-22 September 2022

STATEMENT BY HON. KELIHIANO KALOLO
MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE, OCEANS & RESILIENCE (MiCORE)

Introduction

Thank you, Chairperson for giving me the floor.

Your Honourable, [Prime Minister] of Australia, Distinguished Heads of Governments and Leaders from the Asia-Pacific region, Heads of UN and Regional Organisations, Invited Guests, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me start by thanking the Government and the people of Australia, with special recognition of the indigenous people of the land, for the warm hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in your beautiful country. We acknowledge and bless our Almighty God for bringing us all together for this important event. It is human who plans, but the Lord directs and fulfils.

Through you, [Hon. Prime Minister], I convey to the Government and people of Australia, our warmest and best wishes from the Ulu o Tokelau (Titular Head) of the Ongoing Government of Tokelau, the Elders, and the people of Tokelau. Malo Ni! Ma fakatalofa atu.

Tokelau: a brief overview

Tokelau is a non-self-governing territory of New Zealand consisting of three coral atolls in the South Pacific: Atafu; Nukunonu; and Fakaofu. Tokelau and New Zealand work together in a partnership based on trust, openness, respect, and mutual accountability. Our mutual goal is to maintain and improve the quality of life of our people living in Tokelau.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Tokelau's foundational documents for our work on climate change and disaster risk management include *Living with Change: An Integrated National Strategy for Enhancing the Resilience of Tokelau to Climate Change and Related Hazards, 2017-2030 (LivC)* and the *Tokelau Disaster Risk Reduction, Response, and Resilience Plan (TDR4)*. Within these documents, actions have been identified to strengthen the capacity of Tokelau and to address challenges and opportunities from climate change and disaster resilience. Both documents support the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local and national level.

From Crisis to Resilience: Transforming the Asia-Pacific Region's future through disaster risk reduction

Tokelau reaffirms the outcomes of the declaration of the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction Ministers Meeting held in Nadi last week. The Nadi meeting demonstrated that information sharing between stakeholders is valuable. Real world examples like those from the Asia-Pacific region are particularly useful for identifying ways that we can transition ***from crisis to resilience: Transforming the Asia-Pacific Region's future through Disaster risk reduction.***

Tokelau, for example, has already demonstrated her support of these outcomes, through the implementation of the LivC and TDR4, with the following projects, mainly funded by New Zealand:

- 1) Risk-Informed Development - Strengthening Coherence in Addressing Climate and Disaster Risk**
 - Tokelau Coastal Resilience Project that enhances coastal defenses
 - Emergency Shelters
- 2) Disaster Preparedness and Response**
 - Nuku/Village Disaster Plans: Atafu Disaster Risk Reduction, Response, and Resilience Plan; Nukunonu Disaster Risk Reduction Response, and Resilience Plan; Fakaofu Disaster Risk Reduction, Response, and Resilience Plan;
 - Emergency Depots - Two depots per village that are looked after by the local village disaster committee with the assistance of National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU) MU for ongoing stocktaking and maintenance for replenishment purposes;
 - Radio Programme on weather and climate forecasts - Weather and climate forecasts are a generic part of these talkback radio shows and emphasized the importance of **"readiness"** at all times.
- 3) Resilient Recovery (Precovery, preparing for recovery in advance of multiple hazards)**
 - NDMU mapping project
 - Ocean Acidification, weather, and climate monitoring projects
 - Training for Practitioners Education - TDR4 is part of the Tokelau Education Curriculum that is tied in under both Science and Social Science curriculums from Year 1 – Year 13

We recognize from experience that public awareness and capacity building are cross cutting issues that are vital to the successful and sustainability of DRR and resilience programmes,

particularly at the local and national level. Sustained and ongoing support for these programmes need to be factored into all phases of the process.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Government of Australia, UNDRR and partners for supporting Tokelau participation at this Conference. Fakafetai ni.