



STATEMENT BY

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Madam President

Ekamawir Omo. Greetings from Nauru.

I am honoured to take the floor (albeit virtually rather than in-person) and address this the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

On behalf of the Republic of Nauru, I take this opportunity to congratulate Your Excellency Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley on your recent assumption to the presidency of the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference on Trade and Development. It is indeed unfortunate that the circumstances of the pandemic have precluded us visiting your beautiful islands. Let me assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and support as you guide our important work during this session.

Madam President,

The theme adopted for this conference "From inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all" is particularly relevant under the current context of the pandemic and as our countries

strive to recover and address the detrimental impacts rendered on our society, economies, and overall national development. I am therefore grateful for this opportunity to share with this august conference Nauru's national perspective and as a Small Island Developing State, the necessity of enhancing trade as a tool and conduit to achieving prosperity for all.

Madam President,

Nauru faces a myriad of challenges associated with its small size, remote location, and narrow production base. Our economy is further affected by the high cost of goods and services, inadequate infrastructure, and impacts of climate change.

The onset of the pandemic which resulted in the closure of national borders worldwide, brought the global community to a standstill. For a Small Island Developing State like Nauru, the pandemic exacerbated the challenges our island faces such as connectivity, transportation, and access to supply chains. Nonetheless, the past two years have taught us that the new norm of doing business is "not business as usual" necessitating countries like mine to adapt, adopt and pursue innovative policies to capitalize on the bounce-back and avoid being left behind.

Recovering from the pandemic provides an opportunity to build back what was lost. The pandemic has not lessened the sense of urgency felt by Nauru and its pacific neighbors around climate change. The impacts of climate change are far-reaching, having the potential to disrupt supply, transport and distribution chain infrastructure which are lifelines for an island like Nauru, increasing our vulnerability, undermining sustainable development aspirations, and affecting our security. In building again we must seize the opportunity and ensure that our actions today will produce positive outcomes in years to come. I am therefore pleased to reaffirm Nauru's commitment to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to consider carbon neutrality in shipping through an equitable greenhouse gas transition to zero emissions no later than 2020, ensuring that we go forward in unity and strength.

The extreme economic downturn caused by the pandemic has resulted in burdensome financing requirements being imposed on developing states. Ensuring sustainable financing is critical to recovering better. Nauru, like many Small Island Developing States, face barriers to sustained economic growth due to our geographic remoteness, small scale of our economy, vulnerabilities to climate change, external economic and financial shocks and the rules that govern development assistance. As we build back better, institutions must avail better financing for development and commit to reforming the international financial system and global sustainable debt system to take into account the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States.

Madam President,

We convene this conference under extraordinary circumstances and in an environment overwrought with challenges, prevalent and emerging. The unprecedented lessons learnt from this health crises have illustrated our interdependence and the unity of the global community in working together to respond and address COVID-19. We must therefore continue along this vein, working together to ensure a just transition from inequality and vulnerability to mutual prosperity of all.

Amongst the many lessons learnt from the pandemic is the need to adapt and implement new and innovative ways of doing business. The rapid change of technology and digitalization has made profound impact on trade, utilized widely in response to the pandemic. Digital trade in services is among the most dynamic sectors in the global economy with potential for countries to harness during the recovery process. This new way of doing business has experienced dramatic expansion with countries like Nauru embracing digital service delivery. However, there is still evidence of inequity and the ensuing digital divide between bigger countries and small island developing states will create discrepancies in how business is conducted post pandemic. The possibilities

therefore for trade technologies to increase efficiency, inclusiveness and potential to close existing economic gaps amongst states is being challenged.

Madam President,

The Government of Nauru through its “2020 Guiding Vision: Desperate Imagination” is committed to diversifying our economic base despite the restraint and challenges of our limited natural resources.

Nauru acknowledges the need to create a conducive environment for private sector development and direct investments which in turn will allow the economy to attract and widen its production of goods and services for trade. As an isolated island, Nauru acknowledges the importance of connectivity and transportation, shipping and air services including movement of goods through air freighters, as a conduit to successfully trade and harness economic benefits.

It is therefore imperative that we the global community work together and collectively to strengthen institutions, improve connectivity, generate trade, and develop cross-border solutions to shared problems to promote prosperity through economic development. Nauru stands ready to work with all members to achieve the vision of going from inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all.

Tubwa kor

I thank you.