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Solomon Islands Government
Ministry Of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology
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NATIONAL STATEMENT BY HON. JOHN MOFFAT FUGUI MP, MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT, AND METEOROLOGY - HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN, CANCUN, MEXICO - 9th DECEMBER 2010

Madam President:

Allow me, at the outset, to thank the Government and People of the Republic of Mexico for hosting the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP16) and the Sixth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP6), here, in Cancun.

The hospitality rendered to my delegation, ***Madam President****, is simply - the best!*

Allow me to thank also the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat for providing the necessary technical and administrative support to parties at COP16 and MOP6. *The support rendered to the parties has been superb!*

Madam President:

When my delegation was preparing to come to Cancun, we were told that, like Solomon Islands – Cancun is another Paradise on Earth.

But, Madam President:

Even Paradise has its share of problems. Today, Small Islands Developing States are under enormous threat. Least Developed Countries are under serious threat. Cancun also is under threat. Because of climate change, our Paradise is under severe threat!

Madam President, I have observed the economy of Cancun is founded on ocean-based tourism. Like Cancun, Solomon Islands' economy is founded on ocean-related resources. I understand the economies of other small islands developing states are founded on oceanic resources. All these economies are under threat!

Madam President:

Recent science tells us that climate change is causing land degradation and desertification in land-locked and Least Developed Countries.

The adverse effects of climate change have obviously affected our food security; water security; and the fecundity of the land. Climate change

has caused land degradation and desertification. If we are not careful, this would lead to the silent cleansing of humanity from least developed countries.

Madam President:

We, therefore, have a moral obligation to save humanity from doom. It is our moral duty and obligation to protect biodiversity on planet earth.

But in order to save humanity and in order to protect biodiversity in our fragile ecosystems, we must reach consensus in Cancun! Cancun must deliver on a balanced outcome.

Madam President:

Such a "balance outcome" must be appreciated within the scope of inter-generational equity. Balance outcome must be seen from the standpoint of our children. Balance outcome must be seen from the lens of our grand children. It must not be perceived from our own selfish, egoistic, and self-centered interests.

Madam President, allow me to say, therefore, that it was with vested and self-centered interest that we have negotiated for a balanced solution in Bali. Again, we have failed miserably to sign a balanced outcome in

Copenhagen. The important question here, **Madam President** is: *"Can Cancun make a difference?"*

Madam President, Cancun can make a difference if we listen to the quiet voices of our children; if we heed the silent cries of our grand children.

"Can Cancun listen?

I hope Cancun can not only listen but also hear the silent voices of our children. I hope Cancun can hear the continue cries of our grand children.

The world is waiting! Our children are watching! And our grand children could hardly wait for us to do the right thing, here, in Cancun!

Can Cancun deliver on that balanced outcome?

Madam President:

Delivering a "balanced outcome" demands strong leadership by Annex 1 countries. It requires committed followership from non-Annex 1 Parties. The least-developed countries and small islands developing states are ready to follow the footsteps of our climate change leaders, when they make a difference - here - in Cancun.

Madam President, we, therefore, call on all developed countries to show strong leadership by accepting their historical responsibilities. We also call on developing countries to show commitment by cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions.

Madam President, It is our world that is at the heart of our concern. It is the voice of our children that we are hearing; and, it is the cries of our grand children that we should heed.

For all of us - Annex 1 and Non-Annex 1 Parties alike - let us take action based on the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" to make a difference in Cancun!

Madam President:

You know fully well that responsibility comes with accountability. Our children will hold us accountable if we don't heed their call. Our grandchildren will hold us accountable if we don't hear their call for commitment!

We must, therefore, understand that the outcome of Cancun will determine our destiny vis-à-vis our responsibility and commitment!

Finally, **Madam President**, allow me to conclude by saying that - we are accountable for our actions in Cancun. We are also equally accountable for our inactions in Cancun!

Let us, therefore, show strong leadership on climate change.

Let us, therefore, accept our historical responsibilities.

Let us, therefore, show committed followership on climate change.

Let us, therefore, cut down on our emissions.

Let us, therefore, hear the silent cries of our children.

Let us, therefore, heed the call of our grandchildren.

Let us, finally, agree to a "balanced outcome" in Cancun.

Will Cancun deliver?

Sure, Cancun CAN!

Madam, President, *I Thank you*