STATEMENT BY THE HON PRIME MINISTER TUILAEPA SAILELE MALIELEGAOI AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF COP 22 MARRAKECH

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Over the past year, we collectively contributed to the achievement of a historic turning point in the global fight against climate change. Our solidarity to commit to the cause was made more evident with the entry into force of the Agreement on the 4th of November, a truly unprecedented global achievement.

All Pacific small island states have signed and ratified the Agreement before then. The 'rush' in momentum should not be allowed to slow down, and countries that have yet to join the agreement must do so.

Mr. President

We have gathered in this wonderful city to determine how we can back up words with real and timely action, and, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals. We

want to ensure that the decisions we make here are not simply procedural, but more importantly, action-focused and time-bound as well.

We have come together to identify linkages between human rights, gender equality and climate change. We have also come to identify opportunities to collaborate and exchange knowledge and good practices, with a view to strengthening capacities to deliver responses to climate change, that are good for people and planet.

Mr. President

Marrakech, should be the starting point for strengthening countries' ambitions in line with the 1.5 degrees target and national long term country strategies. There is urgency in increasing nationally determined contributions over the next two years, if we are to avert jeopardizing the Paris Agreement's essential temperature goals.

Let us therefore, turn our attention to the built-in mechanisms to assess progress and scale up ambition as they are indeed the action points! COP 22 should look to successfully concluding the 2016 facilitative dialogue and define modalities for implementation.

Mr. President

The sustainable financing of priority adaptation and mitigation needs as well as for loss and damage in small

islands developing states, are essential to move the finance agenda forward, a call championed in the SAMOA Pathway, the blueprint of the sustainable development agenda of Small Island Developing States.

A review of the International mechanism for Loss and Damage suggests that it has not even moved close to delivering bold actions to protect the most vulnerable. COP 22 should look therefore to accelerating progress in the initiation of the 5year rolling plan of the Loss and Damage mechanism.

Mr. President

Climate finance is particularly important for Small islands developing states, given the significant amount of financial, technical, technological and capacity building support needed, to adapt to the impacts of climate change. We therefore call on the climate finance entities to assist in facilitating timely access to these resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced readiness support.

There should not be any delay in the release of the finance roadmap for providing US$100 billion annually. Parties need to work together to improve predictability and certainty of new and additional public and grant based

resources to implement their adaptation and mitigation needs.

Mr. President

For the Paris Agreement to be universal, effective capacity building is critical to enable developing countries to facilitate fulfillment of their new requirements and transition towards low carbon and climate resilient economies.

For this reason, we in the Pacific, are looking towards the recently launched Pacific Climate Change Centre, based in Samoa, as the Centre of excellence that will offer new, innovative and best practice ways to address the challenges of climate change in our region.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish to sincerely thank the Government and people of Morocco for hosting this important conference and for the generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation.

Thank you.