Thank you Mr. President

His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

Ladies and Gentlemen

I join other speakers in extending appreciation

to the Government and people of Morocco

for the outstanding hospitality extended to me and my delegation since our arrival here in Marrakech.

THE PARIS AGREEMENT

It has been eleven months since Paris.

And since Paris we have made some progress.

Some, significant in and of themselves,

but lack the force of effectiveness

if not strengthened by more positive actions.

Most notable is the entry into force

of the Paris Agreement itself, making this agreement

an implementable, working document to aid and guide

our efforts on our work on climate change.

Micronesia will continue its efforts

to help contribute to our collective stand

toward reversing, and eventually stopping

the adverse effects of climate change

to our lands, to our oceans, and to our environment.

Last month in Kigal,, the parties to Montreal Protocol

reached agreement to phase down HFCs under the treaty.

While Micronesia takes a certain pride

in being the initial sponsor of efforts

to phase down and out the chemical product,

our greater satisfaction truly lies in being able

to call the attention of nations to this one culprit.

Micronesia was most gratified

by the subsequent avalanche of support

from nations, including industrial communities

who have agreed to join the effort.

On this note I wish to thank our host, the Kingdom of Morocco, for joining our efforts very early on.

The Kigali treaty on HFCs translates

to potentially eliminating some 70 – 80 billion tons

of greenhouse toxic chemical

being emitted into our atmosphere,

thus preventing a half-decree of temperature rise.

A small feat that goes the distance,

and another mark on our chart of success.

Another exemplary show of cooperation

between nations, big and small.

THEN THERE IS ENERGY, the engine of development.

One that thrives on traditional fossil fuel,

a source of energy, long the catalyst,

and now known to contribute to the demise of our atmosphere.

In and of itself not the fault, but the excess of it

can no longer be ignored as needing to be replaced.

We must work EXTRA hard, and with deliberate dedication

to assist the industrial communities take the lead

in their own good effort and leadership

to change to an alternate source to power their needed,

ongoing development.

TO THIS END, We must re-shuffle our priorities

and move the development of alternate energy source up front,

and deal with it with heightened capacity as if our lives depended on it.

A stronger alternate energy source will mean

not simply a bearable environment.

There will be light for more,

there will be better health for more.

Let us put momentum into our movement

that the tyranny of time may become less demanding

that we can concentrate on matters

more substantial and consequential in our war

to save our planet earth for the sake of her people.

AGAINST NEW CHALLENGES

Our work in progress must continue

even against new odds and speculations

that certain recent events in America

may not aid our efforts on Climate Change.

That is just another challenge in our path,

one we must own up to.

We must have faith that our cause

is too JUST to be waylaid.

**MOUNTAINS TO CROSS**

It is said: Behind every mountain, is another mountain.

Yesterday, I saw the majestic Atlas mountain ranges,

and was told there are other mountain ranges beyond.

Now I know what I had not known.

Now we know what we had known.

While we have overcome mountains of challenges,

and know of more challenges ahead of us,

at least we are now armed with good knowledge

about what has caused the problems we face,

and more importantly,,what challenges lie ahead of us,

and what we need in order to succeed.

While we can carve a few marks on a tree to keep tap on our progress, we are quite aware that much, much more remain to be done, and our work is far from complete.

From**THE ART OF WAR**

Sun Tsu advised:

The good warrior must know the terrain before the battle.

To win a war, really,  is the result

of winning smaller battle engagements.

To win the war, there must be adequate supplies

to sustain troops, and proper armaments to fight with.

This is good advice for us

on the power of knowledge and sound strategy.

We must quickly develop more robust approaches to adaptation, and mitigate

some of the loss and damage that countries like Micronesia

and other Pacific Island States face on a daily basis.

Driving around the Kingdom

I can see why the effect of Climate Change

on oceanic communities  can seem to simply be a mirage

 by some continental people.

For oceanic communities,

this is not an abstract or distant issue.

For us, for me, for the communities I serve,

the resulting loss and damage due to Climate Change

is upfront, present, and real.

And for all of these elements—

mitigation, ,,,adaptation,,,, loss and damage,,,—

we need an abundant supply of knowledge in capacity,

financial armaments,  and technology transfer

that will make our critical work to adapt and mitigate

possible.

Finally, on the issue of accessing climate change

and other adaptation and mitigation dedicated funds,

we all agree that the bureaucracy is surrounded

by heavily-built firewalls too complicated to penetrate.

The process must be simplified, and be more user-friendly.

Our recent successes,

the Paris Agreement,

the recent aviation emissions agreement,

and the HFC phase down agreement,

will have built even more momentum

for multi-lateral and national action on climate change.

I thank the ministers, who have worked hard...

their technicians, specialists, advisers, and volunteers

for their dedication to keeping our agenda moving.

A job well done!!( applause?)

Finally, leaders, ladies, and gentlemen...

We know the way ahead.

It is what it is.

The climbing won't be easy, but not impossible.

Join me please,

let us continue to climb,

one mountain at a time.

Thank you very much.