



**2022 UN Biodiversity Conference  
COP-15 CP/ MOP10 NP/ MOP-4  
“Economic Civilization – Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”  
Kunming - Montreal**

COP President, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Delegates...

Fakaalofa lahi atu!

Warm greetings to you all from my government and the people of Niue.

Niue extends its thanks and gratitude to the Government of China and the Government of Canada for hosting COP15 in this beautiful city of Montreal.

We thank you for your warm hospitality....

I am extremely proud to stand before you here today, as the only Head of State attending this High level Segment of COP15.

You may ask why I choose to attend this meeting especially so close to Christmas and so far away from home.

Let me tell you this,

I am here because this is fundamentally important to me; my government and the people of my country.(and the pacific region)

I am here because I am proud of the work Niue is doing, motivated by the legacies and the responsibilities passed on, from our ancestors; so that our people, and our future generation can sustain the strong foundations that our ancestors have set for us all.

Every nation aspires to be better and serve their people; to do better; to be successful; to be prosperous.

As Leaders, we also have a responsibility.

A responsibility to ensure that our actions of today, do not compromise the future of our children, their children, and the generation to come.

We, the world, have a collective responsibility to do better.

We have a responsibility to set meaningful benchmarks and targets to address the many challenges afore us.

We have a responsibility to agree on actions most urgently needed to safeguard the health of our planet.

As a Leader of my Country, I have a responsibility to ensure our development aspirations are accomplished.

I also have the responsibility to ensure that we preserve and conserve our culture; our heritage and our natural resources – from the land to the ocean.

I also have the responsibility to ensure that we action what we say.

That we are walking our talk.

Niue have taken bold proactive steps to deliver our key responsibility as custodians and guardians of our environment and natural resources.

We Niue have declared 40% of our Exclusive Economic Zone as a no-take Marine Protected Area known as Moana Mahu.

We have 20 % of our terrestrial land designated as Conservation Area.

And we have developed a home grown, fit for purpose sustainable funding mechanism, Ocean Conservations Credits, to help us deliver on the commitments we have made.

Our objective is to mobilise funding for implementation NOW; not tomorrow or the day after when funding becomes available.

We have walked that road many times and simply do not want to stay on the same lane year after year, and not making serious and positive impact.

We do not have the luxury of time because science have informed us all, that we need urgent actions.

We need actions NOW.

Niue has exceeded the global goals and targets; but we can do more together, globally.

We do this, recognizing the importance of biodiversity to us all.

As the only Pacific Leader at COP 15, I represent all of us from the Pacific Islands Forum, to inform COP that –

1. We have declared our region to be in a state of “Climate Emergency.” At the same time, the most extinctions have occurred on islands and as such, island biodiversity is the most threatened globally. While these extinctions are due to many factors there are intrinsic links between climate change and biodiversity loss.
2. We have approved the “2050 Blue Pacific Strategy” as a response to this Climate Emergency, to facilitate sustainable development and strengthen climate resilience in our Blue Pacific Continent towards 2050.

One of the 7 thematic areas under our 2050 Strategy is environment and ocean which includes biodiversity conservation.

We have charged our regional agencies to facilitate a broad consultative process that will finalise an implementation plan and revised regional architecture for the Strategy.

There is a strong and urgent need to recognize the nexus between climate change and biodiversity.

I am aware that there are some Parties who are reluctant to recognize the connection between UNFCCC and CBD. Science, traditional knowledge and common sense say otherwise. The UN Decade for ecosystem restoration clearly advocates that we need to address a triple emergency.

The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) “must be approve” a document of its time, and to fully integrate the triple global priorities of climate, biodiversity and pollution.

We have come to COP15 expecting a Global Biodiversity Framework, that will set clear targets and guide how we all address biodiversity into the immediate future.

Regionally, we have integrated within our regional Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025 what we have anticipated to come out of COP 15.

We cannot fail to deliver on the Global Biodiversity Framework. Let's not fail to deliver, because we cannot agree on the mechanism and modalities for financing.

We already have funding mechanism and modalities in place. Strengthen and enhance the existing modalities to deliver immediate actions.

Be innovative! Be bold! Lets make it happen here in Montreal and deliver on the Global Biodiversity Framework or we just wasting everyone's time.

Fakaue Lahi mahaki, kia monuina.

Hon. Dalton Emani Makamau Tagelagi  
**Premier of Niue**

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