



Statement

by

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu

High Representative

for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries  
and Small Island Developing States

at the

High Level Reception

Our Oceans, Our Islands, Our Future:

Partnering for the implementation of SDG 14

Date: Wednesday, 7 June 2017 at 6:15pm to 8pm

Venue: Sputnik Lounge, First Floor, UNGA Building,  
UN Headquarters, New York City

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares

Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Mr. Yōhei Sasakawa,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to briefly address this important gathering of the leaders of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA). It is wonderful to be in the company of such a diverse group of partners, all working with the common objective — to save our oceans and our islands. It is the political commitment and leadership at the highest level that GLISPA brings which, makes this partnership so unique. As a result of its strong leadership, GLISPA has been a catalyst for change, in leveraging funding, forging of partnerships and inspiring others to build the resilience of island communities across the Pacific, the Caribbean and the AIMS regions.

We all know that the health of the ocean is deteriorating at an alarming rate. We need to strike a balance between economic opportunity and conservation to ensure that prosperity today is not to the detriment of future generations.

On this frontier, I wish to acknowledge the strong leadership of our GLISPA leaders...namely;

His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. , President of Palau;

Dr. The Right Honourable Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada;

His Excellency Vincent Meriton, Vice-President of Seychelles; and

Dr. The Honourable Kedrick Pickering, Deputy Premier of the British Virgin Islands —

You have delivered results that you can truly be proud of.

The sustainable island commitments from the Palau National Marine Sanctuary to Seychelles Blue Economy vision to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative provide an impetus for other nations to do the same and follow your example. You have given a clear signal to the rest of the world; the time for action is now.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The stakes of the ocean conference could not be any higher for the group of small island developing countries. Over 800 voluntary commitments have been registered in the Ocean Conference registry. Delivering on these commitments, translating them from words to action, will be the measure upon which the success of this Conference will be determined.

The effectiveness of strong, interconnected partnerships, will be critical to accomplishing this task.

In conclusion, as the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, I want to reassure you the commitment of my Office to work together with the leaders and as a friend of GLISPA to promote the goal of strong partnerships to build the resilience of island communities.

Thank you for your attention.

I wish you a very successful rest of the conference.