

Tuvalu's Statement at the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of the
UN Commission on Sustainable Development 17
Interlinkages and Cross-cutting Issues
27 February 2009, New York

Madame Chairperson,
Tuvalu wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished
representative of Samoa, on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, and the
Tonga distinguished representative of Grenada on behalf of
the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Madam Chairperson,
The overarching issue of climate change and its adverse impacts and linkages to all
sectors of development in Tuvalu is addressed through specific programs with ultimate
objectives to reduce the vulnerability of the population and diversify the required
livelihood strategies. Faced with scarce land and natural resources that are increasingly
threatened by climate change especially with sea level rise and a dependence on natural
systems for livelihoods, these programs are primarily focused on the following general
parameters:

- **The implementation of Sustainable Natural Resource Management** that takes a
"bottom up" approach in order to capitalize on traditional knowledge and management
systems, and also builds local capacity.
- **The implementation of Sustainable Agricultural and Fisheries practices.** Reform of
existing agricultural and fisheries systems incorporates the risks of climate change
through changes in crop cultivation, greater diversification in the agricultural sector and
the adoption of sustainable fisheries management.
- **The promotion of Environmental Conservation and Climate Change Adaptation**
that takes the long-term perspective necessary for sustainable development that is
implemented in close consultation with local communities and their leaders.

Madame Chairperson,
As a cross-cutting issue much has said and well documented about the need for Climate
Change to be streamlined across all sectors for sustainable development. However,
having the right and appropriate policies in all the thematic issues of sustainable
development without being able to implement them in a timely manner leads to no
progress. Therefore we need to secure sources of financing and appropriate technology to
enable us translate these policies into tangible and concrete programs and projects on the
ground. As a small island nation most vulnerable to the impact of climate change,
coupled with the drastic impacts of a series of current global crisis we cannot implement
these programs without the continuous commitments and assistance of our development
partners and the international community. Any further delay in such commitments will
only jeopardize the livelihoods of our future generations through unsustainable
development.

Thank you.