

**Statement of Hon. Aisake Valu Eke
Minister of Finance and Planning
On behalf of the Kingdom of Tonga
For the Third International Conference on Financing for Development:
General debate on financing for development**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Monday July 13th, 2015

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to express our congratulations to the Government of Ethiopia for your role in hosting this historic conference, and also our gratitude for the generous hospitality with which we have been received upon arrival. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Co-Facilitators of the preparatory process which has led us here to Addis Ababa for their leadership and dedication to a strong outcome, which lies in sight before us.

Mr. President,

Tonga has been committed to constructive engagement with this process, stemming from our recognition of the fact that financing from all sources, including domestic and international, public and private, and from non-financial means, including transfer of technology and capacity-building assistance and enabling policy environments, is critically important to advancing our sustainable development goals.

In this context, we stress that as a Small Island Developing State, Tonga is a

Our experiences in the Pacific have left us attuned to the value of certain key deliverables, which are critical to the financing of sustainable development for all, including SIDS. These are:

- a. The institutional efforts to expand the blue aspect of the Green Economy is key part of the widening our perspective as SIDS given that oceans and seas are both an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem, and intrinsically linked to sustainable development. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious

plays a critical role in enabling the sustainable development of SIDS. Enhanced international cooperation to provide adequate support and facilitate access to clean energy research and technology and to expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services will be critical to overcoming these challenges.

- c. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, and we are deeply concerned that all countries are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. We welcome stepped up investment for financing low-carbon and climate resilient development, and look forward to the full operationalization and initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund.

- d. Health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development. The threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases remain serious global concerns and constitute one of the major challenges for small island developing

The outcome of this conference will be a critical pillar to support sustainable development, while leaving no one behind. Its position alongside the post-2015 sustainable development agenda is an important one, though we stress that it will not exhaust the means of implementation of that agenda. However, a universal and ambitious agenda requires an ambitious set of commitments in the means of implementation, and this is what we have supported throughout this process from various fora here to Addis Ababa.

We look forward to continuing our global partnership to realize our global commitment to create a better world for all.

I thank you, Mr. President.