



**STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE FIAME NAOMI MATAAFA
PRIME MINISTER OF SAMOA
10th Summit of the OACPS Heads of State and Government
Strategic Partnership Dialogue
Friday 9th December 2022
Intercontinental Hotel, Luanda, Republic of Angola**

President of Summit

OACPS Leaders

OACPS Strategic Partners

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Talofa and warm greetings from the Blue Pacific Continent.

1. I am honoured to deliver these remarks on behalf of the OACPS on the Challenges of Climate Change.
2. As we meet today in this beautiful city of Luanda, we cannot forget the fact that climate change and its insidious impacts are already a daily-lived reality for the 1.2 billion peoples in the 79 countries of the OACPS, and for some of our low-lying island nations of the OACPS it is an existential threat.

3. At the current warming level of 1.2 degrees Celsius, our seas are rising due to climate change. This is posing a significant threat to the sovereignty of our 64 coastal States, of which 38 are Small Island Developing States. For our countries and communities, unprecedented droughts, flooding, hurricanes, cyclones and storm surges have had detrimental impacts on food and water security. We can only safely co-exist if the world limits temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
4. In Samoa, as climate change impacts intensify, we will experience more severe cyclones like Cyclone Evan which in 2012 damaged 2,000 homes and resulted in over US 200 million dollars in economic losses. No doubt, these existential challenges, exacerbated by the world's current food and energy crisis as well as the slow recovery from the COVID pandemic, are imposing significant stress on fragile national economies of OACPS Members.
5. Therefore, urgent and ambitious climate action is required now, more than ever, for the sake of protecting fundamental human rights, and for safeguarding the future of humanity.
6. While we welcome the recent outcome from COP 27, which agreed to establish a dedicated **global fund for loss and damage**, it is also crucial that all commitments and pledges that have been made in the Climate COPs are delivered on, for concrete action - now. We therefore call for utmost urgency to capitalise the loss and damage fund by COP 28, and ensure it is easily accessible to all vulnerable OACPS Members who are already feeling the brunt of its devastating impacts.

7. Access to scaled-up finance in the form of grants remains a top priority for vulnerable OACPS Member States. Today I wish to remind developed countries and our partners to honour their commitments to fully meet the outstanding US 100 billion dollars commitment by 2023, and double adaptation finance. The needs have already exceeded the pledged \$100 billion. As well we call for an overhaul of the global financial system and multilateral development banks – so they are more accessible and fit-for-purpose.
8. Furthermore, to be responsive and effective, climate action should not be limited to the UNFCCC process alone. That is why the OACPS has taken decisions to support the adoption of a UN General Assembly Resolution requesting an advisory opinion on climate change from the International Court of Justice, a Resolution ACP leaders should unequivocally commit to adopting here; and, to also support the Pacific Island Forum's Declaration to Preserve Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea Level Rise.
9. In closing, my message to you is this: climate change is a matter of survival for us, and every day of inaction brings us one step closer to a perilous future which could see many of our homes and our lands disappear. We call for partnerships because it is the only way that we will be able to solve the climate crisis which is facing us all.

I thank you.