

Funafuti Youth Declaration on Climate Change

We, the youth participants at the Climate Change Youth Forum held on the 1-2nd August 2019 in Funafuti believe we are facing a climate change crisis and urgently call on governments, representatives of industry and individuals to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas pollution and to reduce their carbon footprint.

We, the youth of Tuvalu strongly believe that we want to preserve our cultural identity and our traditional knowledge and want to see prioritised programs for youth development.

Food and water security is critical for all of use and we all must take action to ensure our future. It is our firm belief that we have a future on our islands and will not give up.

To ensure our future we call on the government to:

- Call a state of Climate Change emergency so that actions to address climate change are rapidly implemented
- Establish a Youth Parliament where youth can exchange their views on critical issues for their future
- Ensure that the views of youth are incorporated in decision making and planning
- Enhance the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency;
- Introduce a carbon tax as a means of accelerating the use of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies
- Develop a transport policy that promotes the use of electric vehicles and encourages people to walk or ride bicycles
- Establish a Tuvalu Cultural Day once a month where the use of motorbikes and other petrol driven vehicles are banned, where we eat local foods, particularly fish caught from traditional methods and have cultural training to build the understanding of youth
- Enhance education and awareness raising of climate change adaptation, and develop strategies for train the trainers in climate change awareness and actions
- Include youth in international meetings to encourage our exposure to international negotiations
- Establish clear policies for the protection of biological diversity as strategy for nature-based climate change adaptation
- Develop strategies for health security, including a plan to support girls and women's reproductive health in the face of climate change
- Develop programs of inclusiveness for people with disabilities
- Enhance post-trauma counselling for people who have suffered from the impacts of climate change
- Ban the use of single use plastics and to encourage locally produced alternatives

As our commitment to change we pledge to:

- Develop peer to peer strategies to inform other about how to address climate change
- Create on-line platforms through social media and other means to exchange views on how to defeat climate change and its impacts
- Walk to work and encourage all civil servants to do the same
- Create a platform where the views of youth can be taken to government
- Build partnerships with NGOs and other organisations
- Build our capacity so that we can face the climate change challenges that confront us

We kindly request that our views are taken to the Pacific Leaders Forum, to the Climate Youth Forum in the UN and the Climate Action Summit. We respectfully ask all Pacific Leaders to take notice of this Youth Declaration and to take up similar actions in your countries.