



1. Mr. Chairman
Director General of the IOM
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen.
2. It is with a deep sense of honor and weighty responsibility that I, as the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, address this august Assembly at the 114th Session of the Council of the International Organization for Migration.
3. Therefore, I bring with me warmest greetings from the people and Government of Tuvalu – *Talofa!*. I extend to each of you a bright and vibrant morning greeting, and with the spirit of global friendship, I offer a cordial Swiss salutation – *Gruezi!*
4. Mr. Chairman we are gathered here to deliberate on a theme that resonates deeply with the heart of Tuvalu – “***Climate Impacts on Human Mobility: A Global Call for Solutions***”. A theme that underscores our shared commitment to navigating the complex challenges of climate change and migration – a commitment that for us in Tuvalu, carries the weight of our nation’s future and the well-being of our cherished community.
5. Our world today is at a critical juncture, where the cascading effects of climate change are not a distant threat, but an acute reality, especially for the small, low-lying Pacific Island nations, such as Tuvalu.
6. Before I move further, I would like to acknowledge and commend the leadership of the IOM and the broader United Nations framework for the relentless efforts to tackle the unprecedented global issue. With programs that emphasize climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the nexus between environmental degradation and human movement, your endeavors have laid the foundation for a proactive and compassionate response to the needs of populations at the frontlines of climate change.

7. Mr. Chairman, in the Pacific Region, we are experiencing the harshest consequences of climate volatility, from rising sea-levels to the increasing frequency and intensity of storms. These extreme conditions exert immense pressure on our social fabric, economies, and the very territory we inhabit. Our region's cultural identity, ancestral heritage, and subsistence are inseparable from the land that is now gradually varnishing beneath our feet.
8. The narrative of the Pacific is both distinct and profoundly compelling, yet it remains woefully neglected in the broader conversation concerning migration and displacement on the global stage. Our experiences provide critical insights into the gripping reality of climate change – insights that are essential for shaping comprehensive, empathetic, and effective migration policies worldwide.
9. As we contribute to the global discourse, it is paramount that the unique perspectives and lived experiences of the Pacific peoples, and of course communities of regions of similar situation around the globe, be recognized, respected, and integrated into the design and implementation of international migration frameworks.
10. Our call is not one for mere acknowledgment but for action that is noted in genuine partnership, rigorous research, and a commitment to uphold the rights and dignities of displaced communities across the globe.
11. In Tuvalu, our migration policy is evolving with a sense of urgency and vision guided by both pragmatism and our steadfast commitments to our people's rights and dignity.
12. The recent treaty we signed with Australia, known as the *Falepili Union Treaty*, is a testament to our proactive stance towards planned, dignified, and voluntary migration. This landmark agreement exemplifies the kind of open-hearted cooperation and forward-thinking leadership that defines our collective resilience. It is an arrangement, now in place, to support the migration of Tuvaluans due to the impacts of climate change.
13. Mr. Chairman, it is important, however, to note that the *Falepili Union Treaty* is **NOT** intended for Tuvaluans to leave their country. Our aspiration to stay and continue living in our God-given country still remains.

14. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, to conclude, Tuvalu would like to call for IOM and member states:
 - i. First, to operationalize climate investment and funding mechanisms to fund infrastructural projects that protect and sustain our vulnerable land from the effects of climate change. We have to continue living on our islands.
 - ii. Secondly, to recognize, support and operationalize existing human mobility pathways and frameworks, like the *Falepili* Union Treaty and the Pacific Regional Climate Mobility Framework, which offer practical models for cooperation.
 - iii. Third. To assist and support Tuvalu's Rising Nation Initiative, which generally aimed to protect and preserve our statehood and sovereignty, even if we, small low-lying island nations, are swallowed in by the rising sea.
 - iv. Last but not the least. This is a humble invitation to the IOM and/ or member-states to make an effort to pay a visit to our small Pacific islands. It is important that you observe and witness, first-hand, the vulnerability and reality of our island nations. We are looking forward to facilitating your visit, should you decide to visit the shores of Tuvalu.

15. Mr. Chairman, we stand ready to collaborate, share our experiences, and exchange knowledge with fellow member states and organizations. Together, let us chart out a clear path for meaningful progress that honors our shared humanity and the cornerstone principles of the IOM.

16. I thank you Chair.