Fakaalofa hofihofi atu kia mutolu oti, warm greetings from my beautiful Niue

A single raised coral atoll, 260 square kilometres in size, with less then 2000 people, my Niue must meet the same international standards as nations much, much bigger than us do. So international carriers will come to us by air and sea so we can access health, education, and technology, and be a citizen of the world, upholding the basic principles and values of human rights.

Our infrastructure must therefore meet minimum international standards and demands – regardless of the size of our population. Climate resilience in a time of more intense weather events, future proofing to justify and protect multi-million dollar investments. Surely technology can help us cost effectively.

Like many in the Pacific, we struggle to pay our people what they are really worth because of our economic and geographical challenges. Usually New Zealand will draw them first. Then Australia will draw New Zealanders, and away we go. Losing our people needed to build our economies, care for our vulnerable, build a future for our children. We must break the brain drain cycle. We cannot settle, we must be innovative.

Like many in the Pacific, we are proud of our unique heritage and have an innate resilience through necessity, to meet today’s challenges. Do not leave the Pacific behind. We must continue to advance and strengthen our health and education sectors for the world to protect and serve all of our people. To maintain our culture and traditions that helped us through COVID and our increasingly high costs of living. Advance STEM, Vocational Training and innovative ways to combat NCDs, promoting peace and productivity, to leave no one behind, particularly our most vulnerable in every sense of the word.

No one will escape this Climate Emergency. Sea levels rise and threaten all of our food security, our maritime borders, our sovereignty. We all must do our part, together.

Strong regional and international partnerships with mutual understanding for mutual benefits will save us, because we are in this together and we are as strong as our weakest link – it is all about us as people. Strong partnerships enabled my Niue to become a world leader. The first country in the world to fully implement OpenCRVS software at a national level, with support from the Pacific Community, Vital Strategies and Plan International Asia Pacific and UNESCAP. Fakaue lahi mahaki, thank you so much. We exceeded the 30 by 30 target already, and In September, our Premier Hon Dalton Tagelagi launched our Ocean Conservation Commitments (OCC) programme to secure long-term protection of its waters.

We can do more but we need your help.

Join us. Prioritise us and Help us implement our needs, our priorities, our National Strategic Plans, our Pacific 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

Help us keep our people home, with sustainable population development, through investment, innovation and strong partnerships to build a prosperous world and future.

In 1914, our King Togia said,
I am the island of Niue, a small child that stands up to help the Kingdom of King George. 13 months later, 150 of our men of our estimated 4,000 population joined the First World War effort. Lest we forget. Leave no one behind.

Kia fakamonauna he Atua a tautolu oti, faaaua lahi.