Statement by

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At the

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review

United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.

Bangkok

27-29 November 2019

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Madam Chair
Excellencies
Distinguished delegates

It is indeed a great honor for Tuvalu to participate in this review of 25 years of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

On behalf of the Government and people of Tuvalu, I congratulate you Chair for taking on this role in leading us throughout the conference. We believe the review process is very valuable as it represents an opportunity to reflect locally and globally about the progress we made and the work still ahead of us.

25 years ago, all our countries worked together to laid the principles and set objectives for the advancement of women around the globe. Sadly, however, despite few progresses in some areas, the priorities we set 25 years ago are still too relevant.

Madam Chair, we hope this conference will be an opportunity for frank discussions that will lead to make meaningful decisions to genuinely improve the lives of women and girls in all their diversity around the globe.

Madam Chair,

Tuvalu is a Small Island Developing State. Climate change has real and concrete impacts on our land, on our lifestyles, on our culture, and on our very own existence. We believe that saving Tuvalu from the serious threats of climate crisis involves the continuous empowerment and the protection of the human rights of Tuvalu women and men.

The Tuvalu Government remains strongly committed to achieving gender equality. Women and girls in Tuvalu continue to make steady progress in many fields including in education, employment, social protection, economic activities and decision-making.

Our government continue to engage in addressing family violence, working towards improving our capacity to develop and deliver gender-responsive policies, programs, and services to protect and support the survivors of gender-based violence.
Madam Chair,

The Tuvalu Government acknowledges the significant contributions of women to our development and wellbeing, especially through their informal work in local communities.

Concerted efforts are still needed though, to eliminate harmful customary practices and gender stereotypes constraining the participation of women in decision-making and leadership positions.

Tuvalu continues to create and build a conducive environment for the economic empowerment of women which includes increasing access to incomes generating activities, improving the social protection of disadvantaged women and balancing unpaid care work.

Limited resources to support gender equality initiatives however remains an important challenge for us. We want to acknowledge and express our gratitude to all our donors and development partners who have supported the implementation of gender equity and social inclusion initiatives in Tuvalu.

Progressing gender equality is a whole of government effort which requires investments. We work towards adopting gender responsive budgeting across development initiatives.

Madam Chair,

We wish for the Conference to make meaningful commitments to implement the Beijing Platform for Action’s future. We believe it is critical for all levels of government to work alongside and in genuine partnerships with a strong civil society, especially with women’s groups and human rights defenders, to make significant progress in terms of gender equality.

We believe that the promotion and protection of the human rights of women and girls in all their diversity, is critical if we want to achieve our sustainable development goals at the local and global levels.

We also believe that the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of their human rights are NOT challenging our culture: they are prerequisite to safeguard our rich cultural heritage.
Finally, Tuvalu acknowledge that we, human beings, are part of the ecosystem that cannot sustain our livelihood if we continue exploiting carelessly and unsustainably. There is a need to promote social and economic justice within and between nations, and protect our ocean and our lands.

Madam Chair,

We call for all women and men of good will to work together to transform our world towards one that recognizes the intrinsic value of all human beings and their right to live peacefully, sustainably, in a clean environment, with all resources, to be healthy and to be able to develop to their full potential.

Thank you Chair.