

**GLOBAL ISLAND PARTNERSHIP (GLISPA) HIGH-LEVEL EVENT  
SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR RMI PRESIDENT LOEAK  
3<sup>RD</sup> UN CONFERENCE ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES  
7PM, 3 SEPTEMBER 2014, APIA**

Yokwe and thank you for convening this important discussion on our island homelands.

I want to start by making it clear that to those of us on the frontlines; biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change are not mutually exclusive abstract concepts, but inextricably linked. All of them require cooperation and leadership and tonight I want to give an example of how my country, the Marshall Islands, has been trying to do just that.

We may be small, but leadership comes naturally to us as the projects we are hearing about at this event demonstrate.

Specifically tonight I wanted to give an update on the Majuro Declaration for Climate Leadership. As many of you will know this was the big outcome of last year's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting which we hosted in the Marshall Islands. It remains one of the proudest moments of my Presidency.

The Declaration said very simply that the time for action is now – its opening line was not some diplomatic nonsense but simply read “climate change has arrived”.

The Declaration was adopted unanimously by the 14 Pacific island countries, plus Australia and New Zealand, as the Forum members. But since then we have also welcomed a number of important international commitments that are helping us create “a race to the top”.

The United States has come on board listing President Obama's Climate Action Plan which they hope will help build upon their existing emission reduction targets – this was the first time they listed this document internationally. The European Union, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Japan and the State of Hawai'i have also joined and taken together represent more than a third of the world's emissions.

The Majuro Declaration is now a year old, but as this week's events have demonstrated, it will not be forgotten – and we have been working on positioning it as a helpful starting point for identifying regional renewable energy needs under the “SIDS Lighthouses Initiative” which will be launched in just a couple of weeks' time at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit in New York.

Put simply, what we sought to do in Majuro was put island leadership on the map and encourage others to stand with us. Whether it be biodiversity, sustainable livelihoods, or climate change we need the courage to work together and encourage others to do the same. As the spirit of the Hōkūle'a shows us all, any journey requires great vision.