

STATEMENT BY

HONOURABLE FAIPULE KELIHIANO KALOLO

**MINISTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENT, TOKELAU**

38TH CONFERENCE OF FAO
15 – 22 June 2013, Rome

**The State of Food and Agriculture:
Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition -
the Case of Tokelau**

**The Honorable Chair
Your Excellency Director General of FAO
Afioga Tagaloa Le Toa, Malae o Le Toto Jose' Graciano Da Silva
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I bring to you all greetings from Tokelau. I am indeed very privileged to be here today addressing the 38th session of FAO in which, collectively we come to share our experiences, learn from our mistakes, and at the same time find solutions to the challenges posed by the theme of “Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition”. I would take this opportunity also to convey our greatest gratitude to the FAO establishment and the Government of Italy for facilitating the participation of my delegation at this 38th FAO Ministerial Conference.

It has taken me and my delegation just over five days to get to this conference from Tokelau. Having travelled the vast Pacific oceans first by sea and then taking to the skies around the globe in order to get here is rather a big testimony to how serious Tokelau is committed to seek better outcomes for sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition hence to achieve the 38th FAO conference objectives.

Geographically Tokelau is only a dot floating in middle of the Pacific Ocean. With a population of just over 1400, it has three low lying atolls with its highest point barely 8 meters above sea level and with a total land area of 12 sq km. Tokelau is considered very remote and very far from its neighboring countries and import markets. As an Associate Member of FAO since 2011, Tokelau is a self-governing territory administered by New Zealand under the supervision of the United Nations De-colonization Committee. Over the past decade Tokelau has been steadily working towards a greater level of self-determination and full self-reliance.

As an atoll, and with very little opportunities in agriculture, Tokelau is overwhelmingly dependent on fisheries with over 98% of earned revenue coming

from the sale of fisheries access right to the Tokelau Exclusive Economic Zone. In mid-2010 Tokelau has, in collaboration with our constitutional partner New Zealand, developed a Fisheries Policy and an associated Offshore Fisheries Plan to not only ensure food security for our people but also to maximize revenue.

In two parts the Tokelau's fisheries policy first ensures food security in the Inshore Fisheries while the Offshore Fisheries maximizes revenue that goes into the Tokelau International Trust Fund for our future generations. Need I therefore acknowledge both the governments of New Zealand and Australia as the major donors into the Tokelau International Trust Fund. Furthermore Mr Chairman may I emphasize that the fisheries particularly the inshore fisheries has provided for Tokelau's sustainable food systems and nutrition for centuries and over that period our people has become resilient to the sometimes harsh environment of low lying atolls.

Need I therefore also mention that our long time sustainable food systems and nutrition are not immune to the challenges we face today particularly coming by way of climate change as we are experiencing globally.

To save ourselves, as a people and as a country, Tokelau in working collaboratively with our constitutional partner New Zealand has responded to climate change by becoming the first nation in the world to become 90% renewable energy dependent.

Last but not least, may I Mr Chairman again acknowledge the Government of New Zealand for its continuous partnership support to Tokelau. The government of Australia our major donor for Tokelau's mitigation programs for climate change and FAO for the kind assistance it has provided through the TCP partnership framework. It is hoped that FAO and Tokelau will work together towards full membership for Tokelau full in the near future.

FAKAFETAI LAHI