



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE
Office of the Premier

NATIONAL STATEMENT

Fakaalofa lahi atu! I bring you warm Pacific greetings from the Government of Niue and our kind people.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, and friends;

Niue is committed to building a safe and resilient country for all who wish to make Niue their home.

Our vision of a prosperous Niue, *Niue ke Monuina*, is our approach to creating opportunities for the people of Niue to lead healthy, secure and prosperous lives while protecting the environment and its' significant cultural heritage.

Niue shares deep concern at the disastrous humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and today we join together in celebrating the significant contributions we have made in bringing an end to the era of nuclear weapons.

Niue is honoured to accede to the Treaty on the 2017 Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and draws us closer to witnessing this very significant Treaty enter into force.

As a single island nation in the South Pacific Ocean we have traditionally relied on our geographical isolation as natural protection from the catastrophic threats of global conflict. Notwithstanding Niue is a State Party to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty we acknowledge no State is immune to the threats and consequences of nuclear weapons, recognising the devastating effects of nuclear testing in the Pacific Region and her people since the 1940s; these catastrophic impacts are still being felt today.

Niue recognizes as a Region already vulnerable to the effects of climate change and sea level rise that nuclear weapons would have severe impacts on the lives of our people, our economy, irreversible damage to Niue's natural environment and the very existence of Niue.

We recall the vision and values of our Pacific Leaders for a region of 'peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives'. As a global citizen we renew our pledge to ensuring the achievement of this vision and endeavour to uphold Niue's commitment to the international community in the enforcement and implementation of this Treaty including the enactment of national legislation in Niue.

We are expressly honoured to be a part of this prestigious occasion today in marking the 75th Anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, acknowledging the suffering of the survivors, to whom we convey our warmest regards.

We are hopeful that more States join us in this united commitment to enter this Treaty into force in the near future and eliminate nuclear weapons altogether.

Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, and friends;

God bless us all.

Fakaue lahi, kia monuina!

Honourable Dalton Tagelagi
Premier of Niue
Minister of External Affairs