



Government of Tuvalu

2nd World Summit for Social Development

[At Doha, Qatar from 4 – 6 November 2025]

Roundtable 1 – Strengthening the Three Pillars of Social Development: Poverty Eradication, Employment and Social Inclusion

Intervention by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu; Hon Feleti P Teo

1. Excellencies.
2. As a LDC and a Small Island Developing State, the ocean is central to life in Tuvalu.
3. It is the ocean that feeds and nourishes us, it is the ocean that employs us, and it is the ocean that defines us as a people with distinct cultures and traditions.
4. A healthy ocean means a healthy Tuvalu.
5. When the ocean suffers, Tuvalu also suffers.
6. That is why social development and environmental security go hand in hand.
7. Poverty cannot be reduced, nor decent work created, if our land and livelihoods disappear beneath the rising seas.
8. My government, therefore, has made inclusivity a national priority, ensuring that every Tuvaluan, regardless of gender, age, or ability, can contribute to and benefit from development.
9. Our social strength lies in our community spirit, families and island communities that share what they have and look after one another.
10. These strong social bonds protect us from inequality and exclusion.
11. But those social bonds must now be matched by global solidarity.
12. Because for Tuvalu, security means dignity, the safety to live on our islands, to work, and to dream of a future for our children.
13. We are building an inclusive, caring, and sustainable economy, powered by the blue and green economy from sustainable fisheries to renewable energy, creating jobs while protecting nature.
14. We invest in our youths, unlocking innovation and purpose.
15. We empower our women who are already leading in enterprise and community life.

16. And we include persons with disabilities, ensuring they can fully participate in shaping our nation's future.
17. This is the meaning of social justice for Tuvalu, where human rights, cultural identity, and the right to development must move and evolve together.
18. But we cannot do it alone.
19. We need global partnerships that value inclusivity, equity, and shared prosperity — partnerships that recognize both the vulnerabilities and the strengths of small islands nations.
20. Together, we can all build a future where the ocean sustains us, where communities rise together, and where no one, *truly no one* is left behind.
21. Thank you.

END