



STATEMENT BY

HON. DR. 'ANA 'AKAU'OLA

MINISTER OF HEALTH ON BEHALF OF THE PRIME MINISTER

OF THE KINGDOM of TONGA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE PLENARY DEBATE

WORLD SOCIAL SUMMIT

UNDER THE TITLE

THE SECOND WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Agenda Item 25(b): 'Social Development' - Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities, and the family

4th to 6th November, 2025
DOHA, QATAR

His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani
Amir of the State of Qatar
Chairperson of the Summit
Mr. President
Secretary-General of the United Nations
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malo-e-lelei and warm greetings to you all,

It is with great honor that I address this distinguished gathering on behalf of the Government and People of the Kingdom of Tonga.

At the outset, I wish to express my delegation's sincere gratitude to the Government and People of the State of Qatar for their gracious hospitality and for hosting this important gathering. We also commend the leadership of the Secretary-General, the Summit Presidency and Facilitators for their tireless efforts in advancing our shared vision of inclusive and sustainable development for all.

Tonga stands united with the global community in advancing equality, opportunity, and social justice — ensuring that No One is left behind.

Today marks a historic moment for our island Kingdom, as Tonga commemorates the 150th Anniversary of its Constitution. Our Constitution remains a profound reminder of Tonga's sovereignty, unity, and independence — and of our enduring strength drawn from resilience, partnership, and faith in The Almighty God.

The Kingdom has undertaken a broad and participatory process in preparing its Third Strategic Development Framework 2025–2035, which will become the national blueprint for social, political, and economic progress.

One of its key national outcomes — *“Empowering People and Communities”* — underscores our commitment to ensuring that Tonga's most vulnerable groups experience improved well-being through equitable access to quality education, healthcare, and social protection, supported by effective policies and targeted assistance.

The theme of this Summit— speaks directly to today’s global realities and the challenges faced by small developing states, including our island Kingdom. For Tonga, social progress cannot be separated from the realities of climate change. As one of the most vulnerable nations in the world, we have witnessed its impacts more clearly than ever over the past decade. These challenges compel us to strengthen our strategies and build a society that is resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

Thirty years have passed since the first World Summit and as we gather here today, let us take the time to reflect on our progress so far. Though there are many lessons to learn and areas to improve, let us celebrate our accomplishments and innovations and together let us charter a path forward through this ever changing landscape.

Tonga continues to call on our development partners and all relevant stakeholders to honor their financial and technical commitments. Sustained support will allow vulnerable developing states like our Island Kingdom to make bold investments in health, education, and social protection systems — building the foundations for lasting resilience and inclusive growth.

This Summit offers a timely opportunity to renew our shared commitment to people-centered development — a commitment that recognizes that social progress, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunity are inseparable.

In closing, Tonga reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Achieving our common goals requires strengthened global partnerships, continued consensus-building, and enhanced technical cooperation, research, and innovation — to ensure that No Nation, and No Person, is left behind.

I thank you, Malo áupito.