



High-level Political Forum 2018

7th meeting: Thematic review - Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies: SIDS perspective.

Amasai Jeke's Intervention

July 11th 2018

Bula Vinaka My name is Amasai Jeke as a young transwoman from Fiji and I am speaking on behalf of the women's major group. Human Rights for all must be realized and respected at the international negotiations. There is no time to exclude any community, including women of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, our islands are sinking we are literally drowning. Species of all kinds, including us humans of all diversities are affected by climate change and gender injustice. This is particularly catastrophic for us from the Pacific Small Islands Developing States.

It is commendable that through the SAMOA Pathway there is a deeper understanding and consideration for the realities of small island developing States in a global arena of competing priorities and demands, where those with influence and resources are always the winners. Inclusion of SIDS concerns and aims in all UN negotiations must be a

priority and as such due time needs to be secured as per the agreed resolutions.

These crises of climate change and gender justice are rooted in a social, economic and ecological model that is damaging people and the planet. That is increasing inequalities and violence. And that is increasing pressure on individuals and communities, who are struggling for sustainable livelihoods and access to resources. We have in our hands the possibility to address and end these crises. The High Level Political Forum must facilitate a robust, transparent and consistent process, that allows for real, transformative change as we work collectively to achieve the vision of the 2030 Agenda and go beyond it and ensure that we are not leaving anyone behind

I am not alone. Grassroots communities around the world have been developing and sharing solutions to local needs for land, water, food and energy, with governments and each other, for many years; from anti-plastic campaigns led by Pacific Island women.

This is a time of urgency. It is a time for revolutionary and transformative change. Our lives and our planet now depend on this collective work, including during the ten days ahead of us here at the High Level Political Forum.