

**Recorded Statement by Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Prime Minister of Tonga
For the 100 days Countdown to the
53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting,
26th to 30th August 2024, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga**

Today marks the 100 days countdown before the Opening Ceremony of the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Nuku'alofa on 26 August 2024.

Since the Launch of the Theme of the most important annual meeting in the Pacific regional calendar, the next 3 months is now crucial to accomplish the end goal and warmly welcome the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, Heads of State and Government, CROP Agencies, Dialogue Partners, Civil Society Organizations, and the Private Sector to the Kingdom of Tonga.

It is a profound honour that the United Nations Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres, has graciously accepted to attend the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Tonga. This is historical because ever since the establishment of the World's Number One International Organization in 1945, it marks the first time ever that a sitting United Nations Secretary-General attends a Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting and perhaps any other Pacific Regional Organization Meeting. In view of the UN Secretary-General's participation, we envisage the presence of his Chef de Cabinet and staff, and many UN Agencies at this historic event.

The Government of the Kingdom of Tonga is in the process of completing and conveying its Letters of Invitation to distinguished Heads of State and Government, Leaders of International Organizations, and other distinguished stakeholders around the world. These are to be dispatched before the

commencement of Registration early next month to attend the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting and Related Meetings.

In the meantime, the Sub-committees established under the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) with the administrative work continue to work around the clock to reach their ultimate goal. They are responsible for the Contingency Plans, Risk Assessment, Communication Strategies and Implementation of the 53PIFLM including the Leaders' Retreat and Plenaries as priority focus areas.

It is my sincere wish that, in hosting the 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting, it will be a great opportunity for the Kingdom of Tonga to seize the occasion and showcase to the whole world, its unique Tongan culture, customs and cuisine, and to deliver this through its Theme: “ Transformative Resilient Pasifiki: Build Better Now”. As translated in our Tongan Language: “Lakai ha Pasifiki Tu'uloa, Langa ke Tu'utai.”

Malo 'aupito.