



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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**JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI
ONE PLANET SUMMIT
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Iakwe, and thank you for being here this afternoon.

The Prime Minister and I are here today at the One Planet Summit as two champions of ambition that are determined to lead by example.

That is why this week the Marshall Islands has published its 2050 Climate Strategy which charts a path to net zero emissions. We are the first island nation to do so, and one of only ten countries that have produced a long-term decarbonization strategy such as this. It also includes a big focus on adaptation planning which I am determined to make a hallmark of my Administration.

Ambition requires vision. And that is what this Strategy – called *Tile Til Eo* or “Lighting the Way” in Marshallese – is about.

But you also need to know what is required to get there, and this Strategy has helped inform our own short-term decision making already. That is why I have also announced that we will be able to use this 2050 Strategy to update the ambition of the emissions reduction targets, or NDCs, we set in 2015 in the lead-up to Paris.

We now need every other country to follow our lead. If we can do it, so can others – including the big emitters.

To help with this, I am also pleased to confirm that on 22 November I will convene a landmark Virtual Climate Summit – held entirely online – as part of our Presidency of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, an alliance of almost 50 developing countries.

The Summit is open to every country, and I am encouraging my fellow world leaders to submit a statement or to participate live, and explain how they are prepared to step up and do more by 2020.

Already we have had interest from Canada, Bangladesh, Vietnam and many others that they will participate – along with many others. More details are available on the website for the Climate Vulnerable Forum. I encourage everyone to join us, whether they are a member of the CVF or not.

The Summit is part of an arc of ambition through to 2020, coming as it does shortly after the Global Climate Action Summit earlier this month and this One Planet Summit, after the IPCC Special Report and right before the Talanoa Dialogue in December.

But our biggest opportunity to then deliver the ambition that is needed will be the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit a year from now. It is here that we need every country in the world to do three things:

- First, to explain how they will increase the ambition of their NDCs by 2020 – as they are required to do under the Paris Agreement.
- Second, to table Strategies with an end date of 2050 to reach net zero.
- And third, to deliver more finance for those of us that need it most – especially to help with adaptation.

Ladies and gentlemen, put simply, if we do not rapidly and significantly increase global ambition by 2020 then our countries are at risk. But as recent weather events have shown, no country will be immune.

That's why we now need every country to follow our lead. It is time to step up.

And that is why I particularly want to congratulate the Prime Minister of Fiji for the announcement he is making today.

Kommol tata and thank you very much.