



## SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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**STATEMENT BY ROBERT SISILO, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AT 6<sup>TH</sup> GEF ASSEMBLY  
DA NANG , VIETNAM  
27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

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President of the Assembly  
Chairman of the Sixth GEF Assembly  
CEO of GEF Secretariat  
Head of Delegations  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President,

First, let me through you thank the Government and People of Vietnam for hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> GEF Assembly in this beautiful city of Da Nang and for the excellent arrangements and kind hospitality rendered to my delegation since our arrival. My delegation wishes to offer you my full support throughout meeting.

Also let me thank the 54<sup>th</sup> GEF Governing Council for a successful meeting that now signal the end of GEF-6. At this time, let me congratulate you and the wider GEF family for a successful completion of the GEF-7 replenishment and we look forward to launching this in the coming days.

Mr. President,

Our Planet and its supporting systems have undergone extreme stress and changes as a direct result of our desire to grow economically. We are now at the cross-roads of having to adopt a different approach to addressing the problems arising from our desire to grow un-sustainably.

My delegation welcomes the call to be more ambitious in GEF-7 so that we can effectively tackle the drivers of environmental degradation and make meaningful changes to the systems that are driving our problems.

We acknowledge with appreciation the role that the GEF has provided to our countries, particularly through the provision of national allocations that allow my country, the Solomon Islands to meet both our national and international obligations to protect the Global Environment.

Mr. President,

At this time, we are facing the full force of the impacts of climate change and I wish to attach myself with other statements made to this effect and to give notice through this Assembly that my country requires sustainable financing for addressing our national environmental priorities. However, we note that the overall GEF-7 funding envelope is slightly less compared to GEF-6. There is not enough funds to address our GEF mandate altogether but it is more than enough to help us leverage external financing so that we can achieve the best results. Through strategic programming and thinking smart, we can do all of this.

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands remains committed to protecting the Global Environment. We will join others in ensuring that our national GEF projects will contribute meaningfully to this global effort. By doing so, my delegation lends support to our national and regional environmental and climate change priorities. We look to our Pacific Leaders for direction and they have told us to continue to protect our island ecosystems and our Blue Pacific Identity that connects us to our Oceans. We look forward to working with the GEF secretariat to programme our funding in GEF-7

For now, let me extend to you my Government's appreciation for our enduring partnership and welcome future collaborations that will benefit the Government and People of the Solomon Islands.

Thank you!