



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MAJURO, MARSHALL ISLANDS

For immediate release, 10 September 2018
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

Statement on the UN Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit

The President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, released the below statement today following a speech by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York on his plans for a Climate Summit in September 2019:

“Today we have heard an unprecedented call to arms by a UN Secretary-General. As he made clear, there is now a full-blown climate crisis that requires a political response that goes beyond business as usual. We are quite simply running out of time to stop the runaway and catastrophic consequences of a warming world, and my country and others like us are on the frontline.”

“This is why every world leader must come to the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit next year ready to step up their ambition. That is what the Marshall Islands will do, and that is why the Marshall Islands was one of the first to call for this Summit. Its success will be measured by whether it helps protect the future the of most vulnerable countries like mine.”

“This means countries increasing their NDCs in line with the limits we set in Paris, setting long-term plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and providing additional support to help those of us that need it most. This is our last chance to stay within 1.5 degrees Celsius and will be a big test for the Paris Agreement – failure is not an option.”

“The Secretary-General can count on the High Ambition Coalition and the Climate Vulnerable Forum to rise to the political challenge he has set us. We can, and we must, step up our ambition by 2020. The ground-breaking Virtual Climate Summit we will host this November as part of our Presidency of the CVF will be a key opportunity for developing countries to show we are prepared to lead from the front again.”

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