Tuvalu
National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2021-2030
“Te Kete” which literally translates as a basket in Tuvaluan, symbolizes the means (repository) by which we store and preserve our traditional knowledge and wealth that transcends space and time to be utilised to support our daily needs and wellbeing whilst simultaneously building a resilient future. The traditional colours of Tuvalu, which are reflected in the format presentation of Te Kete (white, yellow, red and black) are commonly used in the decoration of handicrafts and household articles. More importantly, they are also used as important accessories and fineries for the installation of high chiefs, celebrations of special occasions such as weddings, rite of passage as well as other important events.

Te Kete has an important biblical meaning for it was by a basket (te Kete) that Moses was saved and who in turn led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the promised land. Jesus was born in a manger or a basket-type of sorts. So Te Kete symbolizes Tuvalu’s strong Christian faith and the main platform upon which Tuvalu shall be saved from calamities and plagues affecting Tuvaluans now and into the future.

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Acronyms

EIAs: Environment Impact Assessments
FTF: Falekaupule Trust Fund
IGIF: Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
KDCC: Kaupule Development Coordinating Committee
KORs: Key Outcome Results
KPIs: Key Performance Indicators
KSAs: Key Strategic Actions
MHEWS: Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems
MTFF: Medium-Term Fiscal Framework
NCDs: Non-Communicable Diseases
NGOs: Non-Government Organisations
NOs: National Outcomes
PFM: Public Financial Management
SPAs: Strategic Priority Areas
TTF: Tuvalu Trust Fund
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## Acronyms

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<td>Territory of the South Pacific</td>
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<td>HDI</td>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>HHI</td>
<td>Human Housing Index</td>
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<td>Poverty Povestry Index</td>
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I am pleased to present Te Kete on behalf of the people of Tuvalu. Te Kete is the platform upon which we are able to overcome the socio-economic challenges and environmental crises in this period of the “new normal” we are now experiencing. Moreover, the Coronavirus pandemic has challenged our nation to think beyond the box and to resolve the unexpected associated crisis so our people can continue to live sustainable and satisfying livelihoods.

Te Kete is taking us back to our roots, not because we are returning to the simple traditional life setting we inherited from our ‘forefathers’ but because we are now able to focus more on strengthening the basic structures of our society – first and foremost reviving and applying our cultural practices and values; tilling the poor soil of our atoll land; the optimum use of our inshore and ocean fisheries; fostering the maintenance of our pristine atoll environment; and last but not the least mainstreaming our traditional governance system to work harmoniously well with our adopted parliamentary democratic institutions.

Te Kete is charging all citizens that each have a role to play (tasi kae afe- unity brings strength and consistent cooperation) in achieving our National Vision – “A Peaceful, Resilient and Prosperous Tuvalu”. This plan maps out a 10-year strategic direction towards achieving our National Vision. There are 5 Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs); 20 National Outcomes (NOs) and 89 Key Strategic Actions (KSAs) presented in the Plan. These are outcomes of the various national consultations with stakeholders which were considered at the National Summit on Sustainable Development (4-6 November 2020).

Te Kete is a high-level planning and result oriented (seai ko pati kae ko faiga-not words but deeds) strategic plan. Government and all stakeholders are truly committed to its execution to realise noble results. Success, however, is dependent on collective ownership of the plan and collaborative partnerships between the people, government, community leaders, businesses and civil society. Our development partners will also need to ensure their programmes are aligned to the national vision, goals and policy objectives in this plan.

I would like to sincerely thank all of the people who have contributed to producing Te Kete. Together we have the capability to fulfil our potential and achieve the Tuvalu we want.

Hon Seve Paeniu
Minister for Finance
Our Vision

“A Peaceful, Resilient and Prosperous Tuvalu”

Peaceful - Tuvalu will remain a peaceful, loving and happy society, and rooted in our traditional cultural values and heritage.

Resilient – our security is well intact, our justice system brings lasting peace, our political process matures and stable, our sustainability is well managed accounting for our future generations and continued pristine environment and last but not the least our financial resources continue to thrive under a responsible hard working and honest work force.

Prosperous – we will strive for every Tuvaluan to have the opportunity to become well educated, healthy and attain higher standards of living.

Our National Strategy

Te Kete comes at a time when Tuvalu is living through a shift of paradigm to the ‘new normal’ resulting from the Covid19 pandemic. We are looking more inwards into our own potential, optimizing the returns from our atoll endowments and most of all our human resources to provide sustainable livelihoods. Te Kete is focused, selective (kai filifili – be pragmatic and address the real challenges) and non-prescriptive and is pitched at the highest level of our planning process, stipulating the broad national planning framework in which all subordinate island strategic plans, sector and corporate plans, annual plans and budgets will need to be aligned so they all follow the path towards achieving our national vision.

Figure 1 shows the hierarchy of our national planning framework at all levels showing the linkages between our strategic priority areas (SPAs), national outcomes (NOs) and key strategic actions (KSAs).
Government services will be digitalized performing most services online for example, issuing passports, payments and licensing. There will also be private sector involvement through e-commerce, trade and banking.

Key Strategic Action

1.1.1: Ensure accessibility of people to affordable and reliable telecommunication services.
1.1.2: Develop inclusive digital economy by fostering virtual activities such as e-commerce, e-learning, e-government, telemedicine etc.
1.1.3: Develop reliable, secure and safe digital environment, including cyber security to address virtual activities.
1.1.4: Develop a legal, regulatory and standards framework required to promote investment in, and use of, digital technology.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 2: STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIPS

We are a member of the global village; thus, we seek to establish and maintain genuine and durable partnerships with national institutions and international partners. We shall foster strengthening of our national identity through the application of our cultural values.
Key Strategic Action
1.2.1: Attain higher returns on investment through delivery of a responsible and effective foreign policy.
1.2.2: Promote Tuvalu cultural values as guiding principles for diplomatic practice and representation overseas.
1.2.3: Foster effective partnerships between development partners, NGOs, Public Enterprises, Private Sector and Falekaupule.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 3: GOOD GOVERNANCE IS STRENGTHENED

Good governance and justice (ava mo te fai mea tonu – respect and integrity) are imperative prerequisites to a peaceful and prosperous Tuvalu. We shall reaffirm the respect for the rule of law at all levels, strengthen law enforcement and establish an effective justice system.

Key Outcome Results (KORs)
- The three pillars of our Constitution: Parliament, Executive and Judiciary are working effectively.
- Peace and law enforcement sustained.

Key Strategic Action
1.3.1: Improve law-making process through community consultation and capacity building.
1.3.2: Improve quality, accessibility, efficiency and effectiveness of legal services to the general public.
1.3.3: Maintain political stability and effective judicial system, through the necessary constitutional reform.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 4: CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE INCREASED

Our fragile and highly vulnerable atoll environment makes us among the first nations to disappear under the rising seas. Thus, we seek greater degree of security not only from climate change but also disaster by increasing our adaptive capacity through increased level of financing from global climate funding sources and high-tech innovative development measures.
Key Strategic Action
1.4.1: Develop long-term national adaptation strategy, including a staged land reclamation programme, that takes into account a worse-case scenario of sea level in Tuvalu rising by one meter by year 2100.
1.4.2: Secure increased funding from global climate financing facilities.
1.4.3: Strengthen access to labour mobility schemes.
1.4.4: Develop effective frameworks for disaster risk and resilience management.
1.4.5: Implement a land rehabilitation and reclamation framework that is resilient to sea level rise and climate change impacts.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 5: ENVIRONMENT, METEOROLOGY, LAND AND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRENGTHENED

We seek to enhance the performance of these institutions through greater scientific, technical and financial support throughout the plan period.

Key Outcome Results (KORs)
- EIAs are enforced consistently.
- Our islands continue to remain pristine and clean.
- Meteorology services enhanced.
- Land management and development strengthened.

Key Strategic Action
1.5.1: Enforce application and management of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments.
1.5.2: Improve Meteorology services capacity to respond to climate change, disaster resilience and adaptive capacity.
1.5.3: Develop the capacity to implement Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS).
1.5.4: Develop and implement improved waste management strategies with local communities and the private sector.
1.5.5: Adopt and implement an Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) to measure, monitor, quantify and manage Tuvalu’s natural environment.
1.5.6: Improve land management and development.
Withstanding shocks and countering their effects through strengthening our macroeconomic resilience is important. We need strong and reliable macroeconomic policies. We also need to obtain and optimize returns from our sovereign assets and rentals.

**Key Outcome Results (KORs)**
- Economic growth and stability achieved.
- Sustainable and stable budgets achieved.
- Increased self-reliance and effective use of funding opportunities.
- Returns from our sovereign assets and rentals increased.
- National trade deficit reduced.

**Key Strategic Action**

2.6.1: Maintain prudent management of fiscal policy and sound budgeting (*Te ao, atafai olo tasi mo te kai filifili* -prudent, sustainability and highly selective but be sensible) discipline through the diligent application of the specific policy initiatives contained in the PFM Roadmap, the MTFF and related policy documents.

2.6.2: Implement policies aimed at mitigating both the risks and consequences of severe crises (Global and Domestic).

2.6.3: Review and strengthen agreements on Tuvalu’s sovereign assets and rentals to ensure Tuvalu maximizes its benefits derived from those assets.

2.6.4: Provide a conducive business environment to encourage private sector growth and local exports and also to reduce reliance on imported food products.

2.6.5: Implement an effective national planning management framework at all levels of planning, implementation, assessment and reporting.
Fisheries is not only the economic mainstay in terms of revenue generation but also a mainstay for food security. We want to secure increased revenue from fishing activities in our waters.

**Key Outcome Results (KORs)**

- Sustainable small-scale fisheries operations pertinent to income generation, food security and healthier diets are established nationwide.
- Revenue generated from our ocean fisheries are optimized.

**Key Strategic Action**

2.7.1: Develop a sustainable commercial fishery optimizing revenue from our own waters.
2.7.2: Foster sustainable management of oceanic fisheries resources.
2.7.3: Improved management of coastal fisheries imperative for sustainable inshore resources.
2.7.4: Execute a consistent data collection and analysis facility to ensure best decisions are made throughout.
2.7.5: Increase value of access fishing licenses in Tuvalu waters.

**NATIONAL OUTCOME 8: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY INCREASED**

Local food production including crops and livestock with small agri-businesses are key milestones for agriculture over the plan period.
Key Strategic Action
2.8.1: Foster import substitution through effective fiscal and tax policy incentives.
2.8.2: Implement a national integrated coconut replanting scheme.
2.8.3: Develop agricultural commercial activities including agribusiness.
2.8.4: Develop greater level of local food production and use of traditional food preservation knowledge.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 9: DEVELOP, IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN PRIVATE SECTOR

This time we shall pursue greater level of commercialization of public services and more importantly foster a conducive supporting business environment for private sector.

Key Outcome Results (KORs)
• Private sector contribution to economic growth increased significantly.
• Commercialization including privatization of public services increased.

Key Strategic Action
2.9.1: Promote outsourcing of the delivery of the relevant government services to the private sector.
2.9.2: Develop the capacity of private sector entities in key sectors.
2.9.3: Provide conducive environment that foster private sector development including readily access to finance.
2.9.4: Modernize banking services to enable the provision of a suite of modernized financial services and products.
2.9.5: Develop of Tuvalu’s eco-tourism potential accompanied by greater strategic marketing.
Every Tuvaluan is empowered to attain sustainable livelihoods. We will aggressively pursue KSAs that will drastically reduce the incidence of NCDs among our people. We also see the need for urgent improved secondary health care locally.

Key Outcome Results (KORs)
- Number and recurrence of NCDs significantly reduced.
- Most patients are treated locally through increased secondary health care.
- High retention of our own qualified and competent health workers.

Key Strategic Action
3.10.1: Promote primary health care services targeting the reduction of NCDs rate and as well as modifiable behavioral risk factors – tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet and the harmful use of alcohol.
3.10.2: Foster strong nutritious dietary practices by eating local food.
3.10.3: Strengthen administrative and management capability of staff towards the further improvement of health services delivery and preventive health at the clinical and primary care levels.
3.10.4: Institute quality secondary health care at the earliest.
3.10.5: Strengthen mental health care at all levels in partnership with relevant stakeholders both national and overseas.
3.10.6: Foster greater use of traditional medicine and healing.

While we had done very well in education, the issues now relate to the performance and productivity of our human resources. Public service reform needs to focus more on performance and appointing the ‘best’ on merits to positions. In addition, there is the urgent need to look at our school curriculum at all levels addressing the low level of passing at secondary schools and universities plus preparing our school leavers to cope when entering universities.
Key Outcome Results (KORs)
- Appropriate curriculum fostering human quality, resourceful and productivity achieved.
- Our national human resources needs are well aligned with our education and training platform.

Key Strategic Action
3.11.1: Provide and sustain excellence in education for all.
3.11.2: Implement curriculum reform at all levels of education targeting the key streams imperative to building the capacity, skills and resilience of Tuvalu.
3.11.3: Align the national education and training policy to the national human resource development priorities.
3.11.4: Provide quality teaching and learning consistently.
3.11.5: Provide appropriate e-learning opportunities through internet.
3.11.6: Develop a framework for the strengthening of the Tuvalu language.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 12: CIVIL SOCIETY, YOUTH, WOMEN, MEN AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES PARTICIPATION IMPROVED

We will ensure that all socio-economic rights of all sectors of our society are realised. Inclusivity will be at the center of growth and development of these sectors, and the benefits of prosperity will be spread as widely as possible to improve the social well-being of all Tuvaluans. No one will be left behind regardless of island, gender, physical and intellectual capability and social and economic status.
Key Outcome Results (KOR)
- Sports had gained momentum considerably and physical facilities are developed.
- Civil society and gender are mainstreamed into the implementation framework of the plan.
- People with disabilities, men and women are actively engaged and benefitting simultaneously.

Key Strategic Action
3.12.1: Promote greater participation of social institutions in the delivery of development to the people particularly at the island level.
3.12.2: Foster greater participation and inclusiveness of people with disabilities in development.
3.12.3: Create innovative platforms for greater participation of men, youth and women in development.
3.12.4: Foster the integration of gender into the development in harmony with and recognition of the Tuvalu values.
3.12.5: Develop and implement a master plan for the advancement of sports capitalizing on its potential to provide career opportunities for youth.
Pertinent to the success of island development is building the capacity of Falekaupule through its working arm the Kaupule. Among the focused areas are the capabilities of Kaupule staff, good working relationship between Falekaupule and Kaupule, and institutional strengthening.

Key Outcome Results (KOR)
- Traditional mode of governance thriving and contributing well to improved living standards of life on each island.
- Capacity of Kaupule improved significantly.
- Our cultural heritage mapped, practiced and promoted.

Key Strategic Action
4.13.1: Improve the traditional Falekaupule governing organizational structure.
4.13.2: Foster close working relations between Falekaupule and Kaupule, recognizing the latter as the working arm of Falekaupule.
4.13.3: Enhanced Falekaupule ability to make informed decisions through mechanisms such as enhanced partnership between Falekaupule, Government and Tamafenua.
4.13.4: Develop the capacity of Falekaupule and improve institutional and organizational structure of Kaupule.
4.13.5: Develop the capacity of Kaupule technical support staff.

Falekaupule was the start of the devolution process in which local government functions were devolved to the Falekaupule. We see the need for a more coordinated approach to islands development through a clear devolution policy statement that goes with delegation of powers.
Key Outcome Results (KOR)
- A clear devolution policy in place giving clear division of powers and functions for all stakeholders involved.
- An effective coordination mechanism in place facilitating clear lines of responsibilities and delegation.

Key Strategic Action
4.14.1: Develop and implement a decentralization policy framework and clearly demarcate the status of devolution within the policy.
4.14.2: Conduct a review of the Kaupule Development Coordinating Committee (KDCC) to enhance coordination of all development activities targeted to each island.
4.14.3: Improve the mechanism to better consolidate all budgetary provisions for island development.
4.14.4: Create a framework for the equitable distribution of resources to all islands in accordance with traditional norms of sharing and distribution where both per capita and communal populations are accounted as key determining factors (te tufa, nifo and muafale – at times of abundance these are important traditional values reminding us of giving and sharing; values that sustained us through good and bad times e.g. returning from fishing the community will share the fish among the families; when there is still excessive food available then the sharing will be made on a per capita basis and widows and families with little cash incomes receiving extra shares).
Tuvalu was founded on our cultural values enshrined in our Constitution – love (alofa – depicted in various forms and levels: tonai – sharing of food with families, pastors and fakaalofa which literally means visitors; presenting alofa by way of presents in the form of traditional mats and handicrafts to visiting dignitaries including malaga visiting groups from other islands of Tuvalu) respect (ava respect depicted by muna ote matua, muna ote fale as respect for the elders and the wisdom of the elders and home), honesty (fai mea tonu expected of the leaders at all levels but more so those at the frontline tautai apo/tautai malama, sharing and seeking consensus (maliega ote tokoukega – traditional norm of decision making where elders and community agree and follow on the consensus agreement reached by the majority) in all decisions, and above all Christian principles (akoakoga Kelisiano – our traditions were greatly influenced following the acceptance of Christianity by our Kings and forefathers thus pitching Christianity fundamental guiding principle in our lives). These values shape our cultural heritage, which is our strength. Recognising the varied cultural values among our own eight (8) islands, our development will be firmly anchored to our cultural heritage which holds our nation together.

Key Outcome Results (KOR)

- Tangible and intangible cultural heritages (iloga – we know our roots from our iloga – we can tell which island one belongs; looking at a woven colorful mat we know which island it comes from; when one speaks sikugaleo we know where he or she come from by his or her accent) are all mapped accompanied with relevant policy statement and initiatives
- Cultural Industries are thriving and helping people to earn income and strengthening our national identity.
- Traditional skills and knowledge integrated well into school curriculum at all levels of education.

Key Strategic Action

4.15.1: Mainstream culture into all sectors of development.
4.15.2: Develop cultural industries as imperative platform towards socio-economic and income-generating activities.
4.15.3: Provide and improve library and archives services in the strengthening of the Tuvalu culture.
Sharing that goes with reciprocity hand in hand is an important traditional benchmark of our culture that is overtaken by the capitalistic mode of individualism. We want to revive this intangible cultural heritage as it does play a pivotal role in maintaining community and family solidarity contributing to increased resilience of our island people.

### Key Outcome Results (KORs)
- Community and family sharing thriving proving this landmark cultural heritage practice as an imperative social safety net in our daily life.
- Traditional voluntary work sharing and contributing among family members and the community as a whole is thriving.

### Key Strategic Action
4.16.1: Strengthen the village-based economic model of reciprocity and redistribution of wealth.
4.16.2: Strengthen sustainable food production and security, eco-systems, and well-being for the community.
4.16.3: Foster traditional mechanisms that bring about greater degree of self-reliance and community cohesiveness
STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 5: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: The physical infrastructure required to establish an enabling infrastructure that contributes to the resilience of our people from the impacts of climate change and natural disasters is established.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 17: RESILIENT HOUSING AND NATIONAL BUILDING FACILITIES UPGRADED

Given our high degree of vulnerability to climate change and disaster we want our buildings and housing cyclone and climate change proof. We also want the productivity of our people increased by working in modernized office buildings.

**Key Outcome Results (KORs)**
- Key modernized office facilities for priority sectors erected.
- Sporting facilities established throughout Tuvalu.
- Execution of our national Climate proof housing for all islands is rolled out.

**Key Strategic Action**

5.17.1: Develop and implement a master plan for all buildings and facilities both at the national and island levels.

5.17.2: Develop and implement climate proof national housing programme.

5.17.3: Establish a sustainable maintenance programme.

5.17.4: Develop and implement a master plan for all sport facilities and structures throughout the nation.

5.17.5: Implement the national building code.

5.17.6: Develop integrated IGIF principles to assist Tuvalu in bridging the geospatial digital divide.

5.17.7: Adopt and implement IGIF to plan, and manage future infrastructures to maximise the use of our country’s limited land resources.

NATIONAL OUTCOME 18: IMPROVE SHIPPING, NETWORKING AND HARBOR FACILITIES

We will foster partnership with strategic partners to make our ports and harbour facilities particularly on all islands outside Funafuti more efficient and safer. Port infrastructure will continue to be modernised on Funafuti, and services will be improved further to facilitate trade and commerce throughout our nation.
Key Strategic Action
5.18.1: Building harbour facilities that allow ships to go right up to shore and berth alongside a deep-sea wharf.
5.18.2: Establish a domestic air service while at the same time build a new International Airport freeing up the existing airfield for other demanding infrastructural target activities.
5.18.3: Improve international air and shipping services to ensure reliability of service and lower transport cost.
5.18.4: Improve quality of roads on Funafuti and all outer islands. The main objective is for all people to have access (*pagatasi* – every single Tuvaluan in our traditional setting must not be left out and all to get same treatment) to affordable and reliable energy sources. Renewable energy supply is priority consideration and we will diligently pursue a coherent well-structured energy policy initiative.

Key Outcome Results (KORs)
- Priority physical infrastructure required in attaining outcomes under other sectors are strengthened.
- Domestic air service operating.
- New international airfield built and operating.
- Transport networking significantly improved

NATIONAL OUTCOME 19: QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY SUPPLY

Tuvaluan in our traditional setting must not be left out and all to get same treatment) to affordable and reliable energy sources. Renewable energy supply is priority consideration and we will diligently pursue a coherent well-structured energy policy initiative.

Key Outcome Results (KORs)
- Reliability of electricity supply and is affordable to people throughout the nation.
- Greater reliance on renewable energy and attract investment.

Key Strategic Action
5.19.1: Assess the appropriate energy mix through research, collaboration and partnership.
5.19.2: Strengthen efforts on decreasing the high dependency on costly fuel imports.
5.19.3: Review the existing energy supply on the outer islands as well as on Funafuti and consider installing suitable solar energy service provision.
Both quantity and quality of water are imperative priorities during the plan period. Every effort will be made to collect water from all sources and to have them stored in adequate storage facilities throughout our nation.

Key Strategic Action
5.20.1: Continue building storage water capacity nationwide including improved guttering and catchment.
5.20.2: Promote education programme on cleanliness to foster healthy homes and surrounding environment.
5.20.3: Increase access to quality water supply taking into full account Water Quality Compliance with Acceptable Drinking Water Standards.
5.20.4: Update and implement Tuvalu National Water and Sanitation Policy.

Key Outcome Results (KORs)
- Storage capacity increased considerably to last for prolonged period of drought.
- Clean water is available to all households throughout the nation.
We have learned our lessons from the past. Effective implementation remains with the sectors while the national planning directorate plays the pivotal coordination and facilitation role. In this regard all sector plans of key sectors identified in this plan will be aligned to Te Kete through close dialogue and consultation between the sector and planning.

Clear inputs, policy and regulatory requirements for each outcome and associated Key Strategic Action shall be clearly mapped out in close consultations with sector stakeholders. By this consultative process measurable clear KORs and KPIs both short and long term will be established for each outcome and strategic action. Statistics and Monitoring and Evaluation directorates will be closely engaged in this important task. The KORs and KPIs may change overtime depending on the circumstances not foreseen at this stage and when they do, appropriate adjustments shall be carried out again through close dialogue between the planning directorate and each sector.

The resulting framework of implementation, monitoring and evaluation will be used consistently throughout the plan period for annual, 2-3 years, mid-term and final evaluation of the plan performance and whether we were truly faithful towards following the path to our national vision. Each sector will report annually on its performance and submit annual work-plans accordingly. The planning directorate will perform the overseeing, consolidating role to provide a macro-level assessment.
Figure 2: Group photo of the National Summit on Sustainable Development, 5th November 2020
Te Kete

“A Peaceful, Resilient and Prosperous Tuvalu”

Government of Tuvalu