



**Joint Communiqué on the Reaffirmation of Diplomatic Relations Between Tuvalu and the
Republic of Latvia**

The Government of Tuvalu and the Government of the Republic of Latvia recognize with satisfaction the fruitful and growing friendship that has been established between Tuvalu and the Republic of Latvia, as well as the values and principles that ties the two states closely together.

In recent years, Tuvalu and Latvia have cooperated bilaterally on a variety of issues, such as environmental protection, impact of the climate change and maritime boundaries. On the global stage, Tuvalu and Latvia are also close partners and collaborate on matters including Small Island Developing States, advocacy against climate change and sea level rise, the promotion of enhanced health services and building back better from COVID-19, and ocean protection. Tuvalu and Latvia would like to stress the need to facilitate protection of the unique cultural heritage of the indigenous peoples, including linguistic, oral and non-material culture and traditions.

Given this, the Government of Tuvalu and the Government of the Republic of Latvia take this opportunity to reaffirm the diplomatic ties established between the two states 13 years ago on 07 July 2011.

With this reaffirmation of diplomatic ties, relations between both States will continue to be based on the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly as they relate to respect for and promotion of equality among States, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international peace and security, which can be achieved by maintaining the well-being of global populations and environments.

With these references to international peace and security, equality among States, and territorial integrity, including maritime boundaries, both States will further consider climate change as an existential threat to Tuvalu and a shared global problem. In light of Latvia's experience of continuing statehood since foundation in 1918, Latvia expresses its readiness to continue to recognize the statehood of Tuvalu and its existing maritime boundaries, even if Tuvalu's population is displaced or it loses its land surface due to sea level rise. Both States welcome International Law Commission's deliberations aimed at clarifying the impact of sea level rise on statehood. Both States also accept that international ocean management is critical to global well-being and that ocean territories, maritime boundaries, and adjacent areas must be protected.

Tuvalu and Latvia will strengthen cooperation to advance shared interests and look to extend mutual support for each other within international organisations. Tuvalu will support Latvia's aspirations to secure a non-permanent member's seat on the UN Security Council for the term of 2026 – 2027. In witness thereof, the undersigned, duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Joint Communiqué in English.

Signed in, on.....

For the Government of Tuvalu

For the Government of the Republic of Latvia

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