

Chairperson, Your Excellencies, ladies and Gentlemen

May I extend my condolences to the people and Government of Argentina at the loss of their dear ones in the recent submarine tragedy.

And may I thank them for their warm hospitality, and for the organisation of this large and complex gathering.

In my country, Papua New Guinea, we place great importance on our families-- as no doubt is the case with all the countries represented here.

We put great effort into their education and development.

However, our concern for the wellbeing of our families does not mean that we neglect our individual relationships with our sisters, brothers, cousins and friends.

We are members of one family, the human family.

This is a deep and profound truth founded in science and spirituality.

Therefore it is natural that we gather here -- as trustees of the one human family -- to forge multilateral agreements to assist the prosperity and well-being of the entire planet. Of course, Free trade is a key component of this.

Naturally, all of us also have special responsibility for our own countries. In that respect we can relate to the position

expressed of the United States. That responsibility also has global aspects to it.

Papua New Guinea has one third of the world's tuna, the fish that feeds the world. We have the third largest rainforest in the world after Brazil and the Congo.

We cannot protect these resources by ourselves. We need multilateral agreements, and we also need bilateral agreements, and --like other developing island states—we need support to integrate our economy in the world economy.

As you can gather, we are vitally interested in seeing the achievement of multilateral agreements that will eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and that includes the abolition of subsidies to fishing industries by large economies. We also want a level playing field for agriculture and development linkages with appropriate flexibilities.

Many individual agreements --all within the context of a rules based international order -- are also crucial to help us protect the oceans and the forests--- and to develop sustainable economies that ensure that no citizen of the world is left behind.

Climate change is already doing damage in the Blue Pacific, the necklace of jewel-like islands that adorn our great ocean-- a region we now call a vast ocean continent. We support the Pacific Island economies and

ACP position on Fisheries and sustainable development issues discussed here.

As hosts of APEC 2018, we will energize and energetically encourage the rules-based multilateral order as well as bilateral agreements in harmony with those rules.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to look after our own citizens, our siblings, as well as our one family, the human family.

We all inhabit one home, the paradise that is our multicoloured, multi-bountiful planet.

We support the WTO

I thank you