



2016 - 2018 Ethiopian Presidency

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE IV
VULNERABLE TWENTY (V20) GROUP

H.E. Gerald Zackios
Ambassador of the Marshall Islands to the United States of America
Marshall Islands

V20 Spring Events, Washington, United States – 23 April 2017

Report statement

Thank you, Honorable Chair, distinguished excellencies and members of the V20, members from the G20, representatives here to represent it here this morning, members of -- representatives of international institutions. Let me first begin by congratulating and commending you, Mr. Chair, on the great work that you've done to lead this body, and members of the V20 for adopting very important decisions to take the important work of this body forward. Additionally, I'd like to welcome the new members of the V20 Group.

The Marshall Islands is honored and humbled to be named the next chair of the V20. This responsibility comes at a critical time for climate change and we are grateful to Ethiopia, Croatia (phonetic), and the Philippines for the leadership they have displayed in making our group known and respected on the world stage. For a small island state like ours, in fact, for all the CVF members and V20 countries, 1.5 degree Celsius is not a number. It's a life line. Our very survival depends on the world meeting the Paris Agreement's objective to limit global warming increase to 1.5 degrees.

The next two years will be critical and essential to increase our climate ambition. CVF countries have already expressed their collective desire to achieve a 100 percent renewable energy vision for their economies by 2050 and to publish our long-term strategies by 2020. We strongly encourage, indeed expect, other countries to do the same and we will strive to work with them to increase our global ambition.

However, increased ambition requires increased resource mobilization. It is not acceptable that financial flows continue to support the development of carbon-intensive activities and development. The urgency we face requires that all financial flows, including those from Multilateral Development Banks, be aligned with the Paris Agreement, the 1.5 Degree Celsius Limit, and our members' 100 percent renewable energy vision for their economies.

As the next chair of the CVF and V20, the Marshall Islands look forward to anchoring this sense of urgency

and ambition by making the first CVF summit one aimed at making 2018 a trigger year for climate action; one where NCDs and finance will be scaled up in a that delivers 1.5 degree Celsius, maximal resilience, and inclusive growth for all. We continue to count on your support as we move forward in this effort. Thank you very much.