GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

MEDIA RELEASE

(23rd September, 2025)

Joint Press Release: PMO and the Tonga Permanent Mission to the United Nations

"Tonga participated in the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting at UNGA80"

Monday 22 September 2025 | New York -Tonga participated in the Commonwealth Foreign Affairs Ministers' Meeting (CFAMM), held today 22 September 2025 on the margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80) in New York. The Kingdom's delegation was led by Hon. Kapelieli Lanumata, Minister of Trade and Economic Development, alongside His Excellency Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tone, Permanent Representative of Tonga to the United Nations.

The Meeting was an opportunity for members to be briefed by the newly appointed Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Hon. Shirely Botchwey, on the key reforms of the Secretariat to deliver on the outcome of the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings in Samoa, in alignment with the cross-cutting and strategic priorities of the Members.

Members, especially small island developing states, raised the importance to host a Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting as a standalone Meeting, rather than a side meeting of the UN General Assembly, promoting the visibility of the Commonwealth agenda before they are elevated to Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meetings, as in the Pacific, particularly, intra-regional trade, empowering youth and people-centered development, climate resilience and support to public sector and democratic institutions.

The Commonwealth remains an important platform for dialogue and cooperation among its 56 member states, spanning six continents and representing one-third of the world's population. Tonga continues to commit to the Commonwealth as a forum for consensus-building, constructive dialogue, and collective action in addressing shared global challenges.

In 2026, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda will host the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meetings in the Caribbean.

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