



GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

(26<sup>th</sup> September, 2025)

### **“Prime Minister at the Opening of the General Debate (UNGA80)”**

New York, 23 September 2025 – The General Debate of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80) officially opened today at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

The Kingdom of Tonga’s delegation at this historic occasion was led by Hon. Dr. Aisake Eke, Prime Minister of Tonga, accompanied by Hon. Kapelieli Lanumata, Minister of Trade and Economic Development, Hon. Sinaitakala Tu’itahi, Minister for Internal Affairs, Mr. Paula Pouvalu Ma’u, Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet and Leonaitasi Kuluni from the Tonga Permanent Mission Office in New York.

At the opening session, UN Secretary-General H.E. António Guterres highlighted the critical juncture at which the world finds itself, underscoring the urgent need for renewed cooperation to address escalating conflicts, the climate crisis, and growing global inequalities. He urged leaders to bridge divides and take decisive action to uphold the principles of the UN Charter.

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Annalena Baerbock, reflected on the challenges facing the international community as the UN marks its 80th anniversary. She emphasized the importance of the UN80 Initiative and the broader reform agenda, describing this milestone as a decisive turning point for the institution.

Statements delivered during the opening session included that of H.E. Donald Trump, President of the United States.

The Prime Minister concluded his official engagements for the day by attending a reception hosted by the President of the United States and Mrs. Trump in honour of the 80th United Nations General Assembly.

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