



GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

(7<sup>th</sup> November, 2025)

### **“Tonga Reaffirms Commitment to Inclusive and Sustainable Social Development at World Social Summit”**

*5 November 2025 – Doha, Qatar:* The Kingdom of Tonga reaffirmed its strong commitment to inclusive and sustainable social development at the Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha, Qatar, from 4–6 November 2025. Leading Tonga's delegation, Hon. Dr. ‘Ana ‘Akau‘ola, Minister for Health, delivered Tonga’s national statement on Wednesday 5th November, before world leaders and high-level representatives under Agenda Item 25(b): Social Development, emphasizing the importance of equality, opportunity, and social justice — ensuring that no one is left behind.

In her address, Hon. Dr. ‘Akau‘ola extended Tonga’s sincere gratitude to the Government and People of the State of Qatar for their warm hospitality and commendable leadership in hosting the Summit. She highlighted that the gathering coincides with the 150th Anniversary of the Constitution of Tonga, a milestone that symbolises the Kingdom’s sovereignty, unity, and resilience.

The Hon. Minister outlined Tonga’s efforts to align national priorities with the Summit’s theme — **“Strengthening the three pillars of social development: poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social inclusion.”** She underscored that Tonga’s upcoming Third Strategic Development Framework (2025–2035) will serve as a blueprint for achieving these goals, focusing on empowering people and communities, reducing poverty, and expanding access to health, education, and social protection.

The Hon Minister also drew attention to the interlinkage between social development and climate resilience, noting that as one of the world’s most vulnerable nations, Tonga continues to face the compounded impacts of climate change on livelihoods, health, and the economy. She called for sustained international partnerships, technical cooperation, and financing to support small island developing states in building resilient and inclusive societies.

The Hon. Minister concluded by reaffirming Tonga’s unwavering support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and urged the global community to renew its commitment to people-centered progress, ensuring that no nation and no person is left behind.

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