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PRESS RELEASE

TONGA PRESENTS ITS ORAL STATEMENT AT THE HISTORIC PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ON THE OBLIGATIONS OF STATES IN RESPECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

On Monday 2 – Friday 13 December 2024, the International Court of Justice held public hearings at its seat, at the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, on the request for an advisory opinion on the *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*.



The Kingdom of Tonga and ninety-seven other states and twelve international organizations participated in the oral proceedings before the Court.





Photo credit: International Court of Justice

The Attorney General, Hon. Linda Simiki Folaumoetu‘i and external legal counsel, Ms. Gitanjali Bajaj, presented Tonga’s oral statement before the International Court of Justice on Thursday 12 December 2024 at 11:00am, in The Hague, Netherlands. Tonga’s oral statement was premised on its Written Statement filed on Tuesday, 19 March 2024, at 10:15am with the Registry of the International Court of Justice. A copy is available on the website of the Court[1], or it can be accessed here.[2]

[1] International Court of Justice, *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change – Written Proceedings* (2024) Written statement of Tonga , Accessed 13 December 2024

[2] *Ibid*



Photo credit: International Court of Justice



The Tonga Delegation was led by Hon. Linda Simiki Folaumoetu‘i, Attorney General, Ms. Madeleine Lavemai, Assistant Crown Counsel, Legal Advice and International Law Division, Attorney General’s Office, Mr. Siosiua Veikune, Campaigner, Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change and our external counsels from DLA Piper, Ms. Gitanjali Bajaj (Partner, Co-Head of International Arbitration), Mr. Stephen Webb (Partner, Head of Energy Sector Asia Pacific) and the DLA Piper Team.

-- PRESS RELEASE ENDS –