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16TH V20 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE PROSPERITY, STABILITY, AND SECURITY IN AN ERA OF PLANETARY INSTABILITY

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MC 13-301, World Bank Headquarters, Washington, D.C.*

[Written Statement from Nauru]

Chair, Excellencies, I have the honour to speak on behalf of Nauru. We align with the V20's call to move from managing crises to enabling long-term prosperity, stability, and security. For small island developing states such as Nauru, the challenge is not only the scale of financing, but how the system itself operates for vulnerable developing countries.

For remote microstates, vulnerability is structural. It is shaped by geographic remoteness, high transport costs, and infrastructure fragility. These constraints drive our exposure to shocks and limit our ability to respond, yet they are not always reflected in how finance is allocated.

On concessionality, finance must be available at the right cost, at the right time, and in a form that supports long-term resilience. For vulnerable developing countries, affordability and predictability are essential. Concessionality must be better aligned with vulnerability, not solely income. In this regard, we see value in exploring vulnerability-based approaches, including the United Nations Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, as complementary tools to better inform financing decisions and eligibility frameworks. Access remains fundamental. Without addressing how eligibility is determined, vulnerable developing countries, particularly remote microstates, risk being excluded from the very support they need.

On infrastructure, access to financing for essential public infrastructure remains a major gap. In our experience, grant financing for critical sectors such as transport, communications, and resilient infrastructure is limited, and access to concessional financing mechanisms remains constrained due to income-based eligibility frameworks. Addressing these gaps is essential to economic stability and long-term resilience.

While private capital can play a role, for small and remote economies such as Nauru, attracting investment remains challenging due to perceived risks, small market size, and high costs. Greater support from development finance institutions, including through risk-sharing and concessional co-financing, is therefore essential. We also emphasize the importance of directing financing toward critical gaps, particularly infrastructure and essential services, which are often overlooked despite being fundamental to resilience.

On country ownership, Nauru supports approaches that are country-led, simple, and accessible, with a stronger presence on the ground to ensure effective implementation.

Finally, strengthening the international financial architecture must include improved representation and voice. Vulnerable developing countries, including small island developing states, must be meaningfully reflected in decision-making processes within international financial institutions and multilateral development banks. Thank you.

MS. JOSIE-ANN JACOB DONGOBIR

First Secretary

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations