



**Keynote address
by**

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu

**Under-Secretary-General
High Representative
for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries
and Small Island Developing States**

High-level Kazak Briefing on SDG7

Venue: Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the UN, New York

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- Your Excellency, Mr. Mukhtar Tileunerdi, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan,
- Your Excellency, Ambassador Kairat Umarov,
- Ms. Cihan Sultanoglu, UN Commissioner for EXPO 2017 & UN Assistant Secretary General,
- Excellencies and distinguished delegates,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to firstly express my warm appreciation to the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan for hosting this luncheon briefing. I wish to also congratulate Kazakhstan for hosting the Astana Expo 2017, and also recognize and commend them for their commitment and support provided to many vulnerable countries including those that are LLDCs, LDC and SIDs Group to participate fully for the whole duration of the EXPO.

I am also pleased to take this opportunity to say a few words on sustainable development goal 7 and the Astana Expo-2017. I also see this luncheon meeting as an important opportunity to discuss the role of sustainable energy in accelerating sustainable development, and to discuss how we can together can provide better support to countries struggling with energy poverty.

Being the host of Astana EXPO-2017 on Future Energy, Kazakhstan has placed itself at the forefront of future energy development. As the world is still reflecting on how to implement the Paris Climate Accord, Kazakhstan has taken a bold step towards adopting new renewable energy policies and has set ambitious goal on making renewables account for half of its power generation by 2050. For a country that is a major oil and gas producer, this is a commendable step and demonstrates clearly how Kazakhstan is leading by example at the global level.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been often said that Sustainable Development Goals 7 on sustainable energy is a front-loading goal as the progress in other areas is deeply linked to access to energy. This is very true as energy access is essential for private sector development, productive capacity building and expansion of trade and it has strong linkages to climate action, health, education, water and food security and women's empowerment. Therefore, it is clear that energy is a key development enabler, and meeting the targets of SDG 7 is central to achieving the 2030 Agenda and implementing the Paris Agreement.

As we move on to implement this new agenda, I wish to stress that the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement can only be successful if we pay special attention to the vulnerable countries - LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. The Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs, the Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs and the SAMOA Pathway for the SIDS underscore the pivotal role of sustainable energy in the development of these countries. The 2030 Agenda acknowledges the special needs of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. It also supports the implementation of the three programmes of action and recognizes that these programmes are integral to the 2030 Agenda.

My Office advocates for the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, in total 91 countries, with a combined population of about 1.1 billion people. Even though some of these countries are coal, oil, gas and hydro-electricity producers; the access to energy remains a major challenge. The latest data on the proportion of population having access to electricity in LDCs is 38%, in LLDCs it is 60%, and SIDS it is 77%. However this data hides the disparities between countries; with some countries trailing way behind with an access rate as low as 5%.

During the past years, a strong global momentum has been built around sustainable energy. We have witnessed many encouraging developments. 2016 was a record year for renewables; global renewable energy generation capacity increased by 161 gigawatts (GW), making it the strongest year ever for new capacity additions.

Astana EXPO on Future Energy continues this wave of positive news in the energy sector. It provides an excellent platform to inform, inspire and innovate for global development in renewable energy and attract investment in green technology.

I had the pleasure to visit the Expo and some of its numerous pavilions. I must say that the level of innovation and expertise that is displayed in

Astana gives me hope. It was encouraging to see how many countries are vigorously investing in sustainable energy and how rapidly technological advancements are taking place.

I am convinced that we can end the draining energy poverty in vulnerable countries, if we can pool together the know-how and skills we have in the energy sector and share it with the vulnerable countries. In this regard, I hope that the International Centre for Green Technology and Investment for Future Energy envisaged to be established in Kazakhstan will have a focus on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS from very early on.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Now, it is time to move from words to action and bring the global policy direction to the national level. Many of the vulnerable countries have already prepared their national energy strategies and are keen to move forward. They need the support of their partners to move ahead and to accelerate the progress.

In conclusion, My Office stands ready to work together with Kazakhstan in promoting sustainable energy in the most vulnerable countries. Let us work together to ensure that the vulnerable countries will equally benefit

of the global momentum and of the success stories and new innovations shared at the Astana Expo, and will be able to reach the sustainable development goal 7.

Let us make Goal 7 a success together.

Thank you