



**Statement
by**

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

Event on NAP [Champions][Envoys]

Venue: Korean Pavilion TBC

Bonn, Germany
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14:00 p.m. - 15:00 p.m.

Senator Loren Legarda,
Mr Youssef Nassef, Director of Adaptation Programme of UNFCCC,
Chair of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group,
Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I certainly stand before you deeply honoured to be designated a National Action Plans Champion (NAPs).

As many of you may be aware, I myself come from a vulnerable island country - a small island country yet a big ocean state. Through generations, we have lived with and known how fragile the earth and oceans given to us merely in custody are.

The fragility of our shared planet and that of our human existence is nowhere more evident than in the Least Developed Countries, the Land-locked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States. These all are among the most vulnerable to the climate change.

The recent utterly devastating hurricanes that struck the Caribbean have vividly shown us the importance and the urgency of formulating and implementing NAPs for all vulnerable countries.

Can we all agree that we **MUST** move **NOW** from words to **ACTION** ?

The NAP process plays a critical role in this.

It will help us in developing a systematic approach for countries to integrate climate change considerations into decision-making.

My Office has primary responsibility to advocate for 91 countries representing over a billion people on our planet, is tasked with inter-agency coordination and the monitoring of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs, the Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs, and the Programme of Action of the SIDS, as well as mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway in the work of the UN.

The Istanbul Programme of Action charts out a 10-year vision and strategy for the sustainable development of LDCs, especially on developing productive capacities, to help overcome structural challenges, eradicate poverty and achieve internationally agreed development goals.

It aims to enable half of the LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation, one of which is the reduction of vulnerability to external shocks, both economic and climate-related. The Istanbul Programme of Action also includes the objective of achieving sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth in LDCs of at least a level of 7 percent annually. The challenge is to ensure this growth is also resilient, so development gains are safeguarded from the negative impacts of climate change.

For the Landlocked Developing Countries, lack of access to maritime transport ways, remoteness and isolation from world markets and high transit costs pose serious constraints. They are among the poorest of the developing countries, with the weakest growth rates, and are typically heavily dependent on a limited number of commodities for their export earnings. Half of them are also in the LDC category.

They are highly vulnerable to climate change, desertification and land degradation due to their high proportion of drylands, and with it, the related fragile soils, sparse vegetation and high water stress.

The Vienna Programme of Action for LLDCs identifies priorities to help overcome these constraints, including infrastructure development for transport, energy and ICT, and structural economic transformation. The Vienna Programme of Action explicitly calls for building resilience. The NAP process is therefore crucially important for these countries.

Last but not least OHRLLS advocates on behalf of 38 SIDS. My Office has a longstanding engagement with the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the SAMOA Pathway.

We are active in a variety of ways – in the UN's work on disaster risk reduction, at the Oceans Conference in June this year, we worked with the World Bank and others to identify and operationalize metrics of vulnerability, and we support the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network. Just to mention a few. Here again, the NAPs process is fundamental for SIDS.

Of course, all of the programmes I mentioned feed into the critical Agenda 2030.

23 years ago, the Barbados Conference took place. The Istanbul Programme of Action goals are to be met by 2020, and we already are two years into the goals we set in Agenda 2030.

Let us pledge to move faster, to work more closely together and truly WALK THE TALK.

As your champion , I pledge to work hard to advocate for increased financial resources for adaptation for the SIDS as well as the LDCs and LLDCs.

Thank you.