



**Remarks by**

**Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu**

**High Representative  
and  
Under-Secretary-General**

**at High-Level Luncheon (UN Delegates Dining Room) 18 April 2018**

*hosted by ENERGIA*

*on behalf of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group and open to all member states*

- I am very happy to be with you.
- My gratitude goes to our hosts and to the Co-Facilitators of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group. The SDG7 Policy Briefs provide an excellent snapshot on where we stand in achieving SDG7 but also a strong reminder on all we still have to do. And we have to accelerate action.
- The inclusive manner in which the policy briefs were prepared is a good sign. By being inclusive, we build stronger coalition for achieving SDG7. This is not just sorely needed but will also help pave the way for accelerated action on meeting the SDG7 targets.
- No country, no agency, no matter how well-equipped can alone address the issues at hand.
- Nothing is more telling than every day reality. OHRLLS recently held a competition for journalists from least developed countries to report on how sustainable energy has impacted the lives of communities.
- We received entries from around the world. The journalists shared stories of inspiring innovation, entrepreneurship and perseverance. A strive undertaken often in the face of significant challenges. Stories range from improved cook-stoves to solar lighting. They have on thread in common: all the stories so clearly show the positive, the truly life-changing impacts of sustainable energy for women, for men and youth. But the stories also give us a glimpse into the very real challenges that still lie ahead.
- We can see from some of the stories that many sustainable energy projects are small scale. Access by some of the poorest and most vulnerable populations remains a major hurdle. The stories also speak to the critical role of access to electricity in the midst of conflict and the link between economic transformation and energy.
- All the stories gives us one clear message; investing in sustainable energy in vulnerable countries will have an impact where truly two plus two becomes a lot more than four ! Realising SDG 7 will yield manifold impacts across different SDGs and accelerate poverty eradication and structural transformation in the true spirit of leaving no one behind.
- It is my hope that by bringing together all actors, bfs us working as partners and by building stronger partnerships, we can accelerate and scale-up progress in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

- Thank you.
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*Agenda:*

Moderators: Sheila Oparaocha and Hans Olav Ibrekk, Co-Facilitators of SDG7-TAG

Special guests include:

- H.E. Ambassador Marie Chatardová, President of Economic and Social Council (tbc)
- Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE
- Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- Fatih Birol, Executive Director, IEA