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**United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States**

**Brief Remarks by**

**Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu**

**High Representative**

**and**

**Under-Secretary-General**

**for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States**

**High-Level Luncheon**

**Accelerating SDG7 Achievement in support of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Date and Time:** Monday, 16 July 2018, 13:15-14:45

**Venue:** Delegates Dining Room, UN Headquarters, New York

**Hosts:** The European Commission and UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Heads of States,  
Heads of Government,  
Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates and colleagues,

THANK YOU for the opportunity to share very briefly a few thoughts with you

- I am here as a voice for 91 of the most vulnerable countries and the over one billion people living in these countries. These men, women, boys and girls are most at risk of being left behind in Agenda 2030 and its goals.
- We all know how important SDG 7 is. And SDG 7 is so much more than SDG 7 in itself - it is a driver, feeder and link-in to many of the other SDGs and last but certainly not least to the achievement of the Paris climate agreement goals.
- As I see it, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS continue to experience major, complex issues to be able to reach what is set out in SDG 7. And that is not for lack of determination - you can see it by their high level of participation at this get-together. I am sure this will provide us all with a good shining of the light on the considerable energy challenges they face and also remind us that our response can not be a one-size-fits-all.
- I want to mention FIVE key areas for ACTION where we have no time to waste. We need to move from words to ACTION - people's futures and lives are at stake and so is our credibility.
- One, Faster **access to technology and to affordable technology** is needed.
- Two, We need to look into **financing modalities** and why it takes so long if not too long to access available finance. Related to this is the need to simplify access procedures - and I add immediately without any compromise on transparency and accountability.
- Three, We need to look into notching up partnerships. The gaps to be filled need the participation of ALL: domestically, regionally, globally and between public and private sources of finance.
- Four, We need to invest more in capacity-building for negotiation, setting up legal frameworks, technical expertise and program design and implementation.
- Five, We need more local outreach - we need to localize SDG 7. We have vast experience through other programs such as the Montreal Protocol or the GEF's small grant program how to give the local level, how to give women, how to give youth a driving stake in this critical energy transformation and transition we want to see succeed.

- OHRLLS stands ready to work with all of you to make sure we collectively turn the promise of SDG 7 we have made to people to RESULT.
- I thank you.