Remarks

By

Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Press Conference on the margins on Mission Transforming Island Lives – Next Steps in Establishing of Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres for SIDS

27 September, 2019
Mr. Li Yong, Director General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation,

Members of the Press,

Our mission is to transform island lives. And sustainable energy, is an essential foundation upon which we can achieve this.

Energy is at the heart of most major challenges and opportunities the world faces.

Be it for jobs, food production and economic productivity, access to energy for all is essential.

Small island developing States know the challenges all too well. With many located far from international markets, or facing volatile and often costly fuel prices, energy security remains a high priority.

This is partly why they have set some of the world’s most ambitious renewable energy targets. And island leaders like the Honourable Prime Ministers are paving the way for future island nations which are reliant on their own abundant renewable energy resources.

But they cannot do it alone.

To help small island developing States achieve their renewable energy goals, the Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres launched in Samoa in 2014 are a tangible asset for island nations. These centres are about fast-tracking coordination, amplifying knowledge in south-south and multi stakeholder conversations, and leveraging regional markets for faster, more efficient, more inclusive access.

These regional centres are also about adopting a regional approach, which can create economies of scale and promoting more ambitious innovations with spill-over effects throughout SIDS.
I commend the efforts by SIDS-DOCK and UNIDO in making the regional centers a reality. I would add that they also provide an important model for SIDS working together to achieve common goals.

I am urging all partner countries and organizations to step up, share their knowledge and work with small island developing States to achieve their sustainable energy targets.

Support to small islands in navigating through complex procedures that govern access to finance along with preparing applications and securing funding is a type of assistance that is impactful and easily shared – in short, an easy win.

Today we are undertaking the Midterm Review of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action, commonly known as the SAMOA Pathway.

This all-important programme of action guides our collective efforts to support and partner with small island developing States. Sustainable Energy is one of the core priorities in the SAMOA Pathway and it is heartening to see that it is also one of the areas where small island developing States are making concrete progress.

To conclude, I would like to stress the need for the international community to take immediate action to support small island developing States to achieve their sustainable energy aspirations. And together, we can transform island lives.

Thank you.