Statement

by

H.E. Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu

High Representative

and

Under-Secretary-General

for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries

and Small Island Developing States

at

Briefing with the Special Envoy on the 2019 Climate Summit for the Permanent Representatives of the LDCs

7 March 2019, 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Conference Room F
Your Excellency Mr. Perks Ligoya, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malawi and Global Coordinator of the LDCs Group,  
Your Excellency Ms. Doma Tshering, Permanent Representative of Bhutan and Chair of the LDCs Group under the UNFCCC.  
Your Excellency Mr. Luis Alphonso de Alba, Special Envoy for the 2019 Climate Summit,  
Excellencies  
Colleagues and Friends  
Ladies and Gentlemen

I warmly welcome you to this consultative meeting on the upcoming Secretary-General’s Climate Summit.

It is not this audience that I need to tell how critically important this summit is!

I hope today's meeting will be a value-adding moment for exchange to you and as LDC preparations for the Summit pick and must pick up pace.

The 2019 Climate Summit comes at a critical juncture.

The Summit represents an opportunity of considerable importance to the LDCs. It has long been recognized that the LDCs have contributed the least to historical concentrations of greenhouse gases.

Yet they are the most vulnerable to climate change and suffer disproportionately from its negative impacts.

Once more, I wish to draw attention to the IPCC’s Special Report on Global Warming.

The message on the magnitude of difference of impacts under a 1.5 degrees scenario as compared to 2 degrees is more than just an urgent wake-up call:

By 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5°C compared with 2°C.  
Coral reefs would decline by 70-90 percent with global warming of 1.5°C, whereas virtually all would be lost with 2°C.  
There will be corresponding variations in precipitation and extreme weather events.  
This is not abstract - this means destruction of people's lives and it means forget about sustainability!  
The Report also found that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require “rapid and far-reaching” transitions to take place NOW.

At present, the parties to the Paris Agreement are requested to submit the next round of NDCs by 2020.

In the lead-up to 2020, the Summit this September plays a critical role in building strong leadership momentum to secure new commitments for enhanced mitigation.
This does include the critical area of climate finance.

And especially for adaptation!

The most recent issue of the OHRLLS report on the *State of the LDCs* speaks to “reducing vulnerability and building resilience”.

We found that current adaptation finance is far short of the required amounts identified by the LDCs for their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

What are then the needs that are not met?

the provision of USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation; a significant increase in adaptation finance from current levels; and generally that the share of climate finance that flows to LDCs must significantly increase

We must ACT NOW -

we this, allow me to give now the floor to H.E. Amb. Perks Ligoya, who I thank for his strong leadership in chairing the LDC Group.