Remarks

by

Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu

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

Session on the Open NAP Initiative of the LEG,
Resilience Frontier Initiatives, organized by UN Climate Change Secretariat

Thursday 12 December 2019
11:00-11:30
Resilience Lab, Hall 6
Ladies and gentlemen, Distinguished colleagues,

I wish to express my warm appreciation to the Adaptation Programme of the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat for the kind invitation to address this important initiative, and I offer my sincere congratulations on the ambitious two-week programme that has been put together here in the Resilience Lab.

The NAP process plays a critical role in developing a systematic approach for countries to integrate climate change considerations into decision-making.

OHRLLS, the Office I am for which I am responsible, is tasked to deliver advocacy, facilitate inter-agency coordination and also to monitor the implementation by the member states of the agreed Programmes of Action for these three groups of countries – the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Vienna Programme of Action for the Landlocked Developing Countries and the SAMOA Pathway for the Small Island Developing States.

At the outset, for all these countries, financial resources and national capacity remain limited for the implementation of the NAPs and climate action in general. These constraints also extend to the implementation of the SDGs of Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework. Indeed, climate change imposes an extra burden on these countries. The key indicators show that the LDCs are being left behind. An important cause of this is the underlying gaps in capacity. This applies not only to technical capacity, but also to the lack of data, lack of scientific studies, and more.

There is a growing urgency to prepare national adaptation plans as soon as possible in order to drive forward the process of adaptation and building resilience.

The end of 2020 is an ideal milestone to set ourselves for all LDCs and SIDS to complete the preparation of the NAPs.

This will put us in good stead to secure enhanced climate finance as well as coincide with the deadline for updating the NDCs.

I, therefore, applaud and express my wholehearted support for the Open NAP process, which will accelerate the production of NAPs and getting adaptation implemented as quickly as possible, through an open collaboration that will mobilize as wide a range of actors as possible.

Before concluding, I wish to mention briefly the Fifth UN Conference on the LDCs or UNLDC-V.

Building resilience to economic and environmental shocks is an important component of the LDC Programme of Action.

The Istanbul Programme of Action is due to be completed by 2020. The preparatory process has begun for UNLDC-V, which will take place in Doha in March 2021. It will include an Africa-Caribbean and an Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting, to be convened in Malawi and Bangladesh respectively. There will also be two Preparatory Committee Meetings.
All key areas and themes of the LDC agenda will be reviewed and this, of course, includes climate change. This process offers the opportunity to build further momentum for climate action in the LDCs, particularly in the adaptation area.

We shall keep you informed as we make progress in the organization of these meetings as your inputs will be of vital importance, especially as we must ensure that the agenda is joined-up and mutually supportive.

Thank you.

***