



Remarks

by

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President of the 68th Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

Linking SIDS and SE4All:

From Barbados to Samoa, and Beyond 1st of September 2014

Apia, Samoa

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Please check against delivery

H. E. Mr. Freundel Stuart, Prime Minister of Barbados,
H. E. Lord Tu‘ivakanō, Prime Minister of Tonga,
Excellencies,
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,
Ms. Elizabeth Thompson, Senior Advisor to the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

Today makes a significant step in a journey that begun some twenty-odd years ago in Barbados, when the international community agreed to a Programme of Action (BPOA) for the sustainable development of the world’s small island developing states (SIDS). Embedded within that Programme were options to address the energy challenges and explore avenues to ensure sustainable energy for SIDS as a key development tool.

Even at that early date, there was recognition by SIDS that energy is a fundamental driver of poverty eradication and sustainable development and there would be need for universal access, increased energy efficiency and renewable energy. Some twenty years later, SIDS leaders became the first grouping to endorse the Secretary General’s SE4All initiative in the Barbados Declaration of 2012. In so doing they have made energy a strategic priority that will enable them to transition to modern, affordable, efficient renewable energy sectors stronger economies and more equitable societies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fast forward to today and the question arises: where are we in achieving sustainable energy for all? We do know that the SE4All initiative presents us with an opportunity to use the abundant renewable energy resources of island states to promote access to all citizens, adapt international and indigenous technologies, be more energy efficient and in so doing accelerate overall sustainable development. Yet to get there the right policies are needed, the right enabling

environments, and the right partnerships across SIDS and countries of the South and the right support from development partners, including collaboration with new actors in the private sector and civil society, and with increased cooperation and partnerships around modern energy services, the renewable energy sectors and innovative technologies for energy efficiency

Today, there are examples of SIDS which are well on their way to creating effective enabling environments for sustainable energy. They are devising and implementing a range of incentives to encourage renewable energy development and improvement in energy efficiency. In short, SIDS are creating opportunities and examples that, if replicated worldwide, could lead the transition from fossil fuel energy to renewable and sustainable energy.

In that regard, the proximity of the Caribbean states and the close regional relationships of those in the Pacific lend themselves to the building of new partnerships, harmonised policies and approaches, and the creation of economies of scale through the sharing of energy solutions and grids. With this in mind, there should be no limit to the partnerships, provide of course we move from stated intentions to strong implementation.

Excellencies,

Just as the SIDS gave leadership in recognizing the importance of SE4All, given their abundance of renewable energy resources, SIDS can also lead the way in the transition to green and efficient energy platforms and some have already indicated their intention to move to 100% renewable and sustainable energy. In the 2014 and 2015 period, we have been given a fortuitous confluence of events and timing with the Third International Conference on SIDS, the First International Year of SIDS, the First Decade of SE4All, the Climate Summit and the advent of the post-2015 development agenda. Together, they combine to move us further along the development journey which started with the Barbados Programme of Action in 1994, took us to the Barbados Declaration in 2012 and brought us here to the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway.

Let us seize the myriad opportunities these events afford us, to make this the defining moment on the development journey of SIDS countries and citizens, for a new, bright, energy secure and

sustainable future predicated on the principles of Sustainable Energy for All.

Thank you.
