

**Pacific Launch of the UN Decade for Sustainable Energy for All
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Speech delivered by

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(Envoy of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and CEO)

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All gives us a unique opportunity.

The Decade should turn into a grand coming together of every stakeholder determined to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality. This is how the Rio+20 document put it. The Decade should also help to bind together the national, regional and global energy debates - and as such form an energy agenda for the next crucial decades to come.

While 2014 marks the first year of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, 2014 is also the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This is a very welcome coincidence, as it brings the issues of SE4ALL and SIDS even closer together.

This is a chance to bring special Pacific challenges, opportunities and impressive plans to the global stage. The SE4ALL Forum in June, the SIDS conference in September, and the Climate Summit are excellent opportunities to do just that.

As the discussions this week have shown; while there are many keys to achieving economic, social and environmentally sound development, energy stands out as a master key. Energy is not a sector. Energy is an enabler. It is an enabler of transportation. It is an enabler of health, it is an enabler of gender equality, of safe drinking water, and of food and nutrition – just to mention a few.

The Decade launch here in the Pacific today will be followed by many more regional launches across the globe. But it is very appropriate that the SPC, Fiji and the Pacific region is hosting one of the very first launches. This region is known not just for its special challenges, but also its special will and ability to address them. Through your leadership, you show that challenges can be turned into opportunities.

One example is your efforts towards renewable energy and energy efficiency. In a region heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, you show that increasing energy efficiency and the share of renewable energy helps providing access to people that didn't have electricity before - and at an affordable price.

In addition, it does of course, also help curbing climate change.

Globally, 1.3 billion people still lack access to electricity. Twice as many depend on solid fuels for cooking and heating – with all the negative health effects that this can have, especially for women and children.

The first year of the Decade will launch a campaign focusing on Energy, Women and Children's Health. In 2014, women shouldn't have to die from giving birth in the dark, or from respiratory diseases caused by traditional cooking facilities. Children should have access to electricity to be able to study at night instead of going to fetch wood for cooking and lighting purposes and be exposed to other dangers.

In addressing such and other challenges, you know the value of targets. Fiji has partnered with SE4ALL and is currently finalizing a very exciting new national energy framework. This framework could put its own national targets very much in alignment with the global targets that the SE4ALL initiative has set for 2030. These targets are;

1. Ensure universal access to modern energy services.
2. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.
3. Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

Imagine having these three targets also as part of an overall global goal on securing sustainable energy for all.

This is exactly what is currently being discussed by U.N. Member States in New York, in the discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. If included, a stand-alone SDG on energy could help steer us all in more or less the same direction over the next decades to come. This would be in the national self-interest of any country concerned with energy security and climate change.

In conclusion; if there are two things I would encourage you to do to link your tremendous regional efforts to the important discussions at the global level, it would be the following; First - Make sure that your support for global energy targets on energy access, efficiency, and renewable energy are heard in the global discussions. As the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have shown, a global goal and targets on energy cannot be taken for granted.

Secondly – A letter will very soon go out from SE4ALL with an offer for all of you to partner with our initiative, and I warmly invite you to do so.

These are extremely exciting times for everyone working with energy.

You have a lot of experiences to share.

Let's work together and use this unique opportunity to get it right.

Let's work together to ensure sustainable energy for all in the Pacific.

Thank you.