

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. COLLIN BECK, CHAIRMAN OF SOLOMON ISLANDS
DELEGATION, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED
NATIONS,
AT
THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT,
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA 16 JULY 2015**

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Mr. President,

The Government and people of Solomon Islands warmly congratulate you on your election as President of our Third International Conference on Financing for Development. My delegation also acknowledge the excellent arrangements for this Conference and the hospitality accorded by your government and people to all participants including my delegation. We thank you sincerely.

It is indeed an honor and privilege for my delegation to be in the historic city of Addis Ababa, the political Capital of Africa to adopt a the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, The triple "A" Agenda, if honestly implemented will see finance, technology transfer, trade and capacity building lift our people from poverty, graduate 50% of LDCs as envisioned in the Istanbul Program of Action, guarantee a sustainable future for Small Islands Developing State and assure prosperity for all.

Mr. President,

Two months from now, in New York, we the people of the world, will adopt a bold, transformative Post 2015 Development Agenda, a set of 17 time bound Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs embraces all three pillars of sustainable development, sustainable economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The SDGs can only be translated into "action" if it is matched with resources. In this connection my delegation looks forward to the means of implementation discussion under the Post 2015 Development Agenda in the coming weeks as we prepare for the September Summit.

In Paris in December, governments will adopt a comprehensive, ambitious legally binding Climate Change Agreement that will stabilize global temperature increase to well below 1.5 degree. This is said against the background that recent UNFCCC Structured Expert Dialogue has concluded that global temperature increase of 2 degrees is no longer considered safe, the risks are just too high for vulnerable populations in particular those in Least Developed Countries, Small Islands Developing States and countries on this continent of Africa.

Already we are heading towards a 3-7 degrees world. Solomon Islands as a SIDS with LDCs status, we can not talk about sustainable development without talking about climate change, climate change remains a threat multiplier, its impact is reversing gains in developments and creating pockets of poverty as the frequency and intensity of disasters places a chronic stress on our meagre resources.

Strong mitigation and adaptation action must be taken globally, again new and additional resources under the UNFCCC framework is needed. This also includes new financial resources under the Loss and Damage chapter of the Agreement to compensate developing countries for permanent loss and damage instilled by climate change as sea level rise swallow up our land and ocean acidification threaten our livelihood in particular fisheries and tourist sectors. That discussion is conducted under the UNFCCC track. We wish the spirit of cooperation achieved here in Addis Ababa spill over into the Paris discussions.

Mr. President,

These three important frameworks, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Post 2015 Agenda and the New climate Agreement while they are all intricately linked and play a pivotal role in attaining two overarching goals; Restoring the declining health of the planet from reaching irreversible levels and poverty eradication. The SDGs and the Paris Agreement as stated above remain empty shells without the means of implementation. This will be elaborated and clarified in the discussion under their respective frameworks.

Mr. President,

Solomon Islands as a Small Islands Developing State remains a special case for sustainable development given unique situation, our vulnerability in all its dimensions, high transport and communication costs, remoteness, narrow export base and exposure to global environmental challenges.

Building a resilient Solomon Islands economy requires significant international cooperation in constructing environmentally sound infrastructures especially in the areas of energy, transportation, communication, agriculture and ICT.

Addressing the infrastructure gap also frees up domestic resources, for energy alone, with renewable energy investments, a third of Solomon Islands annual budget spent on fossil fuel becomes available for health and education activities. This can only happen if and when there is a deliberate global partnership aimed at large game changing investments in hydro, geothermal, wind other large scale green technologies that goes beyond solar energy programs.

Mr. President,

Multi-partnership is critical in integrating the informal sector with the global economy. This is said against the backdrop that major agricultural economic contributors come from the rural areas. Partnerships directed at our rural populations advances sustainable development throughout our respective nations, generating productive employment especially amongst the 850 million LDCs citizens. In the case of Solomon Islands, 85% of our population are in the rural sector, they are small holder farmers, operators of family owned resorts and owners of the country's natural resources.

Internationally we need to technological empowered our rural populations so that they can add value to their products and get their fair share of the global market. In this connection Solomon Islands looks forward to the operationalization of the Technology Bank for LDCs to be established in Turkey under the IPOA.

Mr. President,

Getting the trade system right especially for populations on the periphery of the trading system is critical in transforming their lives. LDCs make up a quarter of the UN membership yet only account for 1% of global trade. Under the Istanbul Program of Action we the international community made a commitment to double LDCs global share of exports, let us meaningfully provide trade preferential treatment and act on what we have agreed to and move beyond words to real action.

Mr.President,

International public finance remains Solomon Islands major source of funding at all levels. Quality and effectiveness of international development cooperation only makes a positive impact in any country when it is country driven and led. The new partnership we seek respects national sovereignty and is directed and aligned at our national priorities and strategies. This is the new beginning the S.A.M.O.A Pathway seeks in all its future partnerships.

In closing my subscribe to what has been stated by the Vice President of South Africa on Monday referring to what President Mandela stated that poverty is man made and can be eradicated. This is also true for climate change it is made man and can be reversed. There is sufficient finance, technology and capacity to turn things around, the window is fast closing, this is our a last chance of getting it right but it needs the political will especially from the haves to assist the have nots. It is only than we can build a future our people seek, freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity.

I thank you sincerely.