



**His Excellency Lionel Rouwen Aingimea M.P.,
President of the Republic of Nauru
High Level Dialogue on Energy
24 September 2021
(3 mins)**

Secretary-General,
President of the General Assembly,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to join you today for the High-Level Dialogue on Energy.

It is timely for us to meet at a Summit level to advance our transformation towards sustainable clean energy.

This Summit is particularly vital given the linkages between energy and every facet of our society – from food to health, water, transportation and housing. Ensuring a safe, reliable and affordable supply of energy is vital to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to thank the secretariat of the High-level Dialogue on Energy, the Dialogue Secretary-General, and the Dialogue Co-Chairs for their summary report of the Ministerial Thematic Forums and for their efforts to advance this agenda over the past year.

Nauru was honoured to have participated in the Thematic Forums as a Global Champion for Enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions and to play our part in both advancing our work and in providing a small island perspective on energy transition.

Excellencies,

Nauru is the smallest island country in the Pacific. We are only 21 square kilometers and 12,000 people, and our electricity is primarily generated through costly imported diesel fuel.

As we work to build our national infrastructure and work to improve the lives of our people we will continue to face the need to produce more energy to ensure safe water supplies, to grow food, provide air conditioning and to build the infrastructure, housing and transportation systems that will power our economy into the future.

Excellencies,

In this regard, Nauru is proud to submit an ambitious National Compact as a part of this Dialogue.

First, we are pushing ahead on solar renewable energy and are exploring other options such as wind and OTEC. Currently, we generate approximately 10% of our electricity from renewable sources, and **our Compact includes a commitment to increase that to 50% by 2023.**

Second, we recognize that energy saved is more important than energy generated, and this is why we have included in **our Compact an improvement in energy efficiency of 30% by 2030 from a 2021 baseline.**

And lastly, we are looking at the role of energy in our transport sector and have included in **our Compact a plan to go from no electric vehicles to electrification of 20% of our vehicle fleet by 2030.**

Excellencies,

We are a small country, but we have set lofty, but realistic goals. We are not naïve; we know their achievement will not be easy.

However, a just and inclusive energy transition requires that no one, and no country, is left behind, and achieving these goals will require international financial and technical support.

Colleagues,

As we work to restart our economies from the pandemic and continue to work towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals, we must ensure that we work together to ensure a just and prosperous future for all.

I thank you.