

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue
From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations
Development Agenda beyond 2015

New Zealand Intervention
Tuesday 27 August 2013

Mr Chair, your Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

May I commence by thanking the Royal Thai Government and ESCAP for hosting this important Ministerial Dialogue.

There are some 850 days left in which to achieve the targets set for the Millennium Development Goals. As other distinguished participants have stated, we must remain focussed on this task.

No one member state or organisation has the ability to do so alone but by focussing on those areas where we have demonstrated experience and by working in partnership, we can make a significant difference.

To this end, New Zealand and the European Union co-hosted the Pacific Energy Summit in March to ensure a coordinated approach to renewable energy and to fast-track solutions to the Pacific's pressing energy needs. We responded to the call of Pacific Leaders for support to achieve renewable energy and energy efficiency –key dimensions of reducing the Pacific's reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating the impact of climate change.

New Zealand's modest contribution of \$65 million leveraged NZ\$635 million (US\$ 525 million), sufficient to support more than 40 of the 79 projects proposed by Pacific SIDS. Alone we could not have achieved this, but through partnership we have done so.

In considering the post-2015 development agenda, we must draw on the lessons of the past 13 years. For example, the *Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report*, which will be presented at next week's Pacific Islands Forum Meeting, shows the importance of gender equality and empowering women to achieving all the MDGs.

Progress towards the MDGs continues to be mixed in the Pacific. Polynesian countries continue to perform relatively well and are on track to achieve five of the MDGs: universal primary education, reducing child mortality, improving

maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, and ensuring environmental sustainability. In contrast Melanesian countries, with the exception of Fiji, are making poor progress. Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands are the most off-track.

New Zealand joins with Timor-Leste and others who have called for the voices of the vulnerable to be listened to and their needs to be incorporated into the agenda – in particular, Small Island Developing States, fragile and conflict affected countries, Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries. In achieving the future that we want we must not leave these behind.

In lieu of greater participation by Pacific Island countries– no doubt because they are participating in the Inter-Regional SIDS Meeting in Barbados – we appreciate the intervention of His Excellency the Minister for Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment of Fiji, which outlined priorities that Pacific SIDS articulated in Nadi some six weeks ago.

New Zealand believes that sustainable economic development is an important means to achieving the post-2015 development agenda.

For Pacific SIDS the sustainable management and conservation of their fisheries resource is critical for economic development. Truly transformative action is needed if we are to reverse the negative impact that current fishing practices are having on the ability of Pacific countries to sustainably manage and benefit appropriately from their own fisheries resource.

Other important elements of the post-2015 development agenda must include: -

- Sustainable energy and energy security.
- Disaster preparedness and disaster risk management.
- Inclusion of non-communicable diseases in our efforts to achieve healthy lives.
- Achieving food security and sustainable production

Addressing each of these will assist in the all important challenge of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Finally, Mr Chair, in considering how to implement our post-2015 development agenda, we encourage all member states, regional and multilateral organisations to consider focussed and pragmatic action which they can take, in partnership with civil society, the private sector, foundations and other actors to make national, regional, inter-regional and global initiatives happen faster

Thank you.