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STATEMENT BY

MR. SAKIAS TAMEO
FIRST SECRETARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**ON THE THEMATIC ISSUE “ ENERGY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT”**

**DURING THE 15th SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

NEW YORK, 2nd MAY , 2007

Madam Chair,

At the outset, Papua New Guinea supports the Statement delivered yesterday by distinguished Ambassador of Grenada, on behalf of AOSIS.

Papua New Guinea attaches critical importance to this debate as access to energy is vital for sustainable development, eradication of poverty, and attainment of other international agreed goals and targets, such as those contained in the Millennium Declaration, JPol, and the Mauritius Strategy.

Given the importance of energy and its direct correlation to the socio-economic wellbeing of the people, it is of extreme concern that majority of our people; especially 90% living in rural areas do not have access to modern energy. This is further compounded by the high costs of imported petroleum products; high transportation costs, lack of infrastructure developments and other factors.

Madam Chair,

Similar situations are also found in other Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and in responding to these challenges, our regional Leaders decided to explore innovative ways to reduce the costs of imported petroleum products, particularly through the bulk purchasing of petroleum products. To this end energy security, high costs of imported fuel products, development of renewable energy resources, and other related issues were addressed in the Pacific Energy Minister's Communiqué, adopted last week.

Madam Chair,

Papua New Guinea's Renewable Energy Policy aims to develop locally available energy resources, thereby increasing the percentage contribution of renewable energy in the national energy mix.

In Papua New Guinea, other options to improve energy access and reduce costs include the development and utilization of renewable

energy resource such as hydro, bio-fuels, solar, geothermal, and wind.

Such vast renewable energy resources are not fully developed due to lack of support in areas such as technical capacity-building, financial support and the transfer of reliable, affordable, proven, and environmentally sound technologies and energy services. We therefore support the call for establishment of a renewable energy trust fund to support SIDS in renewable energy development efforts.

At this juncture, we would like to thank the Governments of Italy and India for their commitments assisting us explore ways and means to properly develop the energy options we have in Papua New Guinea.

Madam Chair,

Papua New Guinea and other PICs are committed towards improving energy access for our people. We regard the Mauritius Strategy as an important vehicle through which Papua New Guinea and other SIDS can address the energy related issues and other sustainable development objectives.

We call on the UN system to fully integrate the Mauritius Strategy into their work programs and activities. We view CSD15 as an ideal opportunity for the international community to make sure that serious effort be taken by the international community, including the UN system, to support the implementation of the MSI.

To this end, we reiterate the call for a dedicated section on the further implementation of MSI to be included in the CSD15 Outcome Document.

Thank you.