



SOLOMON ISLANDS

**Statement on the CSD15 Policy Session on the Thematic
Cluster of Energy for Sustainable Development for the
implementation cycle 2006-2007**

By

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Mr. President,

Solomon Islands would like to begin by associating itself with the statement delivered by Grenada on behalf of AOSIS and the statement delivered by Papua New Guinea on behalf of the Pacific Islands Group of States.

Mr. President,

As a Small Island Developing States we share a special relationship with the spirit of Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) through its environmental vulnerability, as such Solomon Islands would like this matched with a special section in the outcome document dedicated to SIDS. The Review Session of CSD accorded a session for SIDS, unfortunately no such session is made available in the policy year. If possible this could become one of the recommendations of this session. Secondly we would like to see a more predictable mechanism be established including renewable energy technology transfer trust fund be put in place for SIDS to access. Solomon Islands is pleased to note the positive working relationship with GEF in making it reach to the Pacific more friendly and accessible.

Mr. President,

On the issue of energy security, Solomon Islands spends a third of its national budget on fossil fuel to energize just 20% of its population. As stated in the preparatory process, we see renewable energy in particular community based hydro schemes as a means of reaching out to our people. We look to our partner countries for possible cooperation especially for those that have affordable renewable energy technologies and look forward to work with them. Solomon Islands is launching its rural based renewable strategy, if all goes well with international support, this will unlock economic opportunities in the rural areas and will trigger and drive the industrialization process. Bulk buying of energy products is one of the agreed outcomes of our Pacific Forum Energy Ministers Meeting last week. This is an arrangement my delegation would like to see it come out of the Chairman's text.

My delegation would like to also acknowledge countries such as Italy for providing funds to SIDS and the Pacific region in assisting in meeting its renewable energy challenges and look forward to working with Italy in this sector as well as Australia.

Mr. President,

My delegation close by assuring you of our cooperation and hope the plea of the most vulnerable members of the UN will be heard and acted upon.

I thank you.

Mr. President,

On the issue of climate change, the impact of climate change to our fragile environment, have seen the intensification of natural disasters, only less than four weeks ago earthquakes and tsunami hit a portion of my country, that has caused land slides, shifted fishing grounds, disrupted agriculture, damaged coastal infrastructure, uplifted corals, sunk islands, created environmental refugees and contaminated water sources. Climate Change is a security, economic and social issue.

An appropriate respond is to double our efforts to have the matter discussed as a thematic issue within the General Assembly. My delegation would like to call for a GA Special Session on this and ECOSOC to examine who is doing what and how to coordinate the international system to address the challenges of climate change. No commitment must be made without resources. Matters relating to OCHEA in responding to disaster must be improved in which immediate basic needs of food, water, medicine and shelter must be dispatch when disaster strikes. Solomon Islands hopes its experience could underline the importance of having a quick response from the International community and the UN system and an early warning system put in place.

Mr. President

The UN wider system need to structurally respond to the impact of climate change. The UN system needs to streamline its common commitment in implementing agreed Climate change international frameworks. These Agreements have not been matched by resources for SIDS there is the Mauritius Strategy; it remains a strategy unless it is translated into action. The challenge of adaptability is something we live and will continue to do so.

Mr. President,

I close by thanking your government for its assistance to Solomon Islands recent tsunami including France, United States, Turkey, Taiwan, Singapore, EU, OCHA, UNDP, WMO, UNICEF, and all UN Agencies including my own neighbours Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Pacific states through our regional framework.

Thank you Mr. President.