



OPENING REMARKS FOR CHIEF TRADE OFFICER

Good morning Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my great honour and am privileged to welcome you all in this 1st MSG Green Trade Project National Workshop.

First, I would like to thank our key partners Mr. Raf Peters, UNCTAD Officer in Charge of Trade Analysis Branch who is participating online from Geneva for the support towards this project.

I would like to thank and congratulate Mr. Leonard Lauma, Director General of MSG Secretariat who is with us who took up his new post and for the support he will provide to MSG Secretariat.

My special thanks also goes to Amb. Dirk Wagner, Resident of United Nations Resident Coordination Office (UNRCO) for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend this workshop.

Our National Consultant Mr Michael Hasagama, engaged by UNCTAD who is working closely with us on this very important Project.

Warm welcome to participants from abroad particularly officers of the MSG Secretariat and UNCTAD, the key PNG government agencies who have been working on this project, and ladies and gentleman,

The United Nations Committee on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which implements the project on "green trade for sustainable development in Pacific SIDS of the MSG" (hereafter, the MSG Green Trade Project) which aims to increase the capacity of the four MSG countries in which PNG is part of, is very fortunate to receive such support to identify and strengthen synergistic linkages between green trade promotion and their sustainable development.

Since the initial discussion with concerned stakeholders on this project, we have received tremendous support as the project will enhance and build capacity for many key officials and others stakeholders through the various activities.

As you all are aware, there are many discussions on Global Goal of the UN Sustainable Goals 2030 in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication in which much of the discussions are focused around the world in leveraging actions across the broad spectrum of sectors to build the momentum for green economy, which could bring about socially inclusive and environmentally sound economic transformation.

As green economy is a means for achieving sustainable development being adapted to national circumstances and priorities on voluntary basis, it is expected that the UN System and the international community will deliver coordinated and coherent policy advice, technical assistance and capacity building to Governments in order to assist them with the design and implementation of green economy policies and strategies.

With the two global agreements in effect – the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, I believe the green economy (as a means for achieving ambitious goals) is ever important. Although small scaled, UNCTAD is committed to supporting the economy agenda both regionally and nationally in which PNG is grateful for.

Our action to re-gain the momentum from green economy starts here at this MSG Green Trade Project.

In this regard, PNG has selected Vanilla as a key agriculture product to be used in this project to develop the Voluntary Sustainability Standards and Assessment and this will definitely set pace for other Potential Agricultural Products.

The Project is timely to assist PNG in developing its Standards and also identifying its challenges in the Non-Tariff Measures (NTMS) and to find possible solutions to rise above and tap into the global supply chain in this particular key agriculture product which most of our rural farmers are engaged in.

Let me now take this time to commend the government agencies and departments who are involved in this project and encourage everyone to embrace a whole of government approach and work together as a national team for the benefit of this nation and us, the people.

Again, thank you UNCTAD, MSG Secretariat, Government Officials and other Stakeholders.

I wish you all fruitful discussions for today.

Thank you