ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Ministerial Conference on Transport, Moscow, 5-9 December 2016

Name of speaker: (Mr.) (Ms.) ____________
(Block letter) Hon. Minister Papaliilele Uпасага

Country/Organization: ________________
(Block letter) Ministry Transport & Infrastructure

Please indicate the agenda item on which you wish to speak: 

Agenda Item No: ______________________

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Statement by Hon. P.U Nickel Lee Hang

@ UN - ESCAP Ministerial Conference

Thank you for the opportunity,

Honourable Ministers, Head of Delegations, Excellency’s dear delegates, ladies and gentlemen; It is an honour for me to address this Transport Ministerial Conference on behalf of the Government and people of Samoa;

It is important for our Government that I take this opportunity to thank the Government of Russian Federation and it People for the warm welcome, the kind hospitality and the wonderful support for hosting this 3rd UN-ESCAP Ministerial Conference on Transport.

As a head of Samoa Delegation, I would like to thank the Madam Secretary of UN-ESCAP and the secretariat, not only for the organising of this conference but I was happily informed that the implementation of the previous Action Programme 2012 – 2016, was a success.

In light of the success, Samoa applauds all the efforts from the Secretariat as it is not an easy task. Serving our vast Asia and the Pacific region to fully optimize our opportunities for Transport, address the unique Transport challenges of our time such as the immense pressure of growth, the cross border connectivity, the isolations challenges of us in the Pacific Ocean, transport safety and security, and our climate change responsibility to our future generations. For those reasons, On behalf of our Government, We thank the secretariat for the hard work.

As a Member of the Asia and the Pacific leadership in Transport, we have managed to complete the implementation of the second programme of action for Transport Development in our region, it’s an achievement that deserve acknowledgement, Thus we congratulate and thank all states represented in this conference for the commitment and compromises you have shown.

But at the end of today, we pray and prepare for tomorrow. This to ensure a better future for generations and our planet; Therefore development must be sustainable. As mentioned by all the Statement before me, Transport is the
enabler, the catalyst and the vehicle, the must have in advance for Sustainable Development. Therefore for development to be sustainable, transport MUST be sustainable.

It’s a global challenge that we are destined to work together as a regional family. For that reason, Samoa urges this conference and the UN-ESCAP secretariat, as the ICAO (international civil aviation organisation) initiative, For a No country in our Asia PACIFIC region to be left behind.

Every Member State of this Conference has responsibilities and commitments for Our Sustainable Development Goals, maintain seamless connectivity in our region, and safe and secured transport system in Asia and the Pacific. These we shall work together as a region to realize the benefits and shoulder to shoulder to overcome the challenges.

For Samoa’s development, Maritime and Aviation is our life line. With limited resources, the Samoa Government have invested in our Ports and its connectivity; A new terminal building for Faleolo International airport with an upgrade of runway and facilities, planning for developing new air strips, The Expansion and improvement of the Apia Wharf, upgrading of existing port infrastructure, and Widening and climate proofed roads and connectivity to the international airport.

For the listed development; the Samoan Government would like to thank our regional member states and partners, the Government of China, Government of Japan through JICA, Australia Government and World Bank.

Regionally, our commitment to ensure safer travelling within the pacific region through the Pacific Aviation Safety Office;

We have liberalize our skies, opening up for connectivity and improve trading and especially invitation for region to explore our treasures. We have already endorsed a bilateral Air Service Agreement with the Peoples Republic of China; finalizing an Agreement with Singapore; we are hoping to finalize a Bilateral with Turkey, UAE, and we have proposed to other member states of our Asia Pacific region for connectivity. As the most stable democracy in the Pacific, We will continue to expand our links to improve connectivity within our region and to other parts of the Globe.
Capacity Building we have been blessed with Aviation and Maritime capacity building for our people. For that, we thank the assistance from our Asia Pacific member states; the Government of Singapore for the Aviation Capacity Building, The Japan Government for Maritime and various infrastructure assistance, The Government of Malaysia, and continuous support from the Government of the People’s Republic of China.

As declared by various states, the region has gained momentum in the last 2 work programs, 8 years from the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in the Asia and the Pacific through ESCAP programs; with various capacity building initiative, technical assistances and advisory services, and transport infrastructure and corridor developments in the Asia Region, Thus we only hope this can continue to the remote and the most vulnerable area of our region, the PACIFIC.

As mentioned earlier, Samoa also applauds the continuous efforts of the ESCAP secretariat with the Implementation of 2012-2016 programme of action;

However, it is reported that there are initiatives which have yet to be effectively implemented especially for the SIDs in the Pacific. Therefore we humbly request to consider conducting one of those training or capacity building initiative in Samoa, for the Pacific Islands, This will allow your good self to experience the uniqueness in both our opportunities and the challenges.

We have observed the good progress of the various connectivity and links, and various corridors opened in the Asian part of our region. It is a result of better implementation of planned initiatives, improved collaboration among sub-regional states, and address as a group common issues.

Secretariat, I can guarantee that the Pacific can effectively do the same, deliver and achieve the SDGs and any target on the 2017-2020 if we could establish the similar framework for the pacific for implementation.

Last but not least, As a Minister for Transport for Samoa, in the Pacific, We will ensure that our the Ministerial Declaration from this Conference, on Sustainable Transport in Asia and the Pacific, and the Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Transport Connectivity in region will be adopted
for implementation when we deliberate as Pacific Ministers for Transport in April 2017, in Tonga.

Again, Samoa as Part of the Asia and the Pacific regional family, we look forward to the positive outcomes for our Asia and the PACIFIC region in the next Programme of Action.

Thank you