

THE PRIME MINISTER



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**Statement by Prime Minister Gordon Darcy Lilo on the
Occasion of the 69th Session of Economic and Social
Commission of Asia Pacific 29 April 2013**

Chairman of the 69th Session of the ESCAP

Ministers from ESCAP

UN Under-Secretary General

Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for giving me the floor. Our gathering here in Bangkok is part of the ongoing global conversation in conceptualizing our post 2015 development agenda. Asia and Pacific being one of the most progressive and dynamic regions of the world, makes our regions' perspective critical in shaping the global development agenda.

In this regards, the MDGs will have to be part of our discussion. Score cards of many developing countries are mixed. While much has been achieved, for many of us, the MDGs will not be met by 2015 and that is a reality. We must learn from the MDG experience to be able shape the next sets of goals beyond 2015.

Mr. Chairman,

Notably, allow me to emphasize that my country is a late comer in the implementation of the MDGs which was adopted in September 2000 at the UN, a time Solomon Islands was still engulfed in an ethnic conflict. This marginalized Solomon Islands effort in the preparatory and early implementation process.

We are therefore a late starter in terms of implementing the MDGs. Furthermore, the common set of principles and targets of the MDG's were aimed at bringing a large number of the world's poorest people to at least a minimum level of human development. They did not respond directly to the problem of violent conflict, peace and security, even though violent conflict or the absence of it is related to the achievement of all these goals.

Despite that Solomon Islands is on target to achieve the social goals notably in health and education sectors, we are doubling our efforts in some goals and tripling in others. For instance, the recent passage of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) 2013, which aims to bring development right to the ambit of the rural constituencies and the creation of the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and USP's fourth Campus in Solomon Islands.

In addition, we are also looking to forge smart, genuine and equitable partnerships to give us space and time in order for us to better price and value our efforts.

We also need to urgently internally run SDG programmes and on the path of the donors they should unreservedly support such platforms this is because the wheeling of the SDGs forward nationally should naturally attract external support.

I wish to end with something closer to my heart, the sustainable management and use of Ocean Resource, a resolution that is sponsored by Solomon Islands, which highlights the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and of their resources including fisheries for sustainable development including through their contribution to poverty eradication, sustained economy growth, food security and creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work which will be considered in this august gathering.

It is my firm believe that the harvest of these resources must be done in a sustainable and equitable way.

I thank you for your attention.