

Australia Statement to the Committee on Energy – Agenda Item 2

Australia sees energy security and resilience as integral to countries' efforts to rebound from COVID-19. In this respect, we note the importance of three aspects: economic recovery, health security and stability, including in terms of the impact of climate change on the resilience of the region's energy systems.

Economic Recovery: Economic development is already undermined by climate change. The key economic recovery sectors of tourism and agriculture can incorporate practices to reduce vulnerability to climate change, while energy infrastructure can meet resilience standards and there are great opportunities also in renewable energy.

Health Security: Health systems that consider climate related impacts will better position countries to deal with other stresses such as pandemics and will bring sustained improvements in both health and energy security.

Stability: Climate change is recognized as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific, who are important contributors to ESCAP's membership. Stability measures should mitigate against the impacts of climate change as a threat multiplier that exacerbates pressures such as disasters, displacement, and food, water and energy security.

Australia is sharing our expertise, experiences and skills across the globe toward stronger adaptation and energy resilience outcomes:

- Our \$2 billion Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific (AIFFP) will fund critical climate resilient infrastructure projects and already has renewable energy projects in the works in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands
- The Australian Private Sector Mobilisation Climate Fund will invest \$140 million to mobilise significant private sector investments
- Australia's leadership of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon contributes to climate change adaptation by seeking to protect and restore global coastal blue carbon ecosystems

There is a clear nexus between addressing climate change and building more resilient and secure energy sources, including through low emission technologies. The uptake of low emission technologies also offers opportunities to rebuild economic performance and position all of our countries to recover from the devastating effects of COVID-19.