

**Tonga's Intervention on Agenda item #3 c) on the UN-ESCAP's 3<sup>rd</sup> Session,  
Committee on Energy**

Thank you Chair, and thank you UN-ESCAP for giving us this opportunity to make an intervention on Agenda item 3(c), "Regional road map on power system connectivity: Cross-border electricity connectivity for Sustainable Development"

A few years ago, Tonga questioned the work of the Expert Working Group on Energy Connectivity, as the road map was specifically for Asia and did not cover Pacific member States' issues. At the time, the secretariat's response was that Energy Connectivity issues for Asia are very different from those in the Pacific. With the drafted regional road map now being developed for the Asian region for the endorsement by the Committee, it's important to show that there are plans to work for the Pacific member States on energy connectivity. Of course, it does not make sense to link all Pacific islands with transmission lines and we need to start defining "energy connectivity" for the Pacific member States. I believe, it will be related to developing a platform to support Pacific member States to produce renewable energy-based power. For example, there could be a platform/software for designing systems across the Pacific member states. This could be a good spin-off from the NEXSTEP project, as Tonga was very fortunate to be one of the countries to participate in this project.