

H.E. SAYED-KHAIYUM: Thank you and good afternoon. I'll be very, very brief. Just in respect to some things we have undertaken, a couple of critical ones. For countries in particular in the Pacific, there are two things we are looking at, obviously, adaptation, and mitigation.

There is more emphasis on adaptation in the Pacific given the fact they face there the cold face of climate change and the full effects of climate change in terms of rising sea levels in particular and dramatic climatic events.

I think that is one particular aspect. Of course, there are some opportunities for mitigation that we are looking at. I think what is very critical, as the new chair highlighted, the need to work together to be able to get what we call within the climate finance regime "bankable projects." Many of the Pacific Island countries do not actually have the economies of scale. In order to get the economies of scale, we need to have the ability to work together to make many of these projects bankable.

The last point I'd like to make very quickly is also that once climate finance is available, green climate finance is available, there is a lot of lack of knowledge within these smaller states in terms of accessibility to those funds, because it is quite a bit of a bureaucratic maze to get through.

We have recently joined hands with UNESCAP that ran a training session for the first time in Fiji, for the other Pacific Island countries also, with the officials, to see how they can

sort of navigate their way through this maze to be able to access those funds, and we hope to do more and more of that.

It is the building of the capacity to be able to know how and what best mechanisms to use, whether it is through grants or a combination of grants, through various institutions, to be able to put in place measures either for mitigation or predominately in the Pacific's case, adaptation.

I think there is a lot of opportunity for collaboration, and I think we need to have some focused areas of attention, in particular, in respect to building capacity regarding accessing climate finance. Thank you very much.