

INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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The Honorable Peter Aoro, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Solomon Islands, opened the workshop followed by welcome remarks by Dr. Jimmie Rodgers.

assessment would be needed to incorporate country-specific factors to identify and address potential financial challenges.

Consideration of development financing needs should not focus exclusively on the public sector - the National Development Strategy of the Solomon Islands sets out clear expectations for a larger role of

During the session it was highlighted that Solomon Islands was expected to stay vulnerable especially to extreme weather events climate change and geological events and thus needs to manage various types of risk and build resilience from the bottom up. It was recommended that all policies needed to incorporate the aspect of risk management in their design and implementation and respective Government systems needed to be strengthened including targeting the local, island and rural communities. In this respect Solomon Islands had adopted relevant legislation and a natural disaster management plan but funds needed to be secured for effective implementation.

With respect to climate finance it was highlighted that there was a need to build capacity to access funds including LDCF, Adaptation Fund and GCF and that closer coordination was needed for both providers and beneficiaries. In addition costs of adaptation had to be carefully estimated. It was flagged that direct access to the GCF was preferable as compared to applications for funding through institutions which took longer and reduced the share of resources for the country. However in order to qualify the national system of public financial management had to be robust including legislation, planning and oversight.

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In this session the need to take into account other developments in the country which could exacerbate challenges when preparing for graduation was flagged. As development challenges were often long-term structural issues graduation made action more urgent. It was suggested that as the next 9-year plan under the long-term NDG would cover the period 2015 to 2024 it would coincide with the preparatory period for graduation and could thus provide an integrated framework.

It was also suggested that preparation for graduation would include short-term and long-term activities and that setting of priorities and sequencing of activities was important. In the case of Vanuatu the draft transition strategy was a subset of the national sustainable development plan and its goals underpin the 10A goals. The national sustainable development plan had an 1F (framework) which would be applied to monitor the transition strategy. It included an action plan focusing on areas identified as most affected by graduation.

The importance of strengthening data management systems and sharing data across ministries as a basis for monitoring, evaluation and learning was flagged. Likewise the need to enhance knowledge and awareness of all stakeholders was highlighted.

It was concluded that LDC-specific support should be used until actual graduation or the phasing out of access in order to prepare for graduation. In order to prepare for graduation better information on actual external financing sources including difficulties to access them was needed. More in-depth sectoral studies might be needed to fully understand the potential impact of graduation.

The results of three breakout sessions were also presented in this session.

In resource mobilization the main challenges identified included the difficulty to access funds in terms of capacity, complicated requirements, long application periods etc. so more human resources are needed in that area. The large informal sector makes it difficult to increase revenue and revenue from logging is rapidly decreasing so domestic resource mobilization is also a challenge. However the

government plans a reform of tax administration. It was suggested to combine small projects into larger programmes to reduce burden on the administration. It was suggested that the international community should support an information system on accessible funds especially long-term funds. There was a need to think big and bring all partners together.

In trade and productivity the main challenges identified included more interaction among government and the private sector, limited trade capacity, need to protect local industries (It was noted that access to finance for SMEs was difficult, some schemes existed but there were limitations to access them due to lack of skills).

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companies potentially impacted by LDC graduation are in the palm oil fisheries and coconut industries. He stressed that graduation discussions need to ensure interconnected aspects are captured and gaps are addressed.

Mr. Joseph Malanua, Trade Commissioner, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Internal Trade of Solomon Islands, flagged the need to look at comparative advantages when preparing for graduation and the impact of the 4.63002(a)-6.6782318.2434(d)6.62884()-4.63002(d)4.63002(s)-.63166366noaro2.2754936.631