



October 26, 2013

**Right Hon. MOANNA CARCASSES
KATOTAI KALOSIL, M.P.
Honourable Prime Minister
Minister Responsible for ICT and Telecommunications**

**Official Speech: Honourable Prime Minister at the National ICT
Development Committee Third Meeting**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY.

Hon. Ministers,
Professors
Directors General,
Directors,
Senior Officials
Students
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Honorable Federal Counselor Didier Brukhalter

Dear students,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to have with us today Federal Counsellor Didier Brukhalter on a such great occasion as the launching of the CD Pacific. I am particularly pleased that the CD Pacific is launched from Vanuatu. For our small island, like the rest of Pacific, this type of capacity development is essential. We cannot afford to be left out of global negotiations. Yes, we are small island states, but we share most global problems. Many of the issues that are of relevance for us are addressed in Geneva. Climate change is for us matter of survival. We are

often hit by humanitarian disasters. Geneva is the world humanitarian capital with the headquarters of the Red Cross, United Nations High Commission for Refugees, among several others. Internet communication is vital for our ability to stay in touch with the rest of the world. Again, the future of world communication and the Internet is discussed in Geneva. The list can continue. For us, participation in these processes is not only a matter of necessity but also of urgency. This makes the CD Pacific both a highly relevant and a very timely initiative. I would like to extend my personal thanks on behalf of Vanuatu and the Pacific region to the Federal Counselor for making this initiative possible. We are also honoured that DiploFoundation will run this programme. Diplo knows both Geneva, where it is based, and small island states, where Diplo people have been training hundreds of diplomats and officials. This bridge between two worlds is essential for the success of the CD Pacific. I am also pleased to learn that during the CD Pacific we will start developing more structural links between our academics, researchers and think tanks, and vibrant policy and intellectual activities in Geneva. The distance is very great (10.000 miles) but mutual understanding and shared interest make us and Switzerland seem like next door neighbours. I wish you all a lot of success. Personally, I would like to be updated on the CD Pacific and the results that we will get in 2014. I will share this information with my colleagues in the Pacific region. It will make our voices louder in fora and spaces where issues of vital relevance for us are discussed.

Thank you.

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