

Guten Morgen, Good morning, everyone.

[All protocols observed]

As the Programme Leader of GIZ TAPSEC, I'm very happy to be here to mark the commissioning of GPL's Integrated Utility Service pilot project.

It is truly gratifying to see the real-life implementation of something that began as an idea before becoming a regional CARICOM-GIZ study in 2016 and 2017.

The CARICOM Energy Programme with support through the GIZ TAPSEC team and consultants, have worked hard since then to provide the electric utility with the necessary technical support to develop the IUS model and demonstrate its viability in the region. The project is now in its third phase and Guyana has become the first country to take the IUS from a theoretical energy service model to an actual project.

GPL's execution of this pilot project -- in partnership with the OAS and IICA -- contributes to a future in which the people of Guyana can have easier access to affordable renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. This access will have meaningful positive impacts on their lives. It will lower their energy costs and reduce their carbon footprint.

On a broader national level, the IUS pilot project also creates a market for more sustainable energy technologies and projects. With its completion, GPL has now expanded beyond the traditional focus on energy supply towards the provision of energy services. This makes it easier to implement energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy interventions on the client-side, supporting Guyana's goal of achieving **a 70% reduction in emissions by 2027**.

Regionally-speaking, initiatives like the IUS pilot project are critical to creating a favourable environment for these types of technologies, which will help move CARICOM closer to the sustainable future goals outlined in the CARICOM Energy Policy and the C-SERMS.

On behalf of the GIZ TAPSEC team, I would like to say that it has been an honour to support GPL in the successful implementation of this demo project. It is fantastic to see how far this project has come, even in the face of external constraints, such as those caused by the pandemic. We look forward to the roll-out of future sustainable energy projects based on the strong foundation you have built here. We also look forward to more utilities joining the IUS pilot project, further expanding the enabling environment for renewable energy and energy efficiency technology across the region.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone involved in building out Guyana's IUS model and have made the pilot project possible.

Thank you very much.