



Papua New Guinea Statement

by

**Honourable Leo Dion, GCL, CMG, QPM, MP,
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Inter-Government Relations
of Papua New Guinea**

to the

**United Nations General Assembly Post-2015 Summit
for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

New York, United States of America

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"Check against delivery"

Co-Chairs;

Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates.

Papua New Guinea welcomes the adoption of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and acknowledges the collective efforts of all stakeholders to chart this transformative universal development roadmap, which shall ensure that the 2030 Agenda leaves-no-one-behind.

Co-Chairs,

The MDGs galvanised the global community to take action on key development concerns of the developing world.

The 2030 Agenda is therefore a significant landmark at this point in time when we celebrate the Seventieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

My Government therefore pledges its support and commitment toward the full realization of the 17 SDGs.

Co-Chairs,

Papua New Guinea recognises that this is a people-centered and transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda which must be nationally-owned and driven, and supported by global partnerships. We can only succeed, when countries truly own and lead their national development plans and strategies whilst integrating the 2030 Agenda.

Consistent with our 2014 National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development, Papua New Guinea recognizes that a healthy, well-educated population is the underlying driver for development.

The principles of responsible sustainable development mean that we do not conduct ourselves in a manner that compromises our future generations.

Co-Chairs,

We must ensure that the High-Level Political Forum adequately support national, regional and global SDG efforts to avoid the pitfalls of its predecessor.

Papua New Guinea has also invested heavily in the achievement of the MDGs in Government interventions enabling national policies and plans for Free Basic Health Service, National Population, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and energy. We are also developing an energy policy. Tuition Fee Free education has resulted in the enrolled of an additional two million children in the last two years.

We have laid a strong foundation that is now witnessing unprecedented economic growth. My Government is fully committed to ensuring that we manage this transformation carefully and effectively to deliver the maximum benefit to all our citizens whilst protecting our natural resources for our future generations. The challenge for us is to translate the enhanced growth into improved human development outcomes to achieve our National Vision 2050, with the resultant achievement of the SDGs.

Co-Chairs,

We the peoples of the Pacific Island countries are pleased with the inclusions of SDG 13 on climate change and SDG 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

The Pacific Island countries' individually as well as collective ability to successfully achieve the SDGs depends largely on the effective and sustainable management of our natural environment and resources.

Climate change is here. Even with the current average global warming of less than 1 degree, Pacific island states are already dealing with serious consequences. The recent Pacific Islands Leaders Forum in Papua New Guinea, reiterated the concern that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific.

The 2015 *Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Declaration on Climate Change Action* expresses:

1. An expectation of an ambitious and legally binding climate agreement be adopted in Paris;
2. Recognition of the special circumstances and vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), particularly those in the Pacific, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
3. Agreement that an increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius would severely exacerbate the particular challenges facing the most vulnerable smaller island states of the Pacific and that all effort be made to stay within the global temperature goal;
4. Support for “inclusion in the Paris Outcome of loss and damage as a critical and stand alone element”, and “builds on the ongoing work of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage”;

5. Expectation that there be access to financial resources to support climate change action and resilience in vulnerable developing countries; and,

6. Recognition of impacts of climate change on women and youth, the elderly, disabled, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable and marginalised groups, and acknowledge their contributions to the effective implementation of the Paris outcome.

Co-Chairs,

In closing, Papua New Guinea has set in place the necessary foundation and using the combined lessons learned from the MDGs and the past 40 years as a country with economic opportunities – we welcome the Sustainable Development Goals and pledge our commitment to achieving better results.

Thank you.