



**Statement by**  
**Honourable Rainbo Paita, MP**  
**Minister for Finance and Planning of Papua New Guinea**  
**to the**  
**General Debate of the High-level Ministerial Segment**  
**of the**  
**United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**  
**under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**  
**“Building momentum towards the 2023 SDG Summit:**  
**Transformation for accelerating implementation of the SDGs”**

**17 July 2023, New York**

**“Check against delivery”**

**Madam President, Excellencies and distinguished delegates;**

I am honored to deliver my inaugural Statement, on behalf of the Government and people of Papua New Guinea.

I thank my good Lord Almighty to be able to speak in this prestigious meeting.

Thank you, Madam President, for your strong leadership and for the valued partnership among all stakeholders in this Forum. Hearing from your opening statement has given me a glimpse of hope on a renewed energy to drive actions.

I commend the energy and intention in the words of the speakers particularly from Hungary, Cuba, Ireland, Qatar and Morocco which have had an impact on my view that counties are serious about the need for greater ACTION.

For my country, we remain concerned about our overall slow progress in pursuit of the SDGs, as a direct consequence of the unprecedented pandemic, ongoing conflicts and other global challenges

However, despite this, PNG remained committed to working towards achieving the SDGs.

**Madam President,**

I was privileged to join my Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, to launch our country's Fourth Medium Term Development Plan 2023 to 2027, with the Theme of "National Prosperity through Growing the Economy". (OTC)

Our Development Plan reaffirms the commitment of my government to accelerate and deliver on the 2030 Agenda and it also clearly identifies the measures needed to do so in a more comprehensive, focused, resourceful and accountable way.

To highlight this, as an example, on SDGs 6,7,9 and 11<sup>1</sup>, our “Connect Papua New Guinea” flagship infrastructure program was developed to transform the country’s socio-economic landscape by improving connectivity.

We have launched special economic zones to attract investment in downstream processing, housing projects, and path to a fully pledged digital Government.

Let me thank all our development partners for their valued, constructive assistance, support and partnership.

**Madam President,**

We recognize the national need for greater ownership and leadership as well as domestic resource mobilization for national development and to drive forward the SDGs.

However, to assist developing countries to achieve their plans, including the SDGs, the following are needed:

Firstly, we must all have a renewed commitment in delivering the 2030 Agenda and ensure that the resources, including technology, climate financing, needed to deliver on it are accessible, affordable and on timely manner.

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<sup>1</sup> SDG 6- Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 7 - Affordable Clean Energy; SDG 9- Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Secondly, there needs to be a fundamental shift towards a new reformed global economic and financial framework that captures all countries development aspirations.

The current status quo does not accommodate greater participation and as such a need for this move is required if we are going to achieve these SDGs together.

We support this crucial point.

Thirdly, we need fair, just and equitable returns from our natural resource endowments to be able to support our own revenue raising measures to progress our national development priorities, including on the SDGs. This value adding on the resources, will create more jobs and reduce poverty.

We therefore encourage development partners and developed countries to assist developing countries with investments in downstream processing in their God given resources. Help us help ourselves.

Finally, **Madam President**, let me again, reaffirm our commitment to deliver our national development priorities, including on the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

On a greater scale, our common purpose must prevail. Common pursuits must outweigh individual ambitions. Greater action, less generic political discussions and more collective but meaningful steps in the next remaining seven (7) years.

We have to dive deeper beneath the surface of political correctness and honestly admit the need for an open and strong partnership in addressing not just global issues but country issues that we can resolve together.

I thank you, Madam President and God bless our efforts to serve His people!