



**Papua New Guinea Ministerial Statement**

**by**

**His Excellency Mr. Max Hufanen Rai,  
Permanent Representative and Ambassador  
of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations**

**at the**

**High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development**

**General Debate on the Theme  
"Ensuring that no one is left behind"**

**20 July 2016, New York**

**"Check against delivery"**

**Mr. President,**

The theme “ensuring that no one is left behind” was the underlying basis for the formulation of Papua New Guinea's ***National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development (StaRS)*** in 2014 and continues to remain a central pillar.

Papua New Guinea's Constitution and the five Goals and Directive Principles inspired our sustainable development agenda. This is translated in our Vision 2050\* which embraces the principles of Sustainable Development and a strong emphasis on Papua New Guinea owning and driving its own development agenda.

**Mr. President,**

Papua New Guinea has taken a bold decision for a paradigm shift under the **National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development**. A key cornerstone is a people-centered population management and stabilization focus.

It empowers individuals to take leadership and full responsibility to improve their lives and livelihoods through appropriate intervention measures with the national government providing an enabling environment.

This also requires the appropriate valuing and management of our strategic natural assets such as forests, marine resources, water and biodiversity for a future green-growth economy, where foreign capital investment strengthens sustainability of the resources instead of decimating them.

It will also reposition Papua New Guinea to provide solutions to climate stability, clean air, clean energy security, food security and the model of truly sustainable development.

We continue to work in partnership with our development partners to support our national sustainable development agenda.

In embracing our new development paradigm shift, this will foster "Papua New Guinea Ways" and provide a transformative sustainable development pathway that recognises our historical past and build a new strategic roadmap that positions Papua New Guinea to take ownership and leadership of its future.

Papua New Guinea is taking the necessary measures to ensure that our current development pathway does not compromise our ability to provide for our current population and future generations.

**Mr. President,**

Papua New Guinea has developed its SDG roadmap, by building on the lessons learnt and best practices from the MDGs.

For the first time in our history, we have passed the Papua New Guinea Planning and Monitoring Responsibility Act that:

- Establishes the National Planning Framework which incorporates the SDGs which we are in a process of localizing;
- Links our annual budgets to our development priorities;
- Provides our Service Delivery Framework and the requisite minimum service delivery requirements at all levels; and
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

As we go forward, we are embarking on:

- Mainstreaming our development agenda which incorporates the SDG agenda;
- Improving our data collection capacity, infrastructure and mechanisms;
- Improving coordination and review mechanisms;
- Strengthening multi stakeholder partnerships.

**Mr. President,**

Human and institutional capacity building is the key to the success of our responsible sustainable development. As part of this, we have institutionalized at our national university degree courses on sustainable development.

In 2012, amongst other policies, we instituted free education and free health care which has resulted in:

- Gross enrolment rates of 87 percent for both males and females;
- Improvement in maternal mortality rates;
- Free contraception for women and girls;
- Reduced incidences in malaria, TB and HIV and AIDS;
- A women's bank providing preferential terms for women's empowerment;
- Entrepreneurial training for women is now widely available;
- We have already developed renewable energy solutions from biomass, coconut oil, solar, hydro and geo-thermal.

Finally, Papua New Guinea reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.

***Vision 2050***- Papua New Guinea to be Smart, wise, fair, healthy and happy society by 2050.