Independent State of Papua New Guinea

Country Statement on “Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradication poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific”

Delivered By: Mr. Michael Kumung | Deputy Secretary for National Planning and Monitoring, Papua New Guinea (PNG) | Date: 22nd February, 2024

Chair,
Madam Executive Secretary,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured on behalf of the Government and the People of Papua New Guinea, to deliver this statement after the SDG Summit in 2023 which marked a crucial juncture in the journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The SDGs represent the universal agreed roadmap for sustainable development and growth, underpinned by full respect for international law, human rights and our constitution.

However, a year past the midpoint in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, our region is not on track to meet these ambitious Goals. Our progress has been slow with recorded progress of only 12.6 percent in the last seven (7) years.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we progress into the next half of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the progress we make rebounding from the aftermath of multiple global crises and intersecting crises – in climate, food security, social injustices we have to embrace our existing relations, may it be with Bilateral or Multilateral partners in addressing these severe disruptions to people’s lives, environments, and economies.
Papua New Guinea is thankful for the continued assistance from our regional and traditional partners as well for the shared initiatives and collaboration on various fronts.

For the Law and Justice Sector, PNG has seen the Australian Pacific Ombudsman Region a great closure by presenting of many successful closures of investigations, legislative changes, organisational strengthening, and other progress in its performance of the core functions in October, 2023.

Again, multilateralism remains significant in promoting regional and international cooperation amongst States, which give leverage and equal footing through strengthened governance institutions backed by political commitments for the effective delivery on the ambitions for the 2030 Agenda.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We are also aware of the economic recovery impact of coronavirus pandemic and the impact of Russia-Ukraine and Israel and Palestine. Our ongoing challenges have been in the global climate and trade financing mechanisms have, in many ways, continued to hinder the progress of smaller developing countries that depend largely on imported consumables.

Now that we are half-way through the life of the Sustainable Development Goals, now more than ever, developing countries need sustainable innovative concessional financing instruments to rebuild their economies as well as adjusting their macroeconomic policy interventions to improve revenue generation capacities to support their recovery efforts.

Papua New Guinea together with the other developing and least developing countries in the Asia-Pacific Region with their Special Needs that are coupled with institutional and development challenges of geographic remoteness, high trade costs and narrow economy of scale acknowledge the ongoing support from the multilateral frameworks and regional cooperation to ease our recovery response from economic shocks.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In closing, Papua New Guinea acknowledged the vital role by the private sector development support and the traditional development partnerships in progressing the implementation of SDG through the current five-year development Medium Term Development Plan 4, 2023-2027.

The Government of PNG is committed to continue to progress the implementation of the SDGs through the multi-sector coordination, review of policy and legislations, capacity building with the resources from Government, Private Sector and from the Development Partners.

As a proponent of multilateralism, Papua New Guinea acknowledged the critical supportive role of the ESCAP’s UN system, in assisting the Member
States in the Asia-Pacific region with innovative and resilient solutions to eradicate poverty, tackling climate change in reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PNG remains committed to support the leadership of the ECOSOC for its commitment to strengthen our regional and global cooperation in the Asia and Pacific Region.

I thank you!