



PAPUA NEW GUINEA COUNTRY STATEMENT
BY
HONOURABLE JAMES MARAPE, MP, PRIME MINISTER
AT THE
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT WORLD LEADERS' SUMMIT
OF THE
TWENTY SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP26)
01ST - 02ND NOVEMBER 2021
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Mr. President, Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates

It is my distinct honor and privilege to join colleague world leaders at this historic Global Summit.

At the outset, I extend my sincere appreciation to Prime Minister Boris Johnson for hosting this World Environment Leaders' Summit. I also express the same to Hon. Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister and the people and Government of Scotland for the excellent arrangements and warm hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in the beautiful city of Glasgow.

I also acknowledge the incoming COP26 President, H.E. Mr. Alok Sharma as well as the Italian Government's support in hosting the series of preparatory events as co-host of this Summit. I also thank the Government of Chile as the outgoing President for their invaluable contributions.

Mr. President,

We meet at a very critical period where climate change continues unabated causing the atmosphere, oceans and the land to warm up at a faster rate than ever before. This is detrimental to the environmental equilibrium of the global community, particularly for those of us from small island states.

Papua New Guinea is not immune from the adverse impacts of climate change, rising sea levels and extreme erratic weather patterns that have devastated the livelihoods of the people and ecosystems that sustain their lives.

The lower-income and marginalized populations, have been worst hit in their weak capacity to adapt has been telling. This has now been further compounded by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has laid bare the structural weaknesses inherent in these populations.

The COP26 Goals are explicit and I join colleague Leader's in collectively calling for a ramp up and an acceleration of ambitions to:

- Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach;
- Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats;
- Mobilize finance; and
- Work together to deliver.

Mr. President,

In this context, I reiterate my strong position at the recently concluded 76th United Nations General Assembly session an impassioned plea for major carbon emitters to own up and acknowledge the impact of high carbon emissions to Small Island States including victims of climate change.

We must take actions commensurate to the volume of emissions. Leaders of big carbon emitting nations must now lead the global effort in rebalancing the environmental equilibrium. We live in one planet, one atmospheric envelope, and one interlinked environmental system. Hence as one humanity, we must rise and unite to preserve our planet.

We must commit to the energy targets, deal with land use, and advocate for the preservation for biodiversity and be bold in financing commitments. These issues are important to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Island Forum members hence we seek support for our domestic and regional efforts towards mitigation and adaptation.

I want to specifically request the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to consider developing a special set of criteria to enable us to qualify and successfully draw-down financial support. The level of funding that many Small Island States receive from GCF is still insignificant. Therefore, I will meet the Executive Director of GCF separately on the margins of COP26 to discuss and progress this matter.

Mr. President,

There is great need for all of us to act promptly, responsibly and collectively to redefine our policies and actions to ensure that we live in a safe, secure and resilient environment. There is a need to make a call for all of us to ramp up on our commitments to support taking drastic and specific actions. There is a call to ensure that our national commitments are clearly announced and that important timelines are clarified and locked in.

Mr. President,

We must move forward to conclude key elements of the Paris Rulebook and give due consideration for the conservation of our global rainforest and oceans. In our view, the Rule Book must not be complex and difficult, but user-friendly to easily access support needed to deliver mitigation and adaptation actions nationally and globally.

Mr. President,

To complement global efforts and operationalize the Paris Rule Book, I am pleased to inform that Papua New Guinea has embarked on various initiatives including submission of our Enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (ENDC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2020 outlining our goal to be carbon neutral by 2050.

Recently we launched the NDC Implementation Plan 2021-2030, the NDC Regulation and the Roadmap that captures the detailed information of each target in the Enhanced NDC. This demonstrates my country's commitment to proactively combat climate change domestically.

In addition, my Government has passed Amendments to the Climate Change Management Act to guide and strengthen our domestic climate change actions.

In forestry, we have ceased issuance of new timber permits and will ban export of round logs by 2025. This will be in tandem with the recently launched NDC Roadmap for the Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) and Energy Sectors aimed at achieving the pathway to achieve zero-net emissions target by 2050.

To strengthen our commitment to forest conservation and management, Papua New Guinea and the International Council for Research in

Agroforestry (ICRAF) will formalize a Host Agreement to develop agroforestry domestically on the margins of this meeting.

More importantly, in our ongoing resolve to promote alternative clean energy sources, I am pleased to inform that I will be signing a Master Development Agreement with Dr. Andrew Forrest of Fortesque Futures Industries on the margins of this Summit. This signifies our efforts to transition from fossil fuels to clean energy by 2030.

Mr. President,

In terms of our reporting obligations under the Paris Agreement, Papua New Guinea has made serious commitment through submitting its first Biennial Updated Report (BUR1) and its REDD Plus Annex in 2019 which are milestone achievements.

Mr. President,

In this spirit, we must all remain true to our words and take real practical actions to achieve the goals of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement in order to address the global threat facing humanity.

Thank you and God Bless You All