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PAPUA NEW GUINEA STATEMENT

TO THE

**HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

BY

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Mr. President,

We congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency of the 60th UN General Assembly. We compliment the Honorable Je an Ping whose tenure will be remembered as a beacon from which critical change to the United Nations was initiated.

Mr President

Difficult as it has been, the draft Outcome Document provides something for everyone. We acknowledge that much more could have been included. However, in our view, there is sufficient detail in the Document from which critical reform issues can be followed up and elaborated on especially during the 60th UNGA.

We are extremely pleased that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which provide each of our countries a set of focused benchmarks from which to address critical development issues, have been maintained in full.

We also strongly support the underlying principles of the Jakarta Declaration which was referred to by the His Excellency the President of Indonesia this morning. We therefore call upon the international community and the UN to respond to and support this important Declaration.

Mr President

The challenge to the MDGs, in our view, is to "nationalize and localize" them in order to achieve the overall performance targets by 2015. *While* we endorse the importance of ensuring that those global targets are reached, we also strongly believe that we need to focus on the sustainability of the MDGs beyond 2015.

As a nation we have reviewed the MDGs and the methods to achieve them. In a recently completed joint report with the UNDP, Papua New Guinea's "scorecard" indicated that much more needed to be done! A number of ways have been considered to implement the MDGs. The Medium Term Development Strategy (MTDS) adopted this year by our Government is an attempt to provide a roadmap implementation. The MTDS will tie the MDGs into the national development process and enable funding of their implementation through our national budgetary process.

As part of the development agenda, we also note with great satisfaction the inclusion of the Mauritius, Brussels and Almaty action plans. We call upon the international community to continue assisting all of our countries in meeting the aims elaborated in each of the plans and declarations.

Mr President

We strongly believe that the principle of development and security being intertwined and inseparable must continue to underpin the international peace and security paradigm.

Needless to say, it is our collective responsibility. Papua New Guinea has and will continue to assist the global process by acceding and continuing to comply with international treaties relating to terrorism and measures to combat this scourge as part of our responsibility and contribution to addressing this critical issue. However, we do note that issues relating to surveillance and other critical practical measures to combat terrorism need to be addressed along with their high operational costs.

Mr President

Next month the Leaders of the Pacific Region will endorse the Pacific Plan. Security along with economic growth, sustainable development and good governance will provide the four (4) central pillars and priority areas for the Region.

In recent times, multi-national regional forces, both armed and un-armed have been engaged in conflict and post-conflict operations. With strong logistical support from Australia and New Zealand, regional member countries have contributed troops to restore peace and order successfully on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea and in the Solomon Islands. In the case of Bougainville, we acknowledge and greatly appreciate the strong support from the UN, UN Security Council and UN agencies.

These two regional initiatives give credence to the call for stronger regional co-operation; to supplement national and global efforts to bring peace and stability in order to enhance economic prosperity.

Mr. President

As my country turned into a 30 year old democracy, the hopes and aspirations we had when we joined the UN thirty (30) years ago as its 142ⁿd member remain. We have had difficulties and some successes. Success, for instance, in maintaining a continuous but challenging democratic political system along with its related institutions. But *as we* have moved on as a democracy, we have learnt many lessons including this one: that the application of democratic principles, much like the development process, is not "a one size fits all" process. While the ideals of democracy provide us the best option to ~~drive~~, imposition of the experiences of others are not necessarily conducive. Like other member states, we are keen to work for and with the Democracy Fund.

Finally, we look forward to the adoption of the draft Outcome Document *as* it provides us With a good basis to move the UN reform agenda forward.

Thank you!