



**Country Statement at the 78th Commission Session of UNESCAP on the
75th Anniversary of ESCAP and "A common agenda to advance
sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific."**

Delivered By: H.E Mr. Peter Vincent | High Commissioner and Permanent
Representative | Date: 23 May 2027

**Chair,
Madam Executive Secretary,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honoured on behalf of the Government and the People of Papua New Guinea to deliver this statement on this auspicious occasion of the 78th Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

At the outset, Papua New Guinea congratulates ESCAP on its 75th anniversary during this Commission Session. It is a milestone achievement and we assure you of our continued commitment going forward.

The significant progress and achievements in the last 75 years through partnership and collaboration with ESCAP has proven the success of multilateralism and regional cooperation, especially, through improving the livelihoods of people, communities and societies within the region as well as globally.

One of such achievements include Papua New Guinea and many developing countries graduating from the least developed country status to low-middle income developing country through the technical assistance and capacity building support provided by ESCAP over the years.

Excellences and Distinguished Delegates,

As we progress well into the early years of the Decade of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world is confronted with the continuous challenges of the global pandemic and regional conflicts that has greatly reversed and impacted our domestic and aggregate regional efforts in progressing the 2030 Agenda.

Recent global events have shown the need to promote multilateralism, and increase regional and international cooperation to enable countries to access adequate support to strengthen their governance, as political and economic institutions countries to implement the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Papua New Guinea is grateful to the various valuable technical assistance and support that ESCAP continues to provide over the years, especially through capacity development programmes to strengthen the institutional development around the areas of Social Protection Areas and Demographic Dividend, Civil Registry and Vital Statistics, e-commerce and cross-border paperless trade. Under cross-border paperless trade, which Papua New Guinea recently completed its domestic processes to ratify the Framework Agreement of Cros-border Paperless Trade and prepares to submit the instruments of ratification to the depository.

Excellencies Distinguished Delegates,

As countries recover from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic through financing instruments to increase their expenditure, the key economic stimulus projects are most likely to have cascading inflationary impacts on smaller developing countries that depend largely on imported consumables.

Under such circumstances, developing countries will be looking at sustainable concessional financing instruments to rebuild their economies as well as reset their macroeconomic policy interventions to improve revenue generation to support the efforts of recovery. Papua New Guinea has tightened its Provisional Tax Assessment to ensure that resource development investors in the mining and petroleum sector pay their fair share of tax timely thus increasing the monthly tax collection for 2022.

The Russo-Ukraine conflict is also having severe impact on the supply and price of economic commodities with cascading effects on the prices of many goods and services. In response to these effects, the PNG Government in early May 2022 rolled out K350 million (US\$110 million) economic intervention to ease the rise in price of fuel, grain and other basic health and household necessities.

From this economic intervention package, K100 million covered the lifting of GST taxes entirely on targeted set of key household and health necessities; K50 million as subsidies to lift GST taxes entirely on all petroleum products; K150 million towards lifting fuel excise taxes entirely from all petroleum products for retail consumers; K20 million to bring forward the reduction in the fuel import tariff excise; and K30 million subsidy to the National Electricity Company to deal with the increased fuel costs.

Papua New Guinea and other developing countries, especially, the least developed countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Asia-Pacific region have Special Needs given their institutional and development challenges linked to geographic remoteness, high trade costs and narrow economy of scale which force them to rely heavily on multilateral frameworks and regional cooperation to ease their recovery response from economic and environmental shocks.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

In closing, once again congratulations on the 75 years anniversary of the Commission. Papua New Guinea is grateful for the valuable assistance and support the UN regional think tank continues to deliver through the organisations programme of work.

As a proponent of multilateralism, Papua New Guinea appreciates the crucial supportive role the UN system, especially the ESCAP, plays in assisting the Member States in the Asia-Pacific region to work towards building back better from the shocks of the coronavirus disease pandemic and accelerate the progress of implementing sustainable development goals. PNG remains committed to the Secretariat's leadership in the region to support our collective and national efforts and assure you of our commitment to strengthen regional cooperation in the region.

I thank you!