

# *The Embassy Of Papua New Guinea*

*Office Of The Ambassador*



## **STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR GABRIEL J.K DUSAVA, CBE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN AND SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, SENDAI CITY, JAPAN 14-18 MARCH 2015**

### **SALUTATIONS**

I stand before this august Conference as the **Special Envoy** of Hon. Peter O'Neill, MP, Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea to present this Statement on behalf of the Government and people of Papua New Guinea.

Firstly, I convey my Prime Minister's sincere apologies to the United Nations and Japanese authorities for not being able to personally attend this very important conference due to more pressing issues to attend to at home during the period of this Conference.

Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea stands in sympathy and solidarity with you and your people.

In addition to Papua New Guinea's condolences towards Vanuatu, I have been instructed by my Government to publically say here, that Papua New Guinea will formally commit and announce its practical contributions later this week, towards relief and rehabilitation efforts from Cyclone Pam's destructions earlier this week.

### **MR. CHAIRMAN,**

As a country of multitudes of islands, large rivers, highlands and coastlines, prone to disaster of different types, Papua New Guinea has made tremendous efforts in disaster risk reduction, mitigation and management.

Indeed, sitting on the infamous **Pacific Ring of Fire**, the geological connotation of the tectonic plate that stretches from the southern tip of the Pacific right up to the north, including Japan, imposes on PNG the need to be vigilant and prepared.

Natural Disasters such as Cyclones, Floods, Tsunamis and Volcanic Eruptions therefore make us more proactive rather than reactive in our efforts to mitigate disaster related effects on our economy and systems, in a whole of government approach and in partnership with our donor partners and the private sector through the Public Private Partnership programmes.

**MR. CHAIRMAN,**

Let me now outline some programmes and policy initiatives that our Government is currently undertaking in relation to disaster risk reduction and mitigation in line with the **Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015**.

Though we have not been able to meet all the development goals and objectives of the United Nations MDGs and the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005 – 2015, we do realize our obligations, and so efforts are being made within our capacity and national circumstances to meet all our commitments.

Indeed, the Papua New Guinea Vision 2050 which encompasses both short term and long term development strategies, aims among other things, at attaining sustainable development through Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Risk Management and addressing the issue of Climate Change.

To that end, Papua New Guinea has reviewed its Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plan, launching it in 2012.

The Plan clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of key national agencies responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management.

The roles and contributions by international agencies and donor partners are also highlighted in this Plan.

Papua New Guinea has also completed its review of the **Disaster Risk Reduction Legislation** in 2014 and is awaiting its Parliament endorsement this year 2015.

Once Parliament endorses the Bill, a **Disaster Risk Reduction Commission** will be established to act as a focal point for liaison with sub-regional, regional and international organizations dealing with disaster related issues.

Furthermore, Papua New Guinea in collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF Country Office in Port Moresby formulated a Disaster Risk Management Policy on Education entitled “*Education in Emergency*” and has been in effect since 2011.



The policy provides provisions for the development of Disaster Risk Management curriculum for Elementary up to Secondary schools. This is aimed at developing the mindset of the current, as well as future generations of Papua New Guineans, into understanding internationally recognized Disaster Risk Management Practices.

In November 2014, this initiative was enhanced when the University of Papua New Guinea formally launched a four year academic degree programme called, **Responsible Sustainable Development**.

Other educational Programmes aimed at building Comprehensive Hazard Assessment and Risk Management (CHARM) are also being developed within the overall concept of sustainable development.

We expect such instructions to cater for loss reduction, durable recovery, build-back-better and resilience abilities such as tools for profiling, assessment of hazards, and risk analysis.

I therefore state that Papua New Guinea is ready to accommodate the successor framework to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, to be adopted at this Conference.

#### **MR. CHAIRMAN AND DISTINGUISH DELEGATES,**

As we finalize the post 2015 Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction, Papua New Guinea calls for the new post 2015 Disaster Risk Reduction Framework to embrace integration of Climate Change Resilience (CCR), Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management as a common platform.

We also endorse other statements made in this conference for increased and effective regional cooperation and collaboration.

As a nation Papua New Guinea will continue to seek co-operation and support through our bilateral and multilateral arrangements for guidance to identify technical assistance to address disaster related matters.

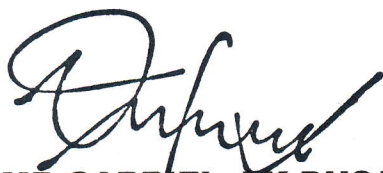
The Government Papua New Guinea appreciates and acknowledges the assistance of the United Nations and development partners in its efforts to addressing disaster risks and management in our country.

In conclusion, Papua New Guinea applauds the generous heartedness of Japan, not only to host this Sendai Conference, but for fostering and providing programs such as the **Pacific Environment Community (PEC) Funds** and other environment and disaster management programs in Papua New Guinea, and other Pacific Island Countries under the Pacific Island Leaders Meeting or the PALM Process.

Japan's recent decision to finance the establishment of the Pacific Centre for Climate Change under the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) is also applauded.

Finally, the United Nations processes to relating issues at hand, and Japan's continuing international leadership for co-operation, and Sendai City and the whole of Tohoku Region's sense of resilience, all combined, remain flag bearers for human rights and security for all peoples of this planet.

**I THANK YOU**



**H.E MR GABRIEL J.K DUSAVA CBE**

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