



**DEPUTY PRIME MINNISTER AND  
MINISTER FOR LANDS, PHYSICAL  
PLANNING, URBANIZATION, LABOUR  
AND IMMIGRATION**

**COUNTRY STATEMENT**

**DELIVERED ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
113<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION  
COUNCIL,**

**GENEVA, SWITZERDLAND, NOVEMBER  
2022**

---

I would like to take this opportunity first to congratulate the Chair for your election as the Chairman the IOM Council.

- Your Excellency Mr. Antonio Vitorino Director General of the International Organization for Migration.
- IOM Chief of Staff Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi.

- Senior Regional Advisor for Asia Pacific Ms. Mariko Sato.
- Head of Mission IOM Papua New Guinea Mr. Serhan Aktoprak.
- Esteemed Members of the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council, Distinguished delegates from Member States, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to be present here for the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council among Distinguished members in this beautiful and historic city of Geneva for which I am grateful to the Director General of the IOM for the invitation. Warm Pacific Greetings from Papua New Guinea.

Mr Chairman and Your Excellencies,

I join as a member of this important global Organization and represent Papua New Guinea in my capacity as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Labour and Immigration to discuss in this High Level Segment on the cross-cutting issues of food security, migration and displacement caused by the impacts of climate change and the conflicts we face around the world.

As an island nation, Papua New Guinea continues to experience the displacement of its people whose livelihoods are affected by rise in sea levels causing our people to flee their island homes. The impact of this forced human mobility presents complex challenges and requires adequate and appropriate responses from our government with the continued support from our international partners and Non Government Organizations.

The discussions and some notable progress made at the 27<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties or COP27 in Egypt is a positive realization that we must work together to address issues of climate change and its complex challenges. It should not remain a issue only for our Island Nations but should be a issue to be addressed by all nations great and small.

Due to our geographical location, Papua New Guinea, continues to experience cross border movement of people across our land and sea borders mainly as a result of conflict in other countries. Our government has always responded positively but remains challenged by its capacity to adequately respond. As we are still a developing

nation, constrained in our ability to respond to such situations.

Chairman and Excellencies;

The government and people of Papua New Guinea acknowledge the work of IOM in our country which has positively impacted the livelihoods of individuals and our communities affected by various challenges for this I say thankyou.

Our government further acknowledges the work of IOM in helping to build and strengthen resilience in communities affected by various crisis situations. As an island nation situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire, we are prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and climate induced disasters do affect our communities.

Excellencies;

Not long ago, the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic greatly challenged the world and our country's capacity to manage our health systems and our government's ability to respond likewise

in many nations. Even though we survived the pandemic and responded to the best of our ability, it showed weakness in our health system that we as a government and our bilateral partners need to work together towards improving our hospitals and build new modern hospitals with more health workers for our nation health facilities.

The IOM in collaboration with the Papua New Guinea government, other NGOs and community-based organizations assisted in many ways to build resilience and help our people to recover and live normal lives again.

Chairman and Excellencies,

Papua New Guinea further acknowledges the ongoing cooperation with IOM in the management of spontaneous arrivals within our borders. Spontaneous arrivals across our borders that do not qualify under existing special protections regimes are referred to IOM for assistance to repatriate them through the Assisted Voluntary Return program. This has been working well over the years and we would like to maintain our cooperation positively.

Through the counter trafficking programs, the IOM is working closely with the Papua New Guinea government to ensure we prevent trafficking of innocent people including migrants and punish the perpetrators.

Through our collaborative work, we ensure that protection of regular migrants and any victims of trafficking are accorded necessary protection and assistance in the spirit of the Global Compact on Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration.

The continued support and assistance by IOM to the Papua New Guinea government institutions in specific target areas is well recognized and appreciated . There has been tremendous efforts and collaboration made in the past to build capacity in the public sector in both policy and operational areas. The Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Authority and IOM is now looking into further capacity building collaborations in the form of establishing and operating service delivery centres at main locations through out Papua New Guinea to better improve client service experience. This arrangement is now being formalized.

His Excellency Director General, Esteemed Members of the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council, Distinguished delegates from Member States, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude on behalf of the government and people of Papua New Guinea for the invitation to attend the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council and I pledge my government and my country's commitment to support the ongoing work of IOM in our country and the pacific region in all areas of mutual cooperation. We look forward to receiving and implementing the relevant outcome of the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOM Council soon.

God Bless you all.

Thank you

**HON. JOHN ROSSO, DPS, MP**

Deputy Prime minister and Minister for Lands, Physical Planning, Urbanization, Labor and Immigration

