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Papua New Guinea's Progressive Status on the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Papua New Guinea



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Experts' Working Group Meeting
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Papua New Guinea's progressive status on the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption; APEC SOM3, Medan, Republic of Indonesia

I thank you Chair and all distinguished member economies in allowing me to address this quorum on the progress Papua New Guinea has undertaken so far in the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in its effort in addressing corruption.

(I make reference to my statement in early January 2013 at APEC SOM 1 contained therein the Summary Record of Discussions of the 16th APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group Meeting)

Papua New Guinea signed the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) on 22 December 2004 (C.N.1303.2004.TREATIES-32) and *ratified it on 16 July 2007* (C.N.731.2007.TREATIES-16). Papua New Guinea deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General on 16 July 2007 and the Convention entered into force on the 15 August 2007.

International Front

On the International arena, having now completed its review with both chapters having been presented to the PNG Government, a follow up on recommendations is now on foot with preliminary discussions in implementing the recommendations on both Chapter III & Chapter IV.

I am also pleased to announce that Papua New Guinea, together with China will be undertaking a country visit to Sri Lanka from the 2nd – 5th Of June 2013. This follows after separate Self-Assessment tests were provided on Chapters III and Chapters IV by Sri Lanka.

Domestic Front

On the domestic front, a significant step has been undertaken by Government; it has, through Cabinet, approved a Constitutional amendment for the establishment of an Integrity Commission [*commonly referred to as Independent Commission's Against Corruption (ICAC)*]. The Government has also provided a substantial amount of funding and is adamant in having the Integrity Commission established by May 2014.

I must also point out that a draft Organic Law has also been already developed and a country-wide consultative process is currently being undertaken. The intent is to draw commentaries from all sectors of society so that the Integrity Commission can be an institution that can be seen as being moulded and defined by a cross section of the community and therein in which they can take ownership and make it work in driving the agenda of anti-corruption.

Accompanying this draft Organic Law, draft legislations have also been concluded particularly a **Whistle Blower Legislation** and a **Freedom of Information Act**. Both legislations will also be consulted on. I am also pleased to mention that a **Proceeds of Crime Legislation** has been in operation for over three (3) years with a number of successes.

Moreover, the Office of Public Prosecutor will also be opening a Fraud and Anti-Corruption Branch dedicated to prosecuting all corruption offences. If anything, this further underlies and emphasises a greater political will by Government to address corruption in Papua New Guinea. Only then, as we all would appreciate, the fight against corruption can take a meaningful and positive step.

Papua New Guinea's approach not only emphasizes criminalising and prosecuting corrupt conduct but also encourages preventive measures through education and awareness. Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) have been meaningfully engaged with financial assistance in driving awareness and in educating our children and youths, in instilling moral integrity in their conduct.

It is evident that though economies have prudent processes and systems to deal with issues ranging from reporting, monitoring and evaluation to financial management and disbursement, procurements, appointments, disciplines, etc, however, it is officials entrusted with management responsibilities that deny the operability of these accountability measures. Papua New Guinea is no exception. As such, it

is imperative and indicative that Papua New Guinea is strengthening its accountability and governance institutions in terms of resource financing and technical training that is backed by a strong political will.

Papua New Guinea also recognises the need for wider consultations and cooperation on international best practices and wish to draw any assistance forthcoming.

I thank you all