



Papua New Guinea Statement

by

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Delegation**

to the

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"Check against delivery"

Madame President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

May I, at the outset, on my country's behalf, express our sincere appreciation to the State of Qatar for its warm hospitality, generous invaluable assistance for my delegation's participation and for graciously hosting this Second World Summit for Social Development at such a pivotal time for our global community.

Let me also extend our commendation for the important respective roles played by the Co-Chairs and Co-Facilitators — the Kingdom of Belgium and the Kingdom of Morocco — for their leadership and commitment to the Doha Political Declaration.

Madame President,

It is an honour for Papua New Guinea to join you in reaffirming our shared commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. These principles remain deeply relevant — reminding us that people must be at the center of all development efforts.

Since Copenhagen, the world has changed, but persistent challenges remain: inequality, unemployment, limited access to essential services, and the impacts of climate change. These challenges demand stronger cooperation, shared responsibility, and genuine partnerships to ensure that no one is left behind.

Under the Marape–Rosso Government, Papua New Guinea is pursuing a people-centered development agenda through our Medium-Term Development Plan IV (2023–2027). Anchored in the 2030 Agenda, this plan promotes economic diversification, job creation, human capital development, infrastructure connectivity, and social inclusion.

Madame President,

Allow me to highlight five key priorities driving our national efforts:

First, our Connect PNG Programme is transforming national connectivity — opening roads, markets, and services to rural and remote communities where 80% of our population live. Improved connectivity is also enabling access to schools, health facilities, and economic opportunities, bridging the rural–urban divide and promoting inclusive growth.

Second, we are investing heavily in education and youth development. With a population of 10 million — and over 4 million young people under the age of 18, — we view our youth as the backbone of national progress. Since 2020, more than K3.3 billion has been invested into tuition subsidies, higher education loans, skills training, sports, and STEM initiatives to prepare our youth for meaningful participation in nation-building.

Third, we are advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. Guided by the National Gender-Based Violence Strategy and our forthcoming Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy (2025–2035), the Government has allocated K180 million annually to strengthen prevention, justice, and survivor mechanism. We are also reviving the National Council of Women and taking steps to enhance women's political representation ahead of 2027.

Fourth, in poverty reduction and social inclusion, we recognize that poverty, unemployment, and inequality are interconnected. Our approach integrates economic empowerment with social protection.

We are supporting small and medium enterprises, expanding labour mobility opportunities, and implementing climate-resilient agriculture and disaster preparedness programmes to protect vulnerable communities.

Fifth, Papua New Guinea continues to uphold democracy, transparency, and accountable governance as a foundation of social development. The Marape–Rosso Government has strengthened public financial management, digitalized court and administrative systems, and pursued public sector reforms to improve service delivery and citizen trust.

Papua New Guinea remains fully committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Our Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) this year highlighted progress in poverty reduction, education, and health — while reaffirming the need for strong partnerships with development partners, civil society, and the private sector.

Madame President,

Papua New Guinea strongly supports the Doha Political Declaration as a renewed call for inclusive, just, and sustainable societies. The road ahead demands solidarity, bold reforms, and country-led solutions that respect national priorities and empower local communities.

As we look toward 2030 and beyond, Papua New Guinea reaffirms its commitment to work with all partners to ensure that every person — regardless of geography, gender, or circumstance — can live with dignity and hope.

Thank you