



Papua New Guinea

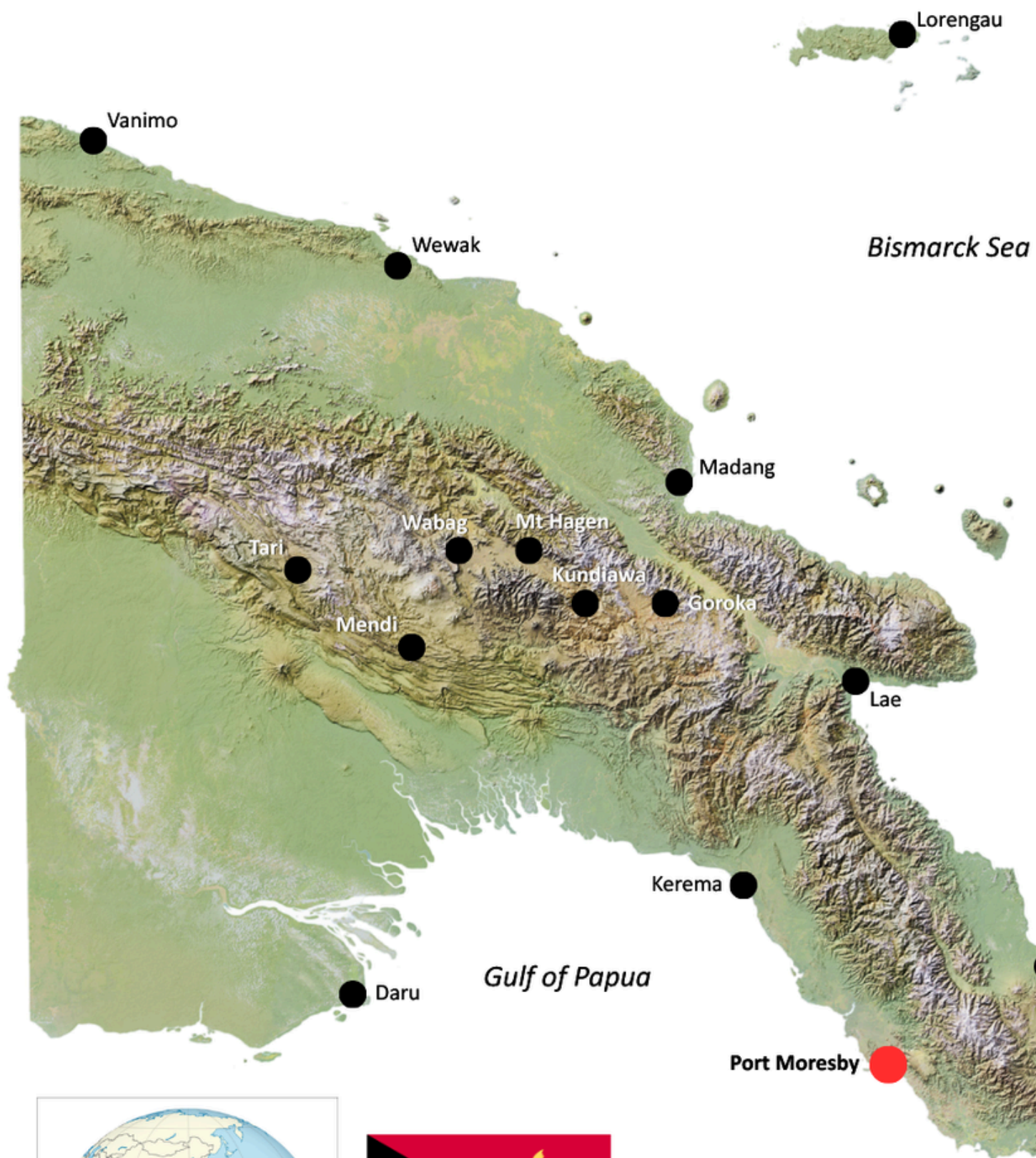
Foreign Policy

White Paper

2025

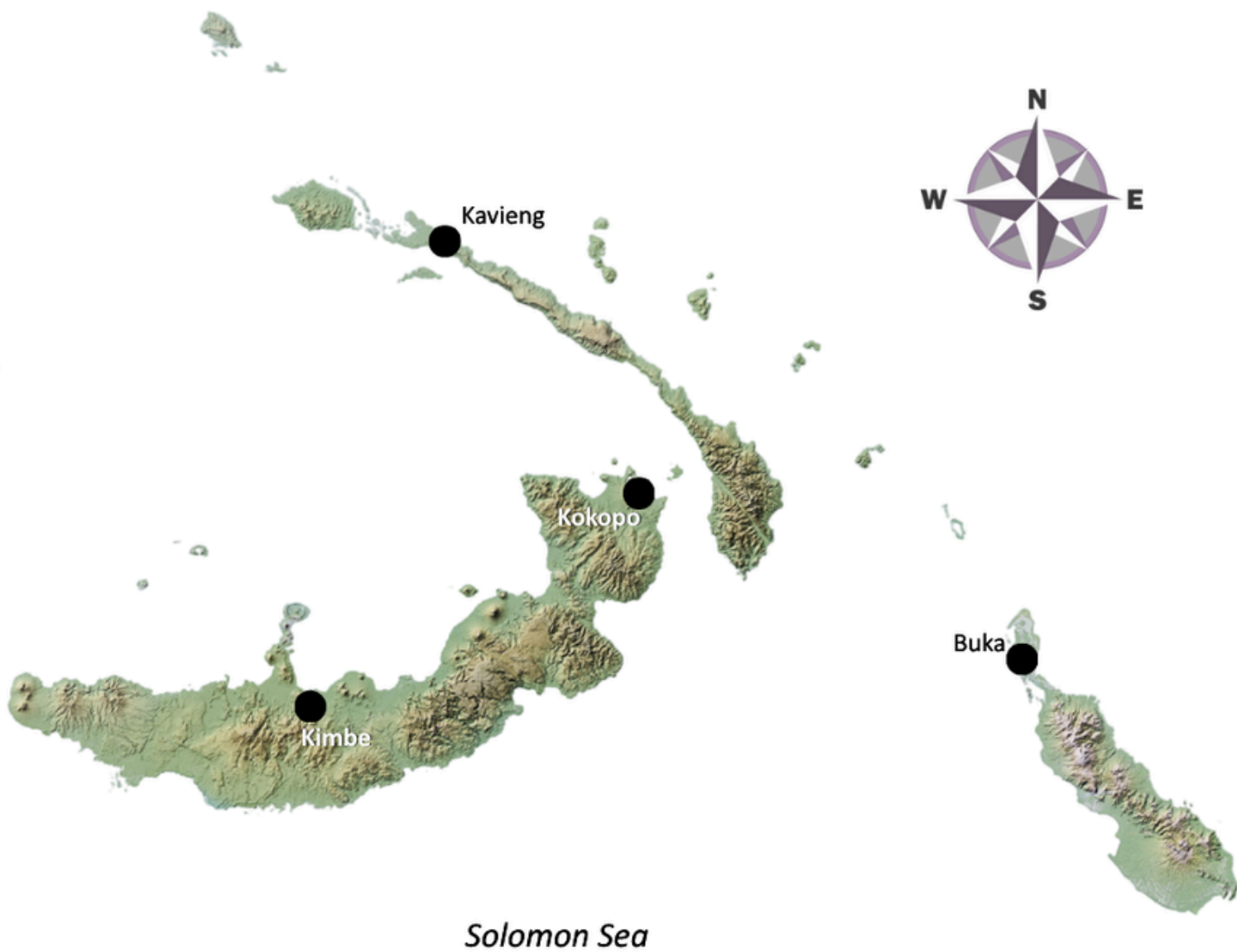
**Strategic Partnerships
for
Security and Economic Prosperity**

INDONESIA



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea on the Globe: (source) Wikimedia Commons | Main map: (source) Alamy







Papua New Guinea

Foreign Policy

White Paper

2025

**Strategic Partnerships
for
Security and Economic Prosperity**

ISBN: 978-0-6486105-6-4

© Copyright 2025

No portion of this book may be reproduced in any form
without written permission from the Department of Foreign Affairs
except as permitted by
Papua New Guinea copyright law.

Department of Foreign Affairs
Government of Papua New Guinea
www.dfa.gov.pg

Table of Contents



Raggiana bird-of-paradise, the National Emblem of Papua New Guinea. (Photo: Rocky Roe)



School children, Noua Primary School, West New Britain Province; national flag-carrier Air Niugini; PNG's largest and busiest sea port, located in PNG's second-largest city, Lae, Morobe Province; and an aerial view of Port Moresby CBD in the National Capital District.

Table of Contents

Statement from the Prime Minister	7
Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs	11
Remarks from the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs	15
 Executive Summary	 19
 PART 1 VISION, VALUES and PRINCIPLES	
1. Our Vision	23
2. Our Values	23
3. The Principles of Our Foreign Policy	24
 PART 2 SETTING THE SCENE	
1. Our Nation	27
2. An Uncertain and Challenging World	29
3. Why A Foreign Policy White Paper?	32
4. Our Aspirations, Goals and Plans	33
 PART 3 EIGHT PILLARS: THE ENABLERS OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY	
1. Strong Bilateral Relationships	41
2. Effective Multilateralism	51
3. Robust Institutions that Protect our Sovereignty and Security	62
4. Economic and Commercial Diplomacy	66
5. Development Cooperation	71
6. A Stronger National Brand	76
7. Department of Foreign Affairs and Network of Missions Abroad	80
8. Effective Foreign Policy Leadership, Coordination and Consultation	85
 PART 4 ANNEXES	
1. Papua New Guinea Overseas Missions and Posts	89
2. Resident Foreign Missions and International Organisations	90
3. List of Acronyms	92



Hon. Chief James Marape, GCL, MP
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

Statement from the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

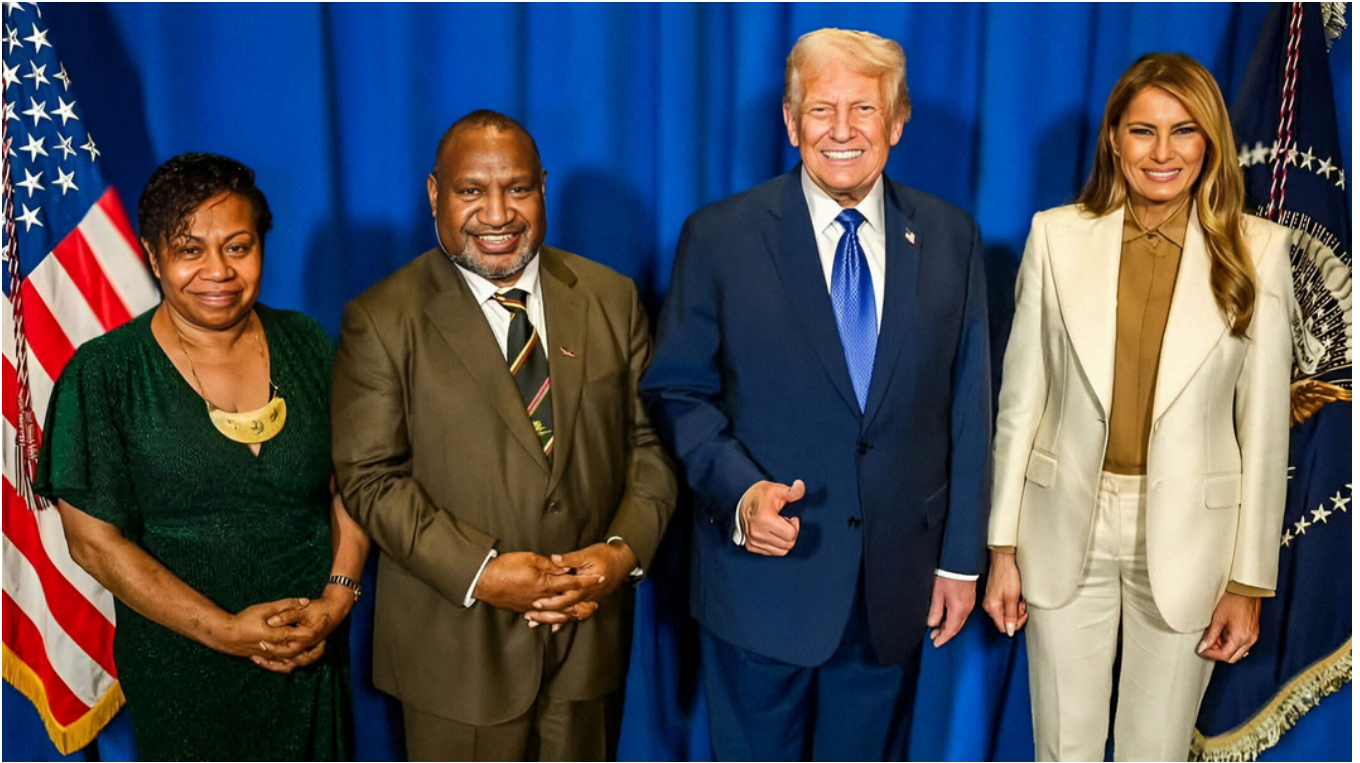
As we mark the historic milestone of our nation's 50th Anniversary of Independence, it is with profound pride and unwavering commitment that I present Papua New Guinea's new Foreign Policy.

This forward-looking document articulates our strategic vision for global engagement and national advancement. At its core, the policy is designed to accelerate our economic prosperity, safeguard our sovereignty, enhance national security, and contribute meaningfully to sustainable development – all in service to the people of Papua New Guinea, in whose name and interest it is crafted.

Our journey since 1975 has been marked by significant progress, resilience, and transformation. We have forged a sovereign identity and laid the foundations of democratic governance. Yet, as we reflect on our path, we acknowledge with humility that there are areas where we could – and must – do better. We draw strength from these experiences and look to the future with renewed purpose, inspired by our long-term national vision to build a smart, wise, fair, healthy and happy society. This aspiration is within reach, provided we make strategic choices and capitalise on the many opportunities available to us in a rapidly changing world.

We are navigating an increasingly complex and interconnected international environment – one defined by global uncertainty, emerging security risks, technological shifts, and shifting geopolitical alignments. However, these dynamics also present new avenues for cooperation, investment, innovation, and regional leadership. We must approach these realities with confidence, unity, and a deep sense of national resolve.

Papua New Guinea is endowed with abundant natural wealth, a youthful and resilient population, and a rich tapestry of cultural diversity that binds us as one nation. Our strategic geographical position – connecting the Pacific Islands with the vibrant economies of Asia – affords us a unique role as a regional bridge and a partner of choice.



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape and President Donald Trump met at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, in New York, United States of America, September 2025. Mrs Rachael Marape and First Lady Melania Trump accompanied their spouses; and the Papua New Guinea-Australia Mutual Defence Treaty (Pukpuk Treaty) was signed by Prime Minister Hon. James Marape and Prime Minister of Australia Hon. Anthony Albanese on 6 October 2025 in Canberra, Australia.

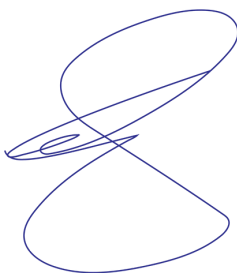
We are privileged to count among our friends longstanding allies and trusted development partners, as well as a growing network of emerging economic collaborators.

We are equally candid in recognising the challenges we continue to face – persistent issues of law and order, institutional capacity constraints, and uneven development outcomes. This policy does not shy away from these realities; rather, it provides a principled and pragmatic framework to confront them decisively, while advancing our national interests on the global stage.

Our foreign policy is grounded in our values, driven by our national interest, and guided by the enduring principles of sovereignty, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and constructive internationalism. It will seek to align external engagement with domestic transformation, ensuring that diplomacy serves as a lever for inclusive growth, national unity, and long-term resilience.

I commend this Foreign Policy White Paper to all Papua New Guineans, to our institutions, and to our partners both near and far. May it serve as a strategic compass for our external engagement and a beacon of our shared aspirations as we march confidently into the next chapter of our national story.

May Divine Providence continue to bless our nation and guide our collective efforts towards a peaceful, secure, and prosperous future.



Hon. Chief James Marape, GCL, MP
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea



Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, CBE, BEM, OL, MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of duty that I join our Prime Minister, Hon. Chief James Marape, to present the government's new Foreign Policy White Paper – a timely and important articulation of Papua New Guinea's evolving foreign policy direction in an increasingly complex and dynamic international landscape.

Since Independence, our foreign policy has been guided by the enduring principle of Universalism – *'Friend to All, Enemy to None'* – a visionary approach laid down by our founding fathers. This principle has served as the bedrock of our international engagement for nearly five decades, providing the flexibility, stability, and credibility our young nation needed as it asserted itself on the global stage.

As Papua New Guinea has grown in stature, capacity, and responsibility, so too has the global environment around us changed. The shifting contours of geopolitics, the reconfiguration of regional dynamics, and the emergence of global risks and opportunities now demand a more responsive and adaptive foreign policy posture. This Foreign Policy White Paper represents a considered and thoughtful recalibration of our external engagement – anchored in continuity, but sharpened by clarity of purpose, national interest, and forward momentum.

While not a radical departure from our foundational principles, the new policy, with the theme *'Strategic Partnerships for Security and Economic Prosperity'*, reflects a stronger sense of direction, optimism, and resolve. It aims to clearly communicate to both our citizens and our international partners Papua New Guinea's evolving priorities, the values we bring to international cooperation, and the aspirations we hold for our role in the region and beyond.

We want the world to see Papua New Guinea as a confident, outward-looking, and responsible actor – one that values mutual respect, meaningful partnership, and shared prosperity.



Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Justin Tkatchenko with Foreign Minister of China, H.E. Wang Yi, at the 2025 APEC South Korea, November 2025; with His Holiness, the late Pope Francis; and with Anthony Albanese, Prime Minister of Australia. Foreign Affairs Minister Hon. Justin Tkatchenko MP with Foreign Minister of Australia Senator Penny Wong at their Breakfast Meeting ahead of the 31st Australia - Papua New Guinea Ministerial Forum, 20 October 2025 in Canberra, Australia; Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr Elias Wohengu, Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Justin Tkatchenko MP, briefly met with the former United States President Joe Biden and his wife Jill, at the 79th United Nations General Assembly Leaders Reception, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, 2024; and hosting an official visit by Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China.

In doing so, we will deepen our bilateral and multilateral relationships, advance our economic and development goals, and uphold our sovereignty and national dignity.

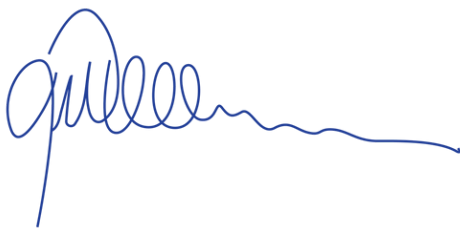
I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Eminent Persons Group for their outstanding leadership and valuable contributions to this process. Their insights, coupled with the broad and inclusive consultations conducted across the country, have ensured that this policy reflects the diverse voices and hopes of the people of Papua New Guinea.

I also extend my gratitude to Mr. Elias Wohengu, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, for his exemplary stewardship of this review, and to the dedicated team of officials whose professionalism and hard work have been instrumental in delivering this important document.

To our international partners and friends, I convey my thanks for your continued engagement with Papua New Guinea. I look forward to working with you to translate this policy into practical cooperation that deepens our bilateral and multilateral ties, strengthens regional stability, and fosters sustainable development.

Finally, to my Ministerial colleagues, I look forward to your collaboration in ensuring this policy is implemented effectively across government, reflecting our shared commitment to Papua New Guinea's prosperity, security, and global standing.

Let us move forward together – with purpose, unity, and ambition.



Hon. Justin W. Tkatchenko, CBE, BEM, OL, MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs



Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs with Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Elias Wohengu; Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Elias Wohengu, the Co-Chair of the *Bilateral Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting* between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea; and at the presentation of the Draft Foreign Policy White Paper with Minister Tkatchenko and the Eminent Persons Group.

Remarks from the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs



I am pleased to acknowledge the release of Papua New Guinea's Foreign Policy White Paper, which provides a timely and coherent framework to guide the Department of Foreign Affairs and our broader government machinery in advancing the national interest through external engagement.

This policy document reaffirms the Department's core mandate to oversee, coordinate, and manage the implementation of Papua New Guinea's foreign policy.

At the same time, it recognises that effective foreign policy execution requires a whole-of-government and a whole-of-nation approach – one that is inclusive, collaborative, and aligned with sectoral priorities across government. In this regard, I look forward to working closely with my counterparts in relevant line agencies on cross-cutting foreign policy issues, including but not limited to international security cooperation, trade and investment, development cooperation, climate diplomacy, and border management.

I am also encouraged by the policy's endorsement of critical institutional strengthening initiatives currently underway within the Department. These reforms are essential to ensuring that we have the human and technical capacity necessary to implement this policy effectively. Key priorities include the completion of our staff recruitment drive, the rollout of targeted training and capacity development programs, and the enhancement of our ICT platforms to support improved internal coordination and secure communications with our overseas missions.

Furthermore, this White Paper provides policy-level support for enhancing our overseas representation. This includes ensuring that Papua New Guinea's diplomatic missions are appropriately resourced and equipped to represent the country's interests, whether in bilateral settings or multilateral fora.

Strengthened representation will also improve the delivery of consular services to Papua New Guinean citizens abroad and enable more responsive, informed engagement with host governments, development partners, and regional organisations, particularly where specialist knowledge and technical expertise are required.

The Department is committed to translating the strategic intent of this foreign policy into concrete operational outcomes. I thank all officers of the Department, at home and in our missions, for their ongoing dedication and professionalism. I also look forward to continued cooperation across the public service as we work together to deliver on the foreign policy objectives set out in this White Paper.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Wohengu', with a large, sweeping underline.

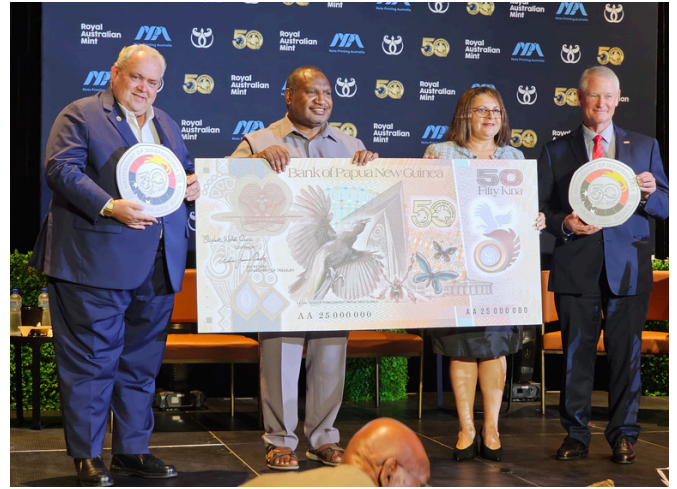
Mr Elias Wohengu, OBE

Secretary

Department of Foreign Affairs

Executive Summary





Detail of the mural adorning the exterior of Parliament Haus, Waigani, Port Moresby; Prime Minister James Marape and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Justin Tkatchenko at the launching of the official 50th Anniversary of Independence commemorative currency, Monday 28 April, 2025; Members of the Royal PNG Constabulary during Independence Day celebrations; and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres addresses the House Of Representatives in the Parliament House of Papua New Guinea, 3 September, 2025 (Photo: UN Media)

Executive Summary

The 2025 Foreign Policy White Paper is a roadmap for navigating an increasingly complex global environment. With the theme *Strategic Partnerships for Security and Economic Prosperity*, the policy aligns Papua New Guinea's international engagement with its domestic development goals, asserting a confident, principled, and pragmatic role for our country on the global stage. It reinforces the foundational doctrine of *Friends to All, Enemies to None* while adapting to contemporary realities.

Foreign policy should be seen as an extension of domestic policy, with a core aim to improve citizens' lives through global engagement. At its heart, our foreign policy aims to promote national security, economic prosperity, social well-being and a sense of national unity through dynamic partnerships and purposeful diplomacy. The policy reaffirms Papua New Guinea's identity as a responsible global citizen and a regional leader in the Pacific.

Context and Rationale

We live in a time of global uncertainty and disruption, marked by geostrategic competition, climate challenges, technological transformation, and economic realignment. Our nation's strategic location between the Pacific and Asia, our resource wealth, and our young, growing population position us as a bridge and a partner of choice.

Domestically, Papua New Guinea seeks to consolidate peace, expand infrastructure under *Connect PNG*, diversify the economy, and harness new technologies. Still, challenges remain: governance and institutional capacity, law and order, and climate vulnerability all require targeted and sustained international cooperation.

Vision, Values and Principles

Papua New Guinea's foreign policy is rooted in:

- Melanesian values of diversity, resilience, and mutual respect.
- Christian principles, constitutional democracy, and human rights.
- Sovereignty and reciprocity, peaceful coexistence, and constructive internationalism.

Eight Strategic Pillars – the enablers of an effective foreign policy

The Department of Foreign Affairs is the key government agency responsible for overseeing and implementing foreign policy. Even so, many departments and agencies have a role in our international relations. This White Paper identifies eight whole-of-government pillars, which mutually reinforce each other, and which will enable an effective foreign policy.

1. Bilateral Relationships

Bilateral diplomacy will focus on key partners – Australia, Indonesia, China, Japan, ASEAN countries, Pacific Island neighbours, the US and European countries – to drive development, security and economic interests. Reciprocity and mutual benefit will be driving principles for us.

2. Effective Multilateralism

Regional and multilateral cooperation is essential in leveraging Papua New Guinea's influence internationally on issues that matter to us. Bodies such as the UN, WTO, APEC, the PIF and MSG are vital to our interests. But we must be selective in how and where we engage. We support reform of global institutions such as the UN Security Council. We aspire to join ASEAN and strengthen our presence in leadership positions regionally and globally.

3. Robust Institutions that protect our Sovereignty and Security

Papua New Guinea will upgrade defence and police capabilities, enhance border and maritime security, and build resilience against non-traditional threats like cyberattacks and climate change, working closely with key security partners including Australia and the US.

4. Economic and Commercial Diplomacy

International trade and investment agreements and facilitation are a crucial part of our diplomacy and, in combination with appropriate domestic policy reforms, can help to grow our economy, reduce aid dependency, and create jobs.

5. Development Cooperation

The government's Development Cooperation Policy (III) (2025-2030) emphasises ownership, alignment with national priorities, and equal partnerships. Aid should build capacity, be transparent, and support inclusive and sustainable growth.

6. National Branding and Soft Power

We will work to strengthen perceptions of our country. A strong national brand will build our reputation as a good place to visit and invest, as an internationally competitive economic partner, and as a reliable and responsible member of the international community. A stronger, more confident brand on the international stage will also help build our own sense of national consciousness and pride.

7. Departmental and Diplomatic Reform

A high-quality and well-resourced Department of Foreign Affairs, including our network of overseas missions, is critical to advancing Papua New Guinea's interests globally. The Department will be modernised through expanded staffing, ICT upgrades, a new Foreign Service Act, and a proposed Diplomatic Academy. Missions abroad will be better resourced and focused on core bilateral and multilateral interests, as well as support for our citizens abroad.

8. Leadership and Coordination

Foreign policy implementation will be strengthened through whole-of-government coordination, evidence-based decision-making, Parliamentary oversight, institutional reviews, and closer engagement with stakeholders outside of government.

Conclusion

This White Paper sets out a foreign policy for a confident Papua New Guinea – anchored in national values, attuned to global shifts, and committed to securing peace, prosperity, and international respect. Through principled partnerships and strategic investments in its institutions, Papua New Guinea is positioning itself as a regional leader and a constructive player on the world stage.

Part 1 | Vision, Values and Principles



Mother and son in traditional bilas from Abau District, Central Province, Independence Day 2024. (Photo: Poliap Junior M'Buleau)

Part 1 | Vision, Values and Principles

Our Vision

A foreign policy which draws on our traditions and equips us well in the modern world, delivering security, economic prosperity and well-being, with our nation respected internationally as a reliable partner, a leading contributor to regional cooperation, and a good international citizen.

Our Values

Reflecting our culture, our beliefs, our history and the principles of our Constitution, our Foreign Policy is based on the following fundamental values:

1. Our Melanesian culture, which respects diversity and traditional knowledge, values relationships and mutual respect, and values resilience and self-reliance.
2. Our Christian principles, which are given eloquent expression in our Constitution.
3. Equality of opportunity for all citizens.
4. Accountability of government, rule of law, human rights, and democracy.

The Principles of Our Foreign Policy

Our foreign policy is about promoting and defending our national interests. We will be guided by the following principles:

1. Foreign policy is an extension of domestic policy – the two must be aligned. The core aim of our foreign policy is to expand and strengthen our global engagement in order to improve the security and well-being of all our citizens.
2. The strength of domestic institutions is essential to our national strength and, by extension, to the success of our foreign policy.
3. Reciprocity is an essential principle for us in both our bilateral dealings and in multilateral settings.
4. We are of Melanesia and the wider Pacific, where we aim to play a leadership role, commensurate with our size and influence as the largest Pacific Island country.
5. Multilateral engagement at all levels is essential, giving us greater leverage than we can apply as a single state.
6. We actively support a free, open, and prosperous region characterised by respect for the sovereignty of others, the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, and peaceful coexistence.
7. Our horizons extend beyond the region, and we aspire to be a bridge between the Pacific and Asia.
8. We have no enemies and many friends, while giving most weight to relationships that align with our interests and values.
9. We value the support of our development partners. It is crucial that this is delivered in line with our priorities and processes. In return, we commit to being a reliable and transparent partner.
10. We aspire to play a positive role and to make a positive contribution as a good international citizen and as a steward of vast oceanic and terrestrial resources. We actively support universal values and international cooperation.

Part 2 | Setting the Scene



Wasi Falls, Southern Highlands, Papua New Guinea. (Photo: John Krutop / Dreamstime)



Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Justin Tkatchenko at an official meet and greet with His Royal Highness King Charles III, at his Coronation; His Royal Highness Prince Edward is greeted by a young member of the PNG Girl Guides during his Royal Visit to the country on behalf of King Charles III, for Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Anniversary. They are joined by Prime Minister Hon. James Marape and his wife, Mrs Rachael Marape, at the flag-raising ceremony, Independence Hill, Port Moresby, 16 September 2025.

Part 2 | Setting the Scene

Our Nation

Papua New Guinea is a large country, with a land area of over 462,000 square kilometres, comprising tropical forests, grasslands, big rivers and deltas, swamps and lagoons and numerous islands, including far-flung atolls to the east and northeast of the country. It has a vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Its biodiversity is remarkable, accounting for over 6% of the world's total, and it has the third-largest rainforest area globally.

The people of Papua New Guinea are culturally and linguistically diverse, with 830 languages spoken. A large proportion of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture, often in remote locations where access to government services is limited.

The isolation of the country from the Western world and its formidable terrain were obstacles to urbanisation and economic development until after the Second World War. When the country became independent from Australia in 1975, it was a prime example of a dual economy, with a very small industrialised sector that included enclave mining activities, and a dominant traditional agricultural sector.

Papua New Guinea's transition to Independence was peaceful and ushered in a generation of new young leaders. The values and principles of democracy enshrined in its Constitution have been observed, despite stresses, and in recent years, measures have been adopted to increase political stability.

Papua New Guinea today is a land of economic opportunity. Located between the Pacific Island region and the economic powerhouses of Asia, it is an important regional leader. Its abundant natural resources, including minerals, natural gas, timber and fisheries, as well as agricultural products, support Papua New Guinea's raw economic wealth (approximately K130 billion in 2023), around three times larger than other Pacific Island Countries (PICs) combined.

Its population of around 10.2 million is young, with 58% aged 25 or under, and growing rapidly. While the 'youth bulge' currently brings with it many challenges, it does provide the opportunity for Papua New Guinea to reap the benefits of a demographic dividend in the coming decades and to contribute to its economy.

While there are many opportunities, Papua New Guinea faces significant challenges. It ranks poorly in human development indices, including measures of poverty, health, education, gender inequality, and support for people with disabilities. Its literacy rate is 67%. Law and order, governance and corruption are major problems. The government is vigorously tackling these challenges, with good progress in many areas, while others remain challenging. A common theme is the need for stronger, better-resourced, better-governed and better-coordinated institutions.

Factors adding to the challenges include Papua New Guinea's vulnerability to natural hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, flooding, landslides and droughts; skill shortages; and the high cost of doing business.

In order to meet the special challenges of connectivity, the government is implementing the signature infrastructure program '*Connect PNG*', with a view to connecting every part of the country by road, sea, air, electricity, telecommunications and e-government systems (by satellite).

Having made rapid progress in particular in the mobile phone connectivity of its people in recent years, Papua New Guinea is keen to adopt new technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), with appropriate safeguards, which will bring greater efficiency and productivity in government and business, stimulate sectors of the economy, and bring social benefits.

After a protracted, difficult period, the economy is on a firm path towards recovery and resilience, with growth at 4.3% in 2024. Although not as severely affected economically by COVID-19 as many other countries, the pandemic magnified Papua New Guinea's fiscal vulnerabilities.

Continued reliance on resource sector revenues leaves Papua New Guinea exposed to external shocks, but the government is working to incentivise the diversification and development of the non-resource sectors of the economy. The PNG budget has recorded persistent deficits because expenditure growth has exceeded revenue growth over the long term, although the government is making good progress in its budget repair program in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and with budget support loans from Australia, which will be progressively phased out.

Papua New Guinea does not face any direct external military threat. However, there are growing challenges through its borders, including transnational crime; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; smuggling; and illegal movement of people. In common with other countries, Papua New Guinea also faces growing non-traditional security challenges, including climate change and natural disasters, cyber threats, and threats to human security.

The *Bougainville Peace Agreement* of 2001 marked a significant milestone in addressing the violent conflict that erupted in North Solomons Province in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Under the Agreement, significant political and fiscal autonomy has been given to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, and a referendum on the future of Bougainville was successfully held in 2019. Following the referendum, where an overwhelming majority voted for independence, negotiations have been continuing in a peaceful and respectful atmosphere to find a mutually acceptable outcome for the future of Bougainville in accordance with the Constitution. The United Nations (UN) and other close partners of Papua New Guinea have been playing a valuable role in support of the Peace Agreement and the economic and social development of Bougainville.

An Uncertain and Challenging World: A Global System in Flux

The global and regional context in which this White Paper is written is more uncertain than it has been since our Independence in 1975. The post-Second World War international settlement, based in our region, in particular on the strategic and economic dominance of the United States, has decayed and has given way to a more multipolar world. This is a time of great uncertainty for all members of the international community, Papua New Guinea included.

China's rise and growing self-confidence and assertiveness has been a major factor in this historic disruption; strategic competition between the United States and China is now perhaps the defining feature of our Asia-Pacific region. Many seasoned observers remain deeply concerned about the potential for this competition to spiral into actual conflict.

At the same time, the US Administration's '*America First*' approach to international relations has thrown into question the United States' commitment to long-established networks and relationships, and has added to a sense of uncertainty.

Meanwhile, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and major conflict in the Middle East have been shocks to an already unstable international situation.

Against this background, the patterns and habits of international cooperation are changing more quickly than we have seen in several generations. We see evidence of countries moving to respond to the risks of strategic competition, such as the emergence of the Quad grouping (United States, Japan, India, Australia) and the AUKUS agreement (Australia, United Kingdom, United States). For its part, China has established major programs such as the *Belt and Road Initiative* and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. We have seen countries establishing new networks to assert a greater role in the international system, such as the BRICS Plus grouping (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates).

Not all of these developments have necessarily been deleterious ones. But the central theme is one of change, which inevitably brings risk. At this point in time, we cannot say when, and how, a new and stable international equilibrium might be reached, or indeed what that might look like.

All of the above developments have been taking place against the background of a continued shift in the centre of gravity of global economic power towards Asia. Since 1975, for instance, our neighbour Indonesia has gone from being the world's 28th largest economy to 17th, and that progress is expected to continue. India's economy continues to develop at an impressive pace. Meanwhile, the rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence tools holds out the promise of new solutions to old problems, and new sources of economic growth.

At the same time, however, economic headwinds are emerging with strategic competition being reflected in growing protectionism and trade tensions. Supply chains are being reorganised, and self-reliance is a growing theme of national policy. Some countries in our region, most notably China and Japan, have entered or are entering a phase of population decline, which may have complex effects on prospects for economic growth over the course of the century.

Consistent with the theme of disruption, the developing world is witnessing historic falls in the level of official development assistance (ODA) provided by traditional donors. This trend is most evident in the United States but is also seen among other major players such as the United Kingdom, Germany and France. Some estimates suggest that global ODA levels are now falling by tens of billions of dollars year on year.

The trends outlined above are taking place against the background of a set of pressing global challenges, all of which continue to demand effective international cooperation, agreed rules and benchmarks, and adequate funding to address. These challenges include climate change, transnational crime, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, health security, and latterly, the risks posed by misinformation, disinformation and cyber threats. The COVID-19 pandemic, which broke out in 2020, serves as a sober reminder that such challenges can touch all corners of the world and cannot be adequately addressed in the absence of a functioning international community.

Against this background, both the UN system and long-established regional groupings such as APEC, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) remain vital and relevant as a way for small and medium-sized countries in particular to protect and advance their interests. But these organisations are, to varying degrees, increasingly impacted by geostrategic stresses and disruptions.

The Pacific Islands region has itself become a site of geostrategic competition in recent years. This has brought welcome engagement and attention from a wider range of partners, but it has also brought tensions and has tested the region's ability to respond collectively and purposefully, rather than individually and reactively, to greater power interests.

In parallel, the region is increasingly seeing the impact of climate change across a range of dimensions, including sea level rise, extreme weather events and ocean acidification, all of which affect our communities. Transnational crime, health insecurity, and low economic growth remain vulnerabilities that continue to affect our region.

The ongoing vitality and importance of regional cooperation in the Pacific have been demonstrated strongly in recent years through our region's influence in international climate change negotiations, in international discussion and debate over ocean conservation, and in the success of initiatives such as the Parties to the Nauru Agreement in the crucial fisheries sector.

The Pacific Islands Forum remains a vital foundation for regional cooperation, embodying the region's aspiration to chart its own course. In this context, the Boe Declaration (2018) and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent remain essential guides for regional cooperation.

Why a Foreign Policy White Paper?

The purpose of this White Paper is to provide an up-to-date, modern and relevant framework for Papua New Guinea's foreign policy in the context of our national situation and of the global environment as outlined above. It sets out Papua New Guinea's goals and priorities, how it sees itself, and how it wishes to be seen by the rest of the world. It takes into account the changing regional and global outlook, and also identifies areas where we need to do better. It identifies future directions and specific initiatives designed to maximise our economic and developmental interests; to make us a more secure nation; and to cement our role as a committed regional player and leader, and as a good global citizen.

In 2022, the Government of Papua New Guinea, recognising that a new White Paper was long overdue, appointed an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to take forward the process. They began their groundwork in 2023, conducted widespread consultations in different parts of the country, and in 2024 produced their report in three parts. This Foreign Policy White Paper is a product of the valuable work done by the EPG; the contributions and insights of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and other agencies; and also draws on the valuable and comprehensive Foreign Policy Review Report of 2017, an internal document.

This White Paper, with its theme of '*Strategic Partnerships for Security and Economic Prosperity*', is not a radical departure from the past, but rather can be seen as part of a steady evolution over the past 50 years, as the external environment has changed, our nation has grown, and our goals have become more refined in this increasingly complex world.

The foreign policy approach adopted at Independence, based on the concept of Universalism: *Friends to All and Enemies to None*, served us well for many years, undergoing several modifications as successive governments adjusted to new realities at the time. In 1980, a White Paper was produced by the Chan Government, outlining the approach of *Active and Selective Engagement*.

This was the last White Paper until now, but successive governments continued to make changes of emphasis and refine the theme, including *Independent Commitment to International Cooperation* under the Wingti Government (1985 to 1988); pursuing *Economic Aspects of Active and Selective Engagement* by the Namaliu Government (1988 to 1992); the *Look North* policy of the second Wingti Government (1992 to 1994), which was modified to *Look North and Work the Pacific* by the second Chan Government (1994 to 1997); *Reinforcing our Core Relations* by Foreign Minister Genia (1996); and *PNG Connect: Growing Papua New Guinea's Connections in a Globalising World* by Foreign Minister Pato (2017).

Our Aspirations, Goals and Plans

Guided by the directives and principles of the National Constitution, Papua New Guinea has a cascading set of overarching strategic plans, sectoral plans and policies which elaborate how the country can achieve its national goals. Key documents are *Vision 2050*, the *Development Strategic Plan 2010-2030*, and the *Medium Term Development Plan(IV)* (MTDP(IV), 2023-2027).

As will be clear from other parts of this document, our Foreign Policy White Paper is fully aligned with the Constitution, Vision 2050 and MTDP(IV), key national sectoral strategies, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together they form a coherent set of policies to realise our ambitious, but achievable, goals.

MTDP (IV) Strategic Priority Areas & Deliberate Intervention Programs

MTDP (IV) is the current 'Road Map' for the government in pursuit of its ambitious development agenda. It outlines the government's strategic policies, aimed at achieving three key development objectives:

- a) growing the economy to K200 billion by 2030;
- b) the creation of one million additional jobs; and
- c) improving the quality of life for all our people. These outcomes will take us forward to achieve our aspiration to become a middle-income country by 2030.

Our Plan clearly identifies measurable sectoral targets in 12 key Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs), which are:

1. Strategic Economic Investment;
2. *Connect PNG* Infrastructure;
3. Quality and Affordable Health Care;
4. Quality Education and Skilled Human Capital;
5. Rule of Law and Restorative Justice;
6. National Security;
7. National Revenue and Public Finance Management;
8. Digital Government, National Statistics and Public Service Governance;
9. Research, Science and Technology;
10. Climate Change and Natural Environment Protection;
11. Population, Youth and Women Empowerment; and
12. Strategic Partnerships

Papua New Guinea's external engagement is captured in SPA12 (Strategic Partnerships), which covers our diplomatic relations and strategic development cooperation arrangements with bilateral and multilateral partners.

MTDP (IV) Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs) & Deliberate Intervention Programs (DIPs)

SPA 01: Strategic Economic Investment

DIP 1.1: Commercial Agriculture & Livestock	DIP 1.7: National Tourism, Arts & Culture
DIP 1.2: Mining & Petroleum	DIP 1.8: Trade & Investment
DIP 1.3: Fisheries & Marine Resources	DIP 1.9: Manufacturing
DIP 1.4: Forestry	DIP 1.10: Land Development
DIP 1.5: Banking & Finance	DIP 1.11: Downstream Processing
DIP 1.6: Micro, Small Medium Enterprise	

SPA 02: Connect PNG Infrastructure

DIP 2.1: Road Transport	DIP 2.5: Electrification Rollout
DIP 2.2: Water/Sea Transport	DIP 2.6: WaSH
DIP 2.3: Air Transport	DIP 2.7: Housing
DIP 2.4: Telecommunication & ICT Connectivity	DIP 2.8: Urban Town District Growth Centres

SPA 03: Quality & Affordable Health Care

DIP 3.1: Primary Health Care	DIP 3.4: Specialised Training & Accreditation
DIP 3.2: Specialised Health Care	DIP 3.5: HIV-AIDS
DIP 3.3: Health Infrastructure	

SPA 04: Quality Education & Skilled Human Capital

DIP 4.1: Early Childhood Education	DIP 4.3: Tertiary Education
DIP 4.2: Quality Basic Primary & Secondary Education	DIP 4.4: Technical Vocational Education & Training
	DIP 4.5: Quality Training & Accreditation

SPA 05: Rule of Law & Justice

DIP 5.1: National Policing & Crime Prevention	DIP 5.3: Correctional Services Rehabilitation & Reintegration
DIP 5.2: Effective Judiciary System	DIP 5.4: Community Peace & Restorative Justice

SPA 06: National Security

DIP 6.1: National Defence & Cooperation	DIP 6.4: Biosecurity
DIP 6.2: Immigration	DIP 6.5: National Business Protection
DIP 6.3: Cyber Security	DIP 6.6: National Intelligence

MTDP (IV) Strategic Priority Areas (SPAs) & Deliberate Intervention Programs (DIPs)

SPA 07: National Revenue & Public Finance Management

DIP 7.1: Tax Revenue Administration

DIP 7.4: Public Finance Management

DIP 7.2: Customs Administration

DIP 7.5: Payroll Administration

DIP 7.3: Non-Tax Revenue Administration

SPA 08: Digital Government, National Statistics & Public Service Governance

DIP 8.1: Integrated Digital Government System

DIP 8.5: Censorship

DIP 8.2: National Statistical System

DIP 8.6: Public Service Administration

DIP 8.3: National Identification Registration

DIP 8.7: Public Service Governance

DIP 8.4: Electronic Electoral System

DIP 8.8: Central Agencies Coordination

SPA 09: Research, Science & Technology

DIP 9.1: Medical Research

DIP 9.4: Engineering & Technology Research

DIP 9.2: Environment & Bio-Science Research

DIP 9.5: Socio-Economic Policy Research

DIP 9.3: Agriculture Research

DIP 9.6: Food Security

SPA 10: Climate Change & Environment Protection

DIP 10.1: Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

DIP 10.3: National Disaster Management

DIP 10.2: Environment Protection

SPA 11: Population, Youth and Women Empowerment

DIP 11.1: Sustainable Population

DIP 11.4: Women Empowerment

DIP 11.2: Youth Development & Labour Mobility

DIP 11.5: Family & Social Protection

DIP 11.3: Sports Development

SPA 12: Strategic Partnerships

DIP 12.1: Foreign Relations

DIP 12.4: Civil Society & Churches

DIP 12.2: Development & Economic Cooperation

DIP 12.5: National Volunteer Services

DIP 12.3: Private Sector

Papua New Guinea has joined all other UN members in committing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 SDGs. These include goals to reduce poverty and hunger, improve health and education, advance gender equality and strengthen economic growth. The 2030 Agenda engages the government, development partners, the private sector, civil society, academia and international organisations.

Most of the SDGs have been highlighted in the Vision 2050 document and have been captured in the MTDP(IV), with sectoral agencies implementing the SDGs, so there is alignment of these internationally formulated rules and our own national policies and plans.

Part 3 | Eight Pillars



Totem poles from the Sepik River, Botanical Garden, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (Photo: Michael Runkel/Alamy)

Part 3 | Eight Pillars

The Enablers of our Foreign Policy

This section is divided into eight pillars, which are the enablers of our foreign policy. There is considerable overlap between the pillars. How well we perform against the benchmarks set out below under each pillar will determine how successful we are in delivering our foreign policy.

Pillar 1 | Strong Bilateral Relationships

Pillar 2 | Effective Multilateralism

Pillar 3 | Robust Institutions that Protect our Sovereignty and Security

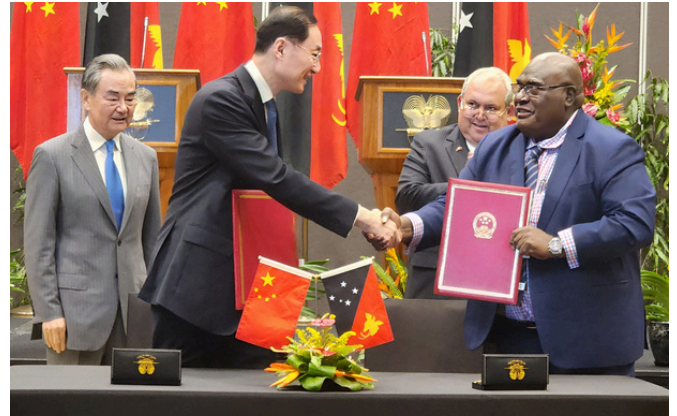
Pillar 4 | Increased Prosperity through Economic and Commercial Diplomacy

Pillar 5 | Development Cooperation

Pillar 6 | A Stronger National Brand

Pillar 7 | Department of Foreign Affairs and Network of Missions Abroad

Pillar 8 | Effective Foreign Policy Leadership, Coordination and Consultation



Signing of the PNG-US Defence Cooperation Agreement, Monday 22 May, 2023; signing of the PNG-China Agreement on ICT, Saturday 20 April, 2024; signing of agreements by the European Union on support to Papua New Guinea for a Forest, Climate Change and Biodiversity Programme (FCCB) and Green Investments, Friday 28 July, 2023; and the announcement of the landmark Rugby League Partnership between Australia and Papua New Guinea, Thursday 12 December, 2024.

Pillar 1

Strong Bilateral Relationships

Strong bilateral relationships are the bedrock of diplomacy. These relationships are fundamental to the pursuit of our economic, security, regional, multilateral and developmental interests, based on mutual understanding, respect and reciprocity.

We maintain and build our bilateral relationships through constructive government-to-government contacts at Prime Ministerial, Ministerial and Officials' levels, and through our network of diplomatic missions, as well as engagement in many other forms, including business, academic, cultural, sporting, and other people-to-people ties.

Papua New Guinea currently has diplomatic relations with 101 countries and 22 resident diplomatic missions in 17 countries. We need to target our time, effort and resources carefully, focusing on those countries of most importance to us, and being flexible enough to take advantage of emerging opportunities.

The following paragraphs are not exhaustive but outline some of our more important relationships.

The neighbourhood

Papua New Guinea and **Australia** share a very close, broad-ranging relationship of deep historical and contemporary importance. Our relations with Australia remain the basis on which our prosperity and security will be built. Australia is our close security partner, trade, investment and economic partner, and development cooperation partner. Our modern relationship is captured in the *Papua New Guinea-Australia Comprehensive Strategic and Economic Partnership* (CSEP), and the *Bilateral Security Agreement* (BSA), which provides the framework for closer security relations. The Torres Strait Treaty is a unique and successful framework for managing our border with Australia.

Our leaders and ministers are in close and regular contact, including through the annual *Leaders Dialogue* and the annual *Ministerial Forum*. Our people-to-people links are strong, and likely to be enhanced by Papua New Guinea's entry into Australia's National Rugby League (NRL) competition, as well as by increasing labour mobility. A priority for us will be to continue to press for greater ease of access by Papua New Guineans to Australia.

We share a long land border with **Indonesia**, a rapidly developing G20 country and the largest member of ASEAN. Underpinned by the 1986 *Treaty of Mutual Respect, Cooperation and Friendship*, the relationship has grown progressively closer in recent years and now includes an annual *Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting and Leaders Dialogue*, focusing on security, economic and development cooperation issues. There is strong potential to boost our economic and other ties. Our relationship with Indonesia is given added depth by the Melanesian culture we share with the people of Indonesia's eastern provinces, in particular West Papua. The plight of the West Papuan people is an ongoing challenge, and we will work closely with Indonesia to respect the rights of the Melanesian people and the sovereignty of Indonesia.

Security cooperation is growing, under the umbrella of our 2010 *Defence Cooperation Agreement* (ratified by Papua New Guinea in 2024) and our 1993 *Basic Agreement on Border Arrangement*, with cross-border cooperation stepping up in 2024 with the conclusion of four memoranda of understanding.

We value highly our relationship with **New Zealand**, a close friend, a significant development and economic partner, a close security partner, a constructive player in regional affairs and a fellow member of the Pacific Islands Forum. Papua New Guinea values New Zealand's long-standing contribution to the Bougainville Peace Process.

The relationship is underpinned by the renewed *Statement of Partnership Agreement 2025-2029*. People-to-people links have strengthened through the *Recognised Seasonal Employer* scheme (RSE) and will gain added impetus through the welcome recent relaxation of visa requirements for PNG citizens entering New Zealand.

We enjoy an extremely warm fraternal relationship with **Solomon Islands**, a fellow Melanesian nation and MSG member with whom we share a long maritime border, as well as historic, cultural, economic, educational, religious and other ties. Papua New Guinea was a participant in the *Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands* (RAMSI, 2003-2017) and has continued to provide security assistance to Solomons.

Papua New Guinea has significant investments and commercial interests in Solomon Islands, including in palm oil, financial services, communications, and hotels. Our bilateral Joint Border Committee provides an important mechanism to address the movement of members of local communities and goods across our common border.

We have strong bilateral and wider interests in our relationship with **Fiji**, a major regional hub and an important player in the PIF with whom we share common Melanesian heritage and membership of the MSG. We have close security ties, and educational and other people-to-people links. Business and trade links are significant and broadly based, although there is good potential for closer economic links.

We have an important and growing relationship with **Vanuatu**, based on our Melanesian values and our common membership of the MSG. The key role played by our 'Kumul Force' at Vanuatu's Independence is remembered positively in both countries. Our ties include trade, investment, education, and security, and will be strengthened by the opening of our High Commission in Vanuatu in 2025.

We share a lengthy maritime boundary with the **Federated States of Micronesia**, governed by our 1991 *Maritime Border Agreement*, which was renewed in 2015. The relationship is cordial with good potential for further development.

France has major interests in the region through its role in New Caledonia and French Polynesia, and its wider security and economic interests. We value our deepening partnership with France, which encompasses trade and investment, security cooperation, and development assistance, with a particular focus on conservation. We will reopen our Embassy there in the near future. We highly value the ongoing environmental and forestry conservation projects initiated during President Macron's landmark visit to Papua New Guinea in 2023. The 2022 bilateral *Status of Forces Agreement* provides a framework for enhanced defence cooperation, focusing on maritime security, training and regional stability. We propose to enter into a *Ship Rider Agreement* with France, which will boost our capacity to protect our EEZ.

While recognising that this is a matter for the parties themselves to resolve, Papua New Guinea supports a peaceful, orderly and mutually agreed resolution of the situation in New Caledonia.

East Asia

China has rapidly become a superpower and has pursued infrastructure development globally through the *Belt and Road Initiative* and financial institutions such as the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the EXIM Bank.

China is a highly valued bilateral partner. In recent years, it has consistently been one of our largest export markets, a major investor, and an important development partner that funds extensive infrastructure investments. We welcome China's engagement with us on phytosanitary and agricultural standards, which will improve access to China's vast market. People-to-people links are growing, and China has expanded its education and language programs in our country. The Chinese community has made a long-standing contribution to Papua New Guinea. We are planning to open a Consulate in Guangdong Province, which will have a strong trade and investment focus. Papua New Guinea has always supported the *One China Policy* since our two countries established diplomatic relations in 1976, and we fully respect China's sovereignty.

We value our long-term and constructive relationship with **Japan**, the third-largest global economy and a positive presence in the wider region. It has made a significant contribution to Papua New Guinea's development since Independence, with many successful initiatives in infrastructure, agriculture and fisheries, health, education and other sectors. Japan is a major economic partner, as one of the top destinations for our exports, mainly LNG, and as a large investor in Papua New Guinea.

In addition to substantial bilateral high-level and other engagement, Papua New Guinea engages with Japan through the regional Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) process.

The Republic of Korea is an increasingly important partner, with strong trade and investment ties, and a valuable supporter through the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), including in infrastructure development, human resource development, and capacity building. There is strong potential to expand the economic relationship, with Papua New Guinea a significant source of natural resources for the ROK, including energy and copper.

South-East Asia

Papua New Guinea engages with ASEAN and its members on a number of fronts. We can learn much from them regarding economic development. We benefit from technical and economic cooperation and educational opportunities provided by several of its members. We have Observer status with ASEAN and aspire to ASEAN membership, which has the potential to reap substantial economic rewards for Papua New Guinea in the long term. With the opening of our Embassy in Thailand in 2025, we have resident missions in five ASEAN countries.

Singapore is a strategic hub for transport, commerce and finance, a major economic partner, and a valued source of technical assistance. There is scope for Papua New Guinea to build the relationship further, including as a supplier of fresh food and other agricultural products, as well as capitalising on Singapore's service platforms for access to the broader region.

We have long-standing and strong ties with **Malaysia**, based on trade and investment, education and other people-to-people links, and defence and security cooperation. Malaysia is the second largest investor in Papua New Guinea by number of companies (200 businesses), with major investments in wholesale and retail, financial services, timber and forestry, agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and hotels, and other services.

We have a warm and cordial relationship with the **Philippines**, based on commercial ties and long-standing bilateral people-to-people links. More than 36,000 Filipinos are living, working and doing business in Papua New Guinea and a substantial number of Papua New Guineans study in the Philippines. In 2024, we held an inaugural round of consultations between the respective Foreign Ministers.

Thailand is an important centre for trade and investment, a regional hub, and host to intergovernmental organisations. We enjoy cordial ties and growing economic and development cooperation engagement. The opening of our new mission in Bangkok will better enable us to pursue opportunities for Papua New Guinea in agriculture (particularly rice), fisheries, tourism, human resource development, and climate change; and to position us as a strategic supplier of natural resources and energy to the wider Asian markets.

South Asia

India is the world's most populous country, a democracy and an emerging power that straddles east and west. It has huge and growing needs for raw materials – commodities, resources and energy – which presents opportunities for Papua New Guinea. There is scope as well to enhance the relationship in strategic sectors such as communications, science and technology and health. Our bilateral relations are cordial and growing, enhanced by the landmark visit by Prime Minister Modi to Papua New Guinea in 2023. India has a large diaspora in Papua New Guinea, and Indian professionals and experts have supported the development of Papua New Guinea since the early days of Independence. India is currently providing valuable collaboration and support in strengthening Papua New Guinea's electoral system.

Europe

Papua New Guinea and the **European Union** have built a solid and beneficial relationship since Independence. The EU is a trusted and valuable partner in the political, social and economic development of our country, with a strong emphasis on supporting good governance and sustainable development. Papua New Guinea was the first country in the region to sign the 2009 *Economic Partnership Agreement* with the EU, providing duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market, with the EU now the 4th largest export destination for goods from Papua New Guinea. The 2024 *Samoa Agreement* between the EU and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) provides a framework for taking forward the relationship.

We have close and amicable ties with the **United Kingdom** based on historical links, shared values, trade and investment, and security and development cooperation. Our membership of the Commonwealth has been an enduring and positive link. The UK has shown renewed interest in the Pacific region in recent years, including a step-up in its relations with Papua New Guinea, although the implications of recent global cuts to UK Official Development Assistance are not yet clear.

North America

We enjoy strong and amicable ties with the **United States** based on our shared history and values, and appreciation of the key role the US has played in supporting a stable Asia-Pacific region. The US is a major economic partner, particularly through investments in the minerals and energy sectors and in trade, and has provided valuable development support.

In recent years, the US has raised the level of its relationships in the Pacific and with Papua New Guinea, including as a security partner. In 2022, we concluded a *Defence Aid Agreement-TPN 505* and in 2023, we concluded a landmark bilateral *Defence Cooperation Agreement*, reinforcing our shared goals for regional stability and security, and a *Ship Rider Agreement*, which supports our efforts to maintain maritime security in our EEZ. While the implications of the US Administration's policies on climate change, aid and tariffs are not yet fully clear, we have confidence in the underlying strength of our bilateral relationship and our shared interests.

We value the support **Canada** provides in several areas, including climate financing and capacity building, particularly consular and diplomatic training. Canadian companies are major investors in the minerals and energy sectors in Papua New Guinea.

Latin America and Africa

Our links with these two regions are less well developed, but both hold economic promise in the longer term. We will look for niche opportunities. Both regions are important players in the broader multilateral system and also offer scope for South-South cooperation. Our engagement with these countries is mainly through multilateral fora.

Middle East

The Middle East is a region of deep geopolitical rivalries, instability and wealth disparities. Even so, there is potential for growth in our trade with the region, particularly with the wealthy and influential Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, which we will be better placed to exploit following the opening in 2025 of our Embassy in the **United Arab Emirates**, a major hub.

Our long-standing and cordial relationship with **Israel** has strengthened since the conclusion of the bilateral *Joint Declaration of Principles* in 2013, and the opening in 2023 of our Embassy in Jerusalem, a cradle of Christianity of particular importance to Papua New Guinea. We will seek opportunities to expand cooperation in niche areas, particularly in agriculture, security and the IT sector. Papua New Guinea is a strong opponent of terrorism and is a consistent supporter of Israel in the UN.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Government will:

- Give priority to close friends and neighbours, trusted security partners, economic and developmental partners of current and growing importance to us, and those with shared values and close people-to-people links.
- Broaden and deepen relationships with traditional partners, on the basis of mutual respect, mutual benefit and reciprocity.
- Enhance bilateral partnerships, including those with future economic potential, which will help drive our national economic and developmental agenda through trade, investment and business engagement.
- Further strengthen relations with our Pacific Island neighbours, with a view to exploiting the potential for more mutually beneficial bilateral outcomes and for greater integration; taking a greater leadership role in the region; and positioning ourselves better to project and support internationally the interests of the region as a whole.
- Explore, on a selective basis, the development of new relationships further afield that have the potential to advance our national interests, including in the multilateral sphere.
- Enter into bilateral framework agreements on a selective basis, where we have a clear interest in prioritising the most fruitful areas of future cooperation.



Prime Minister Hon. James Marape addresses the United Nations General Assembly, 24 September 2021 (Photo source: UPI/Alamy); Prime Minister Hon. James Marape and United Nations Secretary General, His Excellency António Guterres, during the Press Conference on his Official Visit to Papua New Guinea, September 2025; Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Justin Tkatchenko and Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, 8 May 2025, Geneva, Switzerland; and Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, MP and Minister for International Trade and Investment Hon. Richard Maru, MP at the APEC Ministerial Meeting in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, 29 October to 2 November 2025.

Pillar 2

Effective Multilateralism

Building on the solid foundation of our network of bilateral relationships, we are able to engage with the wider global community through our membership of international and regional bodies. These are key in advancing our security, economic, political and developmental interests, as well as highlighting our place as a responsible global citizen. Multilateral cooperation is fundamental to give Papua New Guinea the influence it cannot exercise alone. It is a force multiplier at the global, regional and bilateral level.

To engage effectively, we need to focus on the key issues and institutions. To spread our effort too thinly is not productive, and membership of certain organisations comes at a relatively high price financially. Over the years, Papua New Guinea has become a member of a large number of international and regional organisations, currently standing at 56. It is time to review our memberships.

We also need to be hard-headed about what we get out of multilateral diplomacy, and selective about where we lend our support and what we might obtain in return. Reciprocity is a key principle here: we should never let our support be taken for granted.

To represent our interests, we need strong and clear policy positions and the means to convey them with impact. This means having expert, capable and well-briefed representatives at our strategic missions abroad and in our travelling delegations, and well-targeted participation by our leaders at the most important events, for example, the Prime Minister's annual speeches to the UN General Assembly, as well as participation in PIF and other summits.

More generally, it is in our interests to ensure Papua New Guinea is well represented in leadership and other organisations of importance to us. We have done well in achieving leadership positions in Pacific regional bodies – currently PNG citizens hold the leadership positions of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), and in recent years Dame Meg Taylor was a two-term Secretary General of the PIF, and Mr Leonard Louma was Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat. But we must strive to have more PNG citizens represented in other major multilateral and regional organisations such as the UN and its agencies, APEC, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and the Commonwealth.

United Nations

Papua New Guinea is a strong supporter of the United Nations system and the values set out in the UN Charter. These include the equality of all states, promotion of global peace and security, protection of human rights, and respect for international rules.

Papua New Guinea values its partnership with a large number of UN organisations, which have been instrumental in supporting successive governments in addressing development challenges. This support is governed by the *United Nations Development Assistance Framework* and is aligned with our national strategic priorities. A total of thirteen UN agencies are represented in Papua New Guinea. Meanwhile, on a regional basis, the ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre (EPOC), based in Suva, coordinates activities relating to the achievement of the SDGs in the Pacific Islands region.

The member states' expectations of the UN have grown over the years, and it is expected to deliver in more places, and over a widening range of challenges than ever before, such as armed conflicts, settlement of disputes, combatting terrorism, addressing climate change and related issues, the elimination of poverty, global health risks, and supporting sustainable development.

Papua New Guinea, for its part, is a responsible voice on a range of issues, including climate change, ocean governance, sustainability, conservation and biodiversity, human rights, gender issues, decolonisation, peace and disarmament, and non-intervention. We have consistently opposed Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

On human rights, Papua New Guinea is party to the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) and five other key global human rights treaties, although we have been unable to fulfill our reporting requirements in a timely manner, largely due to the lack of proper reporting mechanisms and adequate data. Domestically, Papua New Guinea has a range of human rights-related policies and sectoral plans in place, but implementation continues to be a major challenge.

An ongoing challenge is to reform the UN, including the membership of the Security Council. Papua New Guinea shares the view that the Council needs to be reformed to reflect the political and economic realities of today. An expanded Security Council must be more democratic and transparent, and its membership must include developing countries.

In line with these objectives, Papua New Guinea should consider in the future seeking election as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. No Pacific Island country except New Zealand has been represented on the Council to date, and membership by Papua New Guinea would be a landmark national achievement, as well as giving our region a voice on this critical world body. Papua New Guinea recognises this would be an ambitious foreign policy initiative which would require the support of our UN Asia Pacific Group, and so a rigorous cost-benefit analysis should be undertaken before moving down this path.

Commonwealth

Papua New Guinea highly values its membership of the Commonwealth, which now has 56 members. It provides an opportunity to broaden our links with a wide range of countries with shared values, including democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and delivers benefits in trade, security, education and development cooperation.

Other International Organisations

Papua New Guinea is a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), a number of technical bodies such as International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and INTERPOL, and various regional and international commodity organisations such as the International Coffee Organisation, International Cocoa Organisation, International Tropical Timber Organisation, Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, and others.

APEC

Papua New Guinea is a proud member of APEC and was the successful host in 2018 of the Leaders Meeting and a series of subsidiary meetings and events, enabling Papua New Guinea to demonstrate its convening power and to showcase the nation to a wide and influential audience.

As the only Pacific Island member of APEC, membership enables us to speak up for the emerging economies of the Pacific, as well as emphasising Papua New Guinea's strategic position linking Asia to the Pacific and across to the Americas.

Our hope is that APEC opens the way for fairer trade and innovation across the globe, for the benefit of emerging economies. Domestically, we need to improve the focus and coordination of our approach to APEC if we are to gain more concrete benefits from our membership of this key grouping of global economies.

Papua New Guinea should seek to host another APEC year to further assert its convening status and to showcase Papua New Guinea more.

ASEAN and ARF

Papua New Guinea has had Observer status in ASEAN since 1976 and aspires to become a full member as part of our strategy to enhance regional cooperation and economic integration. Membership would strengthen ties with the countries of South-East Asia and promote trade and attract investment. It would also give Papua New Guinea an additional platform to collaborate on initiatives such as climate change and security, and would offer ASEAN a gateway to the Pacific, enriching the organisation's diversity and influence.

Papua New Guinea has secured influential support for its membership from several quarters, most notably Indonesia, but recognises that substantial groundwork will be required to meet rigorous membership criteria and to gain the support of all members. We need to understand clearly the costs and benefits of membership.

Meanwhile, Papua New Guinea has been an active member of the 27-member ASEAN Regional Forum since its inception in 1994. This enhances Papua New Guinea's role in regional security and frank diplomatic dialogue on critical issues such as security cooperation, disaster relief, and transnational challenges, reflecting Papua New Guinea's commitment to fostering peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands

Papua New Guinea's size and geographic setting, as the bridge between South-East Asia and the Pacific, means that it can never be pigeonholed simply as a Pacific Island country. Even so, the Pacific Island region is vital to us, and Papua New Guinea plays a key role as the largest island country.

PICs have gained strength and a louder voice globally by working together. *Family First* regionalism is fundamental and shapes the region's identity.

The key regional leadership organisation is the Pacific Islands Forum, which groups the island nations and Australia and New Zealand. Under its umbrella, the PIF Secretariat and the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies play major roles in fostering regional economic and social development and security. Papua New Guinea supports current reform efforts for institutional renewal, stronger governance and regional self-reliance.

The PIF *Boe Declaration* of 2018 and the *Blue Pacific 2050 Strategy* are fundamental frameworks that guide the region's approach to security and development. The *Blue Pacific Strategy* reclaims the region's story, positioning the Pacific not as a geopolitical pawn but as a vast, interconnected continent with a unified voice. It underlines the contribution that Pacific Island countries, including Papua New Guinea, are making to the sustainability of the global environment, not as small island states but as large Pacific Ocean states in their stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, one of humankind's greatest resources. The Strategy emphasises the strategic importance of the collective maritime domain for environmental sustainability and socio-economic resilience. The *Blue Pacific Strategy* also underlines the importance of promoting integrity, anti-corruption, transparency and good governance in the use of the region's resources.

Papua New Guinea is a key founding member of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), which groups Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and the FLNKS (*Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste*). The organisation is based on shared Melanesian heritage and promotes issues such as economic development, cultural exchange, and regional security, with an emphasis on the needs and aspirations of the Melanesian peoples. The MSG Trade Agreement aims to foster economic development among its members, focusing on trade in goods and services, promoting labour mobility, and simplifying trade facilitation measures. Through its membership of the MSG, Papua New Guinea seeks to enhance regional collaboration, leverage collective strengths, and promote the interests of Melanesian countries and people on the global stage.

As a regional leader, Papua New Guinea has a proud history of assistance towards other Pacific Island countries. In 1980, the PNG Defence Force (PNGDF) *Kumul Force* played a key role in assisting our Melanesian neighbour, Vanuatu, during its transition to independence. Papua New Guinea was also a major contributor to the *Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands* (RAMSI, 2003-2017) and has subsequently gone on to provide security support for elections and major events, notably in Solomon Islands. Papua New Guinea has also provided financial and other assistance to a range of Pacific Island countries, including scholarships, development assistance, and humanitarian and disaster relief.

Global Environmental Issues

Climate Change

The closely interconnected issues of climate change, the sustainability of oceans, and biodiversity are of primary importance to Papua New Guinea. Internationally, we engage at all levels, including through the UN and the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), the *Small Island Developing States* (SIDS) grouping, and the PIF.

Papua New Guinea ranks as one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, posing challenges to agriculture and food security, the displacement of people, health, infrastructure and other economic impacts.

Papua New Guinea has robust national frameworks to address climate change. In 2009, we created a dedicated climate change office; in 2014, we endorsed our *National Climate Change Policy*; and in 2015, we transitioned the climate change office to a fully-fledged Climate Change Development Authority.

Papua New Guinea plays a proactive role in progressing its commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement by undertaking adaptation and mitigation efforts. Its '*30 by 30*' *Climate Change Response Roadmap* presents the 30 major actions it will take by 2030 to respond to climate change, providing national benefits while also supporting global efforts.

The Roadmap also supports Papua New Guinea's *Nationally Determined Contributions* (NDCs) to the global climate goals. Its *Revised Enhanced NDC Implementation Plan 2020-2030*, which steps up the quality, ambition and proposed implementation of the NDCs, has been welcomed by the UN.

Papua New Guinea is home to some of the world's most biodiverse and extensive rainforests, which play a crucial role in carbon sequestration and climate regulation. As a founding member of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, PNG has been instrumental in the development of global mechanisms on *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation* (REDD+), which aim to provide financial incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and invest in sustainable forest management. However, REDD+ initiatives are yet to reach their full potential.

More generally, and in keeping with developing country views, a key priority for Papua New Guinea is to unlock access to global sources of climate finance to meet the country's adaptation needs, support its energy transition, and sustainably derive revenue from natural resources. It has engaged with international mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility to secure funding for projects aimed at enhancing resilience, protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainable land use practices. However, while we welcome the support of such funds, to date, Papua New Guinea has had limited success in accessing the large-scale climate finance it needs. We believe that small-island and forested nations like ours often lack the capacity and technical networks to navigate the complex Green Climate Fund cycle, and we call for simplified access and reduced approval times.

Papua New Guinea has called on the UN to address this issue with urgency and joins all forest nations in solidarity in seeking adequate financial compensation if the forests are to be saved.

Oceans

As an archipelagic and maritime nation at the heart of the Coral Triangle, Papua New Guinea spans 2.8 million square kilometres of ocean territory, hosting over 6% of global biodiversity and nearly one-fifth of the world's tuna. The ocean is central to Papua New Guinea's identity, economy and food security, and is a vital transportation route.

But this comes at a cost in terms of pollution and degraded ecosystems. Maritime security is another pressing concern, particularly in the face of growing superpower rivalries in the region as well as the growth of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. We need to strike a balance.

Papua New Guinea is committed to implementing fully its *National Oceans Policy*, aligned with SDG 14, to conserve and sustainably use the ocean, seas and marine resources. It has declared multiple marine protected areas, is implementing community-based fisheries management, and is empowering local governance. It has put a ban on single-use plastics, aiming to curb ocean-bound waste, and is engaging in blue carbon initiatives, including mangrove restoration and sea grass protection. Papua New Guinea has committed to oppose seabed mining in its EEZ, recognising the risks it poses to terrestrial and aquatic environments, as well as to fish stocks.

As a responsible regional player, Papua New Guinea signed the *Convention on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction* (the BBNJ Agreement 2023) at the UN Oceans Conference in Nice 2025.

Recognising the delicate balance between economic benefits and biodiversity protection, Papua New Guinea's waters were designated a Particularly Sensitive Area by the International Maritime Organisation in 2016.

In 2024, Papua New Guinea secured UN recognition of its maritime zone boundaries, reaffirming its sovereignty in the face of rising sea levels. Papua New Guinea is strengthening its laws against IUU fishing and enhancing surveillance through regional cooperation.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Government will:

- Focus our effort and resources on those organisations that bring the most benefit to Papua New Guinea by contributing to the advancement of our national economic and developmental agenda.
- Strengthen our profile as a principled supporter of international norms and values, focusing on areas of most relevance to us, including security and disarmament, human rights, gender issues, and developmental goals.

- Review our memberships of the multiple organisations to which we belong, with a view to discontinuing those of now minimal relevance. Ensure any increased focus by us on other regions of the world does not detract from our engagement with the network of relationships and institutions under the umbrella of the Pacific Island Forum, which is of fundamental importance to Papua New Guinea.
- Support PIF efforts to reshape Pacific governance structures and institutional mechanisms to reflect current realities and future aspirations, while strengthening alignment between national priorities and regional development objectives in areas such as climate change, security and sustainable resource use.
- Continue to play a leading role in Pacific Island regional cooperation.
- Advocate for stronger collaboration between MSG members and the wider Pacific community.
- Pursue our aspiration to become a member of ASEAN in view of the potential long-term benefits, while recognising the substantial groundwork required to meet membership criteria and gain the support of all members.
- Build on our proud role in APEC and success as host in 2018 to gain more concrete benefits from our membership, including in trade facilitation, and, as its only Pacific Island member, to ensure regional interests have a strong voice in this key group of global powers.
- Build on our 2018 success of an inaugural APEC hosting and seek to further assert its convening status and showcase Papua New Guinea more in hosting another APEC year.
- Strengthen our influence in global and regional forums as a climate change advocate, focusing on what we bring to the table as a major rainforest nation, and highlighting the urgent need for greater climate finance support for developing countries, especially from the major emitters.
- With our vast EEZ and extensive coastlines, elevate our Oceans Policy at the national, regional and global level, focusing on the balance between sustainable exploitation of our increasingly important fisheries and other marine resources, and the urgent need for increased environmental protection of our Blue Continent.
- Following the opening in 2025 of our mission in Geneva, strengthen our regular engagement with the UNOG, the WTO, and other international organisations represented there, as well as raise the level of our bilateral relations with Switzerland.



Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Justin Tkatchenko and his counterpart Her Excellency Retno Masudi, then Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia, in 2024 during an official visit to Wutung Border Post; His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, received by Chief of the PNG Defence Force Rear Admiral Philip Polewara and Commissioner of Police David Manning upon his arrival for Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Anniversary Celebrations; Foreign Minister Hon. Justin Tkatchenko delivering a statement at the 58th ASEAN, Kuala Lumpa, July 2025; and Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, Foreign Minister Hon. Justin Tkatchenko, and Foreign Affairs Secretary Elias Wohengu at the signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement between the Governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Pillar 3

Robust Institutions that Protect our Sovereignty and Security

There can be no higher duty for a government than protecting the nation's sovereignty and the security of its citizens. That means protecting the nation from external threats and incursions; safeguarding our borders; maintaining a secure environment within the borders for our people; and ensuring our sovereign institutions are strong, secure, and free from unwanted foreign influence.

The government is committed to boosting the effectiveness of the armed forces, police and other security-related agencies; to upgrading the management of our borders; to making a contribution to regional and global security commensurate with our size, influence and geostrategic location; and to prioritising human security in pursuit of our sustainable development goals.

Our foreign policy plays a fundamental role in this, in building mutually beneficial relationships with our neighbours, with our trusted security partners, and with the development cooperation community, and in how we project our interests regionally and globally.

Australia is our close security partner, based on shared history and close ties. Major components of the relationship include the overarching 2023 *Bilateral Security Agreement*; the *Australia-Papua New Guinea Defence Cooperation Program*; the *Pacific Maritime Security Program*; and the *Papua New Guinea-Australian Policing Partnership* between the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) and the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

Other major security partners include New Zealand and the United States, while Indonesia, France, the UK, Japan and several other countries also play a valuable role.

The growth and modernisation of the PNGDF is a high government priority, to be reflected in the new Defence White Paper 2025. This will be at the heart of a long-term roadmap to rebuild our defence forces, to be amongst the best in the region. In addition, the government attaches great importance to the bilateral Defence Treaty currently under negotiation with Australia, intended to expand and modernise the longstanding defence relationship between our two countries.

Similarly, the government has embarked on a far-reaching upgrade of our policing capabilities. Australia is playing a major role in this, with AFP support for the RPNGC including training programs, provision of equipment and other resources, infrastructure, and technical assistance to improve operational effectiveness of the police. At the same time, the RPNGC is enhancing its role at the regional level, including through participation in the *Pacific Policing Initiative* (PPI) backed by Australia and endorsed by PIF leaders in 2024; and by hosting the new Regional Centre of Excellence (RCoE) providing professional training at Bomania in the National Capital District of Papua New Guinea.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Government will:

- Consistent with the *National Law and Justice Sector Policy 2025-2035*, boost the capacity of the RPNGC across the board, focusing on recruitment, training, equipment and infrastructure, working closely with Australia, our key partner in policing.
- Expand the role of our police in the PIF region, including through the PPI and other initiatives, such as joint policing operations and participation in security forums.
- Boost all elements of the PNGDF – land, maritime (surface and sub-surface), electronic warfare and air - within the framework of the *Defence White Paper 2025* once it is released, and its Capability Plan.
- Increase the PNGDF's contribution to regional security and stability, including through participation in joint military exercises and joint training with trusted partners.
- Enhance military and police professional skills development, including through training of PNGDF soldiers at the UN Blackrock facility in Fiji, with a view to increasing our participation in international peacekeeping activities and regional responses to natural disasters.

- Pursuant to the proposed bilateral Defence Treaty with Australia, develop our individual and collective capability and increase the interoperability of our two forces.
- Recognising continuing challenges in the management of our land and sea borders, finalise and implement the *National Border Development and Management Strategic Plan 2024 – 2033* currently under development, and through it strengthen the capacity of our border agencies; substantially increase resources in our border areas; and establish an effective whole-of-government body to provide oversight and coordination.
- Boost surveillance of our EEZ to combat illegal fishing and other unwanted incursions, maximising use of our patrol boats and the redeveloped Lombrum Naval Base, working closely with FFA and other regional bodies, and developing innovative arrangements with security partners, such as *Ship Rider* agreements.
- Further develop our capacity, including with trusted partners, to respond to cyber and ICT, dual-use and strategic infrastructure security threats, recognising that they are growing rapidly in sophistication and potential impact.
- Prioritise improvements in human security, consistent with the goals set out in MTDP IV and the SDGs.
- Maximise opportunities to articulate Papua New Guinea's support in forums such as the UN, the ARF and the PIF for international legal norms, opposition to the use of force, coercion and foreign interference, and settlement of disputes by peaceful means.

The *Papua New Guinea National Security Policy 2024-2029* will provide the government with an updated framework to assess, prioritise, and respond to security threats through a whole-of-government decision-making process.



Healthy coffee tree bearing ripe cherries at Bilu Village in Jiwaka, showcasing the region's rich coffee potential; freshly harvested cherry coffee packed and ready for processing in Jiwaka; freshly caught tuna on display at the roadside market in Malaguna Village, Rabaul District, East New Britain Province - a vibrant snapshot of the local seafood trade; a farmer feeds cattle with freshly cut grass at the Behute Correctional Service Facility of the Livestock Development Corporation (LDC) in Goroka; and LNG carrier Gigira Laitebo, commissioned in 2010, one of four purpose-built vessels in the PNG LNG fleet, designed for transport of liquefied natural gas from the LNG Plant to international markets.

Pillar 4

Increased Prosperity through Economic and Commercial Diplomacy

Economic diplomacy, and its subset of commercial diplomacy, are central to our foreign policy. Strategic partnerships that lead to improved trade, investment and business outcomes, which reflect our domestic policies, are crucial to achieving our national goals and improving the livelihood of our people.

Papua New Guinea has been primarily exporting raw materials and primary produce, but is yet to fully harness its full trade and investment potential, as a resource-rich country strategically located at the crossroads of South-East Asia, the Pacific and Australasia.

In recognition of this, we now have a comprehensive framework to drive our external economic engagement, the *National Trade Policy 2017-2032*. Aligned with this, the government has been implementing a suite of policies, captured in the MTDP(IV), which aim to maximise trade and investment by increasing the value of exports, reducing the cost of imports, and increasing FDI that will generate wealth and grow our national economy.

We have in place a number of bilateral trade and economic cooperation agreements with key partners in the region, and are party to several regional trade agreements, notably the *Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement* (MSGTA), the *South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement* (SPARTECA) and the *Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement* (PICTA). At the same time, we are actively engaged in APEC and the WTO. Papua New Guinea is a member of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), which gives it access to the European market.

Papua New Guinea recognises that it ranks poorly in ease of doing business, and that over the past decades, we have not done enough to provide a more conducive environment. We are addressing challenges including law and order, foreign exchange issues, and corruption. We are also addressing constraints affecting our trade competitiveness, such as high transaction, transport and utility costs, tariffs and technical barriers to trade, and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Trade and Investment Partners

Our trade footprint is increasingly diversified, with strong and growing markets in North Asia, ASEAN, the broader Pacific region and India, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

In 2024, the principal export destinations were Japan (21.3%), Australia (19.3%), China (18.8%), Singapore (15.6%), and Taiwan (5.6%). The main exports from Papua New Guinea include LNG, gold, copper, palm oil, nickel, crude petroleum, timber, coffee, cocoa and fish.

Principal import sources in 2024 were Australia (45.6%), United States (18.2%), China (10.1%) and Malaysia (3.0%).

Australia is Papua New Guinea's principal economic partner. In 2024, Australia was Papua New Guinea's largest two-way trading partner, with trade totalling around K21 billion. It is the largest direct investor, with a total investment stock of K78 billion in 2022, and with more than 4,000 Australian companies trading with Papua New Guinea.

China is Papua New Guinea's second-largest trade partner overall, with bilateral trade in 2024 around K20 billion. The two countries are exploring the potential for a free trade agreement. China is also a major investor in Papua New Guinea, particularly in infrastructure and the resources sector.

Japan is a major economic partner, importing raw materials such as LNG, copper, gold and timber from Papua New Guinea, while exporting manufactured goods to Papua New Guinea. Japan is also a large investor, principally in the oil and gas sector.

Other major economic partners include South Korea, Taiwan, the ASEAN countries, including Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, North America, and the European Union (EU).

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Government will:

- Strengthen relations with key target countries and institutions where we can best promote and defend our trade and investment interests, and implement the government's decision to appoint specialist Trade Commissioners to selected missions.
- Expand efforts to create an enabling environment for trade and investment, including the creation of industrial hubs and export processing zones under the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) model, to ensure a larger proportion of our natural resources are processed mid-stream and down-stream onshore.
- Recognising the widespread and positive employment, economic and social impacts, prioritise downstream processing and exports in the agriculture and fisheries sectors.
- At the regional level, prioritise the East New Britain Initiative aimed at maximising returns from the tuna catch, which contributes to good conservation and sustainability outcomes, as well as economic outcomes.
- Give priority to quality and sustainable investments by reputable entities, which maximise local content and employment opportunities.
- Ensure a fair and equitable return for Papua New Guinea in agreements it reaches with foreign investors and other external economic partners.
- Enhance measures to improve the ease of doing business in Papua New Guinea, in close consultation with the local and overseas-based business communities.
- Enhance our trade, investment and tourism promotion campaigns abroad, for example, in conferences, expos, seminars, etc., with key roles to be played by our Prime Minister, Ministers and officials, our official representatives on the ground, and business representatives.

- Take further steps to minimise non-tariff trade barriers to our agricultural and other exports, by improving our standards and certification regimes, following on from recent initiatives such as the landmark *Biosecurity Act* of 2025.
- As a supporter of free, fair and rules-based trade, strengthen our capacity to engage more closely with the WTO, to ensure our voice is heard more clearly on issues such as trade rules and dispute settlement, and to enable us to maximise trade policy capacity building opportunities.
- Make better use of '*Aid for Trade*', to accelerate our move away from aid dependency.
- Expand our network of international, regional and bilateral trade agreements and comprehensive economic partnerships, based on a rigorous cost-benefit analysis of our national interests, particularly the potential for improved market access. Priorities include launching free trade negotiations with Indonesia; concluding appropriate agreements with Australia to deepen trade and investment relations; and accelerating work on a possible trade agreement with China.
- Further develop our participation in labour mobility schemes with Australia (the *Pacific Australia Labour Mobility Scheme*) (PALM) and New Zealand (the *Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme*) (RSE), which provide employment, skills development, and remittances for Papua New Guinea, while helping to address labour shortages in the host countries.



The signing ceremony for Japanese Grant Projects - the Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) and the project for the Improvement of Facilities and Training Equipment at the National Fisheries College, 20 June 2025; the delivery of Humanitarian Assistance from the Government of the Republic of Indonesia to the Government of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, 9 July 2024; and Foreign Minister Hon. Justin Tkatchenko MP, Foreign Affairs Secretary Mr Elias Wohengu, and Enga Provincial Government Administrator Mr Sandis Tsaka officially receiving the Relief Assistance from the people of India. The Indian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Shri Rajeev Kumar, officiated the handover in June 2024. The Humanitarian and Relief Assistance was in response to the significant landslide in the Mulitaka District of Enga Province, Papua New Guinea (PNG) in May 2024. With hundreds of casualties and thousands of people affected, Papua New Guinea received support from around the world.

Pillar 5

Development Cooperation – Furthering National Development Goals with the Support of External Partners on the Basis of Equality

Effective foreign policy is at the heart of building productive strategic relationships with our bilateral and multilateral development partners. Development assistance, in the form of grants and loans, has been an essential part of our overall developmental efforts since Independence, although it now represents a much smaller proportion of the national budget. At 2%, Papua New Guinea has the lowest ODA to GNI ratio in the Pacific Island region. In a global context, Papua New Guinea has low levels of ODA reliance, ranked 53rd among 127 developing countries.

The global outlook for development cooperation has been changing. Significant aid reductions by some traditional donors and multilaterals mark a shift in global development financing. Meanwhile, emerging economies and South-South cooperation offer new possibilities.

Our aim is to accelerate moves away from aid dependency, towards equal partnerships, with greater weight given to trade and investment.

With deficiencies identified in our past approach to development cooperation, we have embraced a new and bold policy framework, set out in our *Development Cooperation Policy (III) 2025-2030*. This provides a new framework to guide us in mobilising, coordinating, managing and delivering development cooperation, and for partners to engage with Papua New Guinea.

It makes clear that the government must lead, mobilise and dictate the agenda, ensuring development cooperation aligns with national priorities, and not external interests.

The new policy takes into account the changing development landscape globally and in Papua New Guinea, as non-traditional partners – the private sector, civil society organisations (CSOs), philanthropic foundations and non-ODA partners – play an increasing role.

Development Partners

We have a range of partners, including a number of traditional as well as new friends, major international and regional financial and other institutions and organisations, as well as civil society organisations, and we value their support highly. Among locally-based partners, the churches play a critical role in providing services such as health and education, particularly in remote areas.

Bilateral

Australia is our largest development partner, with an estimated K1.72 billion in ODA in 2024-25; an expanded program of blended finance (loans and grants) for infrastructure development under the *Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific* (AIFFP); and K6.91 billion in budget support loans (non-ODA) since 2019, linked to fiscal repair and economic reform. The comprehensive *Australia-PNG Development Partnership Plan 2024-2029* translates into action our shared development priorities.

China has become a major donor in recent years, and now is the second largest bilateral development partner. Key aspects include infrastructure development in roads, bridges and buildings; loans and grants for various development initiatives; and technical assistance in a number of sectors such as agriculture, health and education.

Japan has been a reliable and valuable donor for many years through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It provides financial assistance in the form of grants and low-interest loans for development projects; infrastructure development, including roads, bridges and public facilities; technical assistance and expertise in areas such as agriculture and fisheries; disaster relief and humanitarian aid; environmental sustainability; and education.

European countries are major donors collectively through the EU, with assistance across various sectors, including forestry, climate change and the environment, biodiversity and good governance. In addition, several European countries provide bilateral assistance, sometimes in collaboration with the EU, such as France which provides valuable support in forestry conservation and disaster relief, among other sectors.

New Zealand provides well-targeted support in agriculture, education, health, infrastructure development, climate change resilience, and disaster relief.

Papua New Guinea is one of the largest recipients of Indonesian development assistance, including technical assistance, educational sector support and scholarships. Other traditional partners include the United Kingdom and the United States, although the disestablishment of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2025 raises doubts about the future level of US assistance. Meanwhile, a number of relatively new bilateral partners are emerging, such as the Republic of Korea (ROK).

Multilateral

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is one of our largest sources of ODA, providing assistance in the form of loans, grants, and technical assistance. Key areas are infrastructure development, climate change resilience, health services, governance and public sector management.

The UN and its specialised and related agencies comprise an important development partner across many sectors. The Resident Coordinator leads the UN country team, guided by a strategic program with the government, focused on the delivery of the 2030 agenda for dignity, prosperity and peace on a healthy planet. Annexe 2 provides a list of UN agencies and UN-related organisations resident in Papua New Guinea.

The UN and its specialised agencies provide various forms of assistance across multiple sectors. This includes development assistance aligned with the SDGs, humanitarian aid in response to natural disasters, and support for good governance and human rights.

The World Bank provides significant financial and advisory support across various sectors, including infrastructure development, income and job creation, and social sectors. In addition, it offers analytical and advisory services to inform policy and investment decisions.

The IMF also supports Papua New Guinea through economic reform and other programs. These include programs to enhance climate resilience, to strengthen debt sustainability and alleviate foreign exchange shortages, to foster good governance, and to build climate resilience.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Government will:

- Prioritise the timely and full implementation of our new development cooperation policy.
- Ensure development cooperation supports Papua New Guinea's strategic vision of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.
- Focus on transport infrastructure, agriculture, tourism, fisheries, and downstream processing, as well as prioritising climate financing and humanitarian assistance.
- Institutionalise strong government ownership of the policy, with full integration of aid resources into the National Budget, and full alignment with national policy frameworks.
- Continue to focus on human development outcomes, including health and education, as well as other sectors set out in the SDGs.
- Prioritise a unified coordination framework, with all government agencies working in synergy, bringing an end to parallel systems, fragmented efforts and isolated aid projects.
- Strengthen capacity at the provincial and local level to ensure effective and transparent disbursement of overseas development assistance, consistent with our new *Development Cooperation Policy*.
- Ensure technical assistance builds Papua New Guinea's capacity, not dependence, by transferring skills and expertise to PNG nationals.
- Assert strong leadership to avoid undue influence and actively engage in global forums to shape geopolitical policies that benefit Papua New Guinea.
- Ensure aid allocations are transparent and meet value-for-money benchmarks, with strict enforcement of relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks against corruption.
- Strengthen institutional arrangements and improve working relations with our bilateral and multilateral partners, to gain a better understanding of their sovereign processes to promote effective and timely drawdown of their development and technical assistance.
- Prioritise assistance that is sustainable; does not undermine our security; maximises local content, including employment opportunities; and, in the case of loans, does not put undue pressure on our national debt.



Huli Wigmen, Hela Province, performing their traditional sing-sing; APEC Haus, Port Moresby, opened on 18 October 2018 prior to PNG hosting the APEC Summit in November 2018; PNG Kumuls rugby league representative team celebrating Cooper Bai's try during the 2025 Pacific Bowl Championships at Santos National Football Stadium in Port Moresby; and Air Niugini's New Airbus A220, a symbol of national pride and unity.

Pillar 6

A Stronger National Brand, Promoting an Accurate Appreciation Abroad of our Nation and its Strengths

How we are viewed internationally has important implications for our foreign policy, affecting other countries' willingness to engage with us, perceptions of us as an economic partner, and the willingness of people to visit our country.

We have many assets. First and foremost are the unique characteristics of our country, with its extraordinarily diverse peoples and cultures and its breathtaking natural endowments. At the same time we are recognised as a responsible and principled player on the global stage, a contributor to regional stability and cohesion, and the largest Pacific Island economy, with great further potential. Papua New Guinea's entry into Australia's National Rugby League (NRL) competition in 2028 represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to foster positive perceptions of our country and our people.

But we have liabilities too, including external perceptions of the law and order situation and the quality of governance. On occasion, we have let ourselves down in the past by neglecting our membership dues in some international organisations. These are all important areas that need to be tackled vigorously, and the government is taking steps to do so.

We must take all opportunities to strengthen perceptions of our country. We need a strong national brand that builds our reputation as a good place to visit and invest, as an internationally competitive economic partner, and as a reliable and responsible member of the international community.

A stronger, more confident brand on the international stage can also make a strong contribution to building our own sense of national self-consciousness and pride in our nation, our sense of what it means to be a Papua New Guinean.

We have a number of tools to boost our national brand and soft power, including:

- Our public diplomacy assets, at home and overseas, where our network of missions can play an important role.
- High-level visits abroad by the Prime Minister and other leaders to ensure Papua New Guinea's voice is heard on the international stage.
- Advances in digital technology, including social media, which give us more options to target our messaging effectively.
- The work of our Tourism Promotion Authority.
- Our proven ability to host major international events, such as the APEC Summit in 2018 and the Pacific Games in 2015.
- Participation in special events abroad, such as trade and investment marketing forums, international expos, and cultural exhibitions.
- The assistance Papua New Guinea gives to its Pacific neighbours, including scholarships, disaster relief and security assistance.
- People-to-people exchanges, through cultural programs, churches, labour mobility, and private visits.
- Our sporting prowess which can serve both as an effective soft diplomacy tool and as a unifying force nationally.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Government will:

- Intensify our efforts to improve perceptions of Papua New Guinea abroad through well-targeted public diplomacy by our diplomatic missions; statements and media appearances by our leaders while abroad; and participation in international tourism, cultural and other promotional events.
- Work more closely with the business sector, including through our expanded diplomatic network, in promoting trade, investment and tourism. This includes the attachment of specialist trade and investment officers to selected PNG missions abroad.
- Make more widely known our role as a good global citizen and regional partner, such as our assistance to Pacific Island neighbours.
- Actively seek opportunities to promote highly qualified Papua New Guinean candidates for senior positions in both regional and international organisations, including in the United Nations system.
- Encourage people-to-people links with other countries, through education, employment and labour mobility schemes, the churches, tourism, and the PNG diaspora.
- Continue to advocate strongly for freer movement of people around the region, including reciprocal visa waiver programs and easier entry procedures.
- Maximise the soft power returns of sports at home and abroad. This includes a whole-of-nation commitment to the success of Papua New Guinea's participation in the NRL from 2028.
- Avoid unnecessary criticism in the multilateral sphere by ensuring that Papua New Guinea pays its membership subscriptions for international organisations on time.
- Anticipate and minimise niche threats to Papua New Guinea's reputation, such as possible 'grey listing' relating to money laundering.



Official opening of the Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations Office in Geneva, World Trade Organisation and other International Organisations in Geneva, Switzerland, 8 May 2025; Commissioning of the Head of Mission for New Zealand and Heads of Posts for Sydney, Brisbane and Cairns, December 2023; Foreign Affairs Minister Hon Justin Tkatchenko, and Ukraine counterpart, Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha signing a Joint Communique to formally establish diplomatic relations at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 2025.

Pillar 7

A Fit-For-Purpose Department of Foreign Affairs and Network of Missions Abroad

It is vital to have a high-quality, well-resourced Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and network of overseas missions to promote and defend our foreign policy interests. It is noteworthy that countries which prioritise this, including some small countries, reap dividends out of all proportion to the investment they make.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is the key agency responsible for overseeing and implementing our foreign policy. It is required to provide advice to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and to the government in general, on international issues, including all aspects of Papua New Guinea's foreign relations. The Department is responsible for our network of overseas missions, with which it is in daily contact in the promotion of Papua New Guinea's interests.

DFA is the central official channel of communication with the outside world. It is the first port of call for foreign missions accredited to Papua New Guinea, whether resident in-country or accredited from neighbouring countries (see list of resident missions and international organisations in Annexe 2).

DFA's work demands close coordination with the many government agencies that have an external-facing role and interests, including areas such as defence, trade and investment, development cooperation, immigration, customs, police, fisheries and agriculture, tourism, and more. Our nation needs to speak and be seen by other countries to speak with one voice. So a whole-of-government approach is vital if we are to present to the world a confident, informed, persuasive and clear narrative about our country.

All this requires a workforce that is well informed on a wide range of international issues relevant to us, as well as on national issues that impinge on our external relations. It requires specialist expertise and professional skills, and a well-resourced communications network.

So it is vital that the Department has an adequate number of high-quality and well-trained staff, up-to-date ICT systems to facilitate rapid, secure and efficient communications internally and with missions and posts, and sufficient funding for the agency to do its job well.

To this end, the Department of Foreign Affairs is currently undergoing a major reorganisation and upgrade. This involves a major recruitment program, upgrade of ICT systems and making better use of AI, and enhanced training and professional development of staff.

Papua New Guinea currently has 19 full missions and 4 consulates (see Annexe 1 for details). Our overseas missions are the face of Papua New Guinea in the countries and international organisations to which they are accredited. Their role is wide-ranging, from making representations to host governments, reporting on developments and trends which impact on Papua New Guinea's interests, promotion of our economic interests, including support for PNG business activities, maintaining an active public diplomacy program to promote an informed and balanced appreciation of our country, and support for PNG citizens abroad. A number of our overseas posts engage in multilateral work, ensuring that our interests are well represented in major international and regional organisations like the UN, EU, WTO and the PIF.

Our posts vary in size and function, depending on their location and our interests. Most have multiple accreditations, meaning we need clear prioritisation to ensure adequate attention is given to the most important countries and organisations in terms of our national interests.

One of our overseas missions' most important responsibilities is to support PNG citizens abroad. The Department has established systems to assist citizens abroad with issues like passport renewals, processing and witnessing of documents, etc. In the case of distressed citizens abroad – those who have accidents, or suffer serious illness, or are caught up in civil strife or disasters, for example – we are often reliant on friendly nations to provide assistance on our behalf. The limited number of locations where we have missions means we will always need to rely to some degree on other countries for help. That said, there is more we can do, particularly to ensure citizens have ready access to travel advisories and information on what to do if they need assistance at short notice.

In the early 2000s, a number of posts were closed as a cost-cutting measure, but within several years, most were reopened. In addition, a new post was opened in Geneva in 2025. The government has also decided to open embassies in Bangkok and the United Arab Emirates, a High Commission in Port Vila, a Consulate in Guangzhou, and to reopen our Embassy in Paris. The government will keep under review our network of missions, including possible new post openings, and what staff profile each should have.

There are a number of locations where we are represented by an Honorary Consul, which comes at very little cost financially to Papua New Guinea. Honorary Consuls can perform valuable roles on our behalf, in looking after the consular interests of PNG citizens, in assisting with advice on doing business locally, in representing Papua New Guinea at relevant events, and in providing access to government representatives and other key contacts. The key is to make the right appointment of a person who has the means to perform the role, is well respected, and who has good contacts. This has not always been the case in the past.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Government will:

- Prioritise the full implementation of current plans to upgrade and reorganise the Department of Foreign Affairs, involving increased staffing levels, a restructuring of the organisation, enhanced training, and upgrades to our ICT systems.
- Following a review, enact a Foreign Service Act to provide a clear and authoritative framework for the organisation, operation and management of our foreign service, including issues such as staffing structures, roles and responsibilities, appointments and promotions, discipline and conduct, remuneration, training and development, and management of resources.
- Establish a Diplomatic Academy, linked to a university or other suitable higher education institution, to provide training for our diplomats, based on a specialised curriculum.

- Ensure we have an attractive career development pathway for members of DFA, including on-the-job training and mentoring, so we can recruit, motivate and retain highly qualified staff.
- Commit to establishing clear and transparent procedures, including merit-based criteria, for Head of Mission appointments.
- Implement the government's decision to appoint specialist Trade Commissioners to selected missions.
- Develop and implement a strategy for expanding our Honorary Consul network in priority locations, ensuring selection is rigorously merit-based.
- Following whole-of-government consideration, attach specialist officers from other agencies to relevant missions on a transparent and consistent cost-sharing basis, to represent our interests in areas such as defence, police, immigration, quarantine, international law, commodities boards and agriculture, fisheries, forestry, education, Treasury, and National Planning.
- Examine on a case-by-case basis the scope to appoint well-qualified locally-engaged staff to selected positions, to boost the expertise of our missions at relatively low cost.
- Upgrade the level of the consular support the Department of Foreign Affairs can provide to PNG citizens abroad, including the provision of accurate and timely travel advice.
- Keep under review, on a cost-benefit basis, our overseas representation, with a view to changing our staffing profile or opening posts in the future in countries where we can significantly advance our interests.
- Review our network of Consulates-General in Australia, with a view to achieving a more cost-effective outcome while continuing to provide effective service delivery.
- Update the Department of Foreign Affairs Corporate Plan to align it with the objectives and functions set out in the White Paper, and to ensure it is a practical tool for measuring performance.
- Ensure the Department of Foreign Affairs is put on a sound budgetary footing, with predictable and transparent levels of funding allocated on time, to accomplish agreed tasks as set out in this White Paper.



Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon Justin Tkatchenko and Heads of Missions in Papua New Guinea in solidarity in support of Ukraine, March 2024; His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh recognised Chief Coordinator of the 50th Independence Anniversary Royal Visit, Jude Roa and Chief of Protocol Lucas Manduru in a Private Meeting; and PNG-Indonesia Bilateral Monitoring and Evaluation Meeting, February 2025, at the Loloata Island Resort, Papua New Guinea.

Pillar 8

Effective Foreign Policy Leadership, Coordination and Consultation

For good oversight and implementation of foreign policy it is fundamental to have strong leadership, close whole-of-government coordination between the many stakeholders, consultation within and outside government to ensure decisions are taken based on the best possible information, advice and assessments, and sound monitoring and evaluation.

Under our long-standing and effective current framework for leadership and decision-making on foreign policy, the Prime Minister and the National Executive Council (NEC), including, of course, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, make the most important decisions. Inputs from DFA and other key agencies are provided by the Central Agency Coordination Committee (CACC), chaired by the Chief Secretary.

For DFA to carry out its role as the central point for the coordination of foreign policy issues across government, there is a need for regular formal and informal contact between DFA and other agencies. Currently, this is not as effective as it might be. Similarly, coordination and exchange of views between the National Government and the Provinces on relevant external issues could be improved.

Consultation and coordination with the business community is important, and is currently conducted primarily through the umbrella Business Council of Papua New Guinea. This works well, although there is scope to broaden dialogue with the Council and with other representative bodies, on foreign policy developments which have an impact on business interests.

Providing the wider community, including civil society, the churches and academia, with the opportunity to engage with the government on foreign policy issues is mutually beneficial, although currently this does not take place on a regular basis.

Monitoring and evaluation of progress in implementing the White Paper is important. At the DFA level, the primary vehicle for this will be the Department's Corporate Plan, which will draw on this White Paper to determine targets and performance indicators. The Department's Foreign Affairs Review, currently in abeyance, could also be a potentially useful mechanism to track the effective implementation of bilateral and multilateral Treaties, Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), Letters of Exchange, undertakings, and other international instruments entered into by PNG.

At the national level, reports by the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to Parliament and wider audiences are also useful as a stock-take of achievements and challenges in the foreign policy arena.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Government will:

- Implement long-standing proposals to further upgrade the National Intelligence Organisation (NIO), to ensure the government has focused and accurate assessments to assist decision-making.
- Make better use of our access to external assessments from trusted partners, where there are gaps in our own assessments.
- Put in place measures to improve day-to-day coordination between the DFA and other agencies, to embed a whole-of-government culture.
- Utilise existing forums to upgrade exchanges of views and coordination on foreign policy issues between the National Government and the Provinces.
- Utilise the planned Diplomatic Academy as a regular forum for exchanges with the wider community of foreign policy issues, in addition to its core function of providing professional training for PNG diplomats.
- Boost dialogue and coordination between the government and the private sector, with a view to enhancing the business climate and trade and investment outcomes.

- Resource the bipartisan Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Foreign Relations to function effectively, including through policy advice provided by DFA and by the Department of National Planning and Monitoring.
- Reinstate DFA's regular Foreign Affairs Review, using it as a mechanism to track implementation of foreign policy undertakings.
- Institute annual reports to Parliament by the Foreign Minister, to outline progress made in the context of this Foreign Policy White Paper.



Part 4 | Annexes



Papua New Guinea High Commission in Canberra, Australia (Photo: Kundu Canberra)

Annexe 1

Papua New Guinea's Overseas Missions and Posts

Missions

1. Papua New Guinea High Commission in Canberra, Australia (Kundu Canberra)
2. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium (Kundu Brussels)
3. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Beijing, People's Republic of China (Kundu Beijing)
4. Papua New Guinea High Commission in Suva, Republic of Fiji (Kundu Suva)
5. Papua New Guinea High Commission in New Delhi, Republic of India (Kundu New Delhi)
6. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia (Kundu Jakarta)
7. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Jerusalem, Israel (Kundu Jerusalem)
8. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Tokyo, Japan (Kundu Tokyo)
9. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Seoul, Republic of Korea (Kundu Seoul)
10. Papua New Guinea High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Kundu Kuala Lumpur)
11. Papua New Guinea High Commission in Wellington, New Zealand (Kundu Wellington)
12. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Manila, Republic of the Philippines (Kundu Manila)
13. Papua New Guinea High Commission in Singapore, Republic of Singapore (Kundu Singapore)
14. Papua New Guinea High Commission in Honiara, Solomon Islands (Kundu Honiara)
15. Papua New Guinea Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva, World Trade Organisation and other International Organisations in Geneva, Switzerland (Kundu Geneva)
16. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand (Kundu Bangkok)
17. Papua New Guinea High Commission in London, United Kingdom (Kundu London)
18. Papua New Guinea Permanent Mission to the United Nations (Kundu New York)
19. Papua New Guinea Embassy in Washington DC, the United States of America (Kundu Washington DC)

Consulates General

1. Papua New Guinea Consulate General in Brisbane, Australia (Kundu Brisbane)
2. Papua New Guinea Consulate General in Sydney, Australia (Kundu Sydney)
3. Papua New Guinea Consulate General in Jayapura, Republic of Indonesia (Kundu Jayapura)

Consulates

Papua New Guinea Consulate in Cairns, Australia (Kundu Cairns)

Honorary Consulates

Papua New Guinea has 23 Honorary Overseas Consulates

Annexe 2

Resident Foreign Missions and International Organisations in Papua New Guinea

Missions

1. High Commission of Australia in Port Moresby
2. Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Port Moresby
3. Delegation of the European Union in Port Moresby
4. High Commission of the Republic of Fiji in Port Moresby
5. Embassy of the Republic of France in Port Moresby
6. Embassy of the Holy See in Port Moresby
7. High Commission of the Republic of India in Port Moresby
8. Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Port Moresby
9. Embassy of Japan in Port Moresby
10. Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Port Moresby
11. High Commission of Malaysia in Port Moresby
12. High Commission of New Zealand in Port Moresby
13. Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Port Moresby
14. High Commission of Solomon Islands in Port Moresby
15. High Commission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain in Port Moresby
16. Embassy of the United States of America in Port Moresby

Consulates General

1. Consulate General of Australia in Lae
2. Consulate General of Italy in Port Moresby
3. Consulate General of Switzerland in Port Moresby

Consulates

1. Consulate of Austria in Port Moresby
2. Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Vanimo
3. Consulate of Sweden in Port Moresby

Honorary Consulates General

Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Singapore in Port Moresby

Honorary Consulates

1. Honorary Consulate of Belgium in Port Moresby
2. Honorary Consulate of Czech Republic in Port Moresby
3. Honorary Consulate of Denmark in Port Moresby
4. Honorary Consulate of Finland in Port Moresby
5. Honorary Consulate of Germany in Port Moresby
6. Honorary Consulate of Greece in Port Moresby
7. Honorary Consulate of Mexico in Port Moresby
8. Honorary Consulate of Netherlands in Port Moresby
9. Honorary Consulate of Poland in Madang
10. Honorary Consulate of Thailand in Port Moresby

Resident International Organisations

1. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
2. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
3. Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)
4. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
5. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
6. International Finance Corporation (IFC)
7. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
8. International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
9. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
10. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
11. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
12. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
13. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
14. United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
15. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
16. United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
17. UN Women Papua New Guinea
18. World Bank
19. World Health Organisation (WHO)

Annexe 3

List of Acronyms

ADB – Asian Development Bank

AFP – Australian Federal Police

AI – Artificial Intelligence

AIFFP – Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific

AIIB – Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

APEC – Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation

ARF – ASEAN Regional Forum

ASEAN – Association of Southeast Asian Nations

AUKUS – Australia/United Kingdom/United States

BBNJ – Convention on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

BRICS+ – Brazil / Russia / India / China / South Africa / Egypt / Ethiopia / Indonesia / Iran / United Arab Emirates

BSA – Bilateral Security Agreement

CACC – Central Agency Coordination Committee

COVID – Coronavirus disease

CROP – Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific

CSEP – Comprehensive Strategic and Economic Partnership

CSO – Civil Society Organisation

DFA - Department of Foreign Affairs

EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone

EPG – Eminent Persons Group

EPOC – ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre

ESCAP – Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

EU – European Union

FAO – Food and Agriculture Organisation

FLNKS – *Front de libération nationale kanak et socialiste*

FFA – Forum Fisheries Agency

GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council

GNI – Gross National Income

ICAO – International Civil Aviation Organisation

ICT – Information and Communication Technology

ICCPR – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

IMF – International Monetary Fund

IOM – International Organisation for Migration

IUU – Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (fishing)

JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency

K - Kina

KOICA – Korea International Cooperation Agency

LNG – Liquefied Natural Gas

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

MSG – Melanesian Spearhead Group

MSGTA – Melanesian Spearhead Group Trade Agreement

MTDP IV – Medium Term Development Plan 4

NDCs – Nationally Determined Contributions

NEC – National Executive Council

NIO – National Intelligence Organisation

NRL – National Rugby League

OACPS – Organisation of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States

OCO – Oceania Customs Organisation

ODA – Official Development Assistance

PALM – Pacific Australia Labour Mobility

PIC – Pacific Island Country

PICTA – Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement

PIF – Pacific Islands Forum

PPI – Pacific Policing Initiative

PNG – Papua New Guinea

PNGDF – Papua New Guinea Defence Force

RAMSI – Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands

REDD+ – Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries

ROK – Republic of Korea

RPNGC – Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary

RSE – Recognised Seasonal Employer

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

SEZ – Special Economic Zone

SIDS – Small Island Developing States

SPARTECA – South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement

SPAs – Strategic Priority Areas

UK – United Kingdom

UN – United Nations

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund

US – United States

USAID – United States Agency for International Development

WHO – World Health Organisation

WTO – World Trade Organisation



Please consider the environment before printing this document.



Celebrate our history
Inspire our future