



STATEMENT

BY

**HON. JUSTIN TKATCHENKO, CBE, BEM, OL, MP
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

TO THE

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

**THEME: "MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER
TOMORROW"**

23 SEPTEMBER 2024

NEW YORK, USA

"Check against delivery"

Mr. President and Excellencies; all protocols observed.

Mr. President;

Firstly, allow me to congratulate you on assuming your important mandate at such a pivotal moment for humanity, where our compounding challenges to sustainable development, peace and security and environmental stewardship require urgent, practical and workable solutions.

Mr President;

We welcome and strongly support the landmark Pact for the Future and its accompanying Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations, adopted yesterday in the General Assembly.

This Pact is complementary to Papua New Guinea's own Vision 2050, where we want to be a middle-income country that is peaceful, prosperous and caring.

It also underscores that multilateralism, under the ambit of the United Nations, is crucially important for all of humanity. This deserves our strongest support, going forward.

We thank the respective Co-Facilitators of the interlinked processes¹ for their important leadership and work done, together with the wider UN membership and other stakeholders for the high level of ambition to shaping a better world for us all, now and into the future.

Mr President;

As leaders of our peoples and countries, we now need real and genuine action to translate the Pact for the Future and its accompanying outcome documents to benefit, in an inclusive, fair and just way, all of us.

¹ Germany and Namibia (Pact for the Future), Jamaica and The Netherlands (Declaration on Future Generations), Sweden and Zambia (Global Digital Compact)

We do not need rhetorical statements and unmet pledges. The lackluster progress for the Sustainable Development Goals, at just seventeen percent, seen globally, including in my own country, demands that we all must do better.

Despite notable strides in recent years in areas such as health, education, infrastructure, agriculture, governance, justice, peace and security, Papua New Guinea recognizes that we can do better to deliver on the SDGs and we are working hard on it.

Improving national leadership, broad-based and inclusive people-centered development approach, with better national coordination and coherence, strong governance, supported by effective implementation of our national development priorities roadmap known as the Medium Term Development Plan Four, is a step in the right direction in improving our people's lives and livelihoods.

Investing in our women and girls wellbeing and empowering our youth, through sustained investment in quality education, lifelong skills and capacity building, providing economic opportunities and instilling environmental stewardship is a strong and sure foundation for a better future. This is why my Government is now prioritizing investment in our women and girls and youth in our development agenda.

Mr. President,

In a world suffocating from the heavy burden of debt that is preventing countries from meeting their people's development needs for a better life, the overwhelming and loud outcry worldwide for the long overdue reform of the outdated and unfriendly international financial system cannot be delayed any further.

We need a global financial architecture that puts people's lives and livelihoods first over profit for a well-off few.

The Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) is one but such a transformative tool that must be effected soon to support small developing countries, like my own, to better support our development financing needs and to address the worsening impact of the climate crisis.

As a member of the Blue Pacific Continent, where many of us are on the frontline of the climate crisis, which is the single greatest threat to our peoples and communities, compounded further by the rising sea-levels, the urgency for climate action cannot be overemphasized.

We remain seriously concerned that the climate finance we need is not happening at speed and scale and in some cases, like in my own country, there is hardly a trickle. We need better support on this front from the multilateral system established for it.

Mr. President,

My Government is now embarking on industrializing through downstream processing of our natural resources to add value and benefit fairly from our natural assets.

We therefore welcome bona fide development partnership that is not exploitative and detrimental but rather aligned with and supportive of our national development priorities.

This includes efforts to bridge the digital divide between and within countries, where sharing of technology and knowledge, and technical and capacity building support should foster national development whilst preventing its misuse and abuse. That is why we are investing heavily in our ICT sector and therefore supportive of the Global Digital Compact.

Before I conclude, Mr. President, the Pact for the Future's emphasis on the importance of peace and security, at all levels, to better safeguard humanity, is the right decision, especially in a world that is under serious threat from the conflicts and tensions that abound. We must all rally together for peace and security to enable us deliver on the promise of the SDGs and the Pact for the Future.

On our part, Papua New Guinea has, as our highest priority, peace and security for our development agenda. We recognize that without peace and security there is no sustainable development.

That is why we are committed to the Pact for the Future and its annexes.

I thank you, Mr. President.