



United Nations Secretary-General congratulates Papua New Guinea for ratifying and depositing the Paris Agreement instrument of ratification at the United Nations and Papua New Guinea and the Green Climate Fund signs Privileges and Immunities Agreement

New York, USA 21 September 2016

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration Hon. Rimbink Pato today, on behalf of Papua New Guinea deposited the country's instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change with the United Nations Secretary-General during the Special Event of its entry into force at the General Assembly in New York, USA.

This follows Papua New Guinea's support for consensus to adopt the Paris Agreement in December 2015 in Paris, France and subsequent signing on 22 April 2016 in New York and the Parliament's unanimous decision in August 2016 to ratify the Accord, where 68 members of Parliament voted in support of the Accord's ratification with no votes against it, said the Minister.

The deposit of the instrument of ratification formalizes the application of the Paris Agreement in Papua New Guinea.

Papua New Guinea was among thirty-two countries that deposited their Paris Agreement ratification, acceptance or approval instrument during the special event hosted by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

This brings to a total of sixty countries out of 185 signatories that have ratified the Accord. This accounts for 47.76 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions and needs a further 7.24 percent for the Paris Agreement to enter into force.

During the Paris Accord special event, one of two requirements for the Agreement to enter into force was fulfilled, which is for 55 Parties to the Accord to ratify it. The second precondition not met yet is for at least an estimated 55 percent of the total global greenhouse gas emitters have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Depositary.

Minister Pato, who represented Prime Minister O'Neill during this special event, was congratulated by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, for Papua New Guinea's strong commitment and leadership in combating the adverse impacts of climate change for the sake of humanity's sustainable development and future.

Foreign Minister expressed how pleased he was to undertake this important measure. This is given that climate change is an existential threat to the country and people that this should not be taken for granted. It is already causing loss of territory, involuntary displacement, and a decrease in food and water security. These impacts are putting enormous pressure on domestic institutions in the country and they will continue to grow worse in the foreseeable future and will be a serious threat to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda.

Foreign Minister Pato also signed on the same day a Privileges and Immunities Agreement, on behalf of Papua New Guinea, with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

This Agreement is intended to enable Papua New Guinea to work with the Green Climate Fund to establish fiduciary measures for national organisations to become a accredited entity that would support accessing climate finance to build capacity, strengthen resilience and mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Minister Pato commended and congratulated both parties for the step in the right direction. He underscored that climate change is a serious and existential threat to Papua New Guinea as highlighted by the recent drought, frost other El Niño impacts.

He also stressed that the Papua New Guinea Government is committed to combating climate change through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.

Minister Pato urged development partners, donors and other stakeholders to work together in accordance with national development priorities.

He also called on the Green Climate Fund and other United Nations instrumentalities and other developed countries and organizations to relax their stringent requirements for accessing climate finance and other resources so that Papua New Guinea and other Pacific Island countries can have access to those resources.



Rimbink Pato, LLB, OBE, MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Immigration

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