



## MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS & IMMIGRATION

3 September 2015

**Mr. Alejandra Lagunes**

Coordinator of the National Digital Strategy  
Government of Mexico

**Ms. Ayanda Dlodlo**

Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration  
Government of South Africa

**Ms. Suneeta Kaimal**

Deputy Director  
Natural Resource Governance Institute

**Mr. Alejandro Gonzalez**

Director  
Gestión Social y Cooperación (GESOC)

Dear Open Government Partnership Co-Chairs,

I attended the Open Government Partnership Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in Bali, the Republic of Indonesia from 6-7 May 2014 as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, the Hon Peter O'Neill GCM MP, and this marked PNG's inaugural participation in OGP.

During this event, I gave a statement on three areas in which Papua New Guinea has taken steps in opening up government to encourage the citizenry to be actively involve in the political decision making process namely; public private partnership; improvement of existing legal structures for accountability and transparency; and partnership with NGO's civil society and other interest groups.

In my statement, I also outlined some key challenges that PNG faces which include; follow up work on recommendations of courts and the Ombudsmen Commission; accessibility of information to landowners in rural areas where a venture deal is struck between government and major resource development and major resource developer corporations; and more work is required on accountability of funds by public office holders and members of parliament.

Co-Chairs, following the Bali conference, the National Executive Council of Papua New Guinea in its Decision No. 148/2014 has endorsed PNG's intention of becoming an Open Government Partnership participating country. See copy attached.

Co-Chairs, to demonstrate our commitment to the principles and values of the OGP, PNG successfully hosted the Civil Society Organization (CSO) OGP In - Country Workshop in Port Moresby from 27-28 November 2014 in which I gave the closing remarks reiterating PNG's commitment to the common expectations of OGP participation.

Further Co-Chairs, given the strong bilateral ties that PNG enjoys with our closest neighbor Indonesia in a letter dated 29 May 2015 has extended Indonesia's support to PNG's full member to the OGP. See attached.

In this connection, Co-Chairs, I wish to formally express the Government of Papua New Guinea's intention to join the Open Government Partnership.

Given the foregoing, Papua New Guinea meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the OGP and has continuously demonstrated its commitment to OGP's objectives. In that respect, I also wish to express Papua New Guinea's endorsement of the Open Government Declaration. I will shortly be appointing a lead official to engage on OGP issues and we will begin the preparation of the first OGP National Action Plan for Papua New Guinea in collaboration with civil society organizations.

The OGP's goals and principles are in line with the commitment of the PNG Government to transparency and openness. The goals also resonate with PNG values and the PNG Government's goals for regional economic and social development as outlined in its national development plans/strategies.

We look forward to our involvement in the Open Government Partnership and the opportunity to share our experience and contribute to positive global initiatives.

Yours sincerely,



**Hon Rimbink Pato LLB OBE MP**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs & Immigration

*Attach...!!!*