



Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

Office of the Minister

P O Box 85, Vision City WAIGANI, NCD, Port Moresby Telephone: (+675) 3138917 Email: ictminister@ict.gov.pg

UPDATES AT ITU-PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

Media Release – 9th October 2022

I take this time to inform stakeholders and the general public on some updates and on outcomes of some meetings initiated by Papua New Guinea at the International Telecommunication Union Plenipotentiary 2022 held at Bucharest, Romania from 25th to 28th September 2022.

Initiation of Pacific Regional Cooperation in ICT

A meeting was initiated with all the Pacific Island nations in attendance including Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, and Fiji. During this meeting, Pacific Island nations reaffirmed concerns of ‘our collective ICT voice’ not being heard at a global level and the consensus was to hold an official round table discussion to consolidate our views and agree on how best we could strengthen our voice at a global level. Papua New Guinea has been nominated as the Interim Secretariat for this initiative and a regional meeting has been scheduled for January 2023.

Commitment by United States Government for Capacity Building Support

A meeting was initiated with ITU Secretary General-elect Doreen Bogdan-Martin and the United States government representatives. During this meeting, the United States government committed to funding a cyber capacity building program to support Papua New Guinea’s digital transformation agenda. The capacity building program covers: Cyber Security, Digital Transformation, Legal matters pertaining to Cryptocurrency, Digital Inclusion, and Data Privacy. This capacity building has been welcomed by my Ministry as it aligns with our efforts to deliver on both the Digital Government Act 2022 and the draft Digital Government Plan 2023 – 2027.

Papua New Guinea leads the Pacific region in the Digital Transformation Agenda

There are currently several proposals being considered at the ITU PP-22 by other member states supporting the overall digital transformation agenda. I am delighted to have noted that Papua New Guinea is the first Pacific Island nation to initiate the digital transformation agenda through its Digital Transformation Policy 2020, the Digital Government Act 2022, and the draft Digital Government Plan 2023 - 2027.

The PNG digital transformation journey is still at its infancy stage. However, I am confident that we are on the right track and that we will see much needed public service delivery transformed within the medium term.

Papua New Guinea Increases Member Contribution to the Union

I have advised the Union and Members through my Policy Statement that Papua New Guinea remains committed to the ITU. In reflection of our commitment, I have approved for an increase of our ITU contribution from quarter to half credit. The increase in contribution not only reflects Papua New Guinea's confidence in the work of the ITU. It also reflects our efforts to align our Digital Transformation Road Map to best practices globally. Further to this, our pledge has given us increased attention in the region resulting in increased number of bilateral meetings during our visit to Romania.

Contribution to ITU Proposed Resolutions

As we are confronting our developmental challenges, we must be reminded that as a sovereign nation, it is important that we maintain our voice at regional and global levels. Our voice in the ITU and other global ICT fora, must be heard so that we ensure that the use of ICT remains accessible, affordable, and easily usable for our Papua New Guinea citizens and residents.

I have returned home. However, a small team from PNG consisting of NICTA and the DICT is still in Romania and continues to participate in ITU discussions as the Plenipotentiary Conference runs until 14 October 2022.

Proposals put forward at the conference by Papua New Guinea is available to stakeholders and the public at www.nicta.gov.pg and www.itu.int.

Authorized for release

DocuSigned by:



5D8D16BCCB2B4C3...
HON. TIMOTHY MASIU, MP

**Minister for Information & Communication Technology
And Member for South Bougainville**

Editor's Note: The Ministry for ICT is tasked by the Head of State to participate on behalf of Papua New Guinea in various decision-making processes at the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (PP-22) in Bucharest, Romania commencing 26th September 2022.

The ITU PP-22 activities cover the following:

- *Sets the Union's general policies*
- *Adopts four-year strategic and financial plans, and*
- *Elects the senior management team, member states of the council, and the members of the radio regulations board.*

The Ministry for ICT Team was led by Hon. Timothy Masiu, MP, and consisted of heads from the National ICT Authority and the Department of ICT and key technical staff.

