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**Statement by the Leader of the Papua New Guinea  
Delegation,**

**Mr. Peter D. Raka, Charge d'Affaires a.i**

**to the High Level Segment of the**

**Sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations  
Framework Convention on Climate Change.**

Den Haag, Netherlands  
21 November 2000

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Honorable Jan Pronk,  
Distinguished President of the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Honorable Ministers,

Heads of Delegations,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me firstly to join the other distinguished speakers before me, in extending my delegation's congratulations to you Mr. President, on your election as President of the Sixth Session of this Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to express my delegation's deep appreciation and gratitude for the warm hospitality that the City of The Hague, its Authorities and its people, have accorded to my delegation.

Mr, President,

My delegation notes with grave concern, the ever increasing emission levels of greenhouse gases in most developed country Parties. It is somewhat ironical that they have continued to increase their emission levels against physical evidence of the painful destructions and disruptions directly attributed to the adverse impacts of climate change.

While these adverse impacts recognize no boundaries, it will be the developing country Parties that will bear the greater social, cultural and economic burdens.

For island countries of the South Pacific, these adverse impacts are devastating. Because of the fragility of their economic bases, Pacific Island Countries face severe strains when confronted with droughts, cyclones, storm surges, and other natural disasters directly related to changes in the climate. Pacific Island governments face enormous burdens trying to deal with the social and cultural disruptions imposed by the adverse impacts of climate change.

In Papua New Guinea Mr. President, communities of the Duke of York group of islands, among others, are being displaced as a result of rising sea levels.

Papua New Guinea is not just calling out for help. We have been taking actions at the national level. With limited resources and capacity constraints, we have been attempting to fulfil our commitments under the convention. We are also preparing for an early entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol.

To this end, we are grateful for the financial assistance given under the Global Environment Facility to assist Papua New Guinea with its commitments under the Convention. But clearly, current efforts are not sufficient. More needs to be done.

My delegation is therefore, concerned at the protracted negotiations over Financial Mechanisms during this Conference. We call on the developed country Parties to live up to their commitments under the Convention to provide Financial resources. After all, the extent to which we implement our commitments depends on the extent to which they implement their commitments related to financial resources.

Mr. President,

Implementation of our commitments has been a constraint in itself. Clearly, we need to enhance our capacity building efforts, not only so that our commitments are adequately implemented but also so that we understand, anticipate and respond to the adverse impacts of climate change. We need assistance in this area as it is essential to the implementation of our commitments under the Convention.

On Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry, Papua New Guinea recognizes the potential that exists in creating project opportunities between Parties. We further recognize the disparities in so far as the Forestry resources are concerned among Parties, particularly the Small Islands States. We also note the complex and technical nature of this issue.

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We believe Sir, that decisions on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry activities at this Conference, should be made only with certainty that there will be actual, tangible reductions in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. We believe also that priority should be in domestic actions to reduce greenhouse gases.

Finally Mr. President, we are being compelled to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change, although we are not causing it.

We call on the developed country Parties to accept this fact and to live up to their commitments under the Convention.

We further call on the developed country Parties to put moral and humanitarian considerations ahead of their economic and political agendas, which is driving the negotiations at this Conference.

We remain supremely confident that if they take that first tangible step, then together we can work it out!

Thank you.

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