

STATEMENT OF INTENT TO FURTHER PROMOTE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

On the occasion of the visit by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, to Papua New Guinea from 20-21 August 2020, the Foreign Minister of Japan, H.E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, and the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Hon. James Marape, issue this Statement of Intent aimed at promoting bilateral relations between Japan and Papua New Guinea.

They:

- Reaffirm the strong bilateral relations between Japan and Papua New Guinea since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1975;
- Reaffirm the importance of a free, open, and sustainable maritime order based on the rule of law that will contribute to peace, stability, resilience, and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region;
- Reiterate the importance of all states respecting international law including freedom of navigation and overflight and other internationally lawful uses of the seas;
- Acknowledge existing bilateral and economic agreements in force between Japan and Papua New Guinea;
- Recognise the importance of expansion of closer trade and economic relations between Japan and Papua New Guinea;
- Recognise the increased level of development cooperation between Japan and Papua New Guinea;
- Recognise the importance of establishing closer cultural and people-to-people links between Japan and Papua New Guinea; and
- Acknowledge substantial Japanese investments in Papua New Guinea.

They announced their intention to further promote bilateral relations, including trade and economic relations, inter alia:

(i) The Government of Papua New Guinea intends to:

- a. Promote investor friendly environments for Japanese investors;
- b. Promote exports from Papua New Guinea to Japan;
- c. Strengthen development cooperation with Japan; and
- d. Promote commercial relations through Papua New Guinea state owned enterprises with Japanese investors.

(ii) The Government of Japan intends to:

- a. Promote investment in Papua New Guinea by Japanese investors;
- b. Promote Japan as a market destination for Papua New Guinea products;
- c. Strengthen development cooperation with Papua New Guinea;
- d. Promote commercial relations with Papua New Guinea state owned enterprises in the areas of mining, energy, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism; and
- e. Assist Papua New Guinea in the areas of enhancing its capacity and quality of products for international trade.

(iii) Both Governments intend to continue cooperation on initiatives and efforts in regional and international fora as well as multilateral institutions, to address issues concerning peace, security and stability in the region including on the North Korean issues. The Government of Papua New Guinea expressed its support for the early resolution of the abductions issue.

This Statement of Intent contains a political commitment and is not intended as financially or legally binding.

Signed in duplicate on the 21 August 2020 in the English language.

H.E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan

Hon. James Marape MP
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea