



STATEMENT BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA DELEGATION AT THE 9TH ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM (ARF) INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (ISM ON CTC), KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 29 – 31 MAY 2011

**Co-Chairs,
Excellencies, and
Fellow Delegates**

Firstly, allow me to convey on behalf of my delegation our profound gratitude to the host Government of Malaysia and co – host, Japan for the excellent meeting arrangements and the hospitality accorded to us.

In the context of Papua New Guinea's perspective on current trends on the regional and global situation on terrorism and transnational crime, in our view, the overall security environment in the Asia-Pacific region and globally is generally one of stability and peace but interspersed by random acts of terrorism and sophistication of transnational criminal activities.

Today no country or person is immune from the threat of terrorism and transnational crime given the easy mobility afforded to terrorists and transnational criminals by advanced technology, disposable income and easy access to international travel.

Terrorism and transnational crime therefore remains a scourge and continues to pose serious threats to economic prosperity; challenges human rights provisions; disrupts development efforts; kills innocent lives; destroys valuable assets; and has unfortunately transformed the way business and private lives are conducted.

Co-Chairs,

Today, we meet at the backdrop of some key regional and global developments and challenges that could very well serve as conduit of increased terrorist acts and transnational crime such as the following:

- Recent killing of Al Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden by the US Government and the calls by his followers to avenge the death;
- Ongoing political tensions in the Middle East, North Africa, Iraq, and Afghanistan that could be exploited for the wrong reasons;
- Sectarian disputes, separatist conflicts, and political unrest and territorial disputes amongst and in certain ARF member countries;

Ongoing tensions in the Korean Peninsula giving rise to threats to regional peace and stability;

- Irregular, unregulated and unreported migration that has once again increased in the recent past and likely to continue in the foreseeable future that could foster terrorist acts and fuel other transnational crime;
- Continued spread and use of small arms and light weapons that poses real and serious threats to humanity;
- Increased catastrophic natural disasters that could potentially be used as a guise for infiltration by terrorists and transnational criminal elements pretending to offer humanitarian relief and assistance; and

Those mentioned by previous speakers.

Co-Chairs,

Despite not being a direct victim, as yet, of international terrorist acts, Papua New Guinea is fully cognizant of the fact that the country is strategically serving as a bridge linking Asia and the Pacific region and an archipelagic country with a vast and porous coastline of approximately 5,152 square kilometers and a 700 kilometer land border shared with Indonesia that is inadequately policed.

This factors coupled with capacity constraints renders Papua New Guinea highly vulnerable to illegal activities, including terrorism and organized transnational crime such as human trafficking and people smuggling, narcotics trafficking, gun running, fish poaching, localized piracy, counterfeit products, money laundering, and trading of consumable goods hazardous to human health.

The emergence and continuing acts of terrorism and transnational crime in the Asia-Pacific region and right on our doorsteps have further reinforced the importance of forging strong regional security dialogue and cooperation with Papua New Guinea's regional and global security and development partners to effectively deal with this deadly menace.

Co-Chairs,

Papua New Guinea is today on a cusp of unprecedented economic growth spurred on by the development of natural resources buoyed by the Liquefied Natural Gas Project that will positively transform the country. This could also potentially attract terrorists and transnational criminals that may want to use this opportunity to carry out their illicit activities in the country and perhaps use PNG as a staging point to wage their illegal acts against other parties.

Having recognized the critical importance of the country's national security and protecting her territorial sovereignty and integrity from the scourge of terrorism and transnational crime, the Government of Papua New Guinea has embarked on a number of key important initiatives including:

- The establishment of a long-term development road-map known as the "National Vision 2050" that is also underpinned by a major component on strengthening national security through streamlining Government operations, provision of adequate resources to law enforcement bodies, border management and development authorities, institutional and personnel capacity building and effective and enhanced international cooperation;
- The finalization of a comprehensive National Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime Act to implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and Conventions dealing with terrorism and transnational crime and to prevent terrorists operating in the country;

- Ratified eight (8) of the sixteen (16) UN Counter-Terrorism Conventions on:
 1. 1963 Aircraft Convention/Tokyo Convention;
 2. 1970 Unlawful Seizure Convention/Hague Convention;
 3. 1971 Civil Aviation Convention/Montreal Convention;
 4. 1973 Diplomatic Agents Convention;
 5. 1979 Hostage Taking Convention;
 6. 1988 Airport Protocol;
 7. 1997 Terrorist Bombing Convention;
 8. 1999 Terrorist Financing Convention; and
- Commitment to further increase police personnel up to a total of 10,000 to enable enhanced policing in the country.

Co-Chairs,

Given the transnational nature and increasing sophistication of the activities of terrorists and transnational criminals, it is highly imperative that enhanced regional and global cooperation such as those under the ARF framework, the United Nations, other regional fora and bilaterally must continue to remain a pivotal avenue to comprehensively and effectively deter and prevent terrorism and transnational crime from taking a global and regional foothold.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank our development partners such as Australia, New Zealand, Japan, European Union and Indonesia for the tremendous and generous support over the years in assisting us to build the capacity of Papua New Guinea to take ownership of these issues. We are committed to continue working closely with other countries, including the ARF members as equal partners to build a secure and peaceful regional and global community.

Thank you