

Embassy of the State of Palestine

General Delegation of Palestine to
Australia, New Zealand and the
Pacific



INTERN POLICY REPORT

CIVIL SOCIETY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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2019

CIVIL SOCIETY IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

a) Defining Civil Society in PNG

Western states define Civil Society as a “community of citizens linked by common interests and collective activity.” This term encompasses charities, development Non-Government Organisations (NGO’s), community groups, women’s organisations, faith-based organisations, social movements, coalitions, and advocacy groups, amongst others. This definition is similar to that for Civil Society in Papua New Guinea. Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s) are considered to be essential in PNG as they are able to provide services and expertise within society in ways government and larger NGO’s are unable to (Luker, 2004). The development of these CSO’s and structures of civil society in PNG have been heavily influenced by the role of the Church and traditional social structures which differ to that of Western society (European Union, 2018).

b) How Important Civil Society is in PNG and its relationship with the government

Structurally, civil society in PNG maintains its roots in clanship. Churches are responsible for most of the population’s social needs, providing 50% of PNG’s health services, running two universities, and are estimated to co-manage approximately 40% of the countries primary and secondary schools (European Union, 2018). Church-run CSO’s in PNG are amongst the only ones which are large-scale and formally organised, making them highly influential in civil society (Luker, 2004).

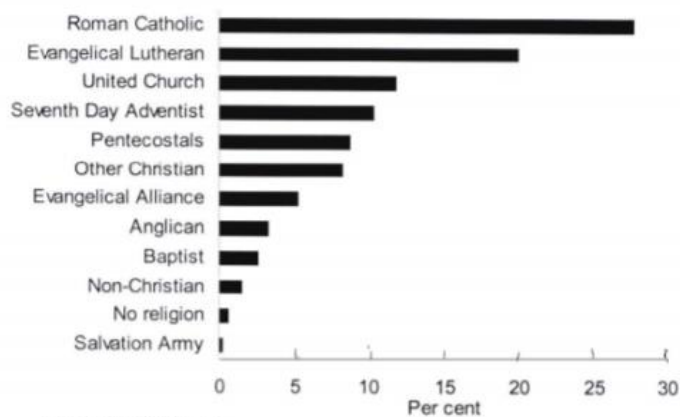
c) Key Components of Civil Society

Many CSO’s emerged between 1985 and 1995 but failed due to their lack of diversity, co-operation with local and indigenous groups, and understanding of the populations they were working with (European Union, 2018). It is the rise of CSO power which has seen increased engagement with civil society in PNG. The population of PNG stands at 4.7 million (European Union, 2018).

State demographics show a very young citizenship, with nearly 50% of the population being under the age of twenty-years. Over 95% of the population identify as Christian, with two-thirds of these being protestant and the remaining third identifying as Catholic (European

Union, 2018). Currently, Islam remains a minority religion, with a recorded 5,000 followers in 2012 (Flower, 2012). However, there has certainly been growth in the demographic despite issues experienced in tracking its spread throughout the nation (Marshall, 2008). With a rise in Muslim refugees, there has been an increasing anti-Muslim rhetoric emerging within civil society (Freedomhouse.org, 2018). Women are largely underrepresented within civil society, lacking political or social power, with men predominantly featuring in leadership positions (both local and national) (Asian Development Bank, 2015). PNG civil society is characterized by its weak government and limited capabilities, maintaining poor communication and transportation infrastructure (Asian Development Bank, 2015).

For the purposes of this report, CSO groups have been broken into three key categories. These are defined as Religious groups, Local and Indigenous groups, and Human Right and Advocacy groups



Source: PNG (2003): 26

CHURCH-BASED ORGANISATIONS

(Asian Development Bank, 2015)

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (Seventh Day Adventist):
<http://www.adra.org/> (jsimyunn@adra.org.pg)
- Anglicare Stop AIDS PNG: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/anglicare-stop-aids>
(hmeke@anglicarepng.org.pg)
- Anglican Health Service: <https://ahn.anglicancommunion.org/>
- Callan Services for Disabled Persons (Christian Brothers):
<http://erf.org.au/projects/wewak/>
- Caritas Papua New Guinea (Catholic Church): <http://www.caritas.org/where-we-are/oceania/papua-new-guinea/>
- Catholic Bishops Conference of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands:
<http://www.gcatholic.org/dioceses/conference/082.htm>
- Christian Health Services: <http://chspng.crmf.org.pg/>
- City Mission PNG: <http://citymissionpng.org/>
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea: <http://www.elcpng.org>
- HOPE worldwide (PNG): <http://www.hopewwpng.org>.
- Lutheran Development Service: <http://www.elcpng.org>
- Melanesian Institute:
http://www.commonwealthofnations.org/organisations/melanesian_institute_76/
- Mercy Works (Sisters of Mercy Australia and PNG): <http://mercyworks.org.au>
- National Catholic AIDS Office of PNG
- Papua New Guinea Council of Churches: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/pacific/papua-new-guinea/pngcc/>
- PEAN Education Advocacy Group:
<https://pngeducationadvocacynetworkeducation2030.wordpress.com/about/>
- Salvation Army Papua New Guinea: <http://www.png.salvationarmy.org>
- United Church in PNG: <https://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/united-church-in-papua-new-guinea>
- World Vision PNG: <https://www.wvi.org/papua-new-guinea>
- YWCA Papua New Guinea: <https://www.facebook.com/YWCAPNG>

Churches are a key source of information for civil society in PNG, maintaining interpersonal and oral forms of communication with most communities (Luker, 2004). Some Church-based CSO's run independent radio and television stations, bookstores, and even telephone lines to isolated communities (Luker, 2004).

CHRISTIAN CSO CASE STUDY #1:

Evangelist Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea (ELCPNG)

a) Who are we?

ELCPNG is a Church based organisation founded in 1965, which today has over 1.2 million members (20% of the total population of PNG) (Guti, 2019). Three key officials run the organisation. These are the Head Bishop, Reverend Jack Urame, the Assistant Bishop, and the General Secretary (Guti, 2019). These leaders are voted in by supporters, with the last election being in 2016. Whilst the organisations website is outdated, the ELCPNG Facebook account has the latest information available about their activities.

Contact information:

Mail: Ampo, Busu Road (1,981.19 mi) Lae, Papua New Guinea 411

Phone: +675 472 3711

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/elcpng>

b) Key Mission Statement

The ELCPNG advocates for “joining together in study and work... accepting one another as members of the one family of God and witnessing together” in order to unify the community (World Council of Churches, 2019). The aims of the church include:

- To strengthen fellowship among members – koinonia
- To strengthen the practice of worship – liturgia
- To strengthen the work of evangelism – martyria
- To strengthen the work of holding fast to the word of God as proclaimed by the Apostles –
- Theology and confession – theologia
- To strengthen the work of service and welfare – diakonia.

c) What services do we provide?

The ELCPNG aims to target significant issues in the PNG community, and identifies these as such. The organisation runs twelve Health Centres, one-hundred and seventy Primary Schools, six High Schools, one teacher training College, one Nursing College, five girls' Bible schools, three seminaries, and one training centre for Evangelists across PNG (World Council of Churches, 2019). The CSO has a schooling and education program called the Rainbow Program which uses learning curriculum based on Christian life studies in formal schooling institutions.

The ELCPNG also runs twenty-eight health services, four hospitals, eighty-eight aid posts, and one district health centre. Approximately 10,000 patients visit their main hospital each year (World Council of Churches, 2019).

The relationship the ELCPNG maintains with the youth population of PNG is particularly notable. The CSO provides youth services which aim to help youths to become self-reliant. Their education and outreach programs are targeted towards the heavily weighted youth population of PNG, allowing them strong influence in this demographic.

d) Funding and Budget

Both the Australian and Papua New Guinean Governments have recognised the need for church-led programs maintaining effective and transparent assistance to those in need in PNG (ALWS, 2019). ELCPNG is largely funded by AusAID and involves seven PNG mainstream churches and their Australian faith-based NGO partners (ALWS, 2019).

CHRISTIAN CSO CASE STUDY #2:

HOPE Worldwide (PNG)

a) Who are we?

HOPE Worldwide (PNG) is a Christian NGO founded in 1994. The PNG Branch employs roughly 60 staff, all Papua New Guinean, who work with the local and state government. The HOPE Worldwide (Australia) group is critical to funding and supporting the work of their partner in PNG. The Australian Director and Secretary of HOPE are particularly involved with the PNG Branch (contact information listed below). As 90% of the population of PNG identifies as Christian, the NGO is able to exert a lot of influence in the community through expression of such values.

Contact information

Mail: PO BOX 3478, Boroko, NCD, Papua New Guinea

Phone: (675) 325 6901

Australian Director: Dr. Mark Timlin – mark.timlin@hopeworldwide.org.au

Secretary: Mary Martinez – admin@hopeworldwide.org.au or
mary.martinez@hopeworldwide.org.au

Board of Directors:

- Graham Gumley (president)
- Mike Fontenot
- Jun Pablo
- Willem Hattingh
- Winvie Mendoza

b) Key Mission Statement

HOPE Worldwide (PNG)'s mission is to “bring hope and change to lives by providing medical, educational, and social services to underprivileged Papua New Guineans (HOPE, 2016). Their main goals are to fight poverty and social injustice within communities. They are dedicated to ending poverty and maintaining the dignity of people.

c) What services do we provide?

HOPE PNG provides a number of health services, including the Moroma Sub-Health Centre, the Bokolma Aid Post, Nine-Mile Urban Clinic, and their National HIV/AIDS Program (HOPE, 2016). Their focus on women's empowerment and gender equality has been a significant motivator in their programs', bring female rights to the forefront of their efforts. HOPE PNG maintains a strong stance on the focus of overcoming poverty. They view addressing the underlying causes of poverty and social injustice as being crucial to allowing people to live in dignity and justice, and thus their services aim towards addressing issues related to poverty and civilian wellbeing in PNG (HOPE, 2016).

d) Partners

Partners include:

- Malaysian Association of Papua New Guinea (MAPNG) (Donor-HOPE Administration and 9 Mile Clinic)
- Christian Health Services (CHS) (Funder-Staff & Operation)
- National Department of Health (Health Service Partnership)
- National Capital District Health Services (Health Service Partnership)
- Oil Search Foundation (Health Service Partnership)
- Simbu Provincial Health (Health Service Partnership)
- HOPE Worldwide Australia (Supporter/donor)
- International Church of Christ Australia, New Zealand and Detroit Church in USA (Supporter/donor)
- Global Fund (Donor-Donor National HIV Program)
- Australia New Zealand Bank (ANZ)
- Bank of Papua New Guinea (BPNG)
- Bank of South Pacific (BSP Bank)
- PNG Ports Cooperation (Donor/supporter)
- City Pharmacy (Supplier of Medical Drug/Equipments)
- Wheels (Mechanical Supplier)
- Boroko Motors (Mechanical Supplier)
- NGF (Printing Supplier)
- Bismil (Printing Supplier)

- Graffiti Sign (Printing Supplier)
- TNA Cash & Carry (Supplier – Kundiawa, Simbu Province)
- Port Moresby International Church of Christ (Inputs/directions & Spiritual Support)

LOCAL COMMUNITY AND INDIGENOUS GROUPS

(Asian Development Bank, 2015)

Local Civil Society Organisations

- Appropriate Technology & Community Development Institute (ATCDI), Papua New Guinea University of Technology: <https://www.unitech.ac.pg/research/community-outreach/atcdi>
- Buk bilong Pikinini: <http://www.bukbilongpikinini.org>
- Bismarck Ramu Group: <https://www.bismarckramu.org/>
- Centre for Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELCOR): info@celcor.org.pg
- Eastern Highlands Family Voice: <http://familyvoicepng.wordpress.com>
- Foundation for Rural Development: ford@online.net.pg
- Individual and Community Rights and Advocacy Forum
- PNG Eco-Forestry Forum: teff@global.net.pg
- Media Council of Papua New Guinea
- PNG Media Workers Association
- PNG Nurses Association: pngna@daltron.com.pg
- Papua New Guinea Teachers Association
- Papua New Guinea Trade Union Congress
- Research and Conservation Foundation of Papua New Guinea: <https://www.devex.com/organizations/research-and-conservation-foundation-of-papua-new-guinea-rcfpng-95729>
- Susu Mamas: <http://www.susumamas.org.pg>
- Village Development Trust: <http://www.global.net.pg/vdt/>

International CSO's

- Mandang Country Women's Association: <http://mandangwapng.weebly.com>

Indigenous and Local CSO's in PNG have largely emerged as a result of pressing community needs. As such, they provide a unique insight into the key concerns of rural villages and civilians. Environmental concerns emerge as one of the major factors in local community life, especially considering that a large proportion of the population rely on agricultural practices for sustenance and income (Woods, 2019). As a result, many of these local CSO's have formed to combat environmental and agricultural related obstacles, as can be recognised by the above list.

LOCAL CSO CASE STUDY #1:

Centre For Environmental Law and Community Rights (CELOR)

a) *Who are we?*

CELOR is a non-for-profit CSO which aims to protect the environmental and traditional land-related rights of the people of PNG (CELOR, 2019). Their aim is to “See all of PNG living in harmony with the Environment and culture in a just, holistic, and sustainable way (CELOR, 2019). The Executive Director of the organisation is Peter Bosip, who can be contacted through his LinkedIn page. Other contacts found from the organisation are listed below with their contact information. The group works in close partnership with the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) located in New South Wales, Australia. The two groups are closely linked in values, and CELOR relies on EDO along with other international donors and landmark cases for funding.

Contact information

Mail: PO BOX 4373 BOROKO N.C.D PAPUA NEW GUINEA Office 10B,
3rd Floor Ori Lavi Haus Turumu Street, Boroko, NCD

Phone: (+675) 323 4509/4237

Email: celcorlawyers@gmail.com

Members:

Executive director: Peter Bosip <https://www.linkedin.com/in/peter-bosip-4330001a/>

Graham Jilwara <https://namati.org/network/member/jilwarag/>

EDO Contact Information

Phone: +642 9262 6989

Email: edonsw@edonsw.org.au

Members:

EDO NSW CEO: David Morris david.morris@edonsw.org.au

International Program Manager: BJ Kim (ANU Alumni)
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/beomjin-bj-kim-18a8513a/>

b) Key Mission Statement

CELOR's mission statement is to, "promote and defend environmental and customary rights in Papua New Guinea through law and advocacy, to ensure sustainable resource management for the benefit of the present and future generations." (CELOR, 2019). The CSO's core values are outlined as being fairness, transparency, fairness, justice, and accountability.

c) What services do we provide?

CELOR has launched a number of groundbreaking cases against the PNG Government. In December 2017, the organisation launched a case against a deep seabed mining project, partnering with EDO in order to operate at full functionality (Lawyers Weekly, 2017). Their concern in protecting the biodiversity and landscape of PNG as well as the local community on their traditional land motivates CELOR's work. The group focuses on logging and property issues, environmental defence, and the likely economic, environmental, cultural, and social impacts of corporate activities within the state (CELOR, 2009).

LOCAL CSO CASE STUDY #2:

PNG Women in Agriculture Development Foundation (PNGWiADF)

a) Who are we?

The PNGWiADF was established in 2006 comprising of female farmers, scientists, and extension officers who provide a platform for Papua New Guinean women in agriculture (PNGWiA) (Linibi, 2009). The organisation focuses on promoting the participation of women in the agricultural and livestock industries as a way to enhance women's status through economic development, especially for women in rural communities whose practices produce foods to sustain their households financially.

b) Key Mission Statement

The PNGWiA advocate for the integration of women in the development and implementation of agricultural programs and projects under the National Agriculture Development plan (Linibi, 2009). They work to benefit and promote members, advocate for gender equity, alleviate poverty, and improve income earning opportunities (Linibi, 2009). Agriculture in PNG contributes to 26% of the national GDP. Therefore, by allowing women the opportunity to contribute to the production and trade of produce this marginalised group can gain access to economic independence opportunities unlike anything previously available.

c) What services do we provide?

Since their establishment, the PNGWiA has made a number of achievements which have allowed for them to flourish within PNG (Linibi, 2009). The NGO participated in the NARI Agricultural Innovations show in 2007 and established itself as an associate member of the Australian Women in Agriculture in 2008. A number of domestic and international affiliate groups have endorsed the establishment and government funding of the PNGWiA.

d) Funding, Budget and Partners

Affiliates of the PNGWiA are listed below (Linibi, 2009):

Donors and international bodies

- ACIAR
- UniQuest/FPDA
- NZAid
- NZAid/Bris Kanda
- AusAid
- CTA/NARI
- FAO/PNG Governments
- Rural Industrial council
- ADB/PNG Government
- Australian Women in Agriculture
- SPC
- World Vision
- APAARI

Research and development

- PNG NARI
- FPDA
- CC

ADVOCACY AND HUMAN RIGHT GROUPS

(Asian Development Bank, 2015)

Local Civil Society Organisations

- National Disability Resource & Advocacy Centre:
<http://ndrac.weebly.com/index.html>
- Peace Foundation Melanesia:
<http://www.justicereparatrice.org/www.restorativejustice.org/editions/2002/nov02/Peace>
- People Against Child Exploitation (PACE) PNG

International CSOs

- Business and Professional Women's Association of PNG:
<http://pngbpwa.wordpress.com>
- CARE international: <https://www.care-international.org/>
- ChildFund Australia, Papua New Guinea:
<https://www.childfund.org.au/countries/papua-new-guinea/>
- Foundation for People and Community Development:
<https://fspiblog.wordpress.com/network/foundation-of-peoples-and-community-development-inc/>
- Habitat for Humanity: <http://www.habitat.org/ap>
- Greenpeace Australia Pacific: <http://www.greenpeace.org/australia/en/>
- Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society: <https://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/where-we-work/asia-pacific/papua-new-guinea-red-cross-society/>
- Save the Children Fund: <http://www.savethechildren.org.au/our-work/where-we-work/pacific-islands/papua-new-guinea>
- VSO in PNG: <https://www.vsointernational.org/fighting-poverty/where-we-fight-poverty/papua-new-guinea>
- Transparency International Papua New Guinea: <http://www.transparencypng.org.pg>
- WWF: https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_offices/papua_new_guinea/

ADVOCACY GROUPS CASE STUDY #1:

Save the Children Fund

a) Who are we?

Save the Children are an international NGO operating in 116 countries. The underlying motivation of the organisation is to follow the Human Rights Charter focussing on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Save the Children Foundation, 2019). The Organisation originated in the UK but currently operates both in Australia and PNG.

b) Key Mission Statement

Save the Children focus on helping children in areas of health, education, child protection, climate change adaption, and disaster risk reduction. Their vision is for every child to have the right to survival, protection, development, and participation. As such, they are a human-rights and advocacy based group.

c) What services do we provide?

In the Pacific Islands, Save the Children is working to deliver healthcare, education, and child assistance programs. In the area of Healthcare, Save the Children run HIV/AIDS prevention and assistance programs aimed at reduction and treatment (Save the Children Foundation, 2019). Save the Children promotes early play-based learning through their early childhood education program (Save the Children Foundation, 2019). Additionally, serious concerns in PNG regarding the impacts of climate change and the increased frequency of natural disasters which have significant impacts on infrastructure (including schools and healthcare facilities) have sparked legitimate investigation into climate-security. Save the Children has flagged this as a serious issue in the region and work to reduce damage from climate change and natural hazards (Save the Children Foundation, 2019).

d) Funding and Budget

Save the Children PNG works with a number of partners, including the PNG and Australian Governments, to help fund initiatives aimed towards the betterment of civil society

(<https://www.savethechildren.org.au/Our-work/Our-programs/International/RISE-education-PNG>). For example, the 2017 Rapidly Improving Standards in Elementary (RISE) Project in PNG was predominately funded by the Australian Government under the PNG Partnership Fund and would span three years between 2017 and 2019 (Post-Courier, 2018).

e) History with Palestine

The Save the Children Fund has a history with Palestine which reflects a sense of anti-Israel sentiments. Save the Children issued an article titled, “Worsening Child Protection Crisis Plaguing the Occupied Palestinian Territory,” on August 18, 2017 which referred to the ‘alarming rise in abuses’ towards Palestinian children (NGO Monitor, 2017). Palestinian media quoted the director of Save the Children, Jennifer Morehead, as stating that “*After 50 years of occupation, generations of Palestinian children remain trapped in an ongoing cycle of violence and diminishing human rights,*” and that they, “*are being denied a future.*” (NGO Monitor, 2017). Save the Children also released a statement which accused Israel of targeting Palestinian educational facilities and that the threats of violence and harassment from Israeli settlers and soldiers were a threat to the basic rights of these children (NGO Monitor, 2017). Between 2014 and 2016, Save the Children granted €1.3 million to the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees (PARC).

The Save the Children official website released the following statement (Save the Children Foundation, 2019):

“Palestinian children and their families continue to live in an environment characterized by violence, poverty and insecurity. Although there has been some progress towards achieving children’s rights in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), 1.97 million children (48.6% of the total population) continue to suffer from the impact of occupation and intra-Palestinian division. In the West Bank, restrictions on movement and access, home demolitions and forced displacement have a serious impact on children’s lives. Challenges to life, security, and human dignity are realities for children living in highly vulnerable areas. In Gaza, the long term impacts of the last major military offensive on Gaza in 2008-2009, coupled with the ongoing blockade expose children to violence or deprivation in their daily lives and affects girls and boys in different ways. Severe restrictions on movement in all areas of the country and continuing political instability have depleted family coping mechanisms and led to a significant deterioration of services, affecting all aspects of child well-being.”

ADVOCACY GROUPS CASE STUDY #2:

PEACE Foundation Melanesia

a) Who are we?

PEACE Foundation Melanesia is an NGO operating with the focus of human security, peace, education, dialogue, and mediation (GPPAC, 2019). The organisation works to promote the use of restorative justice and mediation in Melanesia custom law. It aims to promote and empower the community through sustainable community-initiated justice.

Contact information

Mail: Portion 2230, Stores Road, 4 Mile Boroko, P.O. Box 1272, Port Moresby Port Moresby 121 Papua New Guinea

Email: peacelaki@global.net.pg

Website: <http://www.peacefoundationmelanesia.org.pg>

Executive Director: James Laki <https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-laki-96033564/>

b) Key Mission Statement

PEACE Foundation Melanesia works to train village leaders to develop the skills necessary for healthy mediation and negotiation practices. In doing so, leaders are able to independently handle conflict or tension-filled confrontations which may have otherwise led to violence or insecurity within the region or community. Melanesian custom law and cultural practices are viewed as a basis for reaching consensus or agreement (Movimiento Netzkraft, 2018). In doing so, police and security officers are given an alternative approach to handling conflicts, especially concerning youths and first-time offenders.

c) Funding and Budget

The PEACE Foundation Melanesia has found partnerships in both the Australian and PNG Governments, including in the forms of grants. The Australian Governments PNG Community Development Scheme provides The PEACE Foundation with grants in order to

assist in restorative justice training to village court magistrates and village peace officers (Australian Government, 2019). The PNG Government are also quite supportive of the work being done by the PEACE Foundation Melanesia as they have been particularly active in the Bougainville Peace Processes, acting as a bridge between officials and villages and assisting in mitigating disputes (Dinnen, 2015).

PALESTINE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

a) PNG's Diplomatic relations with Palestine

Whilst PNG recognised the state of Palestine in the 1980's, official diplomatic relations have not been established between the two countries. PNG voting patterns regarding Palestine in the UN General Assembly have largely been absent or positive in recent years (The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific, 2018).

b) PNG's United Nations Voting Patterns

UN General Assembly Resolution 43/177 (Dec 1988) PRO-PALESTINE

Taking place in 1988, the vote concerned the acknowledgement of the 'State of Palestine' in the UN. PNG actually voted in favour of the resolution at the time, whilst Australia chose to abstain from voting.

UNESCO Voting on Palestine Membership (Nov 2012) ABSTAINED

The UNESCO vote on whether Palestine should be accorded membership in 2012. PNG abstained from voting, whilst Australia voted against the resolution.

UN General Assembly Resolution 67/19 (Dec 2012) ABSTAINED

Resolution 67/19 refers to the vote in the UN General Assembly to accord Palestine as a non-Member Observer State. PNG abstained from voting, being one of the forty-one states to do so. Australia also chose to abstain.

UN General Assembly Resolution ES-10/L.22 (Dec 2017) PRO-PALESTINE

The UN Emergency Session in late 2017 was focussed developing a consensus on whether US President Trump's decision to make Jerusalem Israel's capital should be "null and void". America was deeply against the vote, and threatened to jeopardise its relations with states who voted to pass the resolution. PNG voted for the decision for Jerusalem to be labelled as Israel's capital as null and void. Australia abstained from voting.

c) PNG's Diplomatic relations with Israel

Intensive consultations were undergone in 2013 to establish official diplomatic relations between Israel and PNG (The General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific, 2018). Agreements were signed by leaders of both nations at the time, Peter O'Neill and Benjamin Netanyahu. O'Neill, on behalf of PNG, planted a tree in Jerusalem, making an official statement that "a tree symbolizes that the world has a future and that we all have life" (Bar-Lev, 2013). Ultimately, PNG's recognition appears largely to rely on the states close relations and economic ties with Australia and the US, as well as potential religious affiliation.

d) Official statements concerning Jerusalem

As of 2017, PNG voted against Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rambink Pato, was later questioned on the decision by fellow MP's given its previous diplomatic relations with Israel. Mr Pato argued that the decision was not anti-Israel, but supportive of "world peace" and made in the context of Christianity (Radio New Zealand, 2018). The Minister argued that the states foreign policy has been based on Christian principles, with an underlying message of "friends to all, enemies to none." (Radio New Zealand, 2018).

e) PNG's Diplomatic Relations with The United States

America established diplomatic relations with PNG in 1975 following its independence. The US views PNG as a significant partner in the Asia-Pacific, given that it is the most populous Pacific island state (U.S. Department of State, 2018). US assistance to PNG has included the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, tuberculosis, Malaria, and neglected Tropical Diseases, input in the Coral Triangle Initiative, and Relief in natural disasters (including the 2017 Highland Earthquake) (U.S. Department of State, 2018). Economically trade with the US is beneficial to the economy of PNG. America exports largely petroleum, mining machinery, and aircrafts to PNG whilst alternatively the Pacific Island state exports modest amounts of gold, copper ore, cocoa, coffee, and agricultural products to the US state (U.S.

Department of State, 2018). In 2016 America exported US\$126.8 to PNG and imported approximately US\$91.8 million worth of goods. Economic Assistance Agreement, which operates in association with the US-Pacific Islands Multilateral Tuna Fisheries Treaty, means that the US provides \$21 million p.a. to Pacific Island Parties (U.S. Department of State, 2018).

f) PNG's Diplomatic Relations with Australia

Australia is PNG's closest historical and bilateral relationship, particularly in areas of the economy, development, security, immigration, and society. Australia is PNG's largest trade and commercial partner, with bilateral trade in 2017-2018 being worth AU\$6.02 billion (DFAT, 2019). Australia largely exports crude petroleum, meat, civil engineering equipment parts, specialised machinery and parts, and wheat to PNG. Alternatively, PNG's major imports to Australia are Gold, crude petroleum, silver, and platinum. Australian investment in PNG 2017-2018 was worth approximately AU\$16.9 billion, focused in areas of gold mining, oil, and gas investment (DFAT, 2019). PNG also has strong security and defence ties with Australia.

g) List of Nations with Embassies Located in PNG

Australia	India	New Zealand
China	Indonesia	Philippines
Fiji	Japan	Solomon Islands
France	South Korea	United Kingdom
Holy See	Malaysia	United States

PALESTINE-PAPUA NEW GUINEA: COMMON AREAS OF INTEREST

a) **China's role in the Pacific**

Beijing's 'One China' policy has changed the relationship between the superpower and Pacific Island states. China's desire for recognition of Taiwan as being a part of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has motivated an increase in diplomatic ties with smaller developing states in an effort for support in international forums. In the early 2000's the PRC announced its intentions for increased diplomatic ties with the Pacific Islands Forum, and in 2006 announced the increased economic aid package it would provide the organisation (Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Papua New Guinea, 2003; 2007). PNG currently supports the 'One China' Policy. In 2008, then Foreign Minister Sam Abal affirmed that PNG had no intention of recognising Taiwan. In the subsequent days it was announced that the PNG Defence Force would be receiving military training from the PRC, despite its traditional military ties with Australia, New Zealand, and the US (Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Papua New Guinea, 2007; Radio New Zealand, 2018).

Subsequently, China has increased its financial and diplomatic ties with PNG in a number of ways. In 2017 China pledged US\$3.9 billion to PNG for a national roads project, and in that same year pledged more than four times the financial aid to the Pacific than Australia (Lyons, 2019). PNG turned down proposals by the US, Japan, and Australia in November of 2018 for their offer to build a submarine cable network connecting PNG to the global network in favour of the proposal Chinese tech giant Huawei made to provide 3,390 miles of connectivity cable across the island along with US\$198 million in loans from the Exim Bank of China (Motegi, 2019). In 2019, PNG Prime Minister James Marape reached out to China to help refinance its AU\$11.8 billion national debt which could see an even stronger reliance-based relationship being forged between the two states. Ultimately, it is clear that China's influence in the Pacific and especially in PNG is changing its dependency on the US and Australia.

The relevancy of China's growing influence in PNG relates to its stance on the conflict in Palestine. China has been sympathetically aware of the Palestinians since 1955, where at the Third World Conference at Bandung China voted for the repatriation of Palestinian refugees (Harris, 1977). In 1965, China became the first major power to diplomatically recognise the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, making it at the time the principle Arab World recipient of Chinese Aid (Harris, 1977). Beijing has long endorsed the establishment of an independent

sovereign Palestinian State with East Jerusalem as its capital and has refused to label Hamas as a terrorist organisation in accordance with believing its role in defending the Palestinians right to 'self determination' (Baroud & Rubeo, 2019). It is understood that China has long desired to take a larger role in resolving the Palestinian-Israel issue, with Chinese Foreign Minister Hua Chunying stating in December of 2017 that, "*China's position on the Palestine issue is consistent. We support and actively promote the Middle East peace process. We support the just cause of the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate national rights... We are willing to continue offering constructive assistance to promote the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.*" (Goa, 2019).

Given PNG's established neutrality in the issue of the Palestinian-Israel conflict, then perhaps it is plausible that the increasing influence of China may be a point of commonality between PNG and Palestine. As such, it should be considered when approaching diplomatic relations.

b) Human Rights Concerns

i. Poverty

Poverty has been on the rise in PNG since the 1990's. With a population of approximately 6.5 million, 37% live under the poverty line (Asian Development Bank, 2019). The UNDP shows that 75% of the population is dependent on agriculture entirely, with majority of the population living in rural areas with little access to healthcare facilities or electricity (Borgen Project, 2018). The terrain in PNG and lack of transport infrastructure makes it difficult for civilians to access healthcare and education, with issues such as clean water, malnutrition, and HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases being considered as some of the biggest threats to living in PNG (UNDP, 2019). Ultimately, the population faces a number of infrastructural and developmental problems which inhibit civilian quality of life.

ii. Police Brutality

Police abuse and corruption is a significant problem in PNG. In 2005 and 2006 the Human Rights Watch documented significant instances police brutality, including beatings, rape, and torture against children in police custody (HRW, 2018). Beatings have become so normalised police are unconcerned with publically instigating violence (HRW, 2019). In May of 2016 PNG's human rights record came into the spotlight of the UN Human Rights Council's periodic review (HRW, 2017). One case of police gunfire at a June 2016 university protest in Port Moresby wounded a number of individuals and the incident has since been considered a significant oversight by the PNG government (HRW, 2017). In PNG the lack of accountability means that police abuse of civilians, including children, continues with little consequence.

ii. Colonialism

The legacy of Australian colonialism has left a significant long-term impact on the state's ability to develop and its political corruption. Australia ran PNG as a colony for decades following the end of German rule in 1884 until its independence in 1975 (Weisbrot, 2014). Australia's main interest in PNG has long been defensive, seeing its geographical position as a 'forward defence shield' against a number of potential threats (Weisbrot, 2014). Australia continues to dominate in PNG as the state's primary diplomatic, military, and trade partner. Prior to the independence of PNG, Australia failed to advance the indigenous population so as to be developed enough to thrive in a contemporary international community (Weisbrot, 2014). Critics note that due to Australia's lack of effort in preparing PNG for independence, it doomed the state from the beginning and established a modern relationship entirely built on reliance (Dorney, 2016). Thus, it is debated whether or not PNG actually gained independence in 1975.

Whilst PNG is the largest Pacific Island country it ranks below its neighbours on the United Nations Development Program index due to issues concerning its weak institutional environment, lack of control over government spending, and weak domestic security functions (Papoutsaki & Rooney, 2006).

Critics of the Australia-PNG relationship post 1975 have called their interactions one of 'master-servant', with PNG relying too heavily on Australian aid and relief to go against its demands (Ketchell, 2015). One core example of this is the decision of Australian policy makers to transfer refugee and asylum seekers to Nauru for processing (Grewcock, 2014). During negotiations, the Rudd government pledged AU\$1.1 billion over four years to build and operate immigration detention facilities on Manus, AU\$420 million on foreign aid, and AU\$18 million to fund issues of law and order in PNG (Grewcock, 2014). PNG's acceptance of the terms which heavily favour Australian policymakers is viewed as a demonstration of Canberra's ongoing Neo-colonial presence in PNG.

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