



**Statement of the
Minister for Fisheries & Marine Resources
of the
Independent State of Papua New Guinea**

**On the Occasion of the
02nd China – PICs Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers' Meetings & Forum
9th May 2023, Nanjing, Republic of China**

Zao an, da jia hao

Vice Premier Mr Liu Guozhong

Minister for Agriculture and Rural Affairs,

His Excellency Mr. Tang Renjian and the Government and People of the
People's Republic of China.

On behalf of the Ministers responsible for Agriculture and Fisheries of the 10 Pacific Island Countries present here today, I would like to convey our word of thanks to your Government especially the Nanjing Municipality for inviting us to attend the 02nd China – PICs Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers' Meeting and Forum with a Theme "*All-round Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries in the Pacific Island Countries*", on your beautiful shores.

Cooperation in sustainable agriculture and fisheries is the way forward for our small island countries to help elevate the living standards of our people. As my fellow PIC Ministers would appreciate, fishing and farming is part of our island way of life.

We have the Fisheries and Marine resources; we have the land to grow agricultural commodities and food crops. Our challenge is to produce at a larger scale to feed our own growing population, shifting our people from subsistence to commercial - as well as exploring outside markets like China.

These opportunities provide a platform to exchange ideas with your government officials and private sector partners in forging new friendships or strengthening ongoing partnerships, as outlined under the China-Pacific Island Countries Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

This partnership is built on mutual respect and common development for steady progress and fruitful results, setting exemplary model of South Seas cooperation, mutual benefits and win-win results.

On behalf of the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers of the 10 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) present today, including:

1. Cook Islands
 2. Republic of Fiji
 3. Republic of Kiribati
 4. Federated States of Micronesia
 5. Niue
 6. Independent State of Papua New Guinea
 7. Independent State of Samoa
 8. Solomon Islands
 9. Kingdom of Tonga; and
 10. Republic of Vanuatu.
- We express the level of importance the PICs place on this trade & development arrangement as reflected in the number of delegates representing the Ministerial and Technical Officials from the Ministries of Agriculture & Agricultural Commodities and the Ministries of Fisheries and Marine Resources of the 10 sovereign PICs who are currently in attendance.

- We recognize the significance of our resolution to work together with your Government through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) to foster the understanding reached through the Nanjing Consensus on China – PICs Cooperation in Agriculture and Fisheries.
- We reiterate the Regional significance of the arrangement between China and the 10 sovereign Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to explore and cooperate in trade and economic development to improve the livelihoods of their people through sustainable development, trade & market access for their Agricultural commodities and Fisheries & Marine Resources.
- We re-emphasize the significance of the Nanjing Consensus on China – PICs Cooperation in Agriculture and Fisheries as an Outcome of the 2nd Agricultural and Fisheries Ministerial Meeting and Forums between China and PICs.
- We reiterate our support in the implementation of the Nanjing Consensus on China – PICs Cooperation in Agriculture and Fisheries through the timely adoption and implementation of the Strategic Actions on Agriculture and Fisheries by both sides.
- We support the initiative of promoting the establishment of a Mechanism for China – PICs Forum on Fisheries Cooperation and Development to promote fisheries related trade and development between China and PICs.
- We call for the first 1st China – PICs Forum on Fisheries Cooperation and Development to be held in 2024 to showcase Chinese and PICs Fisheries & Marine Resource traders, suppliers, buyers and processors and how they can collaborate to implement the China-PICs Forum on Fisheries Cooperation and Development emphasizing on 4 key priorities:
 - Combating IUU Fishing & Maintaining Fishing Access of Chinese vessels in the PIC region;
 - Providing fisheries support infrastructure development initiatives;
 - Nearshore fisheries development initiatives; and
 - Fisheries Trade & Investments.
- It is my hope that the visit to the Qingdao Municipality will be beneficial for our delegations as this will be attended by some of my colleague parliamentarians and technical officials to have some engagements with potential investors, traders, suppliers and government officials.

- I call on all my Asia-Pacific brothers and sisters to stand united as one family – joined, not separated by the Pacific Ocean to remain committed to the protection and conservation of our most valuable resources.
- We maintain our collective efforts to address the issues relating to climate change and its devastating effect through the blue economy solution
- Therefore i stand resolute in my position, and the position of our Government to oppose the proposed disposal of nuclear waste-water into the Pacific Ocean: which would be a practice contrary to the spirit and intent of our theme, “*All-round Cooperation for Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries in the Pacific Island Countries*”. My brothers and sisters of the Pacific – a united Pacific, is a stronger Pacific.
- With these few remarks, I wish you all well and look forward to the favorable outcomes of these meetings and forum.

Xie xie ni

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