

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Minister for Energy, Papua New Guinea**

**05 September 2025**

### **Papua New Guinea Joins APEC Ministers in Adopting Energy Statement in Busan**

Papua New Guinea, represented by the Minister for Energy, Hon. Peter Isoaimo, MP joined fellow APEC Energy Ministers and Senior Energy Officials in Busan, Republic of Korea, on 27–28 August 2025 for the 15th APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting.

The Meeting, held under the theme *“Accelerating Sustainable, Affordable, Reliable, Secure and Innovative Energy for a Prosperous Future,”* concluded with the adoption of a Joint Ministerial Statement that reaffirms APEC’s commitment to energy security, resilience, and innovation across the region.

For PNG, this involved hard and diligent work by officials from the National Energy Authority leading up to the final week in Busan. To get the statement over the line, the Republic of Korea held series of online drafting which NEA’s officials took part in. Amidst the global conflicts, the ongoing Russian-Ukraine conflict sending clear signals about the state of energy security across the region, the Republic of Korea did not give up. They worked tirelessly over the days and nights to ensure that Senior Officials captured the region’s priorities in the final joint statement adopted by all the APEC economies.

There were three main thematic sessions where APEC Energy Ministers engaged in. These sessions were organised by the government of the Republic of Korea as the host economy and they included discussions around electricity intensification for economic development, grid efficiency and stability and the role of artificial intelligence in grid systems. PNG through the Minister engaged in all the sessions while speaking to the challenges and progress made in the energy and electricity sector, mostly the progressive work in the policy and regulatory space.

The Minister for Energy highlighted Papua New Guinea’s priorities, including:

- Expanding affordable and reliable energy access, especially in rural and remote areas supported by the Off-Grid Small Power Systems;
- Strengthening national energy infrastructure and grid resilience through the ongoing efforts by development partners and the government and the significant role PPL plays in all of this;
- Supporting the call for investment and technology transfer for clean energy transition; and
- Calling on member economies to advance cooperation on renewables, natural gas, hydrogen, and digital technologies such as AI for energy efficiency.

“Energy is central to PNG’s development. Our participation in APEC ensures that the needs of our people are reflected in regional energy cooperation, while we continue working towards inclusive growth and sustainability,” the Minister said.

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The Minister also reaffirmed PNG's support for APEC's collective energy goals, including doubling the share of renewables in the regional mix by 2030 and reducing energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035. This is aligned to our own national goals which aims at 70% electricity access by all Papua New Guineans by 2030.

Papua New Guinea expressed its appreciation to the Republic of Korea for hosting the Meeting and looks forward to further advancing regional energy cooperation at the next Ministerial Meeting in the People's Republic of China.

Minister Isoaimo, MP also laments the challenges we as a government administratively deal with internally back in country with the administrative red-tape and bureaucratic processes affecting all different layers of requirements that policies and regulations have to go through in order to reach their finalisation and operational stage.

Minister Isoaimo has made a commitment to see the Prime Minister on a number of delayed priorities for the energy sector and electricity industry including the delayed release of the first set of technical regulations by the Office of the first Legislative Council or FLC, which includes the key regulation for off-grid investment; the Off Grid Small Power Systems Regulations. The National Energy Authority has made huge strides in progressing key reforms in the sector, but the higher administrative processes cannot be the cause of delay for socio economic development in rural areas due to lack of access to basic electricity.

It was the first official engagement for the Minister since taking up the Ministerial portfolio early this year, and to be a part of this successful delivery of an APEC Energy Ministerial Joint Statement capturing priority areas for the Asia Pacific region demonstrates strong leadership by PNG through past Ministers who one way or another laid the foundation for this success from 2023 to 2024.

Minister Isoaimo, MP also extended his gratitude to the Managing Director, Ronald Meketa and his staff. In particular the Officials of the Authority who travel ahead to joined other APEC Energy officials to negotiate, draft and finalise the Statement which to most and as it is known traditionally is not an easy exercise. In the end, consensus was reached and the Statement was adopted by all economies.

### **Background:**

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum of 21 member economies that promotes trade, investment, and sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region. Energy cooperation is a key area of focus, as the region accounts for over half of global energy demand. Papua New Guinea, as a member economy, actively contributes to APEC's energy agenda, ensuring that Pacific voices and priorities are reflected in shaping sustainable and secure energy futures.

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*File Pic 1: Minister Isoaimo presenting his intervention during a thematic session, with Managing Director Mr. Ronald Meketa and the Embassy–Kundu Seoul team beside him Ambassador Helen Aitsi on the right and First Secretary Morea Onno on the left. (Photo credit: NEA)*



Figure 2: Group picture taken of the Ministers and Head of Delegations after the adoption of the 15<sup>th</sup> EMM joint statement