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PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OGP National Workshop Opens Dialogue on Governance Priorities

Thursday 9th September 2021, Port Moresby - As the single largest multi-stakeholder initiative promoting good governance and a people-focused democracy in PNG, the PNG Open Government Partnership (OGP) has now formally opened up the conversation to the general public through the launch of the PNG OGP National Co-Creation and Good Governance Conference this morning (09/09/21). The conference is co-hosted by the Department of National Planning and Monitoring and TIPNG (as the PNG OGP co-chairs) at the Laguna Hotel in Port Moresby and in partnership with the European Union.

The two-day conference, which will be held from September 9th - 10th, 2021, will be focused on providing an update to the people of PNG on the implementation of the seven national commitments under four primary clusters in PNG's first OGP National Action Plan (NAP) 2018-2021, which include; **Freedom of Information, Public Participation, Fiscal Transparency, and Extractive Resources Transparency**. The conference will also provide an opportunity for interested organizations and civic groups to engage in the OGP co-creation process, by giving their recommendations on what they believe should be the key priorities for the second PNG OGP NAP 2021-2023.

During the official opening, Transparency International PNG (TIPNG) Chairman, Peter Aitsi stated that while the PNG OGP initiative is built on a foundation of public participation and consultation, this was not only essential to building sustainable frameworks for good governance but also to reinstate public trust in PNG democratic systems and processes.

"The ambition of the PNG OGP encompasses TIPNG's anti-corruption focus but also goes beyond that to the very heart of representative and participatory democracy in PNG. We (TIPNG) have continued to support the OGP process in a voluntary capacity, because it directly contributes to our national goals and directive principles, as enshrined in our PNG Constitution, and further, implementing the OGP strengthens our systems of governance for the common good of all Papua New Guineans," said Mr. Aitsi.

"For those of us who are fortunate to attend physically and be in the room, it is incumbent on us to engage as partners and participate in the OGP process. We need people of goodwill to speak up and suggest ways to commit to improving PNG's governance through the election year and beyond," he said.

The Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from national and sub-national governments to promote open government, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

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What is TIPNG?

TIPNG is a member of Transparency International a global anti-corruption movement committed to fighting corruption. TIPNG is an independent organization in PNG known as a Chapter of the international movement. The PNG chapter advocates against corruption and promotes transparency, good governance, honesty and accountability both in private and public sector dealings. TIPNG tries to assist strengthen the integrity systems of our country such as the police, the parliament, the public services and the judiciary.