

**UNICEF Statement
Adoption of UPR outcome for Papua New Guinea
Geneva, 22 September 2016**

Mister President

UNICEF congratulates the Government of Papua New Guinea for the adoption and gazetting of the Child Protection Act (2015) and the Juvenile Justice Act (2014). UNICEF calls for the speedy establishment the Child and Family Services Council and allocation of adequate human and financial resources required to provide much needed services to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, and exploitation and neglect children.

Mr. President

UNICEF recognizes the significant effort made by the government to improve health services across the country, but notes that PNG continues to remain the only country in the Asia-Pacific region that is yet to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. Only 6 out of 10 children are reached with immunization service and many children do not receive complete doses of vaccine doses and some are malnourished, while mothers continue to die due to pregnancy.

UNICEF urges the government to invest adequate funding and human resources, to address these issues. More investment is required in the procurement of adequate equipment and capacity development for staff particularly in rural communities.

Mr. President,

UNICEF welcomes the establishment by the government of the national identity and civil registration system. We reiterate our concern about the low level of birth registration and call on the government to establish a decentralized registration system through close collaboration with health and faith-based organizations.

Mr. President

UNICEF is fully committed to continuing support to the government to improve children's rights in Papua New Guinea.

Thank you.