

**For the Office of the High Commissioner  
of Human Rights  
*Universal Periodic Review: 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle*  
Papua New Guinea  
2021**

**ISSUES RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND MINING ESPECIALLY  
DEEP SEA-BED MINING AND SAND MINING**

*An individual submission by:*

**ROSELYN EREHE**

**C-/ Oga Erehe P.O BOX 6095 Boroko National Capital District Port Moresby  
Papua New Guinea**

**Email: [erehe5rosie22@gmail.com](mailto:erehe5rosie22@gmail.com)**

**Telephone: +675 78317803**

## **ABOUT ROSELYN EREHE**

I Roselyn Erehe am an undergraduate Double Major Student at the University of Papua New Guinea set to graduate this year (2021) with Bachelors in ARTS- Journalism & Public Relations and Political Science. During my studies of 5 years in University I have done voluntary work for Communities for experience with Sogeri Network Kokoda Women's Resource Centre as a Public Relations Officer (2018-2019) in Koiari, Central Province, Papua New Guinea. In 2019 I was engaged as a Freelance Journalist with Sunday Bulletin Weekend Newspaper that was more based around publications of Political news. In 2019, I was engaged as a Public Relations officer for the National Capital District Commission, later promoted to be a PR in the NCD Governor Hon. Powes Parkop's Office. During my time with the NCD PR – my role with the Active City Development Program (ACDP) in NCD, Port Moresby was a Mistress of Ceremony for events, especially to do with the UN in PNG, Coordinator of Unity Walks, Women Right Movements and Back Stage Manager for Carols by the Sea- an event to bring Papua New Guineas together before Christmas (2019 and 2020) from 2019-2021. In November 2020 I was privileged to be engaged to organize the First Annual Gender Based Violence Summit by NCD-ACDP, PNG Government and support from UN – EU Spotlight Initiative and United Nations Development Programme in PNG. I am currently an intern Governance Officer for UNDP in PNG.

The voluntary work, engagement and internship has further enlightened my knowledge in Human Rights.

My individual submission is based on interest that promoting Human Rights in all areas can be affected if the Environment itself is in destruction and destroyed. Taking into consideration, the next generation -PNG a diverse, resource rich nation.

# **United Nations Universal Periodic Review – Submission of Issues and Recommendations**

## **1. Introduction and Overview:**

This submission is made to contribute to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of PNG.

The focus of this submission is on the human rights and environmental impacts of seabed mining and sandmining.

It sets out some of the concerns of communities in PNG that will have lands, livelihoods, traditional customs and ways of life most impacted by seabed mining and by sandmining.

Papua New Guineans livelihood depends on direct fishing, direct hunting, and gardening. We live a lifestyle that our ancestors solely trusted, 'as care for the environment and give back to the environment through care, respect and loyalty of support cycle.

PNG is indeed a rich and strong black nation with Diverse cultures and people. If we, without consideration extract resources we will lose the rich, strong black nation. A generation without an environment will lose its diversity and value.

Land in PNG has great cultural significance, that goes beyond the physical impacts of such mining. The current generation has obligations to the generations that come after. These generations also have the rights to enjoy these lands and seas, to continue traditional cultural practices and knowledge of the lands and seas and to pass them on in turn to their children.

The submission provides some recommendations to address these concerns. These recommendations are primarily to the PNG government, but also apply to the companies that seek to profit from these activities – and the governments of other countries that have a responsibility to regulate these companies.

I, Roselyn Erehe, make this submission as a proud Papua New Guinean, as a former journalist who came to learn of these issues, as someone who believes in human rights and as someone who wants to support the communities that want to make sure that development benefits all in PNG, and is sustainable.

## 2. The Issues:

**2.1 Seabed mining** is being proposed by a number of international companies. The PNG government, like other Pacific governments, has announced a moratorium on seabed mining because of concerns about lack of research on impacts, untested technologies, potential harms to seas, marine ecosystems, and the communities that they support, and the lack of an adequate regulatory environment. The damage done to fragile environments by terrestrial mining in PNG could be multiplied if seabed mining is allowed to proceed. Even a machine taking sediment samples from the seabed is a threat itself. The Impact of Deep Sea -bed mining is unknown itself and the impact of sand mining may be far beyond nature to heal itself.

**2.2 Sandmining** is currently taking place with further sandmining proposed. PNG has no relevant policy, law, management guidelines, monitoring standards or mechanisms in place to govern the sustainable development of sand mining. There is insufficient regulation and oversight and the companies involved have not undertaken the due diligence processes required under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

## 3. The Recommendations:

- 3.1. The PNG government should include the specific concerns in relation to sandmining in a review of the current Mining Act.
- 3.2. People of PNG must also have information of the extraction process and information on the negative impacts on the environment.
- 3.3. The PNG government should adopt world best practice in relation to regulation of sandmining.
- 3.4. The PNG government should require that all companies seeking a license to sandmine in PNG have committed to implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, have a public statement on their commitment to human rights and provide evidence of continuing application of due diligence policies.
- 3.5. All mining companies operating in PNG should formally commit to respecting the right of Indigenous communities and landholders to Free Prior and Informed Consent and conform with PNG constitution sections 57, 51 and 59.
- 3.6. All mining activities must demonstrate their benefit to the communities whose land and seas are most directly affected.
- 3.7. The PNG government should adopt further measures on the transparency and distribution of revenues from mining.
- 3.8. The PNG government should actively work to support a global moratorium on deep seabed mining.

## 4. Our Human Rights of Importance

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 22**

**Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.**

**According to Universal Declaration of Human *Rights* Article  
27**

***1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.***