



Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE

Youth Representative to the United Nations global Youth Forum returns

Barbara Thomas young leader of The Voice Inc attended the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum at the UN Headquarters in New York to showcase Papua New Guinea's Vision 2050 and its Sustainable Development model.

The Economical and Social Council Forum saw young people from all over the world come together to discussed ways in which young people can and are helping to manage the shift from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also addressed ways to ensure that the needs and priorities of all youth are at the centre of the future development agenda and its implementation.

As a representative of Papua New Guinea and The Voice Inc. Barbra Thomas said the important concepts she took out of this forum is that the young people of each nations have a big role to play in bringing the post 2015 development agenda to the people and these could be done effectively through partnerships and accountability.

"Young people have a role to play in bringing the post 2015 development agenda to their nations. It's not just something governments, NGOs or corporations do. Everything has to be balanced. It's all about being responsible in managing our different spheres of development; our environment, our economy and our social aspects but always being mindful that people should be at the centre for development. We must recognize that we share one world and provide the environments and create platforms for people to learn together as equal partners and be able to pursue and realize their dreams in ways that do not jeopardize the future generations," she said.

Barbra Thomas said the United Nations has through extensive research and collaboration with member states come up with 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals which aim to advance sustainable development by improving economical and social well being while protecting the environment.

"There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals that will be finalized by the end of September 2015. The new development agenda aims to advance sustainable development improving economic and social well being while protecting the environment and address issues including inclusive growth, equality, peace and security, governance and human rights. It aims to be bold, ambitious and universal – relevant to all people and all societies, everywhere. It must constitute global transformational change for people and planet, with common, shared responsibilities for all countries, recognizing that countries have different capabilities. Young people have been tasked to be the touch bearer of these development goals," she said.

Barbra Thomas is writing a summary about the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum to present to The Voice Inc & The Department of National Planning and Monitoring.

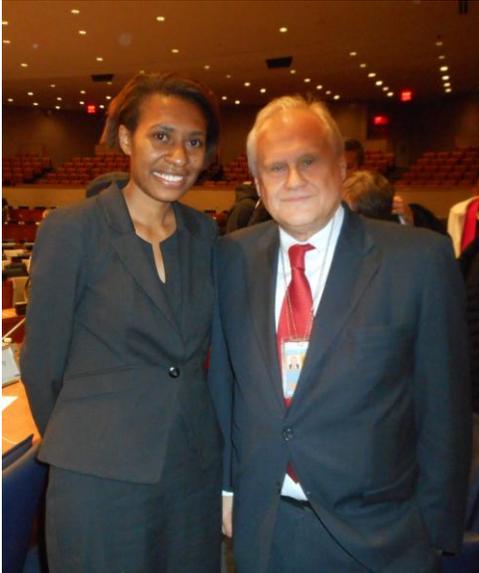
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PHOTO CAPTION:



L-R: Barbra Thomas & His Excellency Martin Sajdik 7th President of the Economic and Social Council currently the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York.