

## Draft Basic Agreement concerning the Bougainville Reconciliation Government (BRG)

Name: Annex 2 to the Lincoln Agreement  
Basic Agreement concerning the Bougainville Reconciliation  
Government (BRG)

Preamble: The Government of Papua New Guinea, the Bougainville Transitional Government, the Bougainville Resistance Force, the Bougainville Interim Government, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army and Bougainville leaders (“the parties”)

- reaffirming their shared commitment to lasting peace by peaceful means,

determined to continue consulting and co-operating in implementing the Lincoln Agreement, and

bearing in mind the need to establish a Bougainville Reconciliation Government by 1 January 1999,

hereby agree as follows:

### Principles

1. (a) The BRG is intended to provide an agreed political framework through which the parties and other participants in previous conflicts can co-operate in providing good government for Bougainville in order to -
  - i consolidate and strengthen the peace process,
  - ii work for a political settlement,
  - iii create an environment in which churches, communities and non-governmental organisations can work with the people to bring about genuine reconciliation,
  - iv promote public awareness and understanding, and

v make and implement plans for restoration and development.

- (b) The BRG will be established in accordance with principles laid out in this Agreement.
2. The BRG will conduct itself in accordance with the wishes of the people of Bougainville and the laws of Papua New Guinea.
3.
  - (a) The document establishing the BRG will provide for continuing progress towards free and democratic elections and settlement of the political issue as provided in the Lincoln Agreement.
  - (b) The elections will be held as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.
4. The powers, functions and resources of the BRG will be set out in a document to be concluded between the Papua New Guinea Government and the BRG.
5. The parties (and, when it is formed, the BRG and the Papua New Guinea Government) will provide one another with the information and advice they require to implement this Agreement and other Agreements.
6. Recognising that leaders, voters and the community generally must be able to speak and make decisions freely and according to conscience, the parties will co-operate in taking urgent steps to ensure a secure environment.
7. Implementation of this Agreement, including the establishment and operations of the BRG, will be transparent, accountable and cost-effective.
8. The parties (and, when it is formed, the BRG and the Papua New Guinea Government) will consult and co-operate with a view to resolving any differences or difficulties which might arise in relation to this Agreement, including follow-up arrangements and implementation.

## Establishment of the BRG

9. (a) Bougainvillean leaders will convene a constituent assembly, broadly representative of the people of Bougainville, to adopt the document establishing the BRG.
  - (b) The document establishing the BRG will be forwarded to the Papua New Guinea Government without delay after its adoption by the constituent assembly.
  - (c) The document establishing the BRG may provide for the progressive development of the BRG.
10. (a) Existing administrative arrangements, including local-level governments, the delivery of services, reconstruction and development, will continue pending review and progressive restructuring on the initiative of the BRG.
  - (b) Officials will remain at their posts in order to facilitate an integrated approach towards public administration.

## Structure of the BRG

11. The BRG will have both legislative and executive arms.
12. The legislative arm will be broadly representative of the people of Bougainville, with special provision for representation of women and other interest groups as agreed by the Bougainvillean parties or, after it is established, the BRG.
13. The document establishing the BRG will provide for the appointment, organisation and procedures of both the legislative and the executive arms, including relations between them.
14. The four Members who represent Bougainville in the National Parliament will be full members of the legislative arm and entitled to be appointed to the executive arm.
15. The costs of the legislative and executive arms (including allowances and travel) will be met from the budget for the BRG.

16. The parties (and, when it is formed, the BRG and the Papua New Guinea Government) will co-operate to ensure that members of the BRG can represent their people by speaking and making decisions freely within the law and according to conscience

Further progress

17. (a) The parties (and, when it is formed, the BRG and the Papua New Guinea Government) will co-operate in producing a report before the National Parliament meets in July 1999 recommending long-term arrangements, including such legislation and other preparations as may be required, for the government of Bougainville.
- (b) The report will contain details of progress in -
- i restoring civil authority, including restoration of civilian peacetime policing and courts,
  - ii promotion of public awareness and understanding,
  - iii restoration and development, and
  - iv implementation of this Agreement and other Agreements generally.
18. The parties (and, when it is formed, the BRG and the Papua New Guinea Government) will meet regularly to brief one another, promote mutual awareness and facilitate co-operation in relation to -
- i implementation of this Agreement and other Agreements,
  - ii developments on the ground, and
  - iii progress towards a political settlement, including the political issue.
19. The parties agree that negotiations on the political issue shall continue in accordance with past Agreements.