



## 20<sup>th</sup> MSG LEADERS' SUMMIT

***"Let's build a strong Melanesia in the Pacific where peace, progress and prosperity is ensured and sustained for all"***

*26 June 2015  
Heritage Park Hotel  
Honiara, Solomon Islands*

### COMMUNIQUE

1. The Leaders Summit was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 25 – 26 June, 2015. The Official Opening and Welcome Ceremony of the Summit was held on 24 June 2015 at the Solomon Islands National Museum and included a traditional welcome ceremony by the Cultural Groups from the Solomon Islands. The Leaders then convened their Retreat at the Heritage Park Hotel on the morning of 25 June, 2015 followed by the Plenary at the Conference Room of the Heritage Park Hotel on the 26 June, 2015. The closing ceremony was held at the Mendana Hotel.
2. The Summit was Chaired by Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands. MSG Leaders in attendance at the Summit included Mr Victor Tutugoro, Spokesperson of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS), Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji; Hon. Peter O'Neill, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG); Mr Johnson Naviti Marakipule, Director General Office of the Prime Minister, Representing the Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu.

3. At their Retreat, Leaders considered and made decisions on the key issues submitted by the MSG Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) and other issues on their Agenda. The key decisions of Leaders are summarised below.

#### A. FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING (FMM) REPORT

4. Leaders congratulated the FMM Chair Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Solomon Islands for the report of the FMM that was held in Honiara on 22-23 June 2015. Leaders considered and adopted the following key decisions as recommended by the FMM.

##### Trade Issues

5. The leaders:
  - i) **Approved** the outcomes of the TMM held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 including the Port Moresby Declaration on “Securing Future MSG Prosperity Through Trade and Economic Integration”;
  - ii) **Commended** the TMM and officials on the convening of the successful 2<sup>nd</sup> MSG Investment Roadshow & Trade Fair held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea;
  - iii) **Commended** the Government of Papua New Guinea on the funding support provided towards assisting participation of MSG private sector and officials who attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> MSG Investment Roadshow & Trade Fair;
  - iv) **Noted** the convening of the next MSG Investment Roadshow and Trade Fair tentatively scheduled for October 2015 in New Caledonia;
  - v) **Directed** trade officials to continue to support activities towards concluding negotiations on the MSGTA3 legal text by October, ahead of the planned TMM tentatively scheduled for November 2015;
  - vi) **Encouraged** the Secretariat to work closely with relevant partners in the region on the Private Sector Development (PSD) Strategy;
  - vii) **Endorsed** the Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries Management and Sustainable Development;
  - viii) **Noted** the arrangements on the pursuit of the 11<sup>th</sup> EDF from the EU and Secretariat’s recent submission of the MSG’s 11th EDF proposal to the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat as the Duly Mandated Regional Organization and as the Regional Authorizing Officer;
  - ix) On Kava exports, Leaders **noted** the support letter from Vanuatu’s former Prime Minister to Australia to convene dialogue on the lifting of the Kava ban and **urge** members to continue pursue this issue bilaterally with Australia when the opportunity arises;
  - x) **Agreed** for ongoing close collaboration with the MSG Assistance to the Micronesian Trade Centre; and
  - xi) On MSG Connectivity, **supported** the outcome of the TMM on the *MSG Travel Card* for ease of travel within the MSG region for business people following the TMM endorsement for an overarching connectivity framework would bring people and economies closer together through better regional transportation networks and lower trade costs, to

- xii) Strengthen physical, institutional, and people-to people with the objective of achieving a seamless and comprehensively connected and integrated MSG.

### **Finance and Economic Issues**

- 6. Leaders approved the Report of the **Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors High Level Consultations** held on 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013 except the following which has superseded the FMCBG's decisions of 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013:
  - i) The progress achieved in the implementation of initiatives on the Melanesian Emergency Stabilization Fund (MESF) and the Development and Investment Fund (DIF) in 2014;
  - ii) **Directed** Finance Ministers and respective regulatory authorities to consider the Feasibility Study on the Development and Investment Fund; and
  - iii) **Directed** Finance Ministers to meet and discuss the proposed Melanesian Emergency Stabilization Fund before the end of 2015 and the issues considered in the FMCBG Meeting in 2013 as soon as possible.

### **Criteria and Procedures of Observership and Associate Membership**

- 7. On the revised Membership Criteria and Procedures of Observership and Associate Membership, Leaders **agreed** to:
  - i) Maintain the 2012 guidelines for Associate membership;
  - ii) **Directed** the Secretariat to do further work on the amendment to criterion 4 for admitting Groups as Observers.
  - iii) **Directed** the Secretariat to undertake further work on the criteria for Observer/Associate Membership taking note of expressions of interest by States not in Melanesia for some form of association with the MSG.

### **Report of the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM)**

- 8. Leaders noted the Report of the Senior Officials Meeting and recommendations by FMM and on the following:
  - i) **Endorsed** the revised Implementation Framework and Leaders Declaration on the MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan;
  - ii) **Endorsed** the Shipping Study Terms of Reference;
  - iii) **Acknowledged** with appreciation the offer by PNG to fund the Shipping Study in relation to the Trade Ministers decision and for the Study's completion by end of 2015.
  - iv) **Agreed** that the Enhanced MSG Economic Integration, Enhanced Sustainable Management of Natural Resources; and Strengthening of MSG's Governance as the focal areas for funding under the 11th EDF;

- v) **Agreed** that Members will advocate for MSG to receive 11th EDF funding for all three sectors including the blending facility to address the specific areas on the Development and Investment Fund and Intra MSG Shipping;
- vi) **Approved** that the standing mandate for MSG to pursue a separate EDF envelope be set aside and the MSG Secretariat now work with PIFS as the Duly Mandated Regional Organization to secure resources for its work under the EDF 11 RIP;
- vii) **Endorsed** the report of the MSG Observer Mission to the Fiji elections;
- viii) **Noted Fiji's** deep appreciation to PNG and other MSG members for the support given during the elections;
- ix) **Endorsed** the Report of the 5th Melanesian Festival of Arts and Culture (MFAC);
- x) **Acknowledged** with deep gratitude the support from the Government of Papua New Guinea towards facilitating the successful convening of the 5th MACF;
- xi) **Endorsed** the Outcomes of the MSG Sub-Committee on Security (SCS) Meeting held on 7-8 May 2015;
- xii) **Endorsed** the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the MSG Humanitarian and Emergency Response Coordination Centre (HERCC);
- xiii) **Agreed** to refer the issue of the establishment of the MSG Security/Defence Ministers Meeting to the Sub- Committee on Security (SCS) for further consultations noting the reservations by Papua New Guinea;
- xiv) **Endorsed** the outcomes of the 5th Police Commissioner Conference held on 14 May 2015;
- xv) **Endorsed** the draft Agreement Establishing the Regional Police Academy (RPA);
- xvi) **Endorsed** the draft Legislative Framework for the Formed Police Unit (FPU);
- xvii) **Endorsed** the Declaration on Combating Domestic and Family Violence signed by Police Commissioners on 14 May 2015;
- xviii) **Endorsed** the Outcomes of the Sports Committee Meeting (SCM) held on 12-13 March 2015;
- xix) **Endorsed** the MOU on Sports Cooperation;
- xx) **Endorsed** revival of the Melanesia Football Cup;
- xxi) **Endorsed** the outcomes of the 9th and 10th Sub-Committee on Legal and Institutional Issues (SCLII) meetings held 19- 20 February 2014 in Honiara, Solomon Islands and from 20-21 April 2015 in Port Vila, Vanuatu, except for the staff regulations which will be referred to the governing body meeting and the Agreement Establishing the MSG which is discussed in another agenda item;
- xxii) **Endorsed** the process for the assessment, reappointment or appointment of the Director General;
- xxiii) **Endorsed** the MSG Declaration on the Transshipment of Nuclear Waste and Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste;
- xxiv) **Endorsed** the amendments to the Agreement Establishing the MSG;

xxv) **Applications for Membership by United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) and Associate Membership by Indonesia**

a) On the application by ULMWP for Membership, **Leaders approved** that ULMWP be admitted as an Observer member under the regional and international category representing Melanesians living abroad.

b) On the application by Indonesia for Associate Membership, **Leaders approved** that Associate membership be accorded to Indonesia representing the five (5) Melanesian Provinces in Indonesia.

**Recovery Support for Vanuatu**

9. Leaders **endorsed** the Report on the Recovery Support for Vanuatu and **agreed** to pledge support in areas specified under the Recovery Support Measures directly to the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu on a bilateral basis.
10. The Government of Vanuatu expressed deep appreciation to the Leaders for their continued support and contributions.

**MSG High Level Representative (HLR)**

11. The Leaders agreed to defer consideration of this matter and in the meantime empowered the Director General to assume the role of HLR.

**Secretariat's Progressive Report**

12. Leaders noted and endorsed the Secretariat's Progressive Report for January to May 2015 as presented. The Leaders also commended the Secretariat for their hard work.

**Youth and Women Development**

13. On the issue of Youth and Women Development in Melanesia relating to Pacific Islands Identity, Climate Change and Next Generation Leadership, Leaders:
  - i) **Endorsed** that Solomon Islands establishes a common hub for centre of excellence on youth development;
  - ii) **Endorsed** that Members take actions on the advancement of youth, women and civil society organizations in Melanesia; and
  - iii) **Directed** that the Secretariat develop Youth and Women in development proposals and programmes for consideration at the next Governing body meeting.

## **B. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NOUMEA ACCORD AND DECLARATION**

14. The Leaders acknowledged with gratitude the Update by the FLNKS on the implementation of the Noumea Accord and Declaration. Leaders noted that FLNKS continues to participate in working groups who will meet from 2015 to 2017 to consider the 4 sovereign powers yet to be transferred by France. The Special Committee on Noumea Accord held in France on 05 June 2015 will be responsible for overseeing developments on the Electoral Roll which will be the basis for the conduct of the 2018 Referendum. The Special Committee also agreed to correct and fix the Election List for provincial elections and for the Referendum. The Update is appended as *Annex I*.
15. The Leaders further noted that the election of 2014 has increased the number of FLNKS Congress Members to 25 out of 54 Members. For the FLNKS, this performance augurs well for the final term of the Noumea Accord and ahead of the referendum on self-determination in 2018.

## **C. UPDATE ON RAMSI WITHDRAWAL**

16. On the Update on RAMSI withdrawal, Solomon Islands expressed appreciation to Members on their contribution to RAMSI. Members noted that the full withdrawal of RAMSI is scheduled to take place in June 2017. Solomon Islands noted that there is a commitment to initiate reforms and increasing opportunities in other provinces as the basis of addressing the underlying causes of the tensions in the past. Members acknowledged that Australia and New Zealand are moving the aid assistance to Solomon Islands from RAMSI to the Solomon Islands Government machinery through bilateral programs, except the policing component. Members acknowledged with appreciation that Solomon Islands Government is working effectively to address the underlying causes of tensions as the basis of long term unity, stability and peace.
17. The Leaders agreed to work together to strengthen their national capacities for addressing domestic challenges to lessen dependency on external powers.

## **D. PROPOSAL BY PNG ON ENHANCING ECONOMIC CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE MSG: MSG REGIONAL AIRLINE AND SHIPPING SERVICES**

18. The Leaders noted with deep appreciation the proposal by PNG for an MSG Regional Airlines and Shipping Services and welcomed the offer by the government of PNG to fund feasibility studies on these and report back to the next MSG Summit through the normal MSG process.

## **E. UPDATE BY PNG ON THE VISIT BY PRESIDENT WIDODO OF INDONESIA**

19. The Leaders noted an update by Prime Minister O'Neill of the recent visit to Papua New Guinea by H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia from 11-12 May. The Leaders further noted that Indonesian President is someone whom the MSG can dialogue with.

## **F. ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

20. The Chair thanked all the Leaders for their support and contributions during the 20th Leaders' Summit. Leaders also thanked the Chair for his Leadership during the Summit and also extended their deep appreciation to the Government and people of Solomon Islands for hosting a successful 20th Leaders' Summit 2015 and related meetings. They further expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to all the Leaders and delegates.

## **G. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT SUMMIT**

21. Leaders agreed to meet in Papua New Guinea in 2017 at a date and venue yet to be determined.

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**Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare, MP**

Chair of the MSG and

Prime Minister

Solomon Islands

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**Mr Victor Tutugoro**

Spokesperson

Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS)

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**Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, MP**

Prime Minister

Republic of Fiji

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**Hon. Peter O'Neill, CMG, MP**

Prime Minister

Independent State of Papua New Guinea

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**Mr Johnson Naviti Marakipule**

Director General of the Prime Minister's Office

Representing the Prime Minister

Republic of Vanuatu