



## **CHAIR'S SUMMARY**

### **OFFICIAL RECORD OF MSG CAUCUS DECISIONS**

#### **Margins of the 55th PIF Leaders Meeting in Koror, Palau**

Venue: *Ngarachamayong Cultural Center*

*31 August 2026*

#### **A. INTRODUCTION:**

1. We, the Leaders, Ministers and official representatives of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), meeting in Caucus in Koror, Republic of Palau, on the margins of the 55th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (55th PIFLM), considered the recommendations submitted by the Special MSG Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) following its deliberations on issues arising from the Special MSG Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), held on 13 August 2026, and reached the following decisions:

#### **B. DECISIONS AND DIRECTIONS:**

2. **Report and Update by the Director General** – Leaders **noted** the Director General's progress report and update on the immediate priorities for the MSG Secretariat. Leaders **further noted** the Institutional Renewal Programme and the revitalisation of relevant technical and Ministerial bodies, particularly, the reconvening of the trade-related meetings to advance the MSG trade, investment and economic priorities, including the Melanesian Free Trade Agreement (MFTA).

3. Leaders **further endorsed** that the Secretariat work in collaboration with the Pacific Community in developing the Melanesian Oceans Hub in line with the commitment made for the Melanesian Oceans Corridor of Reserves (MOCOR).

4. **Review of the MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan** – Leaders **endorsed** the review of the MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan and **tasked** the Secretariat to ensure it commences by February 2027. Members will consider nominations for an Eminent Persons Group to lead the review.

5. **MSG Roadmap for Support to the *Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS)*** – Leaders:

- i. **Reaffirmed** support for the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Fourth Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2021-2030) proclaimed under the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 75/123.
- ii. **Recalling** the MSG Tokyo Statement (2024), Leaders **urged** France, as the Administering Power, to faithfully, impartially and honestly discharge its responsibility with regards Kanaky-New Caledonia and in accordance with UNGA Resolution 1514 (XV) on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.
- iii. **Called** for accelerated action consistent with the obligations of the Administering Power under Article 73 of the Charter of the UN and UNGA Resolution 1514(XV) and 1541(XV) recalling the commitments undertaken in the Nouméa Accord of 1998, which recognizes the rights of the indigenous people of Kanaky-New Caledonia. To this end, Leaders **called** for enhanced solidarity in line with the MSG Tokyo Statement (2024), and:
  - a. **Approved** the MSG Roadmap for Support to the FLNKS.
  - b. **Reaffirmed** commitment to coordinated diplomatic engagement in support of a peaceful and internationally recognised decolonisation process in Kanaky-New Caledonia, including through the UNGA, and the Special Committee on Decolonisation.
  - c. **Noting** the request of the FLNKS, **agreed** to commission, through the Secretariat and in consultation with the MSG Permanent Representatives in New York, an independent legal scoping study on the framing of a question that may be put to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion under Article 96(1) of the Charter concerning the obligations of the Administering Power in the decolonisation of Kanaky-New Caledonia, including the conduct of the third referendum on 12 December 2021 and the determination of the electorate entitled to participate in any act of self-determination; and **directed** the study to be presented to the 2027 Leaders Meeting for decision.
  - d. **Noted** the FLNKS' report that violence continues under current arrangements, and **called** for a renewed Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Troika mission to assist to prevent further violence in Kanaky-New Caledonia and in light of the lapse of the Bougival and Matignon-Oudinot processes and the seating of the new Congress.
  - e. **Recalled** that the PIF had a historical role in enlisting *La Cause Kanak* to the Committee of 24 Decolonisation Committee, and therefore **called** for the PIF to formally recognise and support the MSG position at the forthcoming 55th PIF Leaders Meeting in Koror, Palau (2-3 September, 2026), and for Kanaky-New Caledonia self-determination to be a standing agenda item at every PIF Leaders Meeting until such time as the UNGA determines the Territory has attained a full measure of self-government in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter.
  - f. **Noted** that the Bougival and Matignon-Oudinot processes have lapsed and no longer offer a viable post-Noumea pathway, and **called** for a new process that is Kanaky in design and Melanesian in spirit.

- iv. **Requested** the Chair to convey the MSG position to the 55th PIF Leaders Meeting.

**6. Proposed Visit by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to West Papua – Leaders:**

- i. **Recalling** the 22<sup>nd</sup> MSG Leaders Meeting (2023) to act on the PIF resolution of 2019, which was reiterated in 2023, 2024 and 2025, on the visit by the OHCHR to the Papuan Provinces of Indonesia, Leaders **reaffirmed** the MSG's long-standing support and **urged** continued engagement with Indonesia to facilitate access by the end of Indonesia's term as President of the Human Rights Council on 31 December, 2026.
- ii. **Requested** the Chair to write to the Associate Member (Indonesia) to allow the visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to West Papua to produce a report on human rights issues in Papua, and to have the Commissioner's Report on Human Rights issues in Papua delivered for the consideration of the next MSG Summit in 2027.
- iii. **Affirmed** that if these actions are not undertaken the Associate Member status shall be reviewed accordingly at the next MSG Summit in 2027.
- iv. Leaders **requested** MSG Member Embassies in Jakarta, to support appropriate follow-up and engagement on this matter.
- v. Further, **recognising** the appointment of the Prime Ministers of Fiji and Papua New Guinea as Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Envoys on this matter, in Rarotonga in 2023, and **recalling** the 54<sup>th</sup> PIFLM request in Honiara in 2025 for a mission to be undertaken in 2026, Leaders **agreed** to offer additional MSG representation to the Forum Leaders Envoys towards the fact-finding mission.
- vi. Members considered the **proposal** for MSG Leaders to meet the Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in the margins of the 81<sup>st</sup> UNGA in New York in 2026.
- vii. **Requested** the Chair to provide an update to the 55<sup>th</sup> PIFLM accordingly.

**C. OTHER BUSINESS AND REGIONAL POSITIONS FOR THE 55<sup>th</sup> PIFLM:**

7. Leaders agreed that the MSG will advance coherent Melanesian positions at the 55<sup>th</sup> PIFLM, including:

**a) Amplification of MSG Models**

8. Recognising that Melanesia's vast land mass and oceanscapes, population size and economies make it a regional powerhouse, Leaders **reaffirmed** that MSG's collective voice must continue to be amplified within the wider regional architecture so that Melanesian perspectives, priorities and solutions are consistently heard, respected and reflected in decisions that shape the region's future.

9. Leaders **recognised** that Melanesia has pioneered many intra-regional approaches that have informed Pacific-wide practice, such as in trade, and **highlighted** MSG institutional twinning mechanisms – pairing Melanesian agencies, departments and institutions – in justice, security and border control, as examples that can be further shared with the Forum family.

10. Leaders **agreed** that institutional twinning arrangements should be promoted as a practical and sustainable basis for cooperation within the wider Pacific, enabling the transfer of expertise, capacity-building and mutual institutional strengthening in support of a more resilient and self-reliant region.

**b) MSG Regional and International leadership**

11. Leaders **recalled** the 22<sup>nd</sup> MSG Leaders' Summit (2023) decision for the Secretariat to develop an MSG guideline and a standing chart to appoint MSG candidates to regional and international positions, and **instructed** the Secretariat to complete this by the next SOM in 2026.

12. Members further **noted** the forthcoming opportunities for Melanesian candidates in subregional rotational arrangements within the Pacific Islands Forum framework as well as the UN-system.

**c) Pacific Resilience Fund Pledging**

13. Leaders **welcomed** pledges by external partners towards the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) which to date remain well short of the Facility's annual target of US\$500 million, and further still from the US\$1.5 billion the Facility ultimately requires to be fully capitalised.

14. As a facility designed to strengthen the resilience of Pacific communities, Members further **emphasized** the shared desire for high emitters to more-than-match Members' own voluntary contributions, in recognition of the legal obligations established by the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion.

**d) Expressions of Interest for the Position of Pacific Islands Forum Secretary General**

15. The Caucus **noted** expressions of interest for potential candidates for the position of Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, in accordance with the agreed subregional rotational arrangements.

**e) Interest by Vanuatu to host the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in 2030**

16. Leaders **welcomed and supported** Vanuatu's expression of interest to host the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in 2030 and **encouraged** the timely submission of a formal proposal to the Pacific Islands Forum.

17. Leaders **noted** that the event would coincide with Vanuatu's 50th Independence Anniversary and **acknowledged** the importance of this landmark occasion for Vanuatu and the Pacific family.

**D. Closing**

18. Leaders **reaffirmed** their collective commitment to Melanesian solidarity, regional cooperation and principled engagement in Pacific regionalism.

19. Leaders **expressed** appreciation to all members for their collective efforts in service of Melanesian peoples and communities.

*MSG Secretariat  
Koror, Palau  
31 August 2026*