



MSG Secretariat Secretariat du GFLM

Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

HUMAN SECURITY NOTES INDONESIA PACIFIC FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT 7 December 2022

Theme: “Grow and Prosper Together”

(Pleasantries)

H.E. Mrs Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of Indonesia

Premier of Niue, Hon. Dalton Tagelagi

Ministers of the Pacific Islands Forum Members

Heads of Delegations

Ladies and Gentlemen

INTRODUCTION

It with great humility that I thank the Indonesian Government and accept the invitation to be the lead speaker and panelist at this august Indonesia -Pacific Islands Forum for Development. I would have preferred the role of a listener rather than the lead speaker on the issue of **Human Security** – cognisant that there are many around this table more conversant on this issue than me.

It has become conventional thinking that any discussions on **Human Security** must involve **Personal Security, food security, environmental security, economic security, political security and Health Security**. More and more the **community security** dimension is added into the consideration.

Both the **MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan**, and the **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent**, recognise this multi-dimensional nature of **Human Security** and provide overarching guides for our countries in the Pacific to follow.

All are interconnected. They are interconnected in ways that can be described as “symbiotic mutualism”. They all depend on each other, they feed on each other, and the health of one affects the health of others.

Each of these different elements of **Human Security** must be developed with due consideration given to the effects it has on others. In considering actions on any of these human security elements, we in MSG believe that we would all do well to resist the temptation of a “zero sum” calculation. A focus on one must not be at the expense of the other.

The challenge is to find the right balance between all these components of the **Human Security** paradigm for each and every one of our countries.

This applies equally to our approaches to economic development, and the choices each one of us make in our national political architecture and the development partners we engage with. And here again, MSG believes that finding the right balance of engagement between our different development partners is critical.

Our development partners need to appreciate that it is cooperation that we seek from them - NOT competition.

While we all share many things in common, it is important to always remember that no “one size fits all”. Blaze as it may sound, it is pertinent to point out here.

And as we search for solutions to our development challenges, and as we seek to address the **Human Security** concerns confronting each of our countries, MSG feels strongly that we would do well not to embark on a crusade to deride the imperfections of others in their political structures, governance methods or political choices.

Understanding, mutual respect and benevolence should be our mantra that must guide our interactions in our efforts to “**Grow and Prosper Together**”.

Environmental Security

Let me dwell here on Environmental Security. I would want to comment on Environmental aspects of human security because MSG Leaders, with the other PIF Leaders, have expressly declared Climate Change as the existential threat to all our countries.

Development plans and actions must be predicated on this reality of the devastating effects of Climate Change to our existence.

The ocean is encroaching on our shorelines, waves are lapping at our door steps, the fertility of our gardening grounds are being destroyed by rising salinity levels, coral bleaching is killing our sources of marine lifelines and economic sustenance, extreme weather changes are causing severe king tides, cyclones and flooding.

Addressing Climate Change and its impact will address many of the other security concerns relating to Personal, Food, Environmental, Economic, and Health Security

At this juncture, let me make mention of two initiatives advanced by one of our MSG Members, namely Vanuatu, at the United Nations. One seeks the support of the members of the United Nations for an ICJ Advisory Opinion on the responsibilities and obligations of States in relation to Climate Change.

We are grateful that many of you seated at this table have lent support to this initiative and the UN Resolution on it. We, at MSG, feel compelled to specifically acknowledge the support of Indonesia, an Associate Member of MSG, for the initiative and its co-sponsorship of the UN Resolution.

The other initiative relates to the call for a Convention on the elimination of the use of fossil fuel. We hope you can see your way clear to also supporting this initiative.

Excellencies, but let me draw your attention to other aspects of the environmental security equation that have somewhat lost favour from our enthusiasm and conversations.

The legacies of nuclear testing and the Second World War.

The Runit Dome is said to be leaking and seeping nuclear waste into the Pacific Ocean. The “Tomb”, as the locals call it, might just precipitate the early demise of many of our peoples if we do not attend to it properly in an expeditious way.

People were displaced from their homes and continue to suffer from this displacement. Our people continue to suffer health issues arising from exposure to nuclear testing activities.

Another aspect of nuclear technology that needs our vigilance is waste disposal. We are now being told that plans are afoot to discharge “Fukushima treated water” into the Pacific. MSG is concerned, and I believe that echoes the sentiments of the other Pacific Island countries represented here.

With respect to WW2, unexploded bombs and ordinances still litter our islands, both on land and under our waters. Sunk warships and ship wrecks still emit oil from their tanks. Our people continue to lose their lives every year, likewise our marine ecosystems continue to be contaminated, and yet no real concerted or sustainable programme has been developed by those responsible to rid us of this scourge.

Political Security

The bedrock of political security rests very much on its legitimacy - the way it assumes authority to govern and the way it dispenses that authority to serve its people.

Stability of states offer the most propitious environment to maintain sustained efforts of action for all the elements that constitute Human Security.

Experience suggests that Good Governance – rules based, people oriented, people centred way of governing - would appear to offer the best way to political stability.

But, we in MSG believe that in our search to addressing the Political Security paradigm, we would not be doing ourselves any favour if we allow ourselves to be drawn into a “zero sum” calculus. Moral lecturing, is simply inimical to developing constructive cooperation and mutual partnerships.

Let us continue to remind ourselves that it is unhelpful to adopt or advocate for a “one size fits all” political architecture solution.

Excellencies, before I conclude, let me make brief remarks on ***Economic Security, Health Security, and Community Security***.

Our economic well-being depends very much on the effective use of our resources as well as the responsible use and harvesting of our natural resources. Collective effort with our partners is required to address issues such as IUU and non-compliance in forestry and the extractive industries.

On Health, while addressing COVID 19 has understandably taken up much of our attention in the last couple of years, we at the MSG would like to remind ourselves that there are other health issues that affect our people more severely than Covid 19. According to figures presented to me, we in the Pacific have more deaths from NCDs, TB and Malaria than Covid 19. Perhaps a recalibration of effort is required in this space.

As it concerns, Community, let me just point out – what we already know - that “people centred” development and “community-based solutions” are the way to go.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the theme of “**Grow and Prosper Together**” should help inform our approach to addressing ***Human Security*** challenges. We should all be helping each other in our development efforts.

“Elevate Pacific” policy and vision by the Indonesian Government is welcomed by the MSG. It provides us the opportunity to cooperate and develop a more resilient and integrated community involving Indonesia and the Pacific Islands.

A benevolent Indonesian and Pacific Islands cooperation is required. We all need to share experiences, best practices, resources and assets at our disposal to help our fellow members in our region develop.

Can I also take the liberty to make the distinction between the discussions here at the Indonesia Pacific Forum for Development, and the Indo-Pacific conversations. While Indonesia has framed the arrangements under the Indonesia Pacific Forum for Development in a very inclusive and genuinely consultative manner, the Indo-Pacific arrangements take the Pacific Islands for granted.

In trying to prosecute this Indonesia Pacific partnership, let us not forget that all of us are different, we have our own distinct interests and needs.

This calls for mutual respect, as echoed by the Chair and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, in her opening remarks, to be shown at all times for the sovereignty of each of our States.

Thank you. Terima kasih,