



SPECIAL MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP (MSG) LEADERS' SUMMIT
VALE-NI-BOSE, BLV COMPLEX
SUVA, FIJI

29-30 MARCH, 2012

COMMUNIQUE

1. The Special Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Leaders Summit was held in Suva, Fiji from 29-30 March 2012.
2. The Official Opening of the Summit was held at the Vodafone Arena and included a Guard of Honour followed by a traditional ceremony of welcome 'Veiqaraqaravi Vakavanua'. The Leaders then convened for the plenary at the Vale-ni-Bose Complex. The Leaders' Retreat was held at Borron House.
3. The Summit was chaired by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama. MSG Leaders in attendance included the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon. Meltek Sato Kilman Livtuvanu; the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Hon. Gordon Darcy Lilo, the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Immigration of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Hon. Ano Pala; the Spokesperson of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS), Mr Victor Tutugoro; and Col. Samuela Saumatua, Leader of the Fiji delegation and Minister for Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment of Fiji.
4. Also in attendance were the Chairman of the MSG Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting (FMM) and Minister for Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Fiji, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola; Minister for Foreign Affairs of Vanuatu, Hon. Alfred Carlot; Minister for Foreign Affairs & External Trade of Solomon Islands, Hon. Clay Forau; Representative of the FLNKS, Ms Caroline Machoro; MSG Heads of Missions based in Fiji and PNG and the Director General of the MSG Secretariat, Mr Peter Forau.
5. Leaders welcomed the representatives of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia who are Observers to the MSG. The Observers also addressed the meeting.
6. Leaders also welcomed the People's Republic of China, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Kingdom of Morocco, the Russian Federation, the University of South Pacific (USP) and the Fiji National University (FNU) as Special Guests to the Special Leaders Summit. The Special Guests also addressed the meeting.

7. The Leaders considered and endorsed the following:

(I) REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE SECRETARIAT'S ACTIVITIES

8. The Director General presented the Secretariat's 2011 Report to the Leaders for their consideration and approval.

9. Leaders considered and approved the Director General's Report.

(II) REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE MSG FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS MEETING (FMM)

10. Leaders considered and approved the Report by the Chair of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting. The Leaders approved the following as recommended by the Foreign Ministers:

- (i) Outcomes of the Ministers of Culture & Arts Meeting (MCAM);
- (ii) Outcomes of the Environment & Climate Change Ministers Meeting (ECCMM);
- (iii) The development of a framework agreement on MSG Visa arrangements;
- (iv) The revised Observer Guidelines;
- (v) The Guidelines for Associate Members;
- (vi) Push for Fiji's re-admission and participation at the next Pacific Islands Chiefs Police Conference (PICPC) from 21-23 August 2012 in Honiara, Solomon Islands;
- (vii) The MSG Trade Agreement (MSGTA) Rules of Origin (ROO) Handbook;
- (viii) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Skills Movement Scheme (SMS);
- (ix) The revised MSGTA taking into account the recommendations for strengthening and improvement of the provisions of the legal text;
- (x) The proposed architecture of a redrafted goods agreement to provide for protocols on other trade issues (services, labour mobility, investment etc) to be added over time;
- (xi) The Principles for Enhancing Fiscal Management in Melanesia;
- (xii) MSG Sports Committee recommendations;
- (xiii) Signing of the MOU on Cultural Cooperation by the Ministers of Culture and Arts;
- (xiv) Guidelines for Participating in Future Melanesian Arts Festivals;
- (xv) The position paper on the Zero Draft Statement for the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development;
- (xvi) Secretariat Corporate Planning Process for 2013-2015;
- (xvii) Nomination of Mr Moses John Amos Tinapua of Vanuatu for the position of Director General of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA);
- (xviii) The formation of an MSG Eminent Persons Group (EPG) to develop the MSG Vision;
- (xix) Delivery of common MSG Statements at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);

- (xx) A common approach for the MSG to consider ahead of starting their preparations for the programming and disbursement of the regional European Development Funds 11 (EDF 11); and
- (xxi) To commence preparations for the 25th Anniversary of the MSG which falls on 14 March 2013, to coincide with the 19th MSG Leaders Summit and the inaugural Melanesia Games in New Caledonia.

(III) FIJI'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE

- 11. Leaders appreciated the presentation by the Prime Minister's Office which is responsible for the Office for the Strategic Framework for Change;
- 12. Leaders acknowledged the efforts put in by the government of Fiji to develop and progress the implementation of the Strategic Framework for change in Fiji; and
- 13. Leaders expressed their support for Fiji's Roadmap and offered to help Fiji if required through an MSG initiative.

(IV) RIO+20 CONFERENCE AND GREEN ECONOMY

- 14. Leaders acknowledged a presentation by Mr. Iosefa Maiava, head of UNESCAP – POC on the Rio+20 Conference and Green Economy and:
 - (i) Expressed their support for the work done by the MSG PRUNs in New York to work with AOSIS, SIDS and G77 to advance the MSG interest;
 - (ii) Agreed for the MSG Secretariat to develop an MSG Green Growth Roadmap and implementation framework for Rio+20 Conference based on the commitments of the SIDS;
 - (iii) Agreed for the MSG Secretariat to collaborate with international partners to establish the necessary institutional arrangement for MSG to access the Green Fund for climate change;
 - (iv) Agreed to secure opportunity for the MSG Chair to make a joint MSG statement at the Rio+20 Conference; and
 - (v) Endorsed the proposal for an MSG booth at the Rio+20 Conference.

(V) PACIFIC ISLANDS ROUNDTABLE FOR NATUR CONSERVATION OFFSHORE FISHERIES WORKING GROUP

- 15. Leaders acknowledged the presentation by the Group and thanked them for their work to promote nature conservation and protect offshore fisheries. The Leaders noted the revelation by the Working Group that sustainability of offshore fisheries is under threat because of overcapacity in fishing effort and that they agreed to take action to support the work of the Group.
- 16. Leaders noted the issues raised by the Working Group especially the threat on offshore fisheries sustainability.
- 17. Leaders agreed to develop with the Group a Roadmap for the protection of inshore and offshore fisheries.

(VI) INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

18. Leaders:

- (i) **Launched** the MSG Trade Agreement Rules of Origin (ROO) Handbook
- (ii) **Launched and signed** the MOU for MSG Skills Movement Scheme (SMS);
- (iii) **Signed** the Principles for Enhancing Fiscal Management in Melanesia;
- (iv) **Signed** the MSG Leaders Declaration on Environment & Climate Change; and
- (v) **Witnessed and signed** the MSG Framework Treaty on Protection of Traditional Knowledge & Expressions of Culture.

(VII) NEXT SUMMIT

19. Leaders agreed to meet in New Caledonia on a date and venue yet to be finalised in consultation between the FLNKS and the Secretariat.

20. Leaders agreed to meet again in Fiji under the current Chairmanship after the MSG High Level/Ministerial Mission to New Caledonia in July 2012 to consider the Mission Report and developments in New Caledonia including other key issues that warrant Leaders consideration.

(VIII) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

21. The Chair thanked all the Leaders for their support and contributions during the Leaders' Summit and also for Fiji's endeavours towards democratic elections. Leaders thanked the Government and people of Fiji for hosting a successful Special Leaders' Summit and related meetings. They also expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to all the Leaders and delegates.

Vale-ni-Bose
Suva, Fiji
29-30 March 2012

Commodore Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama

Chair of MSG &
Prime Minister
Republic of Fiji

Hon. Meltek Sato Kilman Livtuvanu MP

Prime Minister
Republic of Vanuatu

Hon. Gordon Darcy Lilo MP

Prime Minister
Solomon Islands

Hon. Ano Pala MP

Minister for Foreign Affairs & Immigration
Papua New Guinea

Mr Victor Tutugoro

Official Representative
Front de Libération Nationale Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS)

Col. Samuela Saumatua

Leader of the Fiji delegation &
Minister for Local Government, Urban Development,
Housing and Environment
Republic of Fiji