



## 23<sup>rd</sup> MELANESIAN SPEAHEAD GROUP (MSG) LEADERS' SUMMIT

### "A Peaceful and Prosperous Melanesia"

*23 June 2025  
Bose Levu Vakaturaga,  
Talanoa Lounge  
Suva, Republic of Fiji*

#### COMMUNIQUE

1. The 23<sup>rd</sup> MSG Leaders' Summit (herein the Summit) was held in Suva on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025. The Summit commenced with the handover ceremony for the MSG Chairmanship from Vanuatu to Fiji. The MSG Leaders then converged for the Retreat and then to the Plenary to sign the Communique.
2. The Summit was chaired by **Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka, MP** – Prime Minister of Fiji. The MSG Leaders in attendance were; **Honourable Jotham Napat, MP** – Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, **Honourable James Marape, MP** – Prime Minister of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, **Honourable Jeremiah Manele, MP** – Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Honourable **Roch Wamytan** – High-Level representative for the FLNKS.
3. At the Retreat, the Leaders considered the Report of the FMM presented by the FMM Chair Hon. Marc Ati, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and External Trade of the Republic of Vanuatu. The Leaders considered and adopted the following key decisions as recommended by the FMM:
  - A. SECRETARIAT'S PROGRESS REPORT.**
4. On the Secretariat Progress Report, the Leaders:
  - a) **Approved** the MSG Secretariat's Progress Report and thanked the Secretariat for ensuring the ongoing operation of the organisation;
  - b) **Approved** for the Secretariat to prioritise the review the Membership Guidelines, and the processes of the appointment of the Director General and have it presented for the consideration of the next MSG Governing Body Meeting;
  - c) **Approved** for the Secretariat to develop a "dialogue partner mechanism" to be in place for the Secretariat and have it presented for the consideration of the next MSG Governing Body Meeting; and
  - d) **Approved** for the Secretariat to seek donor funding for the rebuilding of the Secretariat Building.

**B. SITUATION IN KANAK-NEW CALEDONIA.**

5. On the update on the situation in Kanak-New Caledonia, the Leaders:
- a) **Reaffirmed** MSG solidarity with the People of Kanak - New Caledonia, and support for FLNKS through various multilateral platforms, including the UN-established processes such as the Special Committee on Decolonisation (C-24);
  - b) **Approved** for the matter of political developments in Kanak to remain as a standing agenda item on the MSG Leaders' Agenda until an amicable political pathway is attained;
  - c) **Approved** for a High-Level MSG Ministerial Visit to New Caledonia; and
  - d) **Agreed** for the MSG Leaders to write to His Excellency, Emmanuel Macron, the President of France to foster dialogue arrangements on the decolonisation processes in New Caledonia.

**C. MSG'S ICJ SUBMISSION & PROCEEDINGS.**

6. On the update on the ICJ Submission and Proceedings, the Leaders **approved** the Secretariat's ongoing participation in the ICJ process, particularly in the implementation of the Advisory Opinion acknowledging that the pathway is not immediate, nor is it one-size fits all, and will be implemented in a nationally determined way in recognition that all MSGs are still dependent on fossil fuels, are highly vulnerable to the worsening impacts of climate change, are not responsible for the climate crisis, and have limited financial, technical and human capacity.

**D. MSG TRAVEL BUSINESS CARD (MSGTBC).**

7. On the MSG Travel Business Card (MSGTBC), the Leaders;
- a) **Noted** the development of the MSGBTC as a catalyst for deeper economic integration and development.
  - b) **Noted** that PNG is currently developing forms and templates for the MSGTBC; and
  - c) **Noted** that PNG will host the facilitation of the processing and issuance of the MSGTBC and will support the MSG Secretariat in legislative reviews and the development of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

**E. DRAFT MSG SECURITY STRATEGY.**

8. On the Draft MSG Security Strategy, the Leaders **agreed to defer** the Joint Communiqué for Information Sharing and Cooperation between the Pacific Fusion Centre (PFC) and the MSG Secretariat pending the Review of the Regional Architecture.

**F. FRIENDS TO ALL, ENEMY TO NONE.**

9. The Leaders **reaffirmed** their commitment to the Friends to All, Enemy to None Foreign Policy that will guide the MSG Members relationship with countries and Development Partners.

**G. CLIMATE FINANCE STRATEGY AND THE MSG ROADMAP FOR INSHORE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

On the Climate Finance Strategy/Sectoral Needs Assessment and the MSG Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries, the Leaders;

- a) **Welcomed** the review of Climate Finance Strategy and the MSG Roadmap for Inshore Fisheries. Leaders; and
- b) **Tasked** the MSG Secretariat to develop a Terms of Reference (TOR) for the review for the consideration of SOM out-of-session.

**H. MSG PRIME MINISTERS CUP.**

10. On the MSG Prime Ministers Cup, the Leaders;

- a) **Reaffirmed** commitment to continue to support the MSG Prime Ministers Cup and to ensure its sustainability; and
- b) **Noted** that PNG will be hosting the next MSG Prime Ministers' Cup Tournament from 10<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 in Port Moresby including the inaugural Prime Ministers' Cup Women's Tournament.

**I. MELANESIAN ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL (MACFEST).**

11. On the Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival, the Leaders:

- a) **Directed** the Secretariat to continue discussion with Fiji as host of next MACFEST to support preparations; and
- b) **Urged** Members to expedite the ratification process of the Framework Treaty on Traditional Knowledge & Expression of Cultures (TKEC).

**J. STATUS OF THE MSG BUILDING AFTER THE DECEMBER EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE.**

12. On the Status of the MSG Building after the December earthquake damage, the Leaders:

- a) **Noted** the MSG office relocation and current office arrangements;
- b) **Approved** the option of the demolition and rebuilding of the MSG Secretariat building subject to receiving a full Structural Report and Geotechnical Report;
- c) **Welcomed** the proposed *Haos Blo Melanesia (HBM)* concept for the MSG Building;
- d) **Approved** for the Secretariat to engage reputable architects to design the architectural plan for the proposed new MSG Secretariat building with an estimated cost-benefit analysis on the duration of the rebuilding exercise, rentals to be incurred by the Secretariat during the rebuilding period, and projections of the rebuilding period and
- e) **Welcomed** Vanuatu's commitment to rebuilding the MSG Secretariat.

**K. PROJECT COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT UNIT (PCMU).**

13. On the Project Coordination and Management Unit, the Leaders:
- a) **Noted** the establishment of the Project Coordination & Management Unit under the Secretariat as the Implementation Agency for Development Partners and Donor Projects;
  - b) **Acknowledged** the Australia Government, through the DFAT for the initial funding towards the establishment of the PCMU; and
  - c) **Welcomed** the proposed Yut4Melanesia Project to be implemented under the auspices of the PCMU.

**L. PRESENTATION FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL PERSONS GROUP (HLPG).**

14. The Leaders **noted** the presentation from the High-Level Persons Group (HLPG) on the progress of the Review of the Regional Architecture (RRA).

**M. FLNKS CANDIDATURE FOR THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY.**

15. The Leaders **expressed support** to the FLNKS's candidate for the position of the Director General (DG) of the Pacific Community (PC).

**N. POSITION OF THE MSG DIRECTOR GENERAL.**

16. On the Position of the MSG Director General, the Leaders:
- a) **Approved** for the Secretariat to review and develop the Performance Assessment Guidelines for the reappointment of an incumbent Director General including the recruitment process of the Director General to be considered on a rotational and merit based and have the review submitted for the consideration of the Leaders;
  - b) **Approved** for the TROIKA to convene a meeting to consider the applications for the Director General and undertake the recruitment process; and
  - c) **Approved** the engagement of an Independent Consultant to facilitate future recruitments of the Director General.

**O. DIALOGUE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE ASSOCIATE MEMBER – INDONESIA**

17. On the dialogue arrangements with Indonesia, the Leaders:
- a) **Approved** to maintain the relationship and dialogue with Indonesia at the MSG Leaders Level;
  - b) **Reiterated** the MSG Leaders decision during the 22<sup>nd</sup> MSG Leaders Summit in 2023 to request the MSG Chair to write to the PIF Chair to ensure that the visit of the UN Human Rights Commissioner to the Papuan Provinces of Indonesia is undertaken; and
  - c) **Approved** for the MSG Leaders to write to the President of Indonesia to seek ways in which cordial dialogue arrangements can be fostered whereby the issues of Papuan Provinces in Indonesia can be discussed and addressed.

**P. MSG LAND ALLOCATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI FOR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.**

18. On the MSG Land allocated by the Government of Fiji for Diplomatic Missions, the Leader **noted** the progress of work by Members to undertake developments on the land for their diplomatic missions.

**Q. OTHER BUSINESS**

19. The Leaders **Noted** Fiji's candidature for the Deputy Secretary General (SG) for Commonwealth.

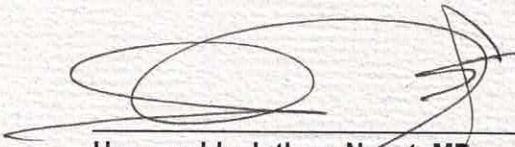
**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.**

20. The Chair thanked all the Leaders for their support and contributions during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Leaders' Summit. Leaders also thanked the incoming Chair for his Leadership during the Summit and the outgoing Chair for maintaining solidarity.
21. The Leaders also extended their deep appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji for hosting the successful 23<sup>rd</sup> MSG Leaders' Summit 2025 and related meetings. They further expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to all the Leaders and delegates.



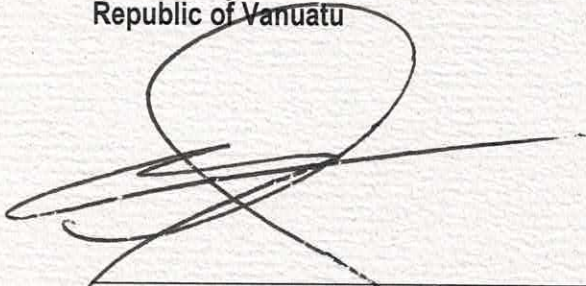
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Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka, MP  
Chair of the MSG and Prime Minister  
Republic of Fiji



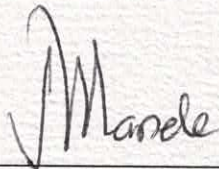
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Honourable Jotham Napat, MP  
Prime Minister  
Republic of Vanuatu



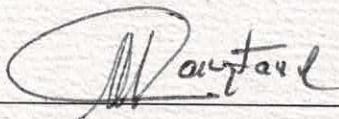
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Honourable James Marape, MP  
Prime Minister  
Independent State of Papua New Guinea



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Honourable Jeremiah Manele, MP  
Prime Minister  
Solomon Islands



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Honourable Roch Wamytan  
High-Level Representative of the  
Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front