



PRESS RELEASE

MSG Council of Arts and Culture prepare to pursue the Implementation of the Framework Treaty on Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture in Melanesia

Members of the MSG Council of Arts and Culture are meeting this week at the MSG Secretariat Headquarters in Port Vila, Vanuatu to pursue the implementation of the MSG Framework Treaty on Traditional Knowledge (TK) and Expressions of Culture (EC), and other framework instruments adopted by MSG Leaders.

In his Opening Address, Acting Director General Mr Peni Sikivou acknowledged the major achievements by the Council since 2010 including the MSG Framework Treaty on Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture as a first in terms of regional protection and safeguarding of traditional knowledge and expressions of cultures against misappropriation and mismanagement.

The way forward now being for MSG members to adapt their national laws and legislations to facilitate the implementation of the framework treaty at country level but also across the MSG region in terms of reinforcement of the Treaty provisions.

The Council Chair and Director of Culture and National Heritage for Fiji, Mr Peni Cavuilagi also encouraged members to ensure the protection of traditional knowledge within Melanesia and to promote arts and culture at national and regional level through the Melanesian Arts Festival hosted by MSG members every four years. As the MSG Council of Arts and Culture meets in Vanuatu this week, they are thrilled to learn that the PNG National Executive Council has approved an allocation of K53 million (US\$24 million) in next year's budget for PNG to host the fifth Melanesian Festival of Arts and Culture in July next year with the theme "*Celebrating culture diversity*".

The announcement can only boost MSG members to pursue their lead in the promotion and protection of arts and culture at regional level and provide some incentives and guidance to other regional organizations to align their policies and visions to safeguard the many cultures in this part of the world.

The Council is due to meet again next September in Papua New Guinea to discuss members' assistance to PNG and visit the various sites for the 5th Melanesian Festival of Arts and Culture in 2014.

Authorized by the Acting Director General

MSG Secretariat
Port Vila, Vanuatu
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