



SUMMARY BRIEF ON **UNITED LIBERATION MOVEMENT FOR** **WEST PAPUA (ULMWP)**

19 August 2023

Port Vila, Vanuatu

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this summary brief is to outline the:
- i) chronology of Leaders decisions on West Papua; AND
 - ii) process for the consideration of New Membership Guidelines.

This exercise is considered necessary to ascertain the intention and the wisdom behind the various decisions of leaders that led to the formation of United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) and eventual admission as observers to the MSG, as well as to provide clarity on the process for application for New Membership Guidelines.

2. 19th Leaders' Summit - 20th June 2013, Escapade Resort, Noumea, New Caledonia

2.1. *West Papua National Council for Liberation (WPNCL)* predominantly based in Vanuatu submitted application for Membership to the MSG. It should be noted that this was the first time West Papua or groups representing West Papua applied for Membership to the MSG.

2.2. Leaders noted that a roadmap in relation to the application by West Papua National Council for Liberation (WPNCL) for membership should be based on clear and achievable timelines.

2.3. Leaders acknowledged that the human rights violations need to be highlighted and noted that to progress the WPNCL's application, it was important to continually engage with Indonesia.

2.4. Indonesia invited MSG to undertake Ministerial Mission to Indonesia. Leaders noted and welcomed the invitation from Indonesia to invite a Foreign Ministers' Mission to be led by Fiji. The outcome of the WPNCL's application would be subject to the report of the FMM mission.

3. Special MSG Leaders' Summit - 26 June 2014, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

3.1. Leaders considered the report of the Ministerial Mission led by Ratu Inoke Kubuabola to Indonesia from 11 – 15 January 2014 to obtain information and conduct an assessment on the application for membership submitted by WPNCL.

3.2. Leaders invited all groups to form an inclusive and united umbrella group in consultation with Indonesia to work on submitting a fresh application.

3.3. Leaders welcomed and noted the progress on greater autonomy in Papua and the recent announcement by the President of Indonesia to withdraw the military from West Papua. Leaders also endorsed that the MSG and Indonesia take a more proactive approach in addressing the issue of West Papua and Papua by undertaking the initiative to conduct greater awareness on the situation in Papua and West Papua Provinces with respect to the Special Autonomy Arrangements and how this has contributed positively to the Governance of the Provinces by the local population.

3.4. Leaders endorsed that the MSG continue to hold dialogue with Indonesia on the issue of West Papua and Papua and encourage and support the establishment of bilateral cooperation arrangements with Indonesia with special focus on social and economic development and empowerment for the people of Papua and West Papua Provinces.

3.5. Leaders endorsed that the MSG encourage the strengthening and participation of Melanesian in Indonesia in MSG Activities and Programmes. MSG continue to support and encourage the level of Melanesian involvement in the executive, management and controlling positions in private enterprises such as in the Bank of Papua and at the Political levels.

4. 20th MSG Leaders' Summit - 26 June 2015. Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands

4.1. ULMWP submitted their application for full Membership to the MSG and Indonesia submitted application for Associate Membership to the MSG.

4.2. On the application by ULMWP for Membership, Leaders approved that ULMWP be admitted as an Observer member under the regional and international category representing Melanesians living abroad.

4.2. On the application by Indonesia for Associate Membership, Leaders approved that Associate Membership be accorded to Indonesia representing the five (5) Melanesian Provinces in Indonesia.

4.3. Leaders directed the Secretariat to further revise Membership Criteria and Procedures of Observership and Associate Membership.

5. MSG Special Leaders' Summit -14 July 2016, Heritage Parl Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

5.1. Leaders agreed to defer the consideration of the application for full membership by ULMWP until membership criteria and guidelines are further developed by the Sub-Committee on Legal &

Institutional Issues (SCLII), considering fundamental principles, political aspirations and principles of international law

6. 21st Leaders' Summit Stanley Hotel, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

6.1. Approved the Revised Guidelines for Observers and Associate Members and New Membership Guidelines.

6.2. Approved for the application by United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP) for Membership be now referred to the Secretariat for processing under the newly approved Guidelines.

6.3. Leaders encouraged more dialogue between Observers and Associate Members and the MSG to engage collectively as a Group.

7. Resubmission of New Membership Application by ULMWP

7.1 In 2019, following the decision by Leaders, ULMWP revised and resubmitted the amended application for New Membership to the MSG as per new membership guidelines.

8. Overview of the processes and criteria for new Membership under the approved membership Guidelines

8.1 The new Membership Guidelines are attached.

8.2 Under the Guidelines ONLY existing Associate Member may apply for New Membership to the MSG.

8.3 For any DIRECT MEMBERSHIP application for new membership by a non-Associate Member (as in the case of ULMWP) may be considered after agreement by all leaders. The Director General is required to consult with Leaders in Capital in the process before tabling of the application.

8.4 In that, the guidelines consist of a **two-tier process**. That is, when application for new Membership is submitted to the Secretariat, the DG is required to:

- (i) Obtain consensus from All Leaders to table the application at the next Leaders' Summit for consideration;
- (ii) Assessment and tabling of the New Membership application at the Leaders' Summit for consideration and decision.

8.4 Since ULMWP resubmitted the application, the Director General may be required to consult all the Leaders before actual tabling and consideration of the application.

9. Conclusion

9.1. ULMWP was formed under direction of Leaders made during the 2013 Leaders' Summit in Noumea New Caledonia.

9.2. MSG to provide a space for meaningful engagement of Observer (ULMWP) and Associate Member (Indonesia). Please note that I have, over the weekend, put in some thoughts into the concept of “Constructive Engagement Platform’. A concept that I believe will capture Leaders’ idea for ‘space’ for engagement between ULMWP and Indonesia. The concept will outline the mode operandi or operating procedures. More research will ne to go into this concept.

9.3 Leaders had directed the Secretariat to process the application by ULMWP for full membership to the MSG and may have superseded the process required under the Membership Guidelines i.e. the need for the Director General to consult and obtain Leaders agreement before tabling of the application for decision by Leaders.

9.5. The application by ULMWP for New Membership to the MSG will be tabled in the next Leaders’ Summit.

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