



MSG Secretariat Secretariat du GFLM

Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

Press Statement



9th Sub-Committee on Legal & Institutional Issues Meeting

The 9th Sub-Committee on Legal & Institutional Issues (SCLII) Meeting was officially opened by the MSG Director General, Mr. Peter Forau at the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila this week.

Mr. Forau welcomed participants from the MSG membership namely Fiji, FLNKS, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu who have gathered for the two-day meeting from 13 to 14 May 2013 to further discuss and finalize some important legal and institutional issues regarding the MSG.

The Director General of the MSG Secretariat reiterated that the Sub-Committee on Legal & Institutional Issues plays an important role for the MSG organization as it will discuss among other important issues the final review of the Agreement Establishing the MSG. This review is to be presented to member Governments of the MSG before it is submitted to the Leaders' Summit in Kanaky New Caledonia in June. He added that equally important on the agenda this week for the SCLII is the issue for new membership to the organization which will also be submitted to the Leaders in June. Mr Forau confirmed that these important issues will of course be submitted to the Special Senior Officials Meeting also to be held in Port Vila this week.

In response to remarks by DG Forau, the current Chair of the Sub-Committee on Legal & Institutional Issues, Mr. Esala Nayasi who is the Director for Legal and Treaties Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Fiji assured all participants that the meeting will give opportunity to representatives from member countries to finalize the Agreement Establishing the MSG and other legal and institutional issues currently listed in their agenda for this week.

Mr Nayasi reminded participants that the Agreement Establishing the MSG is a very important document that provides the legal recognition to the MSG as a regional organization. He said as mandated by the Leaders of the MSG, the sub-committee undertook a review to address the need to align some of the provisions to meet some of the dynamic and changing nature of relations being experienced by the members since the agreement was signed in 2007; and also to discuss further some of the provisions on how members engage with each other and the international community.

Mr Nayasi acknowledged the work of the Eminent Persons Group who are consulting on a new vision for the MSG which may have an impact on the work of the SCLII particularly in respect of the review of the Agreement Establishing the MSG.

The Chair for SCLII confirmed that the outcomes of this meeting will be included in a SCLII Report expected to be presented to the coming Special Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) to be held this week at the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila from 16 to 17 May 2013.

***MSG Secretariat
PORT VILA
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