



## **MSG ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERTS OFFICIALS DISCUSS DRAFT MSG ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION**

**Members of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Environment and Climate Change Technical Advisory Committee (ECCTAC) successfully concluded their 4th meeting on 11-12 August 2014 with specific focus on the MSG draft Framework for Action concerning the Environment and Climate Change (ECC) Declaration signed by the MSG Leaders in March 2012.**

**In Opening the two (2) day meeting of Senior ECC Officials, the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the MSG Secretariat, Mr Molean Kilepak commended the ECCTAC for the tremendous work that they have undertaken since the establishment of the Committee in 2012. DDG Kilepak also congratulated members for the various initiatives and progress made in sustainable development at the national level including the formulation of Sustainable Development Plans and Green Growth Framework to serve as the platform to better integrate national values and to bring to prominence the principles of sustainable development and green growth in the region to ensure environmental, social**

and economic sustainability are embedded into the National Plans.

Mr Kilepak said, 'whilst some of these values contained in the strategies are not new and may already be enshrined within your respective national constitutions, the challenge remains for the Secretariat and members to work together in aligning these national plans and processes within the regional framework to enable better coordination of our regional policies to the national sustainable development challenges and the impacts of climate change'.

The Chair of the ECCTAC, Mr Rodrigue Tiavouane, representative of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS) Political Bureau in New Caledonia in welcoming the members also and urged them to finalize the draft MSG Framework for Action on ECC by the end of 2014 to allow better coordination of members' initiatives under the ECC Declaration.

The Chair and the DDG also thanked the partners that attended namely, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Griffith University and the University of South Pacific (SPC) for their valuable contributions to the meeting.

Members also expressed their sincere gratitude to the three partners including those that did not attend in particular, the Centre for Technical Assistance in Agriculture (CTA) for their continuous support to the green growth knowledge management e-platform project to further enhance the awareness, communication and outreach on the MSG ECC program at national levels as well as for funding support to toward the meeting; to GIZ for their generous funding of positions within the MSG Secretariat's ECC Unit as well as the potential funding to be made available to members under the EU funded "Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE) Programme" in the Pacific which will be co-ordinated by GIZ which will reinforce beneficiaries' ownership and will promote climate change adaptation and energy security solutions at the national, provincial and community levels.

Members further acknowledged the support of the ECC programs by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) including during in-county consultations; Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for continuing efforts to enhance their partnership including through participation at the SPC organized Workshop on Geothermal Energy

**Development; University of South Pacific (USP) for their contributions to some of the Secretariat activities and programs and to the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) for inviting the Secretariat to their annual meetings; and to Griffith University for technical support in drafting of the ECC Declaration Framework for Action and attendance at programs at the University including potential short term training for members and the Secretariat in Australia in 2014 on ‘Valuing Culture and Nature for Sustainable Natural Resource Management’ focused on the role of the culture and traditional knowledge in sustainable livelihoods for local communities and the linkages with ecosystem-based approaches in the Melanesian context. In this regard, the meeting noted the need for support, scholarships and exchange programmes for capacity building of MSG members at educational institutions in the region.**

**The Meeting also discussed their agreed priorities for the UN Conference on the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Apia, Samoa next month which are now reflected in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities on Action (SAMOA) Pathway Draft Outcome Document.**

**The meeting was officially closed by the Chairman on 12 August 2014.**

*Authorized by*

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