



24 November 2016

The Chair of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Sub-Committee on Legal & Institutional

Issues (SCLII), Mr William Soaki, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade of Solomon Islands officially opened the Special SCLII meeting at the MSG Secretariat today in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Pursuant to the Leaders instruction in July 2016, Mr Soaki said the SCLII is convened to consider guidelines for observer, Associate Member and New membership. The guidelines aims to provide a more streamlined and clear scope for Leaders to use in assessing expressions of interest for either observer, associate member and new membership to the MSG. “We can be strong if we stand together with our vision rooted in our aspirations as enshrined in the Agreement Establishing the MSG and our collective efforts to contribute to the overall objective of the MSG,” said Mr Soaki.

In response, the Director General of the MSG Secretariat Ambassador Amena Yauvoli encouraged the Committee to work diligently in the next two days on the Leaders’ Instruction to reach consensus and provide a workable resolution going forward. He said the deliberation of the Committee today is pivotally important for the future of the organisation noting they can determine the make or break of the Organisations. He reaffirmed that the Secretariat is committed to work with members and stakeholders to create the much needed space for dialogue that will encourage greater interchange of information amongst all members on how best to address issues and to foster better understanding on matters of concern.

“The Secretariat appreciates the commitment by members in attending this very important meeting and looks forward to fruitful discussions and outcomes of the two-day meeting” concluded the Director General.