



MSG Director General Ambassador Amena Yauvoli (Right) signing a Letter of Exchange with UNFCCC's Rep Mr Yolando Valesco (Left) at the MSG Secretariat. Witnessing the signing is Program Manager for Sustainable Development (Back-left) and Senior Executive Officer, Christopher Waiwori

14 August 2018

The MSG Director General Ambassador Amena Yauvoli signed a Letter of Exchange with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat UNFCCC representative

Mr. Yolando Valesco, at the MSG Secretariat signaling a cordial arrangement to foster greater engagement by the UNFCCC and the MSG Secretariat to assist the Melanesian Needs – Based Climate Finance (NBF).

The Melanesian Needs-based Climate Finance (“NBF”) project is a collaboration between the Secretariat of the MSG (“MSG Secretariat) and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement (“the UNFCCC secretariat).

This project proposed by the UNFCCC Secretariat was in response to the mandate it received from the Conference of the Parties (COP decision 6/CP.23, paragraph 10). The COP decision requested the UNFCCC Secretariat, in collaboration with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, United Nations Agencies, Bilateral, Regional and other Multinational Channels to explore ways and means to assist developing countries who were Parties to the Paris Agreement.

The MSG Secretariat in collaboration with UNFCCC will assess Member Countries needs and priorities in a country-driven manner, including technological and capacity-building needs, and significantly in translating their climate finance needs into action.

Program Manager for Sustainable Development, Mr Stanley Wapot affirms that the main objective of the Needs-based Climate Finance Project for Melanesian countries is to facilitate the mobilization of climate finance to support the needs identified by the four member States of the MSG (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu). These identified needs were in regards to the implementation of priority mitigation and adaptation actions in accordance with the goals set out in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans, or other National Development Strategies or Instruments.

The MSG Needs-based Climate Finance Project kicks off Phase I this week with the project initiation workshop, to be hosted by the MSG Secretariat in Port Vila from 15-16 August 2018. Partners UNDP, PIFS, GIZ are also attending the workshop in Port Vila and will share their experiences.

Mr Wapot said that the project will be implemented in three phases. Following Phase I, Phase II of the Project is the “development of a National Climate Finance Strategy or approach”, and Phase III on Resource Mobilization.

The Resource Mobilization phase will support the mobilization of resources through

communication and outreach, culminating in the convening of a MSG High Level Partners Dialogue on Climate Finance in conjunction with the MSG Leaders Summit Port Vila, to be hosted in February 2019.

Mr Wapot reiterated that following the workshop, the MSG Secretariat, with the assistance of the UNFCCC Secretariat would conduct a series of bilateral meetings and outreach activities to present the Climate Finance Strategy of the MSG to the Parties to the convention and key financial and support institutions.

At COP 24, Katowice, Poland, set for December 2018, the MSG Secretariat will present the initial outcomes of the Needs-based Climate Finance Project and its plans for the MSG High Level Partners' Dialogue on Climate Finance proposed for February 2019.

The MSG Secretariat and the UNFCCC Secretariat will develop a Synthesis Report of the Project that will take into account the Climate Finance Strategy of the MSG member countries.