



MSG's Romulo Nayacalevu (Sitting 2nd from Left) with Vanuatu's National Human Rights Committee at the UPR Drafting retreat

15 October 2018

The Melanesian Spearhead Group in partnership with SPC's Regional Rights Resource Team provided technical support and assistance to the Vanuatu National Human Rights Committee for the drafting of the 3rd cycle National report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) from 11-12 October.

Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, the Director General of the MSG welcomed the Vanuatu Human Rights Committee's invitation to the Secretariat to be part of this crucial national process. The

DG noted that such work is in alignment to MSG's organisational re-structuring to make it more responsive to members development needs and priorities. "It is a significant demonstration and a positive outcome of the reform, with dividends flowing back to our Members. Our reform has enabled us to target areas of needs for our Members (where the rubber hits the road)" Ambassador Yauvoli said.

The UPR is a human rights review mechanism of the United Nations where all 193-member states are reviewed of their human rights records and practices with key recommendations made to the State party to improve and strengthen their human rights practices. States then report back to the Human Rights Council in Geneva after four years of their progress in implementing various recommendations. Vanuatu was reviewed in the second cycle of the UPR in January 2014.

Romulo Nayacalevu, the MSG's Manager Legal and Governance Affairs who was part of the drafting retreat said that the retreat provided Vanuatu's Human Rights Committee with the opportunity to review the progress of each recommendation and start drafting the national report. "The retreat brought together key government representatives to provide a progress update on core recommendations as it relates to the work of their ministry. These recommendations range from the implementation of core human rights treaties including CEDAW, CRC, CRPD, CAT and ICCPR that Vanuatu is a State party to, to the domestication of the treaties in the form of the Family Protection Act, Freedom of Information Act, removal of discriminatory pieces of legislation, child protection laws and policies, disability frameworks and other pertinent human rights issues in Vanuatu."

Following the drafting of the report, the Vanuatu Human Rights Committee will then provide the document to the Council of Ministers for their decision.

Ambassador Yauvoli added that the MSG Secretariat will continue to support member states meet their various obligations in line with the MSG's 2038 Prosperity for All Plan.

Vanuatu's third cycle report is due on the 28th of October and needs to be submitted to the UPR Secretariat of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. Vanuatu will be reviewed in the January/February session of the Human Rights Council in 2019.

For more information. Please contact [cn.waiwori@msg.int](mailto:cn.waiwori@msg.int)