



DG, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, MSG Secretariat and Executive Director, Ms Magdalena Moreno, IFACCA sign MOU

21 September 2018

The MSG Secretariat's Director General, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli today signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Ms Magdalena Moreno, Executive Director of the International Federation of Arts Councils and Culture Agencies Secretariat (IFACCA) at its headquarters in Sydney, Australia.

In signing the MOU, the Director General emphasised the importance of strategic partnerships for the MSG Secretariat with key agencies such as the IFACCA in furthering the mandate of the organisation as required by our MSG leaders. Further

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Director General

said that "the culture, traditions and practices of our people are the core of our identity, and as such the MSG Secretariat is committed to promoting the diversity of Melanesian heritage and cultures and encourages policies that support a sustainable arts and culture sector in Melanesia."

The IFACCA is the global network of arts councils and ministries of culture and has a vision of a world in which arts and culture thrive and are recognised by governments and peoples for their contribution to society, with the purpose to lead global thought and action for arts and culture in public life, and forge platforms for collaboration and exchange.

The signing of the MOU follows the decision of the MSG Ministers of Arts & Cultures' meeting in Honiara, Solomon Islands in June this year to engage with IFACCA, having recognized the importance of advancing arts and expression of cultural norms to achieve sustainable development for the people of Melanesia, an aspect that will benefit MSG members in the long term. It also facilitates cooperation and dialogue between member countries in the implementation of policies that drive towards sustained preservations of arts and culture in Melanesia, through collaborative arts and culture ventures with the MSG platform.

Director General Yauvoli stressed that this MOU will build upon the MSG's Framework Treaty on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture (FTPTKEC) that was signed by the MSG leaders on 2 September 2011 in Fiji.

"The FTPTKEC recognizes the significance and intrinsic value of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture including their social, cultural, spiritual, economic, intellectual, scientific, ecological, agricultural, medical, technological, commercial and educational value by the MSG members and this MOU is in line with the spirit of the FTPTKEC," Ambassador Yauvoli said.

Furthermore, the MOU will enhance the MSG's work on sustainable cultural practices and traditions following the successful hosting of the government of the Solomon Islands of the Culture and Arts Council and Ministers meeting in 2017 and the 6th MACFEST in July 2018.

The MOU sets out the parameters of the relationship between the MSG and the IFACCA and, to collaborate on agreed areas of cooperation as well as explore and coordinate on activities of mutual benefit.

Executive Director Moreno shared the same sentiment with the Director General and was excited about this partnership noting that it would enable MSG members to benefit from opportunities arising out of its collaborations with IFACCA. At present, only Fiji and Solomon Islands are current members of this global body (IFACCA) and interests have been shown by PNG and Vanuatu to join soon. The duration of the MOU is one year with a provision for renewal by mutual consent of both parties.