



**MSG Secretariat**  
**Secretariat du GFLM**

Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

MSG Secretariat Statement on Environment & Climate Change by the Environment & Climate Change Analyst (ECCA)- Mr. Stanley Wapot

24th SPREP Annual Meeting, September 16 -19, 2013 Apia, Samoa

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished members of SPREP,  
Director General and staff of SPREP,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I first of all, convey warm greetings from the Director General and staff of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat and say how pleased we are to be invited by SPREP to participate at this Annual Meeting.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf the Director General, I wish to also extend to you our warmest congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the SPREP Meeting. We are confident that under your capable and wise leadership, we will achieve a successful outcome at this meeting.

The MSG acknowledges the important role of SPREP in implementing environmental and climate change programs in close collaboration with all Members in our Pacific community. As a regional partner, we value our relationship with SPREP and look forward to building an enduring partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) soon to be signed by both our organizations. This will be one of our many important achievements in the young life of our organization as we strive to find our place in the region amongst the many and well established regional organizations including this esteemed Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), in serving the common interests of our members. We are therefore,

privileged to be here today.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the years, the MSG has been working on a number of key priorities which have contributed significantly to peaceful democratic processes and economic development in the region. In more recent times, one of these priorities has been in the area of Climate Change.

The year 2012 saw the MSG take leadership on climate change and environment when Leaders signed the MSG Leaders Declaration on Environment & Climate Change which has seen members committing themselves to developing framework arrangements for the four main pillars: Melanesia's Green Growth Framework, Melanesia Terrestrial Commitment, Blue Carbon Initiative and Melanesia Green Climate Fund.

Whilst monitoring the implementation of the Declaration, the Secretariat will continue to facilitate the participation of members in regional and international fora such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and at the same time, continue to advocate climate change and environment issues on behalf of its members with relevant regional and international organizations. Hence, the significance of our presence here today.

Mr. Chairman,

The MSG has also increased its level of engagement with communities, private sector and government machinery and most importantly with the political leadership to address Environment & Climate Change challenges by establishing constituent bodies which comprise of the Environment & Climate Change Technical Advisory Committee (ECCTAC) involving heads of Environment & Climate Change Departments from the Membership and the Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM), Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) which report to the Leaders Meeting. This enables the organization to obtain the political mandate and support to implement its environment and climate change programmes.

Through this established system, we have been privileged to gain the support of well established partners that advocate climate change and environmental issues in our region and these include SPREP, GIZ, IUCN, SPC, UNESCAP, Griffith University, University of South Pacific (USP), University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and Green Peace International. Their guidance and contributions to our Environment and Climate Change initiatives have been beyond our expectations and we are indeed, most grateful for their unwavering support during this short time since we took on board this agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

As mentioned above, SPREP is already an important Partner in the MSG Environment and Climate Change Meetings and will continue to play an important role in providing technical assistance to the Technical Advisory Committee and Meetings in the years to come. The MSG plans to utilize the expertise on environment and climate change at SPREP through close collaboration and joint leveraging of resources to implement Environment and Climate Change programs in Melanesia. For this, members of the SPREP, we wish to extend to you our deepest gratitude and look forward to further strengthening this partnership between both our organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

Again, it has been an honour and privilege to participate at this distinguished Annual Meeting of the SPREP and on behalf of the Director General and the staff of the MSG Secretariat, we thank you for allowing us this opportunity.

Thank you