



MSG Secretariat **Secretariat du GFLM**

Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, AMBASSADOR AMENA YAUVOLI – TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON NEEDS-BASED CLIMATE FINANCE, 15-16 AUG 2018

A. Salutation:

1. Let me commence by expressing my appreciation to the UNFCCC Secretariat represented here by Mr Yolando Velasco- Manager Climate Finance Sub-Programme Finance, Technology and Capacity Building Programme in the UNFCCC; to our Partners UNDP-Pacific Office (Mr Mootaza Jiwani); GIZ (Mr Henry Vira); Mr Paul Kaun (GGGI); and CROP colleagues (PIFS- Ledua) and SPREP (David) for being here with us this week.

2. On behalf of our MSG members, I wish to reiterate how much the MSG Secretariat values our partnership and collaborations with you all in this project- noting in particular that Climate Finance remains a key priority as a Pre-2020 Commitment and a key topic of discussion in the recent PSIDS meeting in Suva, Fiji under the CAPP2 Event.

3. I welcome you all to the Technical Workshop and thank you for making time, being a holiday in Vanuatu, to be here today. To our visitors please take time to enjoy this beautiful country while here.

B. Specific Issues

1. 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.
2. 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 Melanesian Spearhead Group (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) regarding the implementation of priority mitigation and adaptation actions in accordance with the goals set out in the Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, or other national development strategies or instruments.

3. 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.
4. Why MSG only? Pursuant to the relevant COP23 decision mentioned above, we initiated discussions with the UNFCCC Secretariat immediately and again in the May session early this year in Bonn wherein our MSG Members met with them to map out this process. I am of the firm view that this important process needs to be initiated in our PSIDS region at some point hence MSG has stepped in with the view to initiate and grow it and perhaps replicate it to other sub-regions or to the regional level.
5. There are 3 phases of the project: Today is 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 in early 2019.
6. A Letter of Exchange have been entered into between the UNFCCC Secretariat and the MSG Secretariat to facilitate the process.

c. Process Going Forward?

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) An MSG High Level Partners Dialogue on Climate Finance in conjunction with the MSG Leaders’ Summit in early 2019.

d. Conclusion

CC Diplomacy is a Party-Driven Process involving all Parties, the Secretariat and development partners and stakeholders through a broad-based defined rules and procedures of process management. We have to do our part as Parties and work collaboratively with all our development partners and regional stakeholders to achieve our objectives. This is a good initiative worthy of your support.

I wish the workshop well and with success and blessings.