



MSG SPECIAL LEADERS' SUMMIT

*14 July 2016
Heritage Park Hotel
Honiara, Solomon Islands*

COMMUNIQUE

1. The Special Leaders' Summit was held at the Heritage Park Hotel in Honiara, Solomon Islands on 14 July, 2016. The Chairman welcomed his colleague Leaders and officially opened the Special Leaders' Summit. The Leaders then convened their Retreat at the Heritage Park Hotel on the morning of 14 July, 2016 followed by the Plenary in the meeting Room of the Heritage Park Hotel on the 14 July, 2016. The closing ceremony was held at the Heritage Park Hotel.
2. The Summit was chaired by Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister of Solomon Islands. MSG Leaders in attendance at the Summit included Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji; Hon. Charlot Salwai Tabimasmas, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu, Hon. Rimbink Pato, OBE, LLB, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Immigration deputising on behalf of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Mr Victor Tutugoro, Spokesperson of the Front de Liberation Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS).
3. At their Retreat, Leaders considered and made decisions on the key issues submitted by the MSG pre-Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) and other issues on their Agenda. The key decisions of Leaders are summarised below.

A. Report by the Chair of the MSG Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) on 16 June, 2016, Lautoka, Fiji

4. Leaders thanked the FMM Chair Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Solomon Islands for the report of the FMM that was held on 16 June, 2016, Lautoka, Fiji. Leaders considered and adopted the following key decisions as recommended by the FMM.

I. Recruitment of the New Director General

- i) **approved** the appointment of Ambassador Amena Yauvoli as DG of the MSG Secretariat.

II. Report of the 6th Police Commissioners Conference

- i) **approved** the implementation of the FPU phase II activities as soon as possible; and
- ii) **approved** in principle the establishment of the Police Ministers Meeting (PMM) noting the need for further consultation by some members.

III. MSG Humanitarian & Emergency Response Coordinating Centre (HERCC) and Stepping Stone approach to-date by MSG Secretariat

- i) **directed** the Secretariat to expand the consultation process on the HERCC and identify cost implications of consultations on the HERCC; and
- ii) **directed** the Sub-Committee on Security (SCS) to meet and formulate the HERCC Regional Response Strategy & Action Plans.

IV. Application for Membership

- i) Leaders agreed to **defer** the consideration of the application for full membership by ULMWP until membership criteria and guidelines are further developed by the Sub-Committee on Legal & Institutional Issues (SCLII), considering fundamental principles, political aspirations and principles of international law and to be completed before end of September 2016.

V. Update and Way Forward for Melanesian Solutions Limited

- i) Leaders approved to:
 - a) **dissolve** MSL as a business entity;
 - b) **task** the Interim Board to reimburse all shareholders' contributions in consultation with the Secretariat; and
 - c) **task** the Secretariat to report back to members on the actions undertaken.

VI. Melanesian Games

The Leaders noted an update by the FLNKS on behalf of the FLNKS and the New Caledonia Government regarding the Melanesia Games and regretfully informed members of their inability to host the Games in October 2016.

B. Report by the Chair of the MSG Foreign Ministers Meeting (FMM) on 14 July, 2016, Honiara, Solomon Islands

5. The Leaders thanked the FMM Chair Hon. Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Solomon Islands for the report of the FMM that was held on 14 July 2016 at Heritage Park hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands. The Leaders did not reach consensus and directed the SCLII to undertake further review on:

- (i) the revised application Procedures, Criteria and Participatory Rights and Obligations of an Observer and an Associate Member to the MSG appended as Annex I; and
- (ii) the New Membership Guidelines for full membership to the MSG appended as Annex II.

C. Report by the Chair of the MSG Trade Ministers Meeting (TMM) on 25 May, 2016, Port Vila, Vanuatu

6. Leaders considered and agreed on the TMM report of May 2016 as tabled by the TMM Chair Milner Tozaka, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Solomon Islands. The Leaders further congratulated the TMM Chair, Hon. Milner Tozaka Minister Solomon Islands Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Trade Ministers for their meeting outcome in concluding negotiations on the new MSG Trade Agreement.

7. Leaders agreed to fulfil respective national processes in member countries before signing the MSG Free Trade Agreement (MFTA).

D. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

8. The Chair thanked all the Leaders for their support and contributions during the Special Leaders' Summit. Leaders also thanked the Chair for his Leadership during the Summit and also extended their deep appreciation to the Government and people of Solomon Islands for hosting a successful the Special Leaders' Summit 2016 and the pre-Summit FMM and SOM meetings. They further expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to all the Leaders and delegates.

E. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT SPECIAL LEADERS' SUMMIT

9. Leaders agreed to meet in Port Vila, Vanuatu before end of September 2016.




Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare, MP
Chair of the MSG and
Prime Minister
Solomon Islands


for

Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, MP
Prime Minister
Republic of Fiji



Hon. Charlot Salwai Tabimasmas, MP
Prime Minister
Republic of Vanuatu


for

Hon. Rimbink Pato, OBE, LLB, MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs & Immigration deputising on behalf of Prime Minister
Independent State of Papua New Guinea



Mr Victor Tutugoro
Spokesperson
Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS)