

**Agreed Principles  
of Co-operation among  
Independent States in Melanesia**

*Signed at Port Villa on 14 March 1988.*

*The Governments of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and the Republic of Vanuatu, having come together as the "Melanesian Spearhead Group", do hereby agree to commit themselves to the principles of respect for, and promotion of—*

**M***elanesian cultures, traditions and values as well as those of other indigenous communities within the three countries;*

**E***xchange and other traditional ties which may cross international boundaries;*

**L***inks of friendship and co-operation with members of the United Nations and the South Pacific Forum, both individually and collectively;*

**A***rrangements which facilitate regular, high-level, and wide-ranging consultations, exchanges, and co-operation among independent states in Melanesia;*

**N***ational independence, and the sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and the right to non-interference in internal affairs of independent states;*

**E***conomic and technical co-operation between states, as well as exchanges between individuals and groups with common interests;*

**S***olidarity and co-operation in accordance with shared national interests — working, where possible, through and with the objective of strengthening wider institutions of regional and international co-operation;*

**I***ndependence as the inalienable right of colonial countries and peoples;*

**A***rms control and disarmament, as well as efforts to reduce international tensions, to limit great-power rivalry, to secure human rights, and to ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes;*

On the understanding that other states which wish to subscribe to these agreed principles may do so, if all previous signatory states unanimously agree, by having an authorised representative sign below on their behalf.

Done at PORT VILA, this 14<sup>th</sup> day  
of MARCH in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty eight.



PAIAS WINGTI  
Prime Minister  
of Papua New Guinea.

EZEKIEL ALEBUA  
Prime Minister  
of Solomon Islands.

WALTER LINI  
Prime Minister  
of Vanuatu.