



PERMANENT MISSION OF SOLOMON ISLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

1 March 2018

Mr. Roland Mollerus  
Secretary  
Committee for Development Policy  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations  
New York

Dear Secretary,

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 2018 in which you *inter alia* kindly invited my Government, if it so wishes, to also submit a written statement to the CDP plenary to further reinforce its views about the possibility of graduation from the least developed country category.

A copy of that written statement is attached herewith and it is in a form of a letter signed by my Prime Minister, addressed to you and to be duly distributed to the CDP members for their meeting.

With the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sisilo', enclosed in a rectangular box.

Robert Sisilo  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Solomon Islands  
to the United Nations

THE PRIME MINISTER



P O.BOX G1  
HONIARA  
SOLOMON ISLANDS

1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

OUR REF: CAB 20/5/9

The Secretary  
Committee on Development Policy  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
United Nations  
New York

Sir,

**RE: SOLOMON ISLANDS GRADUATION FROM LDCS STATUS**

The Government of Solomon Islands is cognizant and aware that the Committee on Development Policy (CDP) will soon be presenting its follow-up report that could well recommend Solomon Islands' graduation from the list of Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

This note is, therefore, furnished pursuant to resolution 2007/33 of the Economic and Social Council.

My Government welcomes the assessments carried out by the CDP and other experts and notes their findings. At the same time, we are fully conscious that graduation will bring challenges for Solomon Islands, particularly in the area of trade. These are concerns that we cannot ignore. Yet, as a young and vibrant nation, we look forward to the opportunities that are before us with the prospect of graduation.

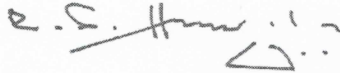
The prospect that we may be graduating from the list of LDCs is a positive step in our development path. It encourages us to be more bold in our approach to implementing the SDGs and our own National Development Strategy and its objectives of: poverty alleviation, improved food security, ensuring that benefits of economic growth are more equitably distributed; ensuring access to quality health and education services; promote a resilient and environmentally sustainable development with effective disaster risk management, response and recovery; address climate change; and pave the way for a unified nation that respects the rule of law.

We accept that efforts towards graduation need to be country driven. Nonetheless, the support of development and trading partners, in a spirit of shared responsibility and mutual accountability, will always be welcomed. Smooth transition measures that help

mitigate the shocks and impacts of a possible graduation calls for greater cooperation and strengthened collaboration with our partners.

Solomon Islands, as an upstanding member of the family of nations and a staunch advocate of a rules based international order, will welcome any decision of the CDP. We will do our utmost to meet our obligations while calling on our partners to meet theirs as well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Nelson Houenipwela". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Hon. Rick Nelson Houenipwela, MP

**PRIME MINISTER**