



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

Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

## **Statement**

**by Mr. Ian Kiloe, Programme Manager Political & Security Affairs**

**on behalf of the**

**Director General the Melanesian Spearhead Group Ambassador Amena Yauvoli.**

### **United Nations (UN) Pacific Regional Seminar**

**on the ‘implementation of the 3rd International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals in the Non-Self-Governing Territories: Social, economic and environmental challenges’ in Grenada, 10 May 2018.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and the Government and peoples of Grenada. Please convey our most humble gratitude for the kind hospitality and generosity in hosting us here in this beautiful country.

On behalf of the Director General of the Melanesian Spearhead Group, Ambassador Amena Yauvoli, I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to you, Chair, and the Committee for the invitation extended to the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Secretariat to participate in this seminar.

The decision to convene this important seminar in Grenada, here in the Caribbean, gives strategic prominence to our collective efforts to address the issues of decolonization in this century.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Melanesian Spearhead Group is a sub-regional organization in the Pacific region with five (5) members, namely Papua New Guinea (the current Chair), Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and the Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) of New Caledonia.

Our history dates back to 1986 in Goroka, Papua New Guinea where our Leaders agreed to form this sub-regional coalition to spearhead issues of interest to the Member, in particular, to support the aspiration of FLNKS for self-determination.

In 2010, the Melanesian Spearhead Group was registered with the United Nations as a sub-regional organization giving the international personality and recognition of our existence.

**Mr. Chairman,**

I would like to begin my statement on substantive issues I wish to highlight by quoting the statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations conveyed to us this morning:

*“The Special Committee, in fulfilling its decolonization mandate, can assist the Territories to take actions towards a more sustainable world. But the Special Committee cannot act alone.”*

It is in this regard and in the context of our discussions relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGT) in the Pacific that I wish to highlight a few things the MSG is currently undertaking to assist the Kanak People of New Caledonia.

Notably, during the MSG 21<sup>st</sup> Leaders' Summit held in February this year in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (PNG), our Leaders had approved the “2018 Action Plan of support to the FLNKS aspiration for self-determination in New Caledonia”. In summary, the Action Plan sets out the MSG support in three (3) main levels:

- MSG level;

- Pacific Level;
- International level;

### ***MSG Level***

Members were urged to support FLNKS bilaterally or collectively and also to advocate for the self-determination process in New Caledonia in their engagements with relevant bilateral partners.

The MSG Secretariat was directed to coordinate and facilitate study tours by FLNKS delegation to MSG countries to consider issues of sovereign competences. These tours will be followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> MSG Ministerial Mission to New Caledonia.

The MSG Secretariat was also directed to allocate appropriate Human & Financial Resources to support work activities relating to FLNKS work towards the referendum later this year.

More importantly, our leaders reaffirmed their commitment to build the capacity of Kanak through the provision of scholarships and secondment opportunities in Member countries. This is important to address the shortage and capacity needs that is prevalent in New Caledonia especially amongst the Kanak people.

### ***Pacific Level***

At the Pacific level, MSG Members were urged to demonstrate their support towards the FLNKS aspirations for self-determination through the Pacific Island Forum Members and the Pacific Development Forum and other relevant organizations.

### ***International Level***

At the International level, our leaders approved for the strengthening of engagements with our Permanent Representatives to the United Nations to support the FLNKS cause through the United Nations (UN) and C24 processes.

Members of the MSG were urged to demonstrate their support towards the FLNKS's aspirations for self-determination at the UN level, in particular in the

Special Committee on Decolonization as well as at the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP Group) links in Brussels and in Small Island Development States Group (SIDS).

**Mr. Chairman,**

Finally, I wish to inform you of the recently (3-5 May 2018) concluded High-Level Dialogue in Noumea, New Caledonia where the French president Emmanuel Macron had invited MSG Leaders including the MSG Secretariat to discuss important issues concerning Bio-diversity and climate change. This kind of dialogue needs to be encouraged to also include firm commitments on decolonization as the territory prepares for the referendum this year.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.