

## **SESSION 1:**

### **WELCOME REMARKS BY DR MELCHIOR MATAKI, PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MANAGEMENT & METEOROLOGY DURING THE 8<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL MEETING, 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022. HONIARA.**

#### **Salutation:**

- Your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers and Council of Ministers Representatives,
  - CT6 Officials and delegates
  - ED and Regional Secretariat
  - CTI Development Partners
  - Ladies and gentlemen,
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- On behalf of the people and Government of Solomon Islands and our National Coordinating Committee, I wish to welcome you all to the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting.
  
  - Thank you for committing to this call to task and responsibility. Our CTI journey started in 2009, at the Leaders summit and we have over the years continue to carry the spirits of our then leaders to today. What a tremendous effort.
  
  - This will be the first Ministerial Meeting via zoom, so the event is historical but demonstrated that times have changed and we have to adapt to the changing environment around us. Moreso, greater attentions must be given to the changes in the Coral Triangle Region. Our region is also facing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss and as such the region is more vulnerable and at risk than before. This is the challenge we are faced with and we must address.
  
  - This unique partnership that CTI has provided can be an opportunity of partnerships and collaborations. Importantly of leadership and political will. Therefore, the importance of conducting the COM Meeting is

paramount to the programs and activities – Seascapes management, adopting ecosystem-approach to fisheries management, marine protected areas, climate change adaptation and conserving and protecting threatened species.

- Unfortunately, we cannot be together face-to-face but we know that the Regional Secretariat team has worked hard to ensure we all participate in witnessing a successful meeting.
- Once again, on behalf of the Government of Solomon Islands, welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting, held via zoom on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

*Tagio tumas*

(Introduce Minister for Opening Address)