

SESSION 5:

COM MESSAGE OF HONORABLE NESTOR GIRO (MP) DURING THE 8th MINISTERIAL MEETING, 29th NOVEMBER 2022. HONIARA.

Salutation:

Colleague Ministers,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me start by stating my sincere appreciation to the following:

- 6 Country National Coordinating Committees (or NCCs): I am pleased that the six Coral Triangle countries through our respective Agencies, have continued to provide support and commitment in attending to the various working groups and regional initiatives under the CTI programs. I am grateful that our people and communities in our countries are able to engage and link to this regional platform. Implementing the 6 National Plans of Actions is critical to make this collaboration work – otherwise this platform will be meaningless to our people and communities.
- Committee of Senior Officials – Since 2019, you have shown dedication and strength in leading a regional force on our behalf. Congratulations on completing the Regional Plan of Action 2.0 and ensuring that our Development Partners are around the table to guide you in its development. For this I am confident that the Plan holds our peoples' aspirations and dreams for a better Coral Triangle Region. Thank you for your leadership, Chair of Committee of Senior Officials. Solomon Islands is committed to finalizing its National Plan of Action by 2023.
- Regional Secretariat – I can observe that the Executive Director and his staff have worked hard in building capacity and capability of our Regional office. Thank you, ED. Thank you for continuing to fly our regional CTI Flag. Thank you for continuing the work with our Development Partners. This is not an easy task, but know you are

armed with a good team and will continue to work with the CT6 to deliver on the mandates of CTI-CFF.

- Development Partners – thank you for the partnership, the various technical and funding support you all have provided to the Regional Secretariat and the CT6. We recognize your commitment in standing shoulder to shoulder with us, understanding our needs and experiences and effecting tangible projects and support to our priorities. Most of you have stood with the CT6 for more than a decade. We thank you. Keep on doing the great work.

Council Colleagues,

I am also pleased to note the excellent work done with the Women Leaders Forum, ensuring that women and girls are key partners for effecting changes within our communities, our governments and at the global level.

I also noted the early stages of work on the University Partnership and Local Governance Network. Science and indigenous knowledge must be captured in the programs and initiatives we advocate for, and implement at the national level. The CT6 region is well-endowed with indigenous knowledge which can be combined with modern science to bring about innovations to the approaches and methodologies we use in our programmes.

I also noted the progress made to establish a Regional Conservation Trust Fund, which we would like to see it benefitting this partnership. I support its good intentions and on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government, we will continue to monitor the progress and efforts made by all of us.

To conclude, I urge all of us to continue to move into the future together. Let us work together on safeguarding our region and continue to establish opportunities that will benefit our governments, people and communities and most importantly, leave a legacy for our children, and their children – a productive, resilient and secured Coral Triangle Region.

Thank you for listening, tagio *tumas*,

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