

## SESSION 9:

### HANDOVER REMARKS OF OUTGOING CHAIR OF COM BY HONORABLE NESTOR GIRO DURING THE 8<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL MEETING, 29<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022. HONIARA.

#### Salutation:

- Your Excellencies,
- Honorable Ministers and Council Representatives,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the people and Government of Solomon Islands, I wish to sincerely thank the Council of Ministers for offering their trust and confidence to Solomon Islands since 2019, as Chair of this esteemed body.

Over the years, we have grown in spirit and in our commitment towards the shared goals of the Coral Triangle Initiative. We have sailed and overcome the trying waves of the pandemic and we will remain strong to continue to face environmental, social and economic and developmental challenges of our countries but as our Solomon Islands slogan goes '**lumi together stand up strong**' meaning '**together we stand strong**'.

With these few remarks, on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government, I offer the Chair role to the Government of Timor-leste, who we know carry the same spirit, passion and strength to take over the as Captain of our boat. I am also aware that consequently the Government of Indonesia will serve as Vice-Chair of COM. Take courage that you have the CTI-Family to look to for guidance and wisdom as you carry us into the coming years as Chair of this Council of Ministers. We wish you – Timor leste and Indonesia- a successful journey.

God Bless the Coral Triangle and its people and God bless us all.