

**Closing Remarks by Dr. Melchior Mataki, Permanent Secretary of Ministry
of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
and CSO Chair**

**During the Closing of CTI-CFF SOM16 Meeting (Virtual Mode), Kitano
Mendana Hotel, Honiara, Solomon Islands**

16th December 2021

Salutations:

- *CT6 Colleagues of the 16th Senior Officials Meeting and your Delegations*
 - *Executive Director of the CTI-CFF, Dr Mohammed Kushairi Mohammed Rajuddin and Regional Secretariat Team*
 - *Representatives of the CTI Development Partners*
 - *Working Group Chairs and NCCs,*
 - *Ladies and Gentlemen.*
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Good Afternoon and Good Evening!

First of all, on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government and its people and SINCC, I wish to thank all of you for the successful completion of four days of meeting. Your commitment to the long working hours of SOM-16 is very much appreciated. You will agree with me, that as with other SOM meetings, this meeting has been lively and reflected the diversity of our membership in terms of our positions and national circumstances, but united by the goals of this august organization to sustain the extraordinary marine and coastal resources by addressing food security, climate change and marine biodiversity. In this connection, I wish to reiterate that unity in addressing the key issues affecting the coral triangle is foundational to the CTI-CFF and must continue to underpin SOM.

The past two-years is unprecedented, but we have managed to conduct both the Special SOM and this SOM16 successfully despite the global pandemic. Our Regional Secretariat has managed to operate, and continued to support the implementation of our programmes. TWGs, Governance Working Groups and NCCs have also continued with the implementation of their work programmes. For this, I commend the Executive Director and his team at the Regional Secretariat, TWGs, Governance Working Groups, NCCs and our partners.

Colleagues, let me reemphasize the reflections I had made in my opening remarks;

- I urge us that we pay urgent attention to the completion of the new HCA and RPOA2.0. The RPOA 2.0 will boost our regional as well as global position and more importantly provide guidance and support for CT6 countries to work on their respective National Plans of Actions. I must also thank the Indonesia Government for its continuous goodwill in continuing to uphold the Regional

Secretariat's HCA, however it is critical that we honor this by doing our part in expediting the process of having the HCA finalized with them.

- I wish to emphasize important roles of the CSO, TWGs and NCCs and how they all contribute in ensuring CTI-CFF vision and mission are on aligned and impactful at the region and national levels. We need to support these bodies discharge their functions.
- The Regional Secretariat must be strengthened and given a degree of independence to implement its administrative programs and activities with guidance that is already provided by the governing instruments that are already in place.
- The Regional Secretariat and CTI-CFF programmes cannot be funded only by country contributions – and there is a need to explore other funding modalities to support RPOA 2.0 implementation and CTI-CFF as a whole. I envisage and look forward to the day that SOM endorses a budget that is NOT fully dependent on country contributions.

I also wish to acknowledge the support from our CT6 partners who have continued to add value and assist us meet the goals of the CTI-CFF. I believe, your collaboration with CTI-CFF has also been beneficial for your respective organisations, and I look forward to your continuous support and collaboration of areas of mutual interests.

As Chair, I am humbled by your trust to Solomon Islands, supporting our Chairship for the past three years and with your indulgence have again extended this trust until MM8 (next year).

Your Excellences, I call on all of us to continue to keep the momentum into another year of collaboration and partnership.

Finally, I wish to extend on behalf of my Minister, Government and SINCC, Christmas greetings and a Happy New Year to all of you and your families.

We look forward to seeing you in the next SOM Meeting.

Tagio tumas!

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