

REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Position Papers on Priority Areas

RECOGNITION OF REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY ON A LONGSTANDING AND UNFINISHED REGIONAL ISSUE

Pacific civil society,

1. Recognizing that finding a just resolution to the situation is a moral regional responsibility and constitutes an ongoing obligation for the region to find a just resolution to the West Papuan people,
2. Recognizing the shared cultural and historical affinity that makes West Papua unquestionable part of the Pacific family,
3. Recalling that Leaders have, in several previous Communiqués, recognized and expressed deep concern about ongoing violence and loss of life in West Papua, and recalling also that Leaders have called previously on all parties to protect and uphold the human rights of the people of West Papua and to support peaceful consultations and third party negotiations,¹
4. Taking into account other significant initiatives by Pacific Island nations, at the national level and through international mechanisms, reinforcing regional solidarity for West Papua and other non-self-governing territories in the region,²
5. Taking note of the affirmation by Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Leaders in 2013 of the inalienable right of the West Papuan people to self-determination³ and the current MSG processes to consider the matter of West Papuan membership in the organisation,
6. Recognizing the actual and continuing gross violation of the human rights of West Papuan people, including numerous recent killings and mass arrests of peaceful protestors and activists,
7. Recognizing the existing isolation of West Papuan groups through direct and structural violence,
8. Taking note that such human rights violations have continued in West Papua despite previous and widespread expressions of concern by the international community, as well as assurances that impunity by Indonesian security agencies has been curbed,

¹ Leaders' Communiqués 2000 (Tarawa), 2001 (Nauru), and 2006 (Fiji)

² Notably a) Vanuatu, Nauru and Tuvalu supporting West Papua's right to self-determination at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 and b) Leaders' Communiqué 2002 (Fiji) expressing support for New Caledonia's self-determination process.

³ Communiqué (page 9) of 19th Melanesian Spearhead Group Leaders' Summit 20th June 2013 (<http://www.msgsec.info/index.php/communique>)

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9. Taking into account articles 3 and 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples⁴ regarding the right of self-determination and the recommendation of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its eleventh session on the implementation of basic fundamental human rights articulated in the Declaration, particularly the right to self-determination,⁵
10. Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and its resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960,
11. Affirming the inalienable right of the people of French Polynesia to self-determination and independence in accordance with Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),
12. Recalling Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples UNGA Resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007 stipulating that "...Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."

Civil Society requests Leaders to:

13. Reaffirm that West Papua is part of the Pacific region, and that finding a just resolution to the struggle therein is a longstanding regional moral obligation,
14. Condemn strongly the on-going violation of human rights in West Papua, including the recent fatal shootings of West Papuan youth and mass arrests of community members,
15. Express solidarity with, and actively explore avenues of accompaniment to, the people of West Papua in their struggle against injustice and the legacy of colonial oppression for some 54 years,
16. to commission a high level PIF delegation to undertake a fact finding mission to investigate human rights abuses in West Papua,
17. to urge the UN Secretary-General to appoint a special representative to investigate human rights abuses in West Papua,
18. to grant West Papua observer status at the PIF,
19. to pursue the re-instatement of West Papua on the United Nations Committee for Decolonisation.

⁴ UNGA Resolution 61/295

⁵ E/2012/43, para. 39.