



MSG Secretariat
Secretariat du GFLM

Melanesian Spearhead Group | Le Groupe Fer de Lance Mélanésien

3rd Sub-Regional Workshop on MSG Green Trade Action Plan

Presentation by Mrs. Sovaia Marawa

Programme Manager Trade & Economic Development

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Trade vs. Sustainable Development

1. MSG2038 Prosperity for All Plan
2. Sustainable Development within the Melanesian Free Trade Agreement (MFTA)
3. Policy Issues
4. Recommendations



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MSG 2038 Prosperity for All Plan

- MSG Green Trade Project is consistent with the MSG Leaders 2038 Prosperity for All Plan.
- Members assisted through value addition of priority products to widen and diversify it's narrow economic and export base. It will also promote sustainable business opportunities and encourage intra-regional and international trade.



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Sustainable development and International trade

1. Economic objectives to broaden and deepening MSG economic integration through making commitments on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Labour mobility, Cross-border investment and Electronic Commerce.
2. Protection and compliance with environmental laws



Chapter 11 Environment and Sustainable Development

Article 11.1 Conformity with Environmental Laws –

a) Parties are committed to the principles of environment compliance and in compliance with the national environmental laws of the Party, in line with international best practice, and, to the extent possible, of other Parties

b) Work, both individually and in cooperation with other Parties, to prevent potential trade and environmental conflicts

c) Promote effective enforcement of environmental law to ensure compliance; and make responsible decisions and take appropriate measures to reduce any negative impact of trade and investment on the environment



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Chapter 11 Environment and Sustainable Development

Article 11.2 Principles of Non-Derogation - No Party may encourage trade or investment by weakening or reducing the levels of protection afforded in its environmental laws. Accordingly, no Party may waive or otherwise derogate from its environmental laws in a manner that weakens or reduces the protections afforded in those laws to encourage trade.



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Article 11.3 Corporate best environmental and Social Justice - recognising the substantial benefits brought by international trade and investment, the Parties shall encourage voluntary best practices of corporate social responsibility by enterprises within their territories or jurisdictions, to strengthen coherence between economic and environment objectives.



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Chapter 11 Environment and Sustainable Development

Article 11.4. Rights and obligations under environmental agreements

Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed:

- (a) to affect the existing rights and obligations of the Parties under international or regional; environmental agreements, including conservation agreements, to which such Parties are party
- (b) to prevent a Party from adopting, maintaining, or enforcing any measure it considers; and appropriate to ensure that investment activity in its territory is undertaken in a manner sensitive to environmental concerns



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New Policy Issues

1. Plastics and pesticides in the MSG
2. Protection of Environment
3. WTO worked on negotiations on sustainable development environmental goods, services and investments



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Recommendations

1. Start conversations on the linkages between international trade and sustainable development in the MSG
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Tankiu Tumas!

For any queries please contact
the MSG Secretariat on:

s.marawa@msgq.int

Tel: +678 27791.



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