

## Declaration of the Third Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Culture

1. On the occasion of the 12<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Art, the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the Government of Guam convened the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Ministers for Culture meeting at the Governor's Conference Room, Adelup, Guam on May 25th 2016, following the 27th Council of Pacific Arts and Culture meeting. The following is the outcomes of the Ministers meeting:
2. The Ministers affirmed the importance and value of culture in the Pacific, stating that culture is the Pacific region's most valuable resource along with its people and the environment.
3. The Ministers commended SPC for their work in advancing cultural development in the region and noted the need for SPC to give greater consideration to culture both as a crosscutting area and as a focused area of work.
4. The Ministers congratulated the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture Working Group, SPC and partners on the mid-term review of the Regional Cultural Strategy: Investing in Pacific Cultures 2010-2020.
5. The Ministers noted the urgency of addressing cultural issues at the local and regional levels in both culture and other forums. They discussed the opportunities for convening sub-regional working groups to take forward to culture issues into sub-regional forums and to translate the Regional Culture Strategy into the sub-regional context.
6. The Ministers noted the many initiatives on cultural development taking place locally, nationally and regionally, including through the support of UNESCO.
7. The Ministers affirmed the importance of convening a Ministers of Culture meeting every two years, and called on PICTs to fund their participation at the Pacific Ministers for Culture meeting to be convened by the Pacific Community. This is to ensure we keep up with the fast pace of change and address emerging issues and challenges.
8. The Ministers urged all countries to develop cultural policies to provide focus and support progress on cultural goals, recognising that countries face similar challenges and there are opportunities for collaboration and experience sharing including, for instance, using innovative approaches to fund culture such as development levies and tax incentives.
9. The Ministers also acknowledged the discussion outcomes and recommendations from the 27th Council of Pacific Arts and Culture meeting, and affirm their agreement with the Council's recommendations, including the need to:
  - a. continue to support the development in cultural industries in the region through enhanced funding and development partner support;

- b. support the development of the University of South Pacific's development of a Professional Certificate in Heritage Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Pacific Studies, Heritage and Arts and to provide scholarships for arts and culture sector studies; and
- c. support continued efforts in mainstreaming culture into disaster risk reduction and increase country capacity in this area.

10. As a result of the discussions during the 3rd Meeting of Culture Ministers, the Ministers agree that:

- i. Countries should work together to create knowledge exchanges and information sharing, and learn from each other.
- ii. Ministers will work with their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to ensure support for the work on Culture at the highest level, in particular within the context of SPC and in particular, at the upcoming 46<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Regional Governing Agencies (CRGA), in June 2016.
- iii. Ministers will commit financial support for their attendance at Culture of Ministers meetings to be held every two years with secretariat services provided by SPC with the next meeting being held in 2018.
- iv. Countries should continue to work jointly with SPC and partners on the Regional Culture Strategy review, including through existing sub-regional groupings.
- v. That the Council and SPC will report back on the Regional Culture Strategy progress at the 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Ministers for Culture meeting in 2018.