

Nuku' alofa, 3 april 2017

## **DECLARATION - GOVERNMENT OF NEW CALEDONIA**

Speaker : Soumynie KARTADIWIRJA, chief of staff for Hon. Anthony Lecren

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Mister chairman, Your honorable Deputy Prime Minister,  
Dear honorable Ministers and high personality of Government of the Pacific  
director general of sprep,  
Ladies and gentlemens,

Malo e lelei

It is customary in my country to offer a present to convey our message in a traditional way. This present symbolizes the spirit and thoughts of my people. I do that with you honorable deputy prime minister. Malo.

On behalf of the minister of sustainable development in New Caledonia, the honorable Anthony Lecren, I would like to thank the Kingdom of Tonga for hosting us and for the organization of this conference.  
Malo to the Sprep's team !

Since 2014, New Caledonia has created the natural park of the coral sea, covering its entire EEZ, that is to say 1.3 million square kilometers. The park has a managing committee, composed of four balanced pillars (institutional, customary, socioprofessional and representatives of civil society), which is currently developing a management plan for the park.

Two particularities can be noted in this committee: the presence of the customary authorities to promote traditional knowledge (as it is the case in the Cook islands I think), look the logo of the marine park. It's a toutoute for to call people with kanak traditional design. Call the kanak people, call people for to make a resilient development.

And the participation, for the first time, of our regional neighbors which contribute to the committee's new and innovative approach to its work . The committee uses also the experience of the scientific community to define management measures.

The committee strengthens privileged partnerships with both the three provinces of New Caledonia, and neighboring countries, such as Vanuatu, the Cook islands, Salomon islands, Australia and Papua New Guinea. This should bring together all the stakeholders and integrate regional networks to manage our ocean in a coherent way. We already have co-operation agreements with the Cook Islands and Australia in which the management of marine mammals occupies a significant place.

Through our participation in regional organizations such as PIF, SPREP, PIDF and Oceania Meetings, we hope that New Caledonia will contribute to finding concrete solutions for a protected ocean and a sustainable development.

All together, small countries we are, we have to find the right balance between economic development and preservation of this gift that Nature gave to us.

Do you know that in the yams calendar, in our Kanak calendar, the arrival of whales in our waters means it is time to plant this sacred tuber ? Indeed, the kanak have linked marine biodiversity to traditional knowledge. This notion must be preserved and transmitted to our future generations.

Traditions are important in oceania. They are part of the solutions to the issues we face. In June, we will organize the green pacific festival, which will focus on the theme of traditional knowledge and we would like all countries to prepare Oceania's traditional message, of, which will be brought to New York, together. The message of three brothers: Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia.

We support you on all the issues we have discussed, and we encourage the Kingdom of Tonga to convey our voice.

Thank you  
Malo aupito  
Merci beaucoup

Soumynie KARTADIWIRJA