

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

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

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*Salutations:*

- *Honorable Ministers for MECDM and MFMR*
  - *Heads of the CT6 Delegation of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and your SOM16 delegates (ref to list)*
  - *Executive Director of the CTI-CFF, Dr Mohammed Kushairi Mohammed Rajuddin and Regional Secretariat Team*
  - *Representatives of the CTI Development Partners*
  - *CT6 NCCs, Working Group Chairs*
  - *Ladies and gentlemen*
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*Good Morning!*

First of all, on behalf of the Solomon Islands Government and its people, I wish to welcome you all to the 16<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting. It is indeed a great pleasure, as CSO Chair to see you once again, since our gathering in May for the Special SOM.

I wish to recognize the tremendous efforts of our fellow NCCs and CT6 staff for keeping the dedication and commitment throughout this year. Your active participation and invaluable contributions must be applauded – I heard that the pre-SOM deliberations last week once again broke our previous time records.

It is also fitting for me to say thank you to the Regional Secretariat team. With the Executive Director as lead, your team had shown strength and stamina into ensuring that the aspirations of six countries are empowered, guided and nurtured to meet the overall goals of CTI-CFF.

To our good Partners who are with us, I thank you for the collaboration and partnership that each of you continue to provide either to the CT6 or towards regional activities.

Colleagues, I am sure that over the next three days, we will achieve the SOM16 objectives which are;

1. To acknowledge the Chair's Report
2. To acknowledge the 2021 Country Reports
3. To acknowledge address delivered by the Executive Director of the Regional Secretariat
4. To deliberate and endorse the reports and recommendations of the Governance Working Groups, Technical Working Groups and Cross-Cutting Initiatives
5. To acknowledge Partners' Presentation
6. To review and endorse the 8th Joint Ministerial Meeting Statement
7. To prepare and endorse the SOM-16 Chair's Summary

Thus, I call for all your valuable and constructive interventions as we tackle the task ahead.

*Tagio tumas!*

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