



## DECLARATION OF THE THIRD RIMES MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

25 August 2017, Port Moresby

**We**, Ministers and Senior Officers of Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Comoros, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Eritrea, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, and Yemen, met in Port Moresby on 25 August 2017 to review the implementation of the First and Second RIMES Ministerial Conference recommendations, particularly relating to sustaining RIMES delivery of core services, and replication of Papua New Guinea and RIMES Sub-Regional Hub for Pacific Island Countries and in other RIMES sub-regions, hereby:

1. **Commend** the Government of Papua New Guinea for hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> RIMES Ministerial Conference and establishing the first RIMES Sub-Regional Hub, realizing its commitment made at the Second Ministerial Conference two years ago;
2. **Commend** RIMES Program Unit for providing technical and professional services support to Papua New Guinea to establish its National Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System that also serves as RIMES Sub-Regional Hub for the Pacific;
3. **Declare** our commitment to support the Papua New Guinea RIMES Sub-Regional Hub to outreach RIMES services to meet current and emerging demands of countries in the Pacific Region;
4. **Declare** our support to establish other hubs, according to needs and demands of participating countries and commitment of the host country, to assist countries in meeting demands for early warning products/ services/ programs;
5. **Welcome** the offers of Madagascar, Seychelles, and Sri Lanka to establish RIMES Sub-Regional Hubs, and note Madagascar's financial commitment of USD 1.5 million toward Sub-Regional Hub establishment;
6. **Declare** to support initiatives of these countries by strengthening RIMES Program Unit as per recommendation of the RIMES Sub-Group of Ministers, and thereby **request** the Government of India, as Chair of the RIMES Council, to facilitate establishment of RIMES Sub-Regional Hubs;
7. **Appreciate** that the RIMES Sub-Group of Ministers' forecasts made in 2012 came true in 2017 itself, as around 50 countries, most of them least developed countries or small island developing states, are participating today, and that there could be a time lag between receipt of value-added services from RIMES and incorporating countries' annual contributions to RIMES into their national budgets;
8. **Declare** support to the Program Unit to integrate its value-added products and services into each participating countries' specific contexts that will enable countries to showcase the receipt of value-added services from RIMES and facilitate the integration of their annual contributions to RIMES into national annual budgets;

9. **Express** our appreciation to the vital contribution of the Government of India for implementing Master Plan priority projects in various countries, as outcomes of these projects immensely benefitted RIMES countries;
10. **Commend** the Government of India-supported project on Development and Implementation of an Integrated Ocean Information System for Indian Ocean Countries that developed and is providing customized ocean information services to participating countries, and **request** the Government of India to support expansion of this program as requested by various RIMES Member and Collaborating States in various regions;
11. **Charge** the Chair of the RIMES Council to call for a Donor Conference that shall include international partners, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO-IOC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Bureau of Meteorology –Australia (BOM), and development partners to support RIMES programs in all countries that demand RIMES programs;
12. **Appreciate** the support of ESCAP for the establishment of RIMES and its continuous support to RIMES programs, and **request** the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness for continued support for RIMES Master Plan 2016-2020 implementation;
13. **Request** the Papua New Guinea RIMES Sub-Regional Hub to integrate its programs into the Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation (FIPIC) and the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) to leverage RIMES resources;
14. **Note** that the number of participating countries in RIMES increased from 3 in 2009 and to around 50 countries in 2017, and is likely to increase further in the future and, therefore, there is need for evolving an institutional mechanism to shape future directions of RIMES through establishment of RIMES INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION of Heads of Governments/ Heads of States to sustain the RIMES movement;
15. **Commit** to provide vigorous thrust to RIMES mechanism to implement and establish a RIMES International Convention Secretariat to steer the Convention process, under the Chair of the RIMES Council, and to strengthen the RIMES Program Unit in this regard;
16. **Welcome** the offers of Seychelles and Sri Lanka to host the next RIMES Council Meeting and RIMES Ministerial Conference, and **request** the Program Unit to work with Seychelles and Sri Lanka on implementation details;
17. **Appreciate** Dr. David Grimes, WMO President, for his participation and his inspiring address, reflecting his wealth of experience and passion for innovation and visionary leadership, and **request** the WMO President for providing strategic guidance for strengthening RIMES as an interface institution between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and user institutions;
18. **Express** our appreciation for the continued support of WMO, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), IOC's Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (IOC-IOTWS), Government of India's Earth System Science Organization (ESSO)-National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), ESSO-Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), and ESSO-India Meteorological Department (IMD) for providing support to RIMES Master Plan implementation;

19. **Appreciate** the support provided by the Royal Thai Government for initial establishment of RIMES, with ESCAP Tsunami Trust Fund support and continued support thereafter to enable RIMES to provide uninterrupted early warning information and value-added services potentially to 50 countries of Africa, Asia, and the Pacific regions, and efforts of the Royal Thai Government toward signing of the RIMES Headquarters Agreement and Cooperation Agreement;
20. **Appreciate** the invaluable support provided by the Government of Maldives in hosting the RIMES Secretariat, which has been facilitating RIMES institutional development;
21. **Appreciate** the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) for providing all facilities for efficient operation of RIMES' 24/7 early warning center, and **request** AIT and RIMES to evolve collaborative program to strengthen RIMES Program Unit to meet existing and emerging demands of around 50 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific regions;
22. **Welcome** Afghanistan, Djibouti, Mozambique, Tonga, and Yemen as new RIMES Member States, and **request** all RIMES Collaborating Countries to become RIMES Member States by signing the RIMES Cooperation Agreement.