

THE ROCK ISLANDS DECLARATION

UNESCO SMALL ISLANDS VOICE KOROR-PELAU, NOVEMBER, 2002

WE, THE PARTICIPANTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF OUR SMALL ISLANDS:

NOTE that as we embark upon the third millennium, critical issues regarding the environment and development present special challenges for us as Small Island Developing States;

FURTHER NOTE that positioning civil society to debate and broaden its decision-making capability requires openness and interaction to ensure the preservation of an excellent quality of life for generations to come;

RECOGNIZE

- that the needs and the wishes of small island developing states are similar;
- that the goals, desires and aspirations of our individual societies are common;
- that we profoundly respect each others myriad cultures and traditions;
- that there is a need to preserve and further enrich the cultures and traditions, and at the same time, advance in the global environment;
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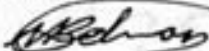
DECLARE


- that the UNESCO Small Islands Voice Project will not only strengthen the integration of Small Islands Developing states, but will also ensure continuous dialogue and debate on environmental; an developmental issues;
- that with a view to realizing these objectives, UNESCO's continued technical and financial assistance is critical;
- that our appreciation to UNESCO for the "Small Islands Voice" initiative is profound and unflinching;
- that our support for the ideals of the Organization remain strong;

URGE

- that UNESCO incorporates all additional phases of the Small Islands Voice Project in subsequent biennia;
- that as the catalyst of this project, UNESCO has the responsibility to ensure its sustainability for as long as this need is expressed by the participating islands and their peoples;

Signed: The Participants

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BEQUIA, ST. VINCENT AND
THE GRENADINES 

Mr BRUCE GRAY
COOK ISLANDS 


Youth MAARA-METUA MURARE
COOK ISLANDS *M. Murare.*

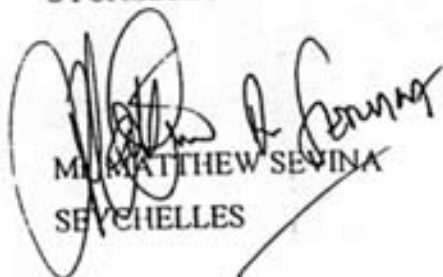
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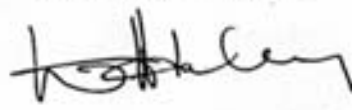

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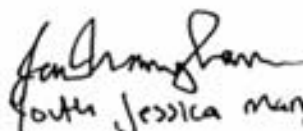

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