THE MASIG STATEMENT

23 August 2022

MALUNGU YANGU WAKAY

The Voice from the deep

PURPOSE

To establish principles and parameters on behalf of the peoples of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area to act together in unity, in order to pursue and achieve self-determination and regional autonomy and, in so doing, preserve our distinctive and diverse spiritual, material and economic relationship with the lands, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which we have a connection under Ailan Kastom and Aboriginal tradition.

AIMS

1. *In accordance with Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13th September 2007 and supported by the Australian Government on 3rd April 2009 and the Preamble of the Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld), we seek to achieve our right to self-determination as the peoples of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area.*
2. *By virtue of our sovereign right, we have the right to freely determine our political status and to freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development.*
3. *In keeping with Article 4 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in exercising our right to self-determination, we have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to our internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.*
4. *Therefore, we will create partnerships with Key Regional Stakeholders, the Queensland and Australian governments together with other relevant organisations to better equip us to work together to achieve our regional goals and aspirations; and in working together as representatives of the peoples of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area obtain and safeguard our human rights enshrined in international, national and Queensland law.*

PAST	23 August 1937 was the beginning of regional autonomy – The Torres Strait Island Councillors Conference.
PRESENT	23 August 2022 is the beginning of a new beginning, a culturally united path to regional sovereignty - The MASIG Statement.
FUTURE	23 August 2037 will be the beginning of regional sovereignty.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE FIRST TORRES STRAIT ISLAND COUNCILLORS CONFERENCE

23 AUGUST 1937 – 23 AUGUST 2022

The MASIG Statement is the beginning of a new beginning, a culturally united path to regional sovereignty.

Please sign The MASIG Statement by writing your name, your clan/nation/ language group and signature at the Signing Ceremony at Masig on 23rd August 2022.

Koeyma Eso, Au Esoau