

## Twenty Third SPREP Meeting of Officials

4-6 September 2012  
Noumea  
New Caledonia

### Agenda Item 11.3: The Future of The Pacific Environment Forum (PEF) – (A paper submitted by USA)

#### Purpose of Paper

1. The United States believes the Pacific Environmental Forum (PEF) discussion is too important to be separated from the SPREP Meeting. Given the Region's ongoing and clearly expressed desire to reduce the number of meetings, frameworks, reports, and document preparation, consolidation of the PEF agenda with the SPREP Meeting both in the current year and in future years would bring many benefits while reducing the burden on officials of attending more meetings.

2. Regarding this year's PEF agenda, we believe no single meeting can begin to address the diversity of national environmental challenges in the Pacific. One size does not fit all. Formulation of a Joint Country Strategy with each of the Island members of SPREP would go much further in capturing the individual member's challenges and SPREP's response. We note that the SPREP Secretariat has pronounced itself neutral on the question of whether the PEF continues.

#### Recommendation

3. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Consider** whether the PEF should be held as a separate meeting or whether PEF topics should be incorporated into the SPREP meeting itself?