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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands
 30 September – 2 October 20014

Agenda Item 6.8: Framework for Pacific Regionalism

Purpose of the Paper

1. The purpose of the paper is to update Members on the SPREP position of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

Background

2. A review of the Pacific Plan was commissioned by the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders to assess the effectiveness of the Plan and ensure that it remains the driver of regional efforts for integration and cooperation. Before the finalization of the report a briefing on the Pacific Plan Review was presented to the Forum Leaders in September 2013 by the Rt. Hon. Sir Mekere Morauta, Chair of the Review.

3. In June 2014 the Pacific Islands Forum convened a Special Leaders Retreat in the Cook Islands to consider the Pacific Plan Review. One of the key decisions from the Special Leaders' Retreat was the re-casting of the Pacific Plan as a Framework for Pacific Regionalism. The Forum Secretariat have since undertaken extensive consultations throughout the region regarding the proposed framework, including with the SPREP Executive.

4. The Secretariat sent direct feedback to the Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum on the draft framework, which has been integrated into the final paper presented for the Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting in Palau in July 2014. This feedback is attached.

5. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism was adopted by the 2014 Pacific Island Forum Meeting. It is intended to be a short and readable document that Pacific peoples can easily refer to for guidance on how regional priorities are set and monitored by Leaders. It has six main sections addressing: (i) a Vision Statement for the region; (ii) **Values**: a set of values to underpin work undertaken in the region; (iii) **Strategic objectives**: The Framework presents four high-level strategic objectives for regionalism, which continue on from the four pillars of the Pacific Plan; (iv) **Forms of regionalism**: The Framework sets out a range of options for pursuing regionalism, including coordination, cooperation, collaboration (which includes service pooling), harmonization, economic integration, and institutional integration; (v) **Processes for priority setting**: The Framework specifies a robust process that should be followed to support rigorous application of special criteria for regionalism, and well-focused, high-level attention on only the highest priorities for regional action.

6. Further general information on the Framework is outlined in the attachment to this paper. The Framework itself can be downloaded from: [http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Framework%20for%20Pacific%20Regionalism\(1\).pdf](http://www.forumsec.org.fj/resources/uploads/embeds/file/Framework%20for%20Pacific%20Regionalism(1).pdf)

7. SPREP has also strongly supported regionalism, within the Pacific and we will continue to ensure our work is linked and integrated with the new Framework.

Recommendation

8. The meeting is invited to:

- **note** the update on the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.

18 July 2014