

Twenty Fourth SPREP Meeting of Officials

17th -19th September 2013
Apia, Samoa

AGENDA ITEM 9.2.6: Pacific Preparation for the UNFCCC COP 19

Purpose

1. To inform Members of the key issues and preparations undertaken by the Secretariat on behalf of Members for the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Background

2. COP 19 will be held in Warsaw, Poland, from 11th to 22nd of November 2013.
3. Additional UNFCCC meetings have been held this year, including a meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Action (ADP), which was held in Bonn, in May 2013. This meeting focused on raising the level of mitigation ambition - given that the current international pledges fall far short of where scientists recommend, as well as ensuring the legal architecture for a new global agreement is in place, to be adopted by 2015 to enter into force by 2020. A second negotiation session was held in June of this year, where the Science and Technical Advice (SBSTA) and ADP met again. Unfortunately, due to a debate on procedural issues, Russia blocked the adoption of the agenda for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at the June session, and the SBI did not take place.

Key Issues on the COP Agenda

4. Both Pacific member countries and Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on the Warsaw COP 19 agenda this year identified the need to address the key issue of loss and damage to the adverse impacts of climate change.
5. Based on COP 18 (in Doha, 2012) decisions, Parties will be looking in Warsaw at “establishing institutional arrangements, such as an international mechanism, including its functions and modalities, elaborated in accordance with the role of the Framework Convention on Climate Change to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change”.

6. As such, the Secretariat has been undertaking activities in 2013 to support member countries in preparing ahead of this meeting, so that the Pacific and AOSIS position, calling for a three tiered international mechanism will be strongly advocated in advance of the upcoming Warsaw decision on this key issue.

7. The AOSIS proposal, as strongly advocated by PIC member countries is for an International Mechanism which would provide the following elements:

- An Insurance Component to help SIDS and other particularly vulnerable developing countries manage financial risk from increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather events;
- A Rehabilitation/Compensatory Component to address the progressive negative impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise, increasing land and ocean temperatures, and ocean acidification; and
- A Risk Management Component to support and promote risk assessment and management tools and facilitate and inform the Insurance Component and Rehabilitation/Compensatory Component

Activities undertaken by SPREP to prepare for COP 19

8. It is expected that as per previous years, the Secretariat , together with support from PIFs and SPC will work with Members to provide input through written briefings, regional preparatory meetings (both in Apia in September/October and again directly ahead of the COP in Warsaw(November) as well as on site technical advice at the COP in November.

9. The Secretariat has been in contact with several interested development partners and has secured some resources for the above mentioned meetings, and is also requesting Members, which may be in a position to do so, to offer any technical or financial support to these meetings.

10. The Secretariat has completed Pacific Media training in 2013 in collaboration with PACCSAP and as in previous COPs will take a Pacific media team to the COP in November.

11. Support has also been provided to the AOSIS secretariat (Nauru's Permanent Mission to the United Nations) and also provided funding for two countries to attend the AOSIS Expert Meeting on Loss and Damage, held in New York, in May 2013.

12. Technical assistance and support were provided to the Government of the Cook Islands, to host a regional meeting (in partnership with the Nansen Initiative¹) which looked at 'Human Mobility, Natural Disaster and Climate Change in the Pacific'.

13. The Pacific Climate Change Roundtable held in July also provided space for PICs to discuss and prepare for COP 19.

¹The Nansen Initiative on disaster-induced cross-border displacement is a state-led, bottom-up consultative process intended to build consensus on the development of a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across international borders by natural disasters, including those linked to the effects of climate change. It is funded by the Governments of Norway and Switzerland, with additional financial support from the European Commission.

Recommendations

14. The meeting is invited to:

- **endorse** the proposed activities in support of Pacific Island delegations, and invite Members in a position to do so to offer technical or financial support; and
 - **note the two upcoming** COP 19 preparatory meetings, the first to be held in the region (Apia) in October 2013, and the second to be held in Warsaw, directly ahead of the COP.
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8 August, 2013

