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



Twenty-Seventh SPREP Meeting of Officials

Alofi, Niue

19 – 21 September 2016

Agenda Item 9.3.3: Establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism on Disaster Waste Management

Purpose

1. To seek endorsement for the establishment of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism on Disaster Waste Management in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, that incorporates the principles of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and facilitates the provision of timely technical and financial assistance for disaster waste management to affected SPREP Member countries and territories.

Background

2. The Sendai Framework sets out four specific priorities for action, including Action 3 – Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, and Action 4 – Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response. Recent experience of SPREP and J-PRISM project conducted by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) dealing with disaster waste management has identified system gaps in meeting these priority actions for disaster waste and the need for specific focus and resources.
3. In recent years, the incidence of Tropical Cyclones combined with flooding disasters in the Pacific region has increased in frequency and intensity. The disaster waste generated by these events is often far beyond the capacity of the responsible national agencies to manage and thus, additional technical and financial assistance is required to support the affected areas in a coordinated manner.
4. Recent experiences with Tropical Cyclones Pam (2015) and Winston (2016) have highlighted the need for better and faster regional coordination of disaster waste management. To date, the response to requests for assistance by affected countries and territories has been ad hoc and is not always available as quickly as needed.
5. SPREP, in collaboration with the J-PRISM project and other partners has implemented seven follow up disaster waste management pilot projects between 2009 and 2016. Most recently this has included the release of Euro 248,000 from the EU funded, SPREP administered PacWaste project which will continue this work in Fiji, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. The experiences and lessons learned from these projects have been documented and serve as useful guides for best practice response.

6. In 2015, SPREP worked with the Government of Fiji to develop the Draft National Disaster Waste Management Guidelines and due to the obvious need for further disaster waste guidance in the region plans to develop the Regional Disaster Waste Guidelines based on the lessons learned from past disaster waste management experiences in the region and internationally.
7. The Clean Pacific Roundtable 2016 endorsed the establishment of a regional Disaster Waste Management Working Group that would enable stakeholder collaboration and co-ordination to be established on this issue and to identify approaches and resources that would allow affected countries to reduce risks associated with disaster waste and to be better prepared in the future in line with the Sendai Framework.
8. Future support for the regional Disaster Waste Management Group may also occur through the regional waste projects currently being developed through JICA (JPRISM II) and the European Union (EDF 11).

Recommendations

9. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **note** the development of the Regional Disaster Waste Management Guidelines to be incorporated to the regional context through a Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP),
 - **endorse** the development of a Regional Coordinating Mechanism on Disaster Waste Management by the Clean Pacific RT established Disaster Waste Management Working Group (DWM-WG) with relevant disaster waste management stakeholders.