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

Twenty Eighth SPREP Meeting

Apia, Samoa
19 – 21 September 2017

Agenda Item 6.9: Update on preparations for the 23rd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP23)

Purpose

1. To inform the meeting of progress in supporting Pacific Island Countries and Fiji in particular in the preparations for, and activities at, COP23.

Background

2. At COP 22 in Marrakech in November 2016, Fiji was elected to the Presidency of COP 23. Although the formal assumption of the Presidency will occur at COP 23, it has been the custom of the UNFCCC for the incoming Presidency to have a considerable role in the preparations for the COP. Fiji has undertaken this role by assembling a Presidency team, and by appointing a High Champion of climate change, H.E. the Hon. Inia Seruiratu.
3. Minister Seruiratu convened a Climate Action Pacific Partnership conference in Suva in July 2017. This also afforded the opportunity to bring together senior officials from the Pacific island countries and from CROP agencies to develop strategic and technical advice on key issues on the agenda for COP 23. The briefing papers developed were agreed to be working documents that would be further elaborated by senior officials in the lead up to COP 23 to take account of new developments in the process. In preparing for the Pacific pre-COP on 17th and 18th October, the Secretariat recognizes the following key issues for the Pacific in COP23 negotiations:
 - a) Reaffirmation of global commitment to the Paris Accord
 - b) Pursuing the higher ambition of 1.5 degrees in the context of faster than predicted onset of impacts such as ice cap melting and sea level rise
 - c) Completion of COP guidance on implementation of the Paris Accord including:
 - Finance:
 - Establishment of an investment fund
 - the role of the Adaptation Fund
 - Monitoring of mitigation commitments
 - Adequacy of support to adaptation vs mitigation;

- d) Greater engagement of the private sector in Pacific climate action and in climate sensitive developments;
 - e) Inclusion of impacts on marine coastal and oceanic ecosystems as part of the measure of impact on a given country to support both adaptation, and the preservation and restoration of coastal 'blue carbon intensive' ecosystems in national actions to prevent and mitigate GHG emissions.
4. The peoples of the Pacific remain ultimately dependent on the collective actions of the international community to safeguard our future. COP23 is a critical negotiation opportunity for the Pacific.
 5. CROP agencies wrote to the Fiji Presidency team after the Suva conference and offered continued support for a successful COP 23, in the form of a One CROP Plus team approach.

Progress update on preparations

6. The Director General further updated the Fiji Presidency and Pacific island countries on concrete plans that were being made to provide support from SPREP and the One CROP Plus team. SPREP will convene the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR), and will join the Disaster Platform organized by SPC and ISDR, in joint meetings 2-6 October in Suva. This is referred to as the Pacific Resilience Week with the theme of Pathways to Pacific Resilience. After two days of PCCR there will be two days of joint meetings, with the last day left open for other related meetings. An invitation was sent to country climate change focal points.
7. As in previous years SPREP will also convene the Pacific negotiations preparations meeting (formerly known as the High Level Support Mechanism) from 12-14 October in Nadi, with the possibility of a Ministerial preparations meeting on 16 October to take advantage of the Nadi pre-COP meeting convened by the Presidency. The Nadi pre-COP meeting is a global event that has limited funded invitations in the past, thus there is an opportunity for enhanced participation from the Pacific to attend, through the Ministerial preparations meeting.
8. SPREP is considering a side event at COP 23 in cooperation with Tuvalu and Vanuatu, the subject of which is still being finalized but will likely focus on project development in the region. A request for an exhibit space has also been submitted in conjunction with one of our cooperation partners. However, this has yet to be confirmed by the UNFCCC.
9. Meanwhile SPREP will be working with the One CROP Plus team, including on providing further updates to the briefing papers developed by Senior Officials in Suva earlier this year. This will also include preparing a communications strategy as in past years. We are seeking to support Pacific media in covering the COP.
10. The Secretariat invites views or suggestions from Members on how to best manage these events to optimize impacts and visibility for the Pacific in the preparation for as well as at the COP.

Recommendation

11. The Meeting is invited to:

- **welcome and congratulate** Fiji on becoming President of COP 23;
- **note** the progress in the preparations for COP 23;
- **provide** the Secretariat with views or suggestions on how to further support the COP 23 preparations, including Fiji's Presidency role; and
- **request** development partners and the international community to support the participation of Pacific Island Countries in COP 23.

29 August, 2017