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**AGENDA ITEM 6.2:**

**Implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders  
and SIS Leaders decisions**

**Purpose of Paper**

1. To report on implementation by the Secretariat on the Pacific Islands Forum and SIS Leaders decisions of the 49<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum.

**Background**

2. The 49<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum was held in Nauru from 3 to 5 September 2018 with the Chair of the Hon. Baron Waqa, President of the Republic of Nauru.
3. The Secretariat has implemented the relevant decisions from the 49<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum as guided by the Pacific Island Forum and SIS Leaders. An update of this is outlined in Annex I: Progress update on CROP Delivery of Forum Leaders' decisions<sup>1</sup> and Annex II: 2018/2019 CROP Assistance to Smaller Island States (SIS) for SPREP.
4. The 50<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum will be held in Tuvalu from 12 to 16 August 2019 with the incoming Chair of the Hon. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime Minister. A verbal update will be provided to the SPREP Meeting by the Director General who will attend the Forum.

**SPREP Actions of Implementation for Pacific Islands Forum and SIS Leaders Decisions**

5. The SPREP actions for implementation of the Pacific Island Forum and SIS Leaders Decisions of 2018 are reflected in more detail under specific SPREP Meeting agenda items, noting its incorporation in the SPREP work plan. Some key highlights are presented below.

**Priority 1 – Combating climate change and building disaster resilience**

6. The Secretariat led the One CROP Plus delivery of assistance for the UNFCCC negotiations and communications for COP24 in the lead up to, during and after Katowice, Poland. Preparations are underway for COP25 in Santiago, Chile with SPREP leadership of the One CROP Plus team, including the communications and advocacy plan ('Pacific Voyage to COP25').

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<sup>1</sup> A progress update on CROP delivery, set against the priorities, objectives and deliverables set by CROP Heads and Governing Council Chairs in the 2019 CROP Strategic Work Agenda.

7. As part of the One CROP Plus team SPREP provided technical and communications support to the Senior Officials Meeting in Suva, Fiji which was held in May prior to the Third Climate Action Pacific Partnership Meeting. The meetings enabled the consideration of the reviewed outcomes of COP24, high level inputs to CAPP 3 and the UN Secretary General meeting with Pacific Leaders in Suva in the lead up to the UN Climate Summit in September.
8. SPREP is the current CROP representative on the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific Taskforce and separately part of the Support Unit, to which the Climate Change Resilience programme and Communications team have provided ongoing technical support. SPREP has attended the various meetings via teleconference to support implementation of the FRDP through the Taskforce and the technical assistance required for the Support Unit. A full time FRDP coordinator based at SPREP is currently under recruitment and to be funded by the European Union.
9. SPREP was involved in the first Pacific Resilience Meeting held at USP from 1-3 May 2019 which had the theme of 'Youth Futures in a Resilient Pacific'. SPREP led the Low Carbon Development theme with the inclusion of Pacific comedian and entertainer Tofiga Fepulea'i as facilitator/ moderator to bring Pacific island people from outside the climate change and resilience communities into the conversation with humour and easier accessibility to the challenges of climate change in the region.
10. As a follow-up to the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders decision in 2017 the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting tasked the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat with the development of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Insurance Facility (PICCIF), an initiative raised by Tuvalu. The 2019 FEMM acknowledged SPREP as CROP lead on this initiative and noted that SPREP has funding in the pipeline for its further development. The FEMM also noted that UNEP has agreed to be a partner in this initiative, and that consultations were held in Bonn in June 2019 to this end. A small expert group will be convened at SPREP to validate the work plan for the project once funds are finalised.
11. As an accredited Regional Implementing Entity SPREP hosted and facilitated the Nationally Designated Authorities (NDA) Workshop for Pacific island members from 18 to 20 March. The focus of the workshop to help Pacific NDAs collaborate and network with the various regional and international organisation partners including the Green Climate Fund Secretariat. SPREP allocated time in the workshop for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to meet with SIS members and to discuss mutual priorities for a GCF proposal. PIFS meanwhile provided additional funding to support greater representation from SIS members.

## **Priority 2 - Ensuring the long-term sustainability and viability of the region's fisheries resources**

12. SPREP participated in the Special Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting, providing provided input to a joint CROP working paper presentation on Climate Change and presented a SPREP working paper on the importance of non-climate caused. environmental issues impacting on fisheries management entitled 'Emerging and critical environmental issues – a SPREP perspective'. The Special Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meeting was an important opportunity for SPREP to participate in an integrated CROP approach to regional fisheries management.

13. SPREP will continue to support the long-term sustainability and viability of the region's fisheries resources through the European Union EDF-11 Pacific-European Union Marine Programme (PEUMP) in collaboration with CROP agencies SPC, FFA, and USP. The specific focus for SPREP will be for By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management (BIEM) component valued at €6.6 million. It will be implemented regionally and nationally for the by-catch conservation and management component and within Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands for the integrated coastal ecosystem management component. The Project Manager was appointed in 2019 and is located in Fiji.

### **Priority 3 – Strengthening regional security cooperation**

14. SPREP will continue to contribute to support the Boe Declaration noting its expanded concept of security which is inclusive of prioritising environmental security, and regional cooperation in building resilience to disasters and climate change.

### **Priority 4 – Ensuring sustainable oceans management, use and conservation**

15. SPREP has been leading on the elimination of marine litter through the implementation of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan. Assistance has included:
  - a. Pacific Island Forum Members supported in the global discussions to develop a legally binding instrument to address plastic pollution, resulting in a resolution in the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi (<http://web.unep.org/environmentassembly/ministerial-declaration-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-4>)
  - b. Technical assistance provided to Samoa in implementing legislation to ban single-use plastic bags and straws.
  - c. Pacific Plasticity event held in March in Suva Fiji by SPREP and Ocean Recovery Alliance.
  - d. Greening of the Samoa Pacific Games 2019 in partnership with the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Resources & National Environment (MNRE).
  - e. The Pacific Ocean Litter Project, funded by the Australian Government, will further support the implementation of actions under the Action Plan as well as provide support in the coordination of the many activities that are being undertaken by a variety of actors in the region.
16. SPREP has been part of the OPOC led support for the advocacy and engagement for a new Implementing Agreement on the Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). SPREP experts have supported Pacific island delegations and been involved in the various preparatory meetings with provision of legal and technical advice through OPOC.

### **Priority 5 - Promoting sustainable development through the delivery of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development**

17. SPREP provided technical input on the preparation of the first Quadrennial Pacific Report on Sustainable Development which was coordinated by PIFS. SPREP's input was primarily on climate change, waste management and pollution, oceans and on marine and terrestrial biodiversity.

18. Limited data on the environment was identified as one of the main gaps in preparing the report and is one of the critical issues being addressed under the **Inform Project** through the establishment of both regional and national data portals.
19. SPREP is represented by EMG on the CROP SDWG. The CROP SDWG provides technical advice to CROP Heads. Changes to the TOR and composition of the SDWG are to be further discussed by CROP Heads.
20. SPREP provided input and feedback on the PIFS paper to the FEMM. The paper highlighted implementation progress of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development.
21. A Pacific Steering Committee on Sustainable Development, consisting of high- level representatives from member countries, CROP, UN, development partners and non-state actors, is being established. The PSCSD replaces the Pacific SDGs Taskforce and will be responsible for guiding the implementation and monitoring of the PRSD.

#### **Priority 7 – Strengthening arrangements for regionalism**

22. The 28<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting endorsed the new CROP Charter in 2017. SPREP is active in CROP collaboration and following-up issues tasked for the CROP Heads and Deputies. SPREP participated in the First Annual Meeting of CROP Heads and Governing Council Chairs in 2018 and will participate in the second meeting in October 2019.

#### **Recommendation**

23. The Meeting is invited to:
  1. **note the actions of the Secretariat to implement the relevant** decisions of the Pacific Islands Forum and SIS Leaders decisions of the 49<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum in 2018; and
  2. **note the verbal update of the Director General on** the 50<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum in 2019.

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25 July, 2019