

31st SPREP MEETING OF OFFICIALS

5, 6, and 7 September 2023, Apia, Samoa

Agenda Item 7.1: Implementing the Pacific Leaders Agenda

Purpose of paper

1. To provide an update of the SPREP contribution to the coordinated efforts of CROP to implement the Pacific Leaders Agenda.
2. To note the process for the out of session endorsement of the Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 IMP).

Background

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Vision: As Pacific Leaders, our vision is for a resilient Pacific Region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, that ensures all Pacific peoples can lead free, healthy and productive lives.

Strategy Pathways: Governance; Inclusion and Equity; Education, Research and Technology; Resilience and Wellbeing; and Partnership and Cooperation.

Thematic areas: Political Leadership and Regionalism; People-Centred Development; Peace and Security; Resource and Economic Development; Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment; and Technology and Connectivity

3. Recalling the key decisions of the 51st Pacific Islands Leaders Forum Meeting [Communique](#) on the 2050 Strategy:
 19. Leaders also recognised that inspired political leadership is critical to the success of Pacific regionalism. Leaders also highlighted that it was crucial for all Pacific people to be engaged in the processes of Pacific regionalism as advanced through the 2050 Strategy, to ensure that it was done in a truly inclusive way.
 23. Leaders welcomed and endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent as the overarching blueprint to advance Pacific regionalism for the next three decades, articulating the region's long-term vision, values, and key thematic areas and strategic pathways. In taking forward the Strategy, Leaders emphasised that an implementation plan will need to be developed that articulates key priorities and actions, delivery arrangements and resourcing requirements.

24. Leaders reaffirmed the importance of utilising existing regional mechanisms, including the Pacific Islands Forum, for engagement with partners, especially where multiple Pacific Island Countries are concerned, whilst still being respectful of the sovereign right of countries to engage with partners as they consider appropriate.

26. Leaders tasked Senior Officials to progress this work and report back to Leaders at the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum as part of the implementation of the 2050 Strategy.

4. Recalling the key decisions of the 3rd SPREP Executive Board Meeting on the 2050 Strategy, which:
 - a. Noted the endorsement of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent by the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Suva, Fiji.
 - b. Endorsed the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Secretariat's ongoing engagement in the implementation of the Leaders decisions including the implementation of the 2050 Strategy.
5. The 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PILFM52) will be hosted by the Cook Islands Government in Rarotonga from 6 to 10 November 2023. It is at the PILFM52 that the Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent will be presented for the consideration of Leaders.
6. Noting the vast and in-depth consultation process the Pacific Islands Forum has undertaken to ensure the process is Member driven and owned, the Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, remains for the interim, as an evolving document to reflect stakeholder inputs and Forum governance processes, before the final version is presented for the consideration of Forum Leaders in November.

Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent (2050 IMP)

7. The Secretariat has supported the development of the 2050 IMP through the inputs of a team of technical experts that have provided advice and inputs to help inform the process.
8. The Secretariat has ensured that the inputs provided in the development process for the 2050 IMP while demonstrating ambition, have been complementary to the existing work of SPREP aligned to the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026 and engaged collaboratively with other agencies and partners in support of the Multisector Expert Group (MSEG) on the thematic areas of: Climate Change and Disasters; and Ocean and Environment; Co-Chaired by French Polynesia and Tuvalu.
9. The Secretariat is still of the view that to strengthen the CROP coordination at the technical level the importance of reconvening and strengthening the CROP working groups. This is crucial to effective coordination and implementation of the 2050 Strategy and enhancing collaborative working relations across agencies.

10. The final version of the 2050 IMP is to be presented with revisions to the Forum Officials Committee (FOC) 2050 Strategy Sub-Committee and Out of session FOC Committee anticipated in late September and late October, before final presentation to Forum Leaders in November.
11. It is the intention of the Secretariat to circulate the final version of the 2050 IMP to all Members out of session for approval prior to presentation to the Forum Leaders.

Review of the Regional Architecture

12. This phase of work will continue once the Implementation Plan has been considered by Leaders in November. The Implementation and Monitoring Plan will inform the review of the regional architecture.

Recommendations

13. The Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the Pacific Leaders Agenda Update; and
 - 2) **Note** the process for the out-of-session endorsement of the Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

29 August 2023