

## 32<sup>nd</sup> SPREP MEETING SIDE EVENTS REQUEST FORM

1 - 5 September 2025, Sheraton Samoa

### 1. Title of the Side Event

GEF ISLANDS Pacific Child Project – Mercury Free Regional Action Plan

### 2. Brief Description (What the side event is about)

The side event is to raise awareness of SPREP Members of the soon to be launched **Mercury Free Regional Action Plan**, focused on ensuring the Pacific works towards and becomes a Mercury free region.

The side event will demonstrate how Members, partners, and SPREP are a committed partnership spanning resourcing and supporting of technical advice to the implementation of action on the ground on chemical and hazardous waste management in the region. The side event will have 3 clear objectives; (i) to share key data and statistics on mercury presence and status of management in the region (ii) to provide some anecdotal narratives to the impacts posed by mercury on human, animal and environmental health, and finally how (iii) the RAP will support countries on practical interventions including training and policy guidelines and strengthening of relevant legislation.

MNRE in particular will relate in their project how Mercury provides current active risks to the health of people, animals and the environment. SPREP and UNEP will speak to the growing scope of danger that chemicals and hazardous waste at large currently in the Pacific with some foresight into the future and why a RAP is a necessary first step towards providing countries with the capacity and capability to remain mercury free.

The event will aim to be interactive with participants, have limited but lively presentations, and will prompt audiences with interactive items to make clear the risks and dangers of mercury in the environment.

A fuller draft concept note on the side event will be readied by 24<sup>th</sup> July.

### 3. Partners (Partners or Members who will be involved in the side event)

Key Partners: GEF, UNEP, MNRE (Samoa). We will endeavour to make the session integrated with environmental and biodiversity elements and will seek to partner with Biodiversity Conservation Programme on potential shared issues.

### 4. Name and contact of the lead Organiser(s)

Dean Solofa, Renee Kamu for the GEF ISLANDS Project team at SPREP

### 5. Name of SPREP Programme/Department

WMPC

Email registration form to Miraneta W. Hazelman [miranetah@sprep.org](mailto:miranetah@sprep.org) by **COB 4 August 2025**