

Agenda Item 6.4: Review of the updated Terms of Reference for the Executive Board and Membership arrangements**Purpose:**

1. To seek Members guidance on options regarding the rotational membership of the Executive Board as part of the ongoing review of the Executive Board Terms of Reference (TOR).
2. The Secretariat is in the process of revising the Executive Board TOR for consideration by Members at the 33rd SPREP Meeting (2027) and seeks the advice of Members on the rotational membership to be included.

Background:

3. At the 32nd SPREP Meeting (2025) Members raised concern regarding confusion caused by the current rotation arrangements for membership of the SPREP Executive Board. The Meeting requested the Secretariat to review the Executive Board TOR. (*Refer to Annex 1*)
4. In 2015, the 26th SPREP Meeting agreed to be convened every two years instead of annually and in the alternate years an Executive Board Meeting convene with all meetings to be hosted by the Secretariat in Samoa to enhance efficiencies and minimise costs.
5. In 2017, the 28th SPREP Meeting approved the Executive Board TOR which included the composition of the Executive Board to consist of the Troika plus one member representing each of the following constituencies:

Melanesia - Fiji, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (5)

Micronesia - Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Palau (7)

Polynesia - American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna (9)

Metropolitan – Australia, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States (5)

6. In respect of the largest constituency Polynesia, there were concerns regarding rotation which would mean a long time between turns. A Friends of the Chair was convened to discuss this issue and recommended the rotation of membership for the Executive Board be by alphabetic rotation across the whole membership of SPREP. If a constituency was not represented, then an additional Member would be rotated on, to ensure all constituencies are represented. It was also agreed that when there is no French speaking member represented, including the Troika, a French speaking Member was to be included to ensure meetings remained bilingual. Applying this rotation has resulted in unequal representation on the Executive Board in some years. (*Refer to Annex 2*).

Troika's Recommended Changes to Rotational Arrangements

7. The Secretariat sought Troika's advice on the Executive Board rotation. The SPREP Executive noted that the three guiding considerations are equal representation from each constituency, ensuring members from larger constituencies not wait long between their turn as representatives on the Executive Board and to retain the bilingual arrangements for SPREP Governance Meetings.
8. Troika recommended not retaining the current arrangements as it is confusing and at times leads to unequal representation.
9. Troika recommended that the Executive Board continue to consist of the Troika plus equal representation from each of the constituencies.
10. Troika recommended two options for the representation from each constituency for the Executive Board's consideration:

a. Option 1

One representative per constituency rotated alphabetically within the constituency. This will not allow for quick rotation of representation within the larger constituencies. The rotation noted as follows:

Melanesia	Micronesia	Polynesia	Metropolitan
Fiji	Federated States of Micronesia	American Samoa	Australia
New Caledonia	Guam	Cook Islands	France
Papua New Guinea	Kiribati	French Polynesia	New Zealand
Solomon Islands	Marshall Islands	Niue	United Kingdom
Vanuatu	Nauru	Samoa	United States
	Northern Mariana Islands	Tokelau	
	Palau	Tonga	
		Tuvalu	
		Wallis and Futuna	

b. Option 2

Two representatives per constituency rotated alphabetically within the constituency. This will allow for quick rotation of representation within the larger constituencies.

11. Troika recommended to only include an additional French speaking member when there is no French speaking Member on the overall membership of the Executive Board. (*Refer to Annexes 3 and 4 for Executive Board rotation membership under Options 1 and 2.*)

Recommendation:

12. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Consider** the proposed changes to the rotational arrangements recommended by Troika to guide the review of the Executive Board Terms of Reference to be presented to the 33rd SPREP Meeting in 2027.