



2nd Executive Board Meeting

2 – 4 September 2020

Agenda Item 11.1.3: UNFCCC COP26 Update

Purpose of paper

1. To inform the Executive Board Meeting of developments in relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26).

Background

2. COP25 in Madrid in 2019 was widely regarded by SIDS as a disappointment due to the lack of ambition from big emitters to improve their NDCs for 2020. Additionally, Parties were unable to reach agreement on key issues such as the regulations around Article 6 (market and non-market-based mechanisms) and the governance of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM).
3. SPREP, on behalf of One CROP+ issued a report on COP25 to PSIDS, and the Director General issued a general summary of that report as a press release. He also separately briefed the Heads of CROP.
4. COP26 was scheduled to be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom in November 2020 with inter-essional meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies scheduled for June in Bonn, Germany. However, as the Covid 19 pandemic evolved globally, the UNFCCC Bureau has recommended postponement of COP26 to November 2021 and to also postpone the Bonn sessions to an as yet unconfirmed date, but also likely to be in 2021.

Opportunities and Challenges

5. COVID19 travel restrictions have prevented the Programme to deliver face to face in-country support, particularly on-ground consultations, meetings, and workshops. A post-COP25 workshop scheduled for March 2020 at the PCCC was postponed to 23-25 June 2020 and held as a virtual workshop to:
 - Provide updates on climate change developments from other international meetings since COP25 in Madrid in December 2019, such as the June Momentum and Placencia Ambition Forum;
 - Provide negotiators with briefings on the state of play of the UNFCCC negotiations and the opportunity to discuss Pacific SIDS positions for key issues under agenda items of importance to the region;

- Discuss outcomes of an online survey to enhance capacity of Pacific SIDS lead negotiators on the key agenda items in the negotiations through more targeted One CROP+ support;
 - Support the continued enhancement of the Pacific Voyage Strategy for participation at the 52nd session of the Subsidiary Bodies likely to be held in Bonn in early 2021, as well as in advance of and at COP26 itself in November 2021.
 - The workshop was attended by more than 110 participants across all PSIDS, and provided greater participation and inclusiveness than previous face to face meetings despite technical limitations for some participants. A report of the workshop has been completed and is being circulated to PSIDS.
6. SPREP will continue to lead the One CROP+ team approach to COP 26. Issue-specific consultations and briefing papers will be developed as part of the process.

Recommendations

7. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
1. **Note** the developments around UNFCCC COP26 and the implications for planning in the region.
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31 July, 2020

