

## **Agenda Item 8.1: Implementing the Pacific Leaders Agenda – includes the 2050 Strategy**

### **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 inform Members of the endorsement by Leaders of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent at the 51<sup>st</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting and the ongoing activities for the implementation of the 2050 Strategy.
3. To seek SPREP endorsement of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

### **Background**

4. The 51<sup>st</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting was hosted by the Fiji Government as the Forum Chair in Suva, Fiji from 11 to 14 July 2022. The Leaders meeting was the first held in person since the onset of COVID-19.
5. Key Leaders decisions for your attention include:
  - a. endorsement of the Pacific Islands Forum Women Leaders meeting recommendations for the revitalisation of the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration.
  - b. noted that the region, in a wider geopolitical setting continues to be a highly contested sphere of interest and recognised the importance of remaining unified.
  - c. endorsement of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent as the overarching blueprint to advance Pacific regionalism, emphasising that an implementation plan will need to be developed together with a fit for purpose regional architecture.
  - d. agreed to broaden the Review of the Regional Architecture to consider: (i) Political Setting; (ii) Institutional processes, systems and mechanisms; (iii) Governance mechanisms; and (iv) Engagements and Partnerships.
  - e. welcomed the commitment of the CROP agencies to strengthen coherence and effective coordination, and in particular support the development of a comprehensive implementation and monitoring plan for the 2050 Strategy.
  - f. noted with concern that resource mobilisation is fragmented and competing demands on financing remain key challenges to the achievement of the 2050 Strategy.
  - g. declared that the Pacific is facing a Climate Emergency and reconfirmed that climate change remains the single greatest existential threat facing the Blue Pacific, underscoring the urgency to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees through rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

- h. committed to working together with the COP 27 President Designate leading up to COP 27 to ensure that COP 27 delivers an ambitious outcome that reflects the need to urgently scale-up ambition and implementation to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial level, enhance efforts by developed country Parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country Parties from 2019 levels by 2025, advances work on the ocean-climate nexus, and shows meaningful progress with the deliberations on the new collective quantified climate finance goal, the Glasgow Dialogue on funding arrangements for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage and the operationalisation of the Santiago Network for loss and damage associated with climate change.
- i. reaffirmed their support to the Pacific Islands Forum Missions overseas in their proactive engagements with the international community to support the region's effort to advocate for stronger climate ambition. Leaders supported the work of the Political Climate Champions to strengthen Forum Island Countries' strategic engagement at COP 27, including the nomination of a new Champion on Gender and Social Inclusion.
- j. recognised the many impacts of climate change and disaster and their threat to the future of the region's people and the statehood of many Pacific nations.
- k. commended Vanuatu on its initiative on a pathway to secure a request from the UN General Assembly for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice to clarify legal consequences of climate change, noting the urgency of the climate change threat and the need for accelerated global climate action and implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- l. called on the UN General Assembly for a resolution requesting the International Court of Justice to provide an advisory opinion on the obligations of states under international law to protect the rights of present and future generations against the adverse impacts of climate change.
- m. noted that SIS Leaders re-asserted the strategic importance of the SIS grouping, as well as their critical role in forewarning the world on the existential threats of the climate crisis.
- n. called on other states and regions to formally support the 2021 *Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-related Sea-level rise*, including through adoption of similar practices to create a global norm for preserving maritime zones.
- o. reiterated strong concerns for potential threats regarding the decommissioning of the Japan Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.
- p. noted progress to address the ongoing impacts of nuclear testing through the CROP Taskforce on Nuclear Legacy issues in the Pacific, and the arrangements for a Preliminary Independent Review relating to Nuclear Contamination in the Pacific, including in the Nuclear Test Site at Runit Dome on Runit Island of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- q. encouraged Members to continue efforts to stay at the forefront of regional tuna fisheries management, address IUU fishing, and to secure sustainable benefits from tuna resources. In recognising that a socially sustainable fishery that upholds Pacific values is equally as important as ensuring a biologically and economically sustainable fishery.

- r. encouraged all WTO Forum Members to work together to conclude the remaining pillar of the fisheries subsidies negotiations on Overcapacity and Overfishing to protect the sustainability of fish stocks and provide appropriate Special and Differential Treatment for developing and least developing countries.
- s. commended and supported the Government of Niue on its Ocean Conservation Credit initiative as a sustainable financing mechanism, noting the ongoing challenges in accessing climate finance.
- t. agreed for the Cook Islands as the host of the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and Related Meetings in 2023, the Kingdom of Tonga in 2024, and Solomon Islands in 2025.

Please refer to WP.8.1/Att.1 and WP.8.1/Att.2.

### **2021 CROP Annual Report**

6. The 2021 CROP Annual Report to Pacific Islands Forum Leaders summarises the work of CROP from February 2021 to April 2022 to deliver on Forum Leaders' decisions from the Pacific Islands Forum Special Leaders' Retreat, held in February 2021, and 51st PIF, held virtually in August 2021.
7. Based on Forum Leaders' decisions, CROP has been collaborating across the ten thematic areas outlined in the Report which for SPREP are namely the: 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and review of the regional architecture; Climate change and disaster resilience; Sustainable oceans and international advocacy; Nuclear issues; Regional fisheries; Sustainable development; Information and communications technology; A regional mechanism to address oil spills; and Plastic pollution. Refer to WP.8.1/Att.3.

### **2050 Strategy for 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

8. The Secretariat has supported the development of the 2050 Strategy through the inputs of an internal taskforce of technical experts that have provided advice and inputs to help inform the process and remains committed to the implementation of the 2050 Strategy, particularly in respect of the thematic areas regarding Climate Change and Disasters; and the Ocean and Environment.
9. The Secretariat has ensured that the inputs provided in the development process for the 2050 Strategy have been complementary to the existing work of SPREP and hence will utilise existing resources prioritised under the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026. The 2050 Strategy under the relevant themes are in essence aligned with SPREP.

10. As requested by the Co-Chairs of the FOC Sub-Committee on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the Secretariat submitted a letter of support for the 2050 Strategy to the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum. Refer to WP.8.1/Att.4.
11. The Secretariat subject to Members endorsement, intends to support the CROP process with the development of the comprehensive implementation and monitoring plan of the 2050 Strategy and the review of the regional architecture. This will set out in detail the collective actions required to meet the levels of ambition for each thematic area to support the achievement of the 2050 vision.

### **Guidance for Secretariat engagement on the 2050 Strategy implementation**

12. In the development process of the 2050 Strategy the Secretariat submitted an official letter to the Secretary General dated 19 April 2022 which included a 'Stocktake of SPREP supported areas for the 2050 Strategy'. This stocktake can continue to guide the ongoing engagement of the Secretariat with CROP and other parties for the formulation of the implementation and monitoring plans; as well as the review of the regional architecture. Refer to WP.8.1/Att.5 and WP.8.1/Att.6.
13. The Secretariat will also have a lead role in the thematic areas of: Climate Change and Disasters; and Ocean and Environment. The Secretariat has emphasised that much of the implementation frameworks and regional architecture already exists within SPREP's implementation frameworks. The Secretariat will also have a supporting role in other thematic areas including People-Centered Development, which includes gender.
14. The Secretariat continuously raised the need to strengthen the CROP coordination at the technical level through the reconvening and strengthening of the CROP working groups. This is crucial to effective coordination and implementation of the 2050 Strategy.

### **Recommendations**

15. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
  - 1) **Note** the 2021 CROP Annual Report to Pacific Islands Forum Leaders;
  - 2) **Note** the endorsement of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent by the 51<sup>st</sup> Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in Suva, Fiji; and
  - 3) **Endorse** 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.

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28 July 2022