

Agenda Item 9.1.1: Pacific Youth and Women - Non state stakeholder engagement in the UNFCCC processes.

Purpose of paper

1. To provide an update on SPREP support to youth and women -non state actors engagement in the UNFCCC process.
2. To seek endorsement to collaborate with partners to engage more youth and women of the Pacific in the UNFCCC process.

Background

3. There is a need to drive forward strategic involvement of non-party stakeholders in the UNFCCC processes. There are existing civil society platforms for dialogue in which Youth and Women are engaged but there is a lack of strategic engagement and development in the formal processes of the UNFCCC in which PSIDS are engaged. SPREP is in a unique position to support this need given its mandate in Climate Change and coordination role as the chair of the One CROP group.
4. SPREP has supported PIFS initiatives with Pacific delegations to the Commission on the Status of Women through provision of technical support and training on the UNFCCC process, engagement opportunities and thematic priorities of the Pacific for COP27 given the Climate Change theme of the 2022 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
5. SPREP continues to promote and facilitate the involvement of women in the UNFCCC process including engaging with Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) to build the capacity of novice female negotiators nominated by UNFCCC national focal points.
6. Statistics provided by SPC on Pacific youth population (based on projections for most recent available year). For the following groups: 15-34 years – 33.9 % and for 15-29 years - 26.8%. Youth groups engaged in building resilience in the Pacific are valuable contributors to climate action and advocacy and are involved in advocating for greater ambition and appropriate responses to climate change, yet their advocacy largely remains outside of the negotiations proper.

7. SPREP will also engage with the Future Leaders Network. This group launched the Climate Youth Negotiator Programme (CYNP) at the Global Youth Summit in April 2022. The CYNP is aimed at creating a strong and diverse pipeline of effective climate change negotiators. The programme will deliver this by providing young people (aged 18 - 35) nominated by their country's UNFCCC focal point:
 - Leadership and negotiation training as well as technical understanding of the UNFCCC
 - A community of youth negotiators
 - International advocacy for intergenerational equity in decision making
 - Access to travel and subsistence grants (where available) to enable the youth negotiators to participate in climate change negotiations.
8. A SPREP circular will be sent to all focal points regarding eligibility criteria should members be interested, and nominations remain the prerogative of the government and nominees must be able to participate fully in monthly trainings ahead of COP27, starting in July 2022 in the lead up to COP27.
9. SPREP will provide opportunities to nominated Pacific youth and women to engage in the dedicated training of priority thematic areas for PSIDS that will be delivered by SPREP and One CROP.

Recommendation

10. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Endorse** the collaboration with partners to engage youth, and women in the UNFCCC processes and COP 27.

28 June 2022

