

# Report of the Twenty-ninth SPREP Meeting of Officials and Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa

3 – 6 September, 2019  
Apia, Samoa



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**Our vision:** The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

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## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Agenda Item 1: Opening Prayer</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Agenda Item 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Agenda Item 4: Action Taken on Matters Arising from SPREP’s first Executive Board Meeting</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Agenda Item 5: 2018 Overview and Implementation of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026</b> .....	<b>2</b>
5.1: Presentation of Annual Report for 2018 and Director General’s Overview of Progress since the First Executive Board’s Meeting.....	2
5.2: SPREP 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Report on events) .....	3
5.3: Progress towards achievement of the 2018/19 PIP strategic outcomes .....	3
5.4: Audited Annual Accounts for 2018.....	3
<b>Agenda Item 6: Regional Cooperation</b> .....	<b>4</b>
6.1: Framework for Pacific Regionalism .....	4
6.2: Implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and SIS Leaders decisions .....	4
6.3: Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the Pacific Resilience Partnership.....	5
6.4: Northern Sub-regional Office Establishment .....	6
<b>Agenda Item 7: International and Regional Engagement Events for 2020</b> .....	<b>7</b>
7.1: Update on Upcoming Ocean-related Events.....	7
7.2: 10 <sup>th</sup> Pacific Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conference, New Caledonia .....	7
7.3: Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework .....	8
7.4: UN Environment and SPREP Partnership .....	8
<b>Agenda Item 8: Strategic Partnerships</b> .....	<b>9</b>
8.1: Pacific Climate Change Centre .....	9
8.2: European Development Fund 11.....	10
8.3: Update on Ocean-related Strategic Engagements .....	10
8.4: Accessing Climate Financing .....	11
• Green Climate Fund (GCF)	
• Adaptation Fund (AF)	
• Global Environment Facility (GEF)	
8.5: Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative .....	12
<b>Agenda Item 9: Governance, Institutional Arrangements and Mechanisms</b> .....	<b>13</b>
9.1 Report on Executive Board 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting .....	13
9.2: Audit Committee Report Audit Committee Report .....	13
9.3: CROP Harmonisation of Remuneration .....	13
9.4: Staff Regulations Amendments .....	15
9.5: Appointment of External Auditor .....	15
9.6: EU request for greater engagement in SPREP Biennial meetings .....	15
9.7: SPREP Director General’s Performance Assessment .....	16
9.8: Process for the Recruitment of the Director General for 2021 .....	16
<b>Agenda Item 10: Strategic Financial Issues</b> .....	<b>16</b>
10.1: Report on Members’ Contributions .....	16
10.2: Sustainable Financing.....	17
<b>Agenda Item 11: Draft 2020/21 PIP</b> .....	<b>17</b>
11.1: SPREP Performance Implementation Plan and Results Framework 2020/21 .....	17
<b>Agenda Item 12: 2020-2021 Biennial Work Programme and Budget</b> .....	<b>18</b>

---

12.1:	Climate Change Resilience .....	18
12.1.1:	Highlights of the 2020-2021 Work programme .....	18
12.1.2:	<i>Report on UNFCCC COP24 and preparation for COP25</i> .....	18
12.1.3:	<i>1.5° degrees Report</i> .....	19
12.1.4:	<i>Climate change and oceans</i> .....	19
12.1.5:	Update from the 5 <sup>th</sup> Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5).....	20
12.2.1:	Islands and Ocean Ecosystems Programme 2020-21 Overview .....	20
12.2.2:	<i>Beyond the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol – Proposed Phase 2 for Pacific ABS project</i> .....	21
12.2.3:	Pacific Year of the Coral Reef 2018/2019: Update and Outcomes .....	22
12.3.1	WMPC Highlights of the 2020-2021 Work Programme .....	22
12.3.2:	Review of PACPLAN .....	23
12.3.3:	Maritime pollution: Emerging issues .....	23
12.3.4:	Implementation of the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Plan .....	24
12.3.5:	Pacific Environment Forum (PEF) outcomes.....	25
12.4.1:	Environmental Monitoring & Governance Programme Overview 2020-2021 .....	25
12.4.2:	Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines .....	25
12.4.3:	Implementation of the Inform Project: strengthening data management to support planning and decision making .....	26
12.5:	Consideration and Approval of the budget for 2020/21 and pipeline projects .....	26
<b>Agenda Item 13: Reports of the SPREP Conventions</b> .....		27
13.1:	Noumea Convention Report .....	27
13.1:	Waigani Convention Report .....	27
<b>Agenda Item 14: Items Proposed by Members</b> .....		27
14.1:	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) <i>by Government of New Caledonia</i> .....	27
14.2	Group on Earth Observations (GEO) <i>by Government of Australia</i> .....	28
<b>Agenda Item 15: Statements by Observers</b> .....		28
<b>Agenda Item 16: Other Business</b> .....		28
<b>Agenda Item 17: Environment Ministers’ High-Level Talanoa: ‘A Resilient Blue Pacific’: Opening of the Pacific Climate Change Centre</b> .....		29
<b>Agenda Item 18: Date of the second Executive Board Meeting</b> .....		29
<b>Agenda Item 19: Adoption of the Report of the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting</b> .....		29
<b>Agenda Item 20: Close</b>		
<b>ANNEX I:</b>	List of Participants .....	30
<b>ANNEX II:</b>	Opening Address by SPREP Director General.....	50
<b>ANNEX III:</b>	Keynote Address by the Honorable Acting Prime Minister of Samoa.....	53
<b>ANNEX IV:</b>	CAPP IV Hosting.....	55
<b>ANNEX V:</b>	Statements by Observers .....	56
<b>ANNEX VI:</b>	Environment Ministers’ meeting agenda.....	60
<b>ANNEX VII:</b>	Environment Ministers’ Chair’s Summary .....	62
<b>ANNEX VIII:</b>	Environment Ministers’ Communique .....	64

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## Introduction

1. The Twenty-ninth SPREP Meeting (29SM) of Officials and the Ministerial was held from 3- 6 September, 2019 in Apia, Samoa.
2. Present at the Meeting were representatives from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America and Wallis and Futuna. A full list of participants, including observers, is available in Annex I.
3. The official opening ceremony was held on 2 September at Tanoa Tusitala Hotel in Apia, Samoa. The welcoming remarks from the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Mr Kosi Latu is attached as Annex II.
4. The Meeting was officially opened by the Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa Hon. Afioga Fiame Naomi Mata'afa. The opening address of the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister is attached as Annex III.

### AGENDA ITEM 1: Prayer

5. The Meeting opened with a prayer from the representative from American Samoa.

### AGENDA ITEM 2: Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

6. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the SPREP Meeting, the Meeting host Samoa was appointed as Chair and French Polynesia was appointed as Vice Chair of the 29SM.

### 7. The Meeting:

1. **confirmed** the Representative of **Samoa** as **Chair**; and
2. **confirmed** the Representative of **French Polynesia** as **Vice Chair**.

### AGENDA ITEM 3: Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures

8. The Meeting reviewed the Provisional Agenda and the suggested hours of work.
9. Cook Islands requested an item on the Fourth Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) under Agenda Item 14.3.
10. The Meeting sought volunteers for the Report Drafting Committee.
11. The Meeting:
  1. **considered** and **adopted** the Provisional Agenda **considered** and **adopted** the Provisional Agenda;
  2. **agreed** on hours of work; and
  3. **appointed** an open-ended Report Drafting Committee comprising Australia, Cook Islands, France, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, and Wallis and Futuna to be chaired by French Polynesia as Vice Chair of the 29SM.

### AGENDA ITEM 4: Action Taken on Matters Arising from SPREP's first Executive Board Meeting

12. The Secretariat reported, by way of a Working Paper, on actions taken and directives from the First SPREP Executive Board Meeting held in 2018.
13. The Meeting:
  1. **noted actions taken** against the decisions and directives of the First Executive Board Meeting.

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## AGENDA ITEM 5: 2018 OVERVIEW

### Agenda Item 5.1: Presentation of Annual Report for 2018 and Director General's Overview of Progress since the First SPREP Executive Board Meeting

14. The Director General presented the 2018 SPREP Annual Report to Members and provided an overview report on progress since the First Executive Board in 2018.
15. American Samoa, Cook Islands, France, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Solomon Islands thanked the Secretariat for its work undertaken in 2018.
16. The Director General noted the Secretariat will continue to have challenges with core funding and in response to a query from the Cook Islands on additional pressures from the GCF upgrade, the DG advised that while the upgrade presents an increase in available funding to SPREP the Secretariat will focus on transitioning the current project pipeline of 19 projects into development and implementation.
17. Solomon Islands asked how the Secretariat intended to build Pacific Island capacity as part of growing projects and the work of the Secretariat considering the challenges faced in attracting qualified and skilled staff. The Director General noted that 73 percent of SPREP staff are from non-metropolitan Members with 27 percent from metropolitan Member countries and advised that the Secretariat will be seeking support from partners to establish a Young Professional's Initiative for Pacific Islanders.
18. The Director General noted the challenge to the Secretariat in recruiting skilled staff is one felt by many agencies.
19. Samoa appreciated the growing interest of partners in the work of the Secretariat and suggested a stock take of national and regional priorities of Members be undertaken to maximise opportunities and resources across the region and streamline partner interest and support.
20. The Director General thanked all partners that supported the Greening of the Games Campaign as part of the 2019 Samoa Pacific Games and in response to a request from Papua New Guinea to make this a permanent programme with the Pacific Games Council, noted that Solomon Islands as next host of the Pacific Games has already approached the Secretariat for similar support from SPREP.
21. The Director General acknowledged the additional request from Papua New Guinea for the Secretariat to lead a SPREP Member-wide annual tree planting activity on the same day each year across the region, based upon the tree planting work that took place in 2018 in Samoa. The Director General clarified that the tree planting activities through Greening of the Games and by SPREP staff was in support of Samoa's Two Million Tree Campaign 2015 – 2020.
22. France commended the impact of the work undertaken by the Secretariat in Greening the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games noting the *Agence Française de Développement (AFD)* was happy to provide support when requested.
23. American Samoa expressed gratitude to the Secretariat for participation in American Samoa's Resilience Meeting in 2019 noting the significant contribution to climate resilience and requested support for priority waste management issues including used oil, recycling and e-Waste. In response the Director General stressed the commitment from the Secretariat to support American Samoa, highlighting key areas of the Polynesian Leaders Group discussions at the end of January 2020 and also with technical assistance in the areas requested.
24. The Meeting:
  1. ***noted the report.***

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## **AGENDA ITEM 5.2: SPREP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### **SPREP 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

25. The Director General presented an overview of the activities to celebrate SPREP's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
26. The Meeting:
  1. **noted** the Celebration of the 25 Years of SPREP.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5.3: Progress towards achieving the 2018-2019 PIP Outcomes**

27. The Secretariat made a high-level summary presentation on the implementation of the 2018-2019 Work Programme and Budget, providing an update of progress towards achieving the strategic outcomes of the first Performance Implementation Plan (2018 – 2019).
28. New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu congratulated and thanked the Secretariat for the update and their work.
29. New Caledonia noted that the Secretariat has reinforced its capabilities in supporting Members through strengthening partnerships and dialogue with countries including the French territories especially through the Blue Pacific context.
30. Solomon Islands commended the Secretariat for technical support in particular through the Pacific Ecosystem and Biodiversity Adaptation to Climate Change project (PEBACC) and Inform projects.
31. The Secretariat advised it is looking at further opportunities through the Biodiversity Climate Change Initiative for support to continue the PEBACC project and planning to continue support to Access and Benefit Sharing through GEF7.
32. Tuvalu acknowledged the support from the Secretariat with ratifying the Nagoya Protocol, establishing its national

environment data portal, and assistance with Tuvalu's Reports to the CBD, National Environmental Management Strategy and State of Environment Report. Tuvalu further noted support for the 2019 Pacific Island Forum Leaders Meeting hosted in Tuvalu, including it being a plastic free event with Tuvalu implementing a regulation to ban certain single-use plastics in August, 2019.

33. New Caledonia, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu noted the value in the new strategic approach by the Secretariat through having a ten-year strategic plan combined with biennial work plans which allow for flexibility. The Director General acknowledged that the Secretariat needs to have flexibility in its broad work context.
34. The Meeting:
  1. **noted** the progress made towards achievement of the 2018-2019 programme of work and budget, and 2018-2019 PIP strategic Outcomes.
  2. **considered** the lessons learned in the first year of operation of the PIP planning and reporting mechanism; and
  3. **noted** that the PIP strategic planning mechanism will be evaluated after completion of the second (2020-2021) PIP.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5.4: Audited Annual Accounts for 2018 Audited Annual Accounts for 2018**

35. In accordance with Financial Regulation 27(e), the Secretariat presented its Audited Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018, prepared in accordance with the international Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and advised the auditors provided an unqualified opinion of the Secretariat's Financial Statements for 2018.
36. In response to a query from the Cook Islands, the Secretariat explained that an update to the Reserves Policy is yet to be done as the latest revision of the policy was undertaken in 2017 noting that the

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immediate priority is to eliminate negative balances before any level of reserves would be determined, given the on-going volatile financial position.

37. The Secretariat confirmed that it achieved a positive balance in reserves in 2017 which continued to 2018, noting that the next step is to revise and update the Reserves Policy based upon lessons learnt. In response to a further query from Cook Islands, the Secretariat considered that a reserve budget sufficient to fund six months forward expenditure would be an ideal target for reserve funds for any organization.

38. The Meeting

1. **reviewed and adopted** the audited *Financial Statements and Auditors' Report for 2018*.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND STRATEGIC ISSUES**

### **AGENDA ITEM 6.1: Framework for Pacific Regionalism**

39. The Director General provided an update on the 'review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) and other Council of the Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) prioritisation initiatives.

40. In response to recommendations from Cook Islands, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea and Samoa for the Secretariat to engage in the review, the Secretariat noted it will participate and provide feedback in the Review on Pacific Regionalism led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and is awaiting further guidance on how this will be undertaken.

41. New Caledonia welcomed the report and the pragmatic approach adopted by the Secretariat resulting in greater efficiency, highlighting that the key is to respond to Member needs within available limited resources.

42. Samoa and Papua New Guinea urged a coordinated regional approach aligned to national priorities when working on regional prioritisation mechanisms including regional Pacific resilience.

43. The Secretariat noted it is engaged with the Specialist Sub-committee on Pacific Regionalism further noting this process could be improved.

44. The Chair commended the engagement by SPREP in the review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism calling upon all Members to play a part in Pacific regionalism with the organisations developed and established in the region, noting the need for coordination.

45. The meeting.

1. **noted** the update on SPREP engagement for implementation of the *Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR)*;
2. **noted** the recommendations of the *Interim Review of the FPR* and directed the Secretariat to engage in the 2050 Blue Pacific visioning process; and
3. **recommended** the review of the FPR to ensure regional priorities support the priorities Pacific island countries and territories.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6.2: Implementation of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders and SIS Leaders decisions**

46. The Director General reported on implementation by the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum and Small Island States (SIS) Leaders decisions of the 49<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum.

47. Tuvalu acknowledged SPREP's role in leading in its areas of mandated support with PIFS and UN Environment, considering this essential to the survival of Tuvalu. The Secretariat advised it will continue to support the SIS as an accredited entity of the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund as well as the representative of the Agencies of the Council of Regional

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Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) on the Pacific Resilience Task Force. The Secretariat stressed Pacific Leaders' identification of climate change as the largest threat to the security of the Pacific region.

48. Tuvalu called upon partners for financial support for the PICCIF. The Secretariat confirmed it will continue to support the Pacific Islands Climate Change Insurance Facility (PICCIF), and in noting the endorsement of transitional arrangements for the Pacific Resilience Facility by leaders, commented that up-coming Agenda Item 12.3. will address issues of insurance concerning oil spill incidents in the region.
49. Tuvalu acknowledged the technical assistance from the Secretariat to improve the management of waste and pollution as well as to review and update information and data on marine conservation areas.
50. The Meeting:
  1. ***noted the actions of the Secretariat to implement the relevant decisions of the Pacific Islands Forum and Small Island States Leaders decisions of the 49<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum in 2018; and***
  2. ***noted the verbal update of the Director General on the 50<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Forum in 2019.***

### **AGENDA ITEM 6.3: Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and the Pacific Resilience Partnership**

51. The Secretariat updated Members on progress in implementing the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP).
52. Cook Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Samoa and United States congratulated the Secretariat for the successful organisation of the Pacific Resilience Meeting and commended the inclusion of youth and for utilising innovative approaches to adapting to climate change and disaster in the Pacific.

53. New Zealand and Samoa noted the progress on the recruitment of the FRDP/PRP Coordinator position and further recommended aligning the position to the work of the Pacific Climate Change Centre, a point noted by the Secretariat.

54. New Zealand, Samoa and the United States noted the recommendation on the reporting mechanism of the PRP taskforce to SPREP. United States requested the Secretariat to conduct this in a way that will not require additional resources.

55. United States noted an up-coming event that would complement the Resilience meeting to be hosted by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Honolulu in March 2020 with an emphasis on coping with natural hazards (OHANA).

56. Cook Islands, supported by Samoa, sought deletion of the proposed recommendation 'to maintain the agreed governance arrangements' as this would contradict the outcomes of the Pacific Leaders meeting which agreed to extend the trial and review period of the PRP. This was agreed.

57. New Caledonia reminded the meeting to communicate and provide emphasis not only at the technical level but to engage political champions from higher governance level to support the FRDP and bring about transformative change.

58. Samoa reiterated the call by the Pacific Leaders for the PRP to align with existing policies and mechanisms such as the Pacific Resilience facility, the Paris agreement and the Boe Declaration as the objectives of these existing mechanisms are complementary to those of the FRDP.

59. The Meeting:

1. ***noted the Outcome of the Inaugural Pacific Resilience Meeting 2019;***
2. ***requested the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) Taskforce to provide an annual update to the SPREP Meeting on the progress of the partnership;***

3. **noted** the report of the PRP Taskforce and **welcomed** the work that is progressing on implementing the PRP governance arrangements; and
4. **noted** the progress made by the Secretariat in recruiting the Framework of Resilient Development in the Pacific/PRP Coordinator.

**AGENDA ITEM 6.4: Northern Sub-regional SPREP Office Establishment**

60. The Secretariat updated Members on progress in establishing the SPREP Northern Sub-regional Office and; sought endorsement of the transitional 2019 budget for the Office as well as the draft business case and provisional budget for 2020 and 2021.
61. Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea noted concerns regarding the costs and sustainability of financing for the Northern Office.
62. Federated States of Micronesia sought clarification on whether the contributions of the Secretariat to FSM will be shifted to the Northern SPREP Office in Majuro and if the working group reviewed hosting arrangements in place with other agencies noting any additional fees must be deliberated by Congress weighing financial support against tangible benefits.
63. Papua New Guinea, supported by Solomon Islands queried the likelihood of another sub-region seeking similar support with an office.
64. New Caledonia requested the financial risk for the sustainability of the office be addressed noting the budget for the sub regional office has been developed in expectation of the contributions of some Members that have arrears.
65. Kiribati noted while it supports the office it has reservations on point two and three of

the recommendations as has not been engaged in the consultation process.

66. Solomon Islands requested Members view this holistically as an SPREP office in the Northern Pacific.
67. Australia suggested that a way forward might include operationalising the office as per the 2019 budget and requiring a progress report by 2021 for 30SM.
68. The Meeting tasked a small open-ended Working Group comprising Micronesian Members, Australia and the Secretariat, to consider the Australian suggestion and propose a way forward.
69. The Working Group subsequently reported back a replacement set of recommendations to the Meeting which were then considered.
70. Cook Islands supported the recommendations noting the Secretariat has worked within the guidance provided by Members during the 2017 and 2018 SPREP Meetings.
71. Australia, supported by Samoa, thanked the working group proposing further work to address gaps in sustainable funding sources before agreement upon a budget.
72. Republic of Marshall Islands thanked the Secretariat for coordinating work on this noting it is fully committed to supporting this endeavour and has committed funding to the annual operating budget of the Office.
73. Palau noted the request for the Northern sub-regional office was a directive from Pacific Leaders and the Secretariat with Members now need to move forward to implementing this. Papua New Guinea expressed its support for this directive from Pacific leaders noting its query related to available funding to undertake this activity.

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74. The Meeting:

1. **noted** that the SPREP Northern Office will commence operations in 2019 as budgeted;
2. **also noted** that the transitional Office Manager will engage with the North Office Working group to:
  - a) develop a work plan
  - b) further refine the Operating Model
  - c) prepare a 2020 budget
  - d) secure further sources of funding
3. **requested** that a review of progress be provided by 2021 to the 30<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: STRATEGIC FINANCIAL ISSUES**

### **AGENDA ITEM 7.1: Update on Upcoming Ocean-related Events**

75. The Secretariat updated Members on upcoming ocean events relevant to the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan cross-cutting focus on oceans.
76. New Caledonia recalled the ICRI National Assembly will be hosted in Australia in 2019 noting New Caledonia is host of the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which will be in line with the principals of the Blue Pacific.
77. France advised that the IUCN World Conference will be hosted in Marseille, France in June 2020 and that France will host the One Planet Summit in French Polynesia in April 2020.
78. Samoa noted it will host the Pacific Ocean, Pacific Climate Conference in 2020, presenting an opportunity to undertake a stocktake of responses and challenges by countries in implementing the Paris Agreement and addressing the effects of climate change.
79. Republic of Marshall Islands advised it held its first National Ocean Symposium in 2017 to develop its National Ocean Policy and

sought assistance from the Secretariat to find support from development partners to implement this policy including for the monitoring and evaluation of related local ordinances.

80. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the upcoming events which will be **key** for Member engagement in the coming years and **approved** SPREP engagement in these negotiations.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7.2: 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Nature Conservation and Protected Areas**

81. The Secretariat updated Members on preparations for the 10<sup>th</sup> Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conference in 2020 and sought endorsement of the conference as an important process in providing regional input into the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as for national support of the conference through sponsoring participation of key national stakeholders to attend, or other contributions.
82. Australia, supported by Fiji, requested changing the recommendations from 'endorsed support' to 'consider supporting' as while supportive of the process funding has not yet been confirmed for participation in this.
83. New Caledonia thanked the aid donors such as France through the Pacific Fund, and the French Biodiversity Agency and the Pacific Island Round Table. Funding allowed the recruitment of a coordinator based in New Caledonia and one based at the Secretariat.
84. New Caledonia invited Members to write on the sheets available in the marquee their input to the challenges that must be tackled during the conference and specific elements and goals that Members think we should commit to in the next iteration of the regional strategy.

85. Republic of Marshall Islands noted it has recently adopted its Protected Areas Network.

86. The Meeting:

1. **endorsed** the conference as an important process for providing regional input into the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
2. **encouraged** Members to consider supporting the conference through sponsoring participation of key national stakeholders to attend, or other financial contributions needed for conference implementation.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7.3: Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework**

87. In 2020 the CBD at COP15 will consider for adoption the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature". Endorsement of the regional approach for SPREP providing input into the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, was sought from the Meeting.

88. United States advised it has submitted input to the CBD and looks forward to hearing of input from Members.

89. New Caledonia agreed it was a constructive exercise and will inform territories and share experiences of the legal mechanism used to pass on its commitments as a non-party to the UN via France noting the importance of reliable data to assess the effectiveness of measures to protect biodiversity.

90. In response to a query from Samoa the Secretariat explained the intention for the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas to inform regional input to the post 2020 framework of the CBD.

91. Republic of Marshall Islands highlighted national efforts for nature conservation highlighting the critical need for resource

mobilisation and the special needs of low-lying atolls in conserving their biodiversity.

92. The Meeting:

1. **endorsed** the regional approach SPREP proposes for providing input into the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework prior to the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference Of the Parties in October 2020; and
2. **encouraged** countries to submit their own input to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7.4: UN Environment and SPREP Partnership**

93. An update was provided on the implementation of the revised strategic priorities for the UN Environment Pacific Office and the UN Environment-SPREP partnership as well as information shared on the 4th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) and its preparatory process.

94. The Secretariat and UN Environment noted the requests from Tuvalu, supported by Kiribati and Solomon Islands, for coordinated support for UNEA5 as per that provided by SPREP for other global environment conferences and negotiations processes. UNE advised that Members could assign Permanent Representatives of UN Environment to engage in the UNEA negotiation process.

95. Kiribati and Solomon Islands sought assistance via partnerships from the Secretariat on implementing UNEA resolutions on common Pacific issues.

96. Tuvalu sought an update on NEMS development. The Secretariat advised that contracts are being developed for Tuvalu and four Pacific Island Members to support development of NEMS.

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97. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the progress and planned activities for the implementation of the strategic priorities for the UN Environment Pacific Office and the Partnership between UN Environment and SPREP; and
2. **urged** member countries to continue to actively engage with United Nations Environment Assembly and its preparatory processes.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: CORPORATE SERVICES**

### **AGENDA ITEM 8.1: Pacific Climate Change**

98. The Secretariat presented on the key milestones achieved for the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC) and the progress on its governance arrangements and the operationalisation of its key functions.

99. Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands and Samoa congratulated the Secretariat and thanked the Governments of Japan, New Zealand and Samoa for their support for the PCCC.

100. Australia, Cook Islands and Fiji sought clarity that final decision making of the Advisory Board lies with the Governing Council. In response the Secretariat proposed edits to the Terms of Reference distributed under Working Paper 8.1 Attachment 1 in particular the removal of brackets in paragraph 3 C, adding the word 'as' after the words 'governing council'. The Director-General confirmed that the PCCC will work with the Secretariat and as such is accountable to the Governing Council.

101. In response to a query from Kiribati and Republic of Marshall Islands, the Secretariat expressed willingness for the PCCC to work in synergy with the Atoll Centre on Adaptation in Funafuti noting it will meet with those involved to learn more about this

102. The Secretariat responded to concerns raised over the need for a finance strategy

for the PCCC by France, New Caledonia and United States, noting that one of the first tasks of the PCCC Manager is to develop a resource mobilisation strategy to sustain the work of the PCCC.

103. New Caledonia stressed that the PCCC work plan must consider climate change as a cross cutting issue.

104. Samoa sought clarification on the role of the Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Hub with the PCCC. The Director General noted that the (NDC) Hub will have two focal points, one in the Pacific Community in Suva and one to be based in the PCCC.

105. Kiribati appreciated the important role of sub-regional representation on the advisory board and sought assistance from the PCCC to support Pacific Members when facilitating requests for national scientific research and activities across the Pacific. Kiribati also requested the advisory board to consider support for data monitoring of status and trends of the state of environments.

106. The Secretariat clarified the composition of the advisory board as per the Terms of Reference.

107. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the progress of the Pacific Climate Change Centre (PCCC);
  2. **endorsed** the PCCC Advisory Board terms of reference;
  3. **commended the Government of Samoa** for its commitment to combat climate change and the prioritisation of its grant aid priorities to the PCCC as the host country of SPREP;
  4. **commended the Government of Japan** for the construction completion of the PCCC and ongoing commitment to capacity building to address climate change in the Pacific;
  5. **commended the Government of New Zealand** for the generous assistance extended to SPREP to operationalise the PCCC with personnel, and in conjunction
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- with the Government of Japan, for support to the capacity building programmes of the PCCC; and*
6. **welcomed additional support** from members and partners for the 100 percent renewable energy target capacity of the PCCC.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8.2: Update on EU EDF-11 Programme Engagement**

108. The Secretariat updated Members on progress in the development of SPREP programmes funded through EU EDF-11.
109. New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna thanked the Secretariat and the European Union (EU) for their support as did Tuvalu with specific reference to PacWaste.
110. In response to a query from New Caledonia, supported by Wallis and Futuna, the Secretariat noted it will work with the EU on the inclusion of overseas Territories in future activities.
111. Wallis and Futuna advised the signing of a formal agreement with the Secretariat this week to implement invasives work under EDF11 Protege and looks forward to national implementation.
112. The Meeting:
1. **noted** the commencement of implementation of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF11) African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) and Overseas Countries and Territories (Protege) programmes.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8.3: Update on Ocean-related Strategic Engagements**

113. The Secretariat presented an update on progress towards implementing the 2017-2026 Strategic Plan cross-cutting focus on oceans.

114. Fiji, New Caledonia and Solomon Islands commended the Secretariat on the work achieved on ocean-related engagements and noted the increasing interest from donors in this particular area of work in the region.

115. The Director General confirmed the strengthening of coordination and engagement at the national level via established National Focal Points of the Secretariat to better engage with relevant country stakeholders and provide greater clarity and predictability for Members and in response to a request from Solomon Islands for the Secretariat act as gate keepers for donor interests, reminded the Meeting that partners interested in working in the region should go through the Secretariat to ensure that Member priorities are paramount in actions being planned. The DG also noted that after any project conception phase, there is a consultation process with countries before implementation commences.

116. The Chair encouraged Members to follow appropriate coordination mechanisms at the national level for engaging with different development partners.

117. Fiji requested the Secretariat to consult with Members and seek approval first before making interventions at MEA COPs on behalf of Parties.

118. The Director General noted that preparatory meetings organised by the Secretariat prior to Conferences of the Parties to Multi-lateral Environment Agreements is the opportunity for all Members to engage, strategise and prepare input with the Secretariat yet not all Members attend.

119. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the increasing level of donor and partner support for SPREP ocean-related projects and programmes that will deliver 2017-2026 Strategic Plan outcomes for Members.

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## **AGENDA ITEM 8.4: Accessing Climate Financing**

120. The Secretariat reported on progress of Members accessing climate financing through SPREP as a regional accredited entity with the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund and informed the meeting of SPREP's new accreditation status with the GCF. The Secretariat also noted the lack of response from the GCF on the request by the Pacific to establish a Pacific GCF secretariat office.
121. The Director General advised that the recent GCF meeting had called for raising ambition at the regional level through developing a regional flagship programme addressing both adaptation and mitigation, and that there was interest from countries at the GCF meeting for the Secretariat to develop this in close cooperation with the Pacific Community (SPC). Further consultations will be carried out with Members to develop an ambitious project that reflects national priorities.
122. The Director General called for Members to assist the Secretariat through adding components to their readiness proposals to help build human and technical capacity of the Secretariat, noting that this would not impact on individual country allocations given that these seldom reach the upper limits of readiness funding, and would help the Secretariat to better service the climate financing needs of Members.
123. United Kingdom congratulated SPREP on the upgrading of its accreditation and on the work to further develop the project pipeline, noting it is the current co-chair of the GCF Board and is working to ensure the effective operations of the GCF.
124. Tuvalu thanked the Secretariat for its efforts in securing funding for climate change activities, and United States for its contribution through the ISACC project which has enabled national accreditation to the Adaptation Fund for Tuvalu. Tuvalu further noted, in response to the issue raised by the Director General on the use of readiness funds to support the Secretariat, that consultations will need to be carried out with Capitals first for guidance.
125. Republic of the Marshall Islands noted the need for improved national and regional coordination and advised that at the national level a new institutional structure has been put in place to address adaptation, mitigation, and cross-cutting issues aligned to the national strategic plan 2030.
126. In response to a request from Kiribati the Director General confirmed, support from SPREP to the GEF national focal points noting the need to complete proposals for GEF-7 STAR allocations and advised that the Global Environment Facility support function from the Secretariat will be strengthened, and the GEF-7 priorities will be discussed, noting the deadlines for both the GCF and GEF work and the need for prioritisation.
127. The Director General further noted the limitations given the status of the Secretariat as a GEF executing agency.
128. Samoa and France noted the considerable work undertaken by the Secretariat to date.
129. Samoa stressed the importance of PCU working closely with other units at SPREP and further recommended that a policy paper be developed for the Meeting to formally adopt a resourcing plan for the PCU.
130. France strongly supported the GCF as a key pillar of the Paris Agreement implementation and, noting the importance of the GCF replenishment announced France will be doubling its contribution to the GCF to USD 1.5 billion.
131. Cook Islands sought further information on the on-granting modality provided to SPREP along with the GCF upgrade. The Secretariat noted that this is a new opportunity for Members to develop a

programmatic approach for climate financing for Members by providing greater flexibility without defining specific projects. This will require formulation of a number of governance issues prior to operationalization. The Secretariat will issue an information note in due course explaining the implications to Members. The DG noted that some progress had already been made with Tonga on a small grants facility for civil society and community groups.

132. Responding to a query from United States on the term 'national focal point' the Secretariat confirmed that the PCU is the focal point within SPREP for Members to seek advice and support on GCF, AF and GEF matters.

133. United States welcomed the role of SPREP in GCF, and to continue efforts to coordinate with the Pacific Community (SPC).

134. The Director General reassured Members that cooperation with SPC will be a key feature of the ongoing work of developing the flagship programme and that the accreditation of SPC was a recent development which will likely require some further work in building partnerships and procedures.

135. French Polynesia thanked SPREP for the ongoing work, noting the ambitious proposal for a flagship programme also requires ambition on the part of developed countries.

136. New Zealand noted that the technical assistance through its dedicated climate change programme is being further developed to take better account of the challenges of access to finance in the region and welcomed the progress made on the GEF ISLANDS programme.

137. The Director General noted that new Executive Director of GCF is amenable to addressing the concerns of the Pacific

islands and is ready to support a more strategic approach to accessing finance.

138. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the report from SPREP on climate financing and progress against the pipeline;
2. **noted and endorsed** SPREP's collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC) to most effectively access climate finance for Members' climate action priorities;
3. **noted** the SPREP accreditation upgrade and the need for proportional resourcing of SPREP to continue to support Members in this role; and
4. **noted** the lack of response from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Secretariat to the Pacific GCF Office request.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8.5: Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative**

139. The Secretariat updated the Meeting on progress made in developing the Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative.

140. France considered this to be a very important initiative and expressed confidence in the implementation of the initiative led by the Secretariat further noting the importance of strong rules of procedures to enable the effective implementation of the projects in the Pacific.

141. Australia acknowledged the role played by the Secretariat noting this initiative will address diverse cross-cutting issues from biodiversity to climate change.

142. New Caledonia noted the critical role of the Secretariat in the implementation of small, medium and large sized project requesting that the criteria for these be well maintained.

143. Fiji, United States and New Zealand supported this initiative with New Zealand

expressing hope that the first tranche of funds will be approved in the next few months.

144. Fiji thanked Canada, EU, France and New Zealand noting the good progress made and that the initiative will directly contribute to achieving strategic development goals.

145. The Meeting:

1. **noted** progress in developing the Pacific Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation Initiative.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: REGIONAL CONVENTIONS**

### **AGENDA ITEM 9.1: Report on Executive Board 1st Meeting**

146. The Secretariat presented the report on the First SPREP Executive Board Meeting held in Samoa from 10 to 11 September 2018, which included an informal review of Member feedback.

147. The report revealed the meeting was satisfactory and met its objectives and generated lessons learnt moving forward.

148. The Secretariat reiterated that it has put in place different processes for preparation and dissemination of papers and agenda in ample time.

149. The Meeting:

1. **endorsed** the Report on the First SPREP Executive Board Meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9.2: Audit Committee Report**

150. The Secretariat presented on the work of the Audit Committee and Internal Auditor between 1 July 2018 and 31 July 2019.

151. Australia and New Zealand congratulated the Secretariat on the excellent result of the audit with New Zealand urging Members to

pay annual payments within the relevant year so that the Secretariat can continue to be on the positive financial position.

152. The Director General acknowledged the work of the Audit Committee and the former Internal Auditor of SPREP.

153. The Meeting:

1. **congratulated** the Secretariat for the positive results in 2018;
2. **encouraged** management to maintain the positive reserves account in the long term;
3. **commended** the efforts of the Director General and all staff in the early and satisfactory completion of the financial accounts and audit;
4. **welcomed** the improved process used by the Secretariat to provide the draft financial statements to the Audit Committee (AC) for review prior to the issuing of the final audit opinion, and the consultation between the AC and the External Auditor;
5. **acknowledged** the improvement in internal controls including completion of the Fraud Prevention and Whistleblower Protection Policy and Risk Register, as well as the extensive work conducted, and on-going on the Financial and Project Information and Systems;
6. **noted** that late receipt of member's voluntary contributions remains an issue, causing financial constraints on the Secretariat's annual budget, and **requested** Members to provide their voluntary contributions to the Secretariat in a timely manner;
7. **requested** the Secretariat address the human resource issue within the Internal Audit Unit as resources permit; and
8. **noted and approved** the report of the Audit Committee for the period July 2018-July 2019.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9.3: CROP Harmonisation on Remuneration**

154. The Secretariat presented on the status of CROP Harmonisation on Remuneration; and sought approval in principle of a staff salary

- movement over the next 12 months, subject to available funding.
155. Australia noted the challenges in harmonising remuneration and looked forward to recommendation of an independent consultant as a way forward in 2020 noting any movement salary would be subject to availability of funds.
156. New Caledonia noted the need for prioritisation of harmonisation issues for cost recovery further noting remuneration may not need to be harmonised given the differences in location and areas of work. New Caledonia expressed reservations on the recruitment of a consultant and potential costs.
157. Cook Islands supported the recommendation in principle with the condition that budget be available and agreeing to harmonising remuneration as a tool to achieve consistency and equity.
158. France noted the importance of harmonisation particularly in developing and implementing best practices and proposed recommendation four be postponed until the end of the consultancy.
159. Tuvalu noted the current surplus was only USD 139, 000 raising concern on the source of funding for the salary movement proposed and cautioned against creating another deficit.
160. Republic of Marshall Islands commended the improvement of the Secretariats financial situation and queried the impact this could have on performance and delivery of the Secretariat.
161. New Zealand highlighted that harmonisation is required to level playing fields and supported the salary increase while raising questions around the methods and timeframes for funding an increase.
162. Papua New Guinea supported the recommendations subject to availability of funds and the hiring of an independent consultant.
163. The Director General noted that this is the first salary increase proposal during his tenure further noting the recommendations have been carefully considered and reiterated his commitment to building a surplus.
164. Australia supported a proposal from France in the spirit of compromise, on the amendment to recommendation 4 with the new text to be – 'Consider the adoption of a salary movement of up to 300k for all staff subject to clear availability of specific funding.
165. Cook Islands proposed the Friends of Chair to review the consultant report before a decision is put before the Executive Board.
166. Australia, Samoa and the Secretariat sought clarification regarding mandate of Executive board, whether possible for executive board to endorse a salary change if independent consultants recommend a salary increase. France requested that relevant rules and procedures are followed. Samoa noted the need to align the CROP agencies remuneration, and supported the engagement of a consultant, to review and inform submission for the executive board.
167. Palau sought clarification, for way forward and expressed its willingness to support the recommendation as is.
168. The chair recommended that Secretariat provide acceptable wording to be presented by COB and to provide clarification to the Meeting on the mandate of the Executive Board with endorsing salary changes.
169. The Meeting:
1. ***noted that there has been no progress at all for the work of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) Harmonisation on Remuneration;***

2. **noted** that in the absence of a clear position from the participating CROP agencies and the CROP Chief Executive Officers, the Secretariat will continue to employ the CROP remunerations systems and methodology until such time that it is clear that harmonisation of remuneration is no longer possible to pursue and maintain;
3. **approved** the engagement by the Secretariat of an independent qualified consultant to review its remuneration system to ensure it remains competitive in the local and international employment markets; and
4. **endorsed** the establishment of a Friends of the Chair to meet inter-sessionally to consider the proposal from the Secretariat on the adoption of a salary movement of up to USD 300,000 in total for all staff, subject to clear identification of specific funding available. The Friends of the Chair will provide a report to the 2020 Executive Board for a decision. The Executive Board can make a decision on this matter.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9.4: Staff Regulations Amendments**

170. The Secretariat advised the Meeting of amendments made to the Staff Regulations.

171. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the amendments made to the Staff Regulations.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9.5: Appointment of External Auditors**

172. The Secretariat sought approval from the Meeting for the appointment of External Auditors to conduct the annual audit of SPREP's financial accounts for the financial years ending 31 December 2019 and 2020.

173. In response to a query from United States regarding a transparent and proactive advertising process, the Secretariat noted the tender was advertised for a full month and published the tender internationally

and locally believing those that submitted tenders were of a sufficient quality. The Secretariat further noted that timing was an issue in progressing this.

174. The Meeting:

1. **considered** the paper and **endorsed** the appointment of KPMG, Fiji as the External Auditor to audit SPREP's accounts for the financial years 2019 and 2020.

#### **AGENDA ITEM: 9.6: EU Request for greater engagement in SPREP Biennial Meetings**

175. The Secretariat reported on the assessment and recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group established by the SPREP Executive Board to consider the EU request "for the formal opportunity of engaging with Members and make interventions during the discussions on issues linked to the EU cooperation at SPREP" biennial meetings"

176. France and United Kingdom thanked all those involved for their hard work in this task.

177. France, New Caledonia and United Kingdom welcomed the participation of the EU in the meetings stating they are in favour of the proposed mechanism, with France noting the high contribution of the EU to the work of the Secretariat over recent years and its hope that the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations of the Pacific Community (SPC CRGA) will also enable the EU and other entities to play a more active role.

178. New Caledonia considered that regional organisations are keen on establishing new partnerships and EU participation in Meetings would open new partnerships and cooperation as well as allow EU Territories to have greater access.

179. The Chair considered it to be incumbent on the Meeting to put in place the proposed

mechanism to allow for greater participation.

180.The Meeting:

1. **noted** that the existing SPREP Rules of Meeting Procedure are sufficient to meet the European Union's (EU) request;
2. **endorsed** the proposed mechanism as an appropriate response to the request of the EU;
3. **agreed** that the proposed mechanism should serve as a model for subsequent observer interest in a similar level of engagement in SPREP biennial Meetings; and
4. **noted** the EU letter of 25<sup>th</sup> July informing the Director General of SPREP that the EU would like to withdraw its request for greater engagement in SPREP biennial meetings pending a positive resolution regarding the permanent observer status of the European Union to SPC.

#### CLOSED SESSION DECISIONS:

##### AGENDA ITEM 9.7: SPREP Director General's Performance Assessment and Contract Renewal

181.The Meeting:

1. **noted and endorsed** the review completed by the Troika of the Director General's Performance Development Plan (PDP) for the period Sept 2018 - Sept 2019, acknowledging the many achievements and positive outcomes as well as areas requiring attention over the next year;
2. **approved** renewal of Mr Kosi Latu's contract as Director General for a term of two years only in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for the Appointment of the Director General; and
3. **noted and endorsed** the process for the Director General's next PDP (Sept 2019 – Sept 2020) where the Troika will work with the DG over the next month to finalise the next PDP targets by the end of October 2019. Members are invited to send to the Secretariat by the end of September 2019 any specific targets they wish to be included in the DG's next PDP.

##### AGENDA ITEM 9.8: Process for the Recruitment of the SPREP Director General for 2021

182.The Meeting:

1. **reaffirmed** that the SPREP Meeting would oversee the process for the recruitment of the next SPREP Director General scheduled for 2021. The Secretariat would kickstart the process in the last half of 2020 through direct communication with all members regarding the process and requirements in line with the Rules of Procedure for the Appointment of the Director General, so that a report with a recommendation is ready to be considered by the SPREP Meeting in 2021.
2. **approved** changing the Director General's Term of Appointment from the current period of three years in the first instance to four years initially with a possible renewal for another two years subject to performance and needs of the Secretariat.

##### AGENDA ITEM 10: 2016 WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

###### AGENDA ITEM 10.1: Report on Members' Contributions

183.The Secretariat reported on Members' Contributions.

184.Unpaid membership as at 31 August 2019 totalled USD 425,365.00

185.Tuvalu advised it has cleared its 2019 membership contribution on 1 July, 2019. Tuvalu and encouraged other Members to do so to help the Secretariat carry out its mandate effectively.

186.Kiribati advised that it is working on paying its outstanding membership contributions by 6 September at the earliest and by 30 September at the latest.

187.Solomon Islands noted that it has an outstanding amount of USD 8.00 due to

foreign exchange losses which it will resolve.

188. Papua New Guinea advised it has paid its outstanding payments but recognises that it has had issues of not being able to make payments on time and hopes to address this.

189. The Republic of the Marshall Islands acknowledged an outstanding contribution which it proposes to erase with a voluntary contribution of USD 1,000.00.

190. The Meeting:

1. **considered** the report and **addressed** the problem of outstanding member contributions; and
2. **committed** itself collectively and individually to paying current and outstanding contributions in full in 2019.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 10.2: Sustainable Financing**

191. The Secretariat provided an update on actions undertaken by SPREP to date to address core budget pressures to enable long-term sustainable financing for SPREP.

192. France, New Caledonia and New Zealand noted the report and commended the Secretariat's efforts to improve its financial status.

193. New Caledonia requested CROP Agencies to share their achievements made against contributions paid, as well as how results are to be shared amongst all Members, and France confirmed its request to the 2018 Executive Board that SPREP's financial status be stabilised.

194. The Meeting:

1. **considered** and **noted** the above report on Sustainable Financing measures by the Secretariat.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11 : DRAFT 2020/21 PIP**

##### **AGENDA ITEM 11.1 : SPREP Performance Implementation Plan and Results Framework 2020/21**

195. The Secretariat presented SPREP's draft second Performance Implementation Plan (PIP) 2020-2021 and 10-year Results Framework 2017 – 2026 for Members' consideration.

196. New Caledonia noted it was unable to review the working papers as it received them (in French) late however advised that SPC is developing a similar framework and asked if discussions have been held to align methodologies between the CROP agencies. New Caledonia also requested that indicators for the framework be quantified and a one-page synthesis showcasing impacts provided. New Caledonia also suggested that the Secretariat focus on regional plans with linkages, as opposed to national plans.

197. New Zealand endorsed the 2020 – 2021 implementation plan and the results framework to 2026 and suggested presentation of a 'light' version of a country and territory plan might be useful.

198. Australia congratulated the Secretariat on the plan however noted there was a lack of focus on gender, disability and other social inclusion issues within the plan. Australia noted recent work with the funding agreement between the Secretariat and Australia had included a new indicator focusing on gender and social inclusion issues. Australia suggested an addition to the 2021 Outcomes under Organisation Goal 2. 1: 'Gender and disability inclusion is mainstreamed throughout SPREP programmes.

199. The Meeting:

1. **endorsed** the 2020 – 2021 Performance Implementation Plan;
2. **endorsed** the 2017 – 2026 Results Framework; and

3. **considered and advised** on the process proposed by the Secretariat for the development and implementation of Country and Territory Action Plans.
4. **endorsed** the additional outcome under Organisational Goal 2.1 that Gender and disability inclusion is mainstreamed throughout SPREP Programmes.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12: 2020-2021 BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET 2020-2021 BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET**

### **AGENDA ITEM 12.1.1: Climate Change Resilience Programme Highlights 2020/2021 Work Programme**

200. The Secretariat sought endorsement of the priorities for the SPREP Climate Change Resilience (CCR) Work Programme for the biennial period 2020/2021.
201. New Zealand, Republic of Marshall Islands and Samoa thanked the Secretariat for its work, with Samoa requesting the Secretariat to explore opportunities to undertake mitigation as well as adaptation work noting the NDC Hub will provide an important work programme to support this. Samoa also noted the challenges in resourcing and expressed confidence the PCCC will result in capacity building investment for both the Secretariat and Members.
202. United States expressed support for the Climate Change programme of the Secretariat, recognising the vulnerabilities of the Pacific islands due to unique circumstances and noting United States commitment to support resilience building in the Pacific.
203. Republic of Marshall Islands appreciated the support from the Secretariat for the development of its National Adaptation Plan also known as the RMI Survival Plan and acknowledged the SPREP team that conducted a workshop to strengthen Met Services with linkages to traditional

knowledge. RMI looks forward to ongoing support from the Secretariat with climate change work on the ground.

204. In response to a query from New Zealand on how the work undertaken through the PEBACC will be sustained, the Secretariat noted the PACRES Project will upscale activities undertaken by the PEBACC Project with a country focus on Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor Leste.

205. The Meeting:

1. **endorsed** key areas of work and focus of the Climate Change Resilience Work Programme for 2020/2021.

### **AGENDA ITEM 12.1.2: Report on UNFCCC COP24 and preparations for COP25**

206. The Secretariat reported on the outcomes of the 24<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and preparations for the 25<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP25) and sought support and commitment to the activities planned for the One CROP-Plus team for COP25.
207. Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States and Samoa acknowledged the Secretariat's lead role on the CROP-Plus Team at COP24 and the support provided to Pacific islands countries to complete the Paris Agreement Rule book. The Members looked forward to the Secretariat's support to COP25, with Samoa noting the leadership role of Pacific island representatives leading on different thematic areas at COP24.
208. New Zealand advised it will be standing with its Pacific neighbours to amplify the voices and priorities of our region and noted COP25 will be an important opportunity for the Pacific to show the world that the region is serious about delivering on its part in the Paris Agreement. New Zealand is therefore supporting a Pacific Pavilion at COP25 in collaboration with the Secretariat and other agencies.

209. United States proposed an amendment to the recommendations as inserting the following text to the final bullet point – “noting the standing invitation to UNFCCC Parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund for participation in the UNFCCC Process, which supports SIDS Participation at COP25 and other UNFCCC Meetings.”
210. Australia noted Pacific negotiators played a key role at COP25 and commended the strong contribution from Fiji as COP23 President. Australia welcomed the Kainaki II Declaration as the basis for consensus amongst Pacific Islands Forum Members.
211. United Kingdom noted its bid in partnership with Italy to host COP26 and looks forward to continuing to work with the Pacific on ocean and climate change issues.
212. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the outcomes of the Twenty-fourth Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
2. **noted** that further work will be needed to operationalise the Katowice Climate Package;
3. **welcomed** the support being provided by the One CROP Plus team led by SPREP;
4. **supported** the leadership of SPREP in developing and operationalising the Twenty-fifth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 25) Pacific Voyage - One CROP Plus Plan for COP25 to the UNFCCC; and
5. **advocated** for support to be provided to ensure adequate representation of Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) in COP25 noting the standing invitation to the UNFCCC. Parties to make contributions to the Trust Fund for Participation in the UNFCCC Process, which supports Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Participation at COP25 and other UNFCCC Meetings.

### AGENDA ITEM 12.1.3: 1.5° Degrees Report

213. The Secretariat presented on the key findings and implications of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, highlighting how findings of the Special Report had been considered in the region and sought the support and commitment of Members and development partners to promote and use the Special Report findings.
214. New Zealand responded by noting it supports the work of the Secretariat in utilising the IPCC 1.5 Special Report and advised it used the Report itself to inform its Zero Carbon Bill.
215. Tokelau requested the Secretariat use the language ‘all islands’ instead of ‘some’ given the threats have implications on all.

216. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the key findings and implications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C for the region;
2. further **encouraged** the use of this evidence in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiation process, including at COP25;
3. **noted** and continue to **support** activities which strengthen the participation of Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) in IPCC and UNFCCC processes; and
4. **noted** the support of SPREP and the IMPACT project to facilitate country engagement with this report at Government Review stage and at the IPCC Plenary.

### AGENDA ITEM 12.1.4: Climate Change and Oceans

217. The Secretariat presented on recent developments in the field of climate change and oceans, seeking guidance on SPREP engagement in the oceans/climate change nexus.

218. United States acknowledged the update on recent developments in the field of climate change and oceans and welcomed further discussion on this important issue, noting that the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) inventories can capture mitigation efforts in blue carbon through specific Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidance on wetlands and mangroves: guidance which supports Parties to include these categories in national inventories to help conserve and enhance these ecosystems through programmes such as the Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program (SWAMP) and Silva Carbon.

219. United States advised that it did not consider a blue carbon or ocean specific agenda item under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would be productive in advancing this important agenda, however, the US recognised the value of highlighting the contributions of oceans through high level events.

220. The Meeting:

1. **noted** recent developments in the field of climate change and oceans;
2. **noted** the oceans related projects with relevance to climate change; and
3. **endorsed** SPREP's engagement in oceans and climate change initiatives.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.1.5: Update from the 5th Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5)**

221. The Secretariat presented on the outcomes of the Fifth meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5) and supporting science to services for a resilient Pacific.

222. New Caledonia noted the importance of the human perspective of climate change and meeting the Paris Agreement, requesting the link be maintained between climate change and biodiversity.

223. New Caledonia also thanked New Zealand for its support on Ocean Acidification and asked to be fully included in all work undertaken by the Secretariat regarding ocean and climate change, proposing a coalition of territories through which the Secretariat can share lessons learned and help fulfil obligations.

224. Australia acknowledged the work of the Secretariat and looked forward to continued engagement with SPREP and other partners with the Climate and Ocean Support Programme for the Pacific (COSPPAC) Project.

225. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the outcomes of the Fifth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-5);
2. **noted** the new Pacific Climate Change Science and Services Research Roadmap
3. **acknowledged** with thanks the support provided by: the Government of Samoa for hosting the meeting; World Meteorological Organisation (WMO); Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Secretariat; Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC); Impact Project (Climate Analytics); Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT through CSIRO); University of Hawai'i; and the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) through the Climate Ocean Support Programme for the Pacific (COSPPac) project; and
4. **requested** the Pacific Met Desk Partnership to continue work with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and partners to achieve the action items from PMC-5.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.2.1: Islands and Ocean Ecosystems Programme 2020-21 Overview**

226. The Secretariat presented an overview of Island and Ocean Ecosystems work programme activities for 2020-2021.

227. Solomon Islands and New Zealand acknowledged work undertaken by the programme, with New Zealand noting that

ecosystem resilience is central to the Pacific region and acknowledging the work of the programme in addressing these issues, in particular recognising the Invasive Species team and its recent success in securing considerable new funding for its programmes.

228. New Zealand also highlighted the importance of the PEUMP fisheries by-catch project particularly concerning seabirds and noted efforts to list the Antipodean Albatross as a threatened species of the Convention on Migratory Species, welcoming support of Members in this endeavour.

229. New Zealand encouraged Secretariat Members to use the 10<sup>th</sup> Nature Conservation Conference to develop a strong Pacific voice for future conservation strategies.

230. Solomon Islands congratulated the PEBACC project on changing the approach to conservation within country contexts and considered any development without conservation considerations to be unsustainable.

231. The Meeting:

1. **endorsed** the 2020-2021 Island and Ocean Ecosystems biennial work programme.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.2.2: Beyond the Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol: Proposed Phase 2 for Pacific ABS Project**

232. The Secretariat sought approval for the development of a second phase of the current GEF funded SPREP executed Regional Access and Benefits Sharing Project (Regional ABS Project) to be financed from the GEF 7 STAR allocations of the 14<sup>1</sup> Pacific islands countries currently participating in the Regional ABS Project.

233. Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu requested further time to consult nationally before endorsing the recommendation.

234. Kiribati and Tonga advised their intention to ratify the Nagoya Protocol, with Tonga seeking the Secretariat's assistance while committing funds from its STAR allocation of the 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the GEF for phase two of the Regional ABS Project

235. Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands and Samoa advised that they had already committed their national STAR allocations for the 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the GEF, with RMI acknowledging the support from the Secretariat for phase one of the Regional ABS Project.

236. The Secretariat noted eight Pacific Islands are Parties to the Nagoya Protocol and have requested assistance with implementation.

237. In response to clarification sought from Papua New Guinea, the Secretariat advised that while Papua New Guinea is not yet a Party, the Secretariat can still provide support with policy and legislation development, if requested.

238. The Meeting:

1. **approved** the development of a second phase of the current Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded SPREP executed Regional Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) Project; and
2. **agreed** in line with the Decision NP-3/8 of the Nagoya Conference of the Parties (COP) Meeting of the Parties (MOP) for those Pacific Island Countries that have yet to complete their System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) proposals for the GEF 7<sup>th</sup> replenishment consider contribution from within their national allocations of at least US\$300,000 for a second phase of the regional ABS Project.

<sup>1</sup> Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu Vanuatu

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### **AGENDA ITEM 12.2.3: Pacific Year of the Coral Reef 2018-2019: Update and Outcomes**

239. The Secretariat presented an update on the Pacific Year of the Coral Reef 2018-2019 and the development of the Pacific Regional Coral Reef Action Plan, noting that a brief update had already been highlighted in the Director General's overview.
240. New Caledonia drew attention to the three papers under consideration for this item noting that these deal with cross cutting issues of biodiversity and climate change and announced that New Caledonia is now a full member of ICRI urging other Members to also join. New Caledonia also welcomed the recruitment of new SPREP staff in this field of work, particularly to assist with projects on by-catch and for greater efficiencies in data collection to improve planning and sharing of information. New Caledonia requested that lessons from these projects be shared with the Nature Conservation Conference in 2020.
241. Australia announced it is currently hosting the ICRI Secretariat and invited the Secretariat to attend its next meeting in December in Townsville to present on its work to which the Secretariat agreed.
242. France confirmed its support to the development of the Action Plan and its financial support to this effort.
243. In response to Tuvalu's query as to why some SPREP Members were not featured in the Status and Trends of the Coral Reefs of the Pacific Report the Secretariat attributed insufficient resources and the lack of monitoring stations in certain areas of the Pacific islands region as the cause.
244. Fiji acknowledged the importance of coral reefs and the impacts of climate change and land-based activities on them, noting that it will formulate a national action plan and looked forward to working with SPREP in this regard.

245. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the update and outcomes of the Pacific Year of Coral Reef 2018/2019; and
2. **noted** the progress in developing the Regional Coral Reef Action Plan.

### **AGENDA ITEM 12.3.1: WMPC Highlights of the 2020-2021 Work Programme**

246. The Secretariat presented an overview of major work programme activities in 2020-21 to improve management of solid waste, hazardous waste and marine pollution for the region.
247. Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu acknowledged the work undertaken by the Secretariat noting that while there is support for recommendation 2, there are limitations to national capacity for which the Secretariat is requested to help build. The Members requested that regional projects and activities always meet national priorities and needs, with Solomon Islands stressing that this should particularly include the regional marine pollution work.
248. Fiji called for greater action from the Secretariat requesting waste be treated as a priority issue for the Pacific. The Secretariat confirmed this is already the case.
249. In response to a request from Solomon Islands on the inclusion of liquid waste in the work programme of the Secretariat, the Secretariat noted liquid waste is outlined in Cleaner Pacific 2025 and will work to address this issue with the Pacific Community (SPC) in light of the complementarity of mandates in this work area.
250. The Meeting:
1. **endorsed** the 2020-21 work programme for the SPREP Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme; and
  2. **committed** to provide in-kind support and commitment at the National level,

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*where feasible, to work with SPREP and partners to deliver on the programme of work for waste management and pollution control, with an emphasis on preventing marine pollution.*

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.3.2: Review of PACPLAN**

251. The Secretariat sought endorsement of the revised *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN 2019)*.
252. Australia, Kiribati, New Zealand Solomon Islands and United States noted and appreciated the review of the PACPLAN.
253. New Zealand noted it is pleased with the streamlined goals and objectives within the PACPLAN suggesting the Secretariat include guidance from IMO, ITOF and metropolitan countries.
254. Solomon Islands acknowledged the support from Australia and New Zealand in assisting with the MV Solomons Trader incident this year in which over 300 tonnes of bunker fuel was spilled in the environment. Solomon Islands also thanked UN Environment for their immediate technical support and assistance provided to address this issue.
255. Solomon Islands noted the difficulties in seeking support and assistance from the Secretariat, identifying the lack of resources within the Secretariat as an issue and stressing that the Secretariat must have the required capacity to service the needs of Members.
256. Solomon Islands also requested guidance and support with insurance of all vessels in the region to assist when incidents occur, noting that a key lesson learnt from the MV Solomons Trader incident was that Solomon Islands is not Party to some IMO Conventions important for gaining international assistance in the event of such a spill.

257. Solomon Islands supported the recommendations but suggested that PACPLAN should take on the structure of a Disaster Plan and include currently missing elements for preparedness, response and recovery,

258. Kiribati requested more time to consult nationally with key ministries and requested support from the Secretariat for development of its national plan.

259. Australia thanked Solomon Islands for acknowledgement noting it was pleased to collaborate with New Zealand, the Secretariat and Pacific island countries to revise the PACPLAN further noting it reinforces the focus as a strategic framework that better articulates the roles of the Secretariat and Members.

260. The Meeting:

1. **endorsed** *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN 2019) as the framework agreement for addressing regional oil and hazardous and noxious substances spill response; and*
2. **noted** *that SPREP, SPREP country and metropolitan Members will have to implement their respective roles and responsibilities, as outlined in the revised PACPLAN, to ensure effective responses to marine spill incidents.*

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.3.3: Maritime Pollution Emerging Issues**

261. The Secretariat presented on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) pollution and liability and compensation conventions. These include low carbon transportation under MARPOL Annex VI, marine plastic litter from ships, hull fouling guidelines, and maritime compensation and liability.

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262.The Meeting:

1. **sought** Member commitment to have their relevant departments work with SPREP and partners to ratifying and or meeting the requirements of these conventions, noting their importance in protecting the marine environment and humans from ship sourced pollution.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.3.4: Implementation of the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan**

263.The Secretariat updated the Meeting on progress of the implementation of the marine litter action plan including the recent Samoa Pacific Games 2019.

264.United States noted the Secretariat's progress on developing and implementing the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 (PMLAP), implementation of MARPOL and the Greening of the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games further noting United States prefers integrated waste systems is the best way to tackle marine plastic pollution.

265.Samoa acknowledged the work of the Secretariat in the Greening of the Pacific Games and the support provided to Members to reduce marine litter affirming the leading role of the Secretariat on this issue in the region.

266.Kiribati noted the PMLAP and acknowledged the contributions of Australia via the Pacific Ocean Litter Project. Kiribati further noted banning plastic is identified as a top priority in their draft strategy and is interested to learn from the experiences of Members and the Secretariat in continuing this work.

267.Republic of Marshall Islands advised that its priority is to prevent WWII wrecks from leaking and impacting coral reefs noting the RMI National Blueprint for pollution will address national and regional priorities.

268.Tuvalu advised it has banned single used plastics since 1 August this year and congratulated the Secretariat for its work in

Greening the 2019 Samoa Pacific Games requesting this approach be replicated in other regional and national events. Tuvalu also acknowledged Australia for its support of the Pacific Ocean Litter Project noting that Strategy Action 1 Activity 1.1 should be a priority as this was endorsed at the Pacific Island Leaders Forum in Tuvalu this year.

269.United Kingdom associated itself with the recommendations and as co-chair with Vanuatu on the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance, the PMLAP as a solid basis for further collaboration noting that the UK looks forward to working more with SPREP through diplomatic posts in Apia, Port Vila and Nuku'alofa.

270.In response to query from Fiji, the Secretariat outlined work with Pacific Rim countries to address plastic entering the region.

271.The Meeting:

1. **noted** the progress in developing and implementing the Pacific Regional Marine Action Litter Action Plan (PMLAP) by Pacific Island Members and **acknowledged** the financial support provided by Australia to implement the Pacific Ocean Litter Project;
2. **reaffirmed commitment** to eliminate marine litter and recognise the urgency of implementing the marine litter action plan including the fast tracking of:
  - a. policies and actions to reduce plastic pollution that embrace whole of life cycle approaches to products, alternatives and consumption patterns;
  - b. enforcement and compliance of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) provisions on vessels particularly fishing vessels and cruise ships; and
  - c. sustainability plans and actions for major events, including sporting events such as the Pacific Games, regional meetings such as the Forum Leaders Meeting and conferences such as the Our Oceans Conference.

3. **reaffirmed** the lead role of SPREP in implementation of the PMLAP in close collaboration with relevant regional agencies and partners in supporting Members to fast-track relevant policies and actions to implement the PMLAP.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.3.5: Pacific Environment Forum outcomes**

272. The Secretariat presented a report on the 2019 Pacific Environment Forum Outcomes.

273. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the outcome report from the 2019 Pacific Environment Forum (PEF).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.4.1: Environmental Monitoring and Governance Programme Overview 2020 - 2021**

274. The Secretariat sought endorsement of the priorities for the SPREP Environmental Monitoring and Governance (EMG) Programme for the biennial period 2020 to 2021.

275. New Caledonia thanked SPREP for publishing the French translation of a range of documents which will be useful to support the data training and improved advice to decision makers. New Caledonia also sought input from this work to the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and supported by Samoa and Tonga, requested that vacancies within the programme be filled promptly to ensure strong continued support for Members.

276. Samoa acknowledged the work program and welcomed investment in the Environmental Impact Assessment program and on building capacity, noting the importance of environmental safeguards in climate financing for large projects and of the INFORM project in providing information and spatial environmental data for decision-making via State of Environment planning.

277. Tonga noted the increase in national projects and the reliance of Members on continued assistance and support from the

Secretariat on Environmental Impact Assessments and integrating climate change and Environmental Impact Assessments into policies, thanking the Secretariat for assistance on the development of the State of Environment report and the environmental data portal which had assisted with the national reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development Goals.

278. Fiji thanked the continued engagement of the Secretariat with countries and the coordination with CROP Members through the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and endorsed the recommendations.

279. Addressing comments, the Director General stated that while the Environmental Monitoring and Governance program is the smallest within the Secretariat, it has undertaken critical work. The Secretariat has a list of priority positions which includes a position for the Environmental Monitoring and Governance program. The Director General also noted the Secretariat's partnership with World Bank, will provide a position on environmental safeguards which is currently under recruitment.

280. The Secretariat thanked the Members and looks forward to the implementation of the work program.

281. The Meeting:

1. **endorsed** the proposed work programme priorities for Environmental Monitoring and Governance for the biennial period 2020 to 2021.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.4.2: Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Guidelines**

282. The Secretariat reported on the background and rationale for developing regional guidelines on SEA including a brief update on progress to date; and sought endorsement of SPREP's proposed plans and process for completing and finalising the guidelines.

283. France and New Caledonia acknowledged the work of the Programme with New

Caledonia querying if a review could be undertaken to learn if the guidelines have led to an improvement of the SEA work and France requesting case studies and specific examples of how these guidelines can be useful in managing socio-economic impacts of development.

284. Papua New Guinea requested national capacity building of these SEA Guidelines to which the Secretariat responded favourably.

285. The Meeting:

1. **noted** efforts by the Secretariat to progress the development of the *Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) guidelines for Pacific islands Countries and territories;*
2. **endorsed** the proposed process for finalising the SEA Guidelines that integrates key awareness raising and capacity building activities for Members; and
3. **endorsed** the proposed timeline for completing the SEA Guidelines for the Executive Board's consideration at its meeting in 2020.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.4.3: Implementation of the Inform Project: strengthening data management to support planning and decision making**

286. The Secretariat provided the Meeting with an update of significant outputs and results achieved to date; and sought endorsement of the proposed options of sustaining the Pacific Environment Portal and reporting tool.

287. Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Tuvalu congratulated the Secretariat and the Inform Project team for their hard work in helping Pacific countries.

288. Fiji, New Caledonia, New Zealand and Tuvalu support the three-pronged approach of the portal to enable the data tools to be sustained beyond the life of the project.

289. In response to requests from Kiribati and Tuvalu, the Secretariat noted training is planned for further capacity development.

290. New Zealand supported advanced data monitoring and called for the costs of data maintenance to be covered by the core budget of the Secretariat.

291. The Meeting:

1. **noted** progress achieved under the *Inform Project; and*
2. **endorsed** the proposed three-pronged approach to sustain the outcomes of the *Inform Project beyond the life of the current project.*

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12.5: Consideration and Approval of Proposed Work Programme and Biennial Budget for 2020-2021**

292. The Secretariat presented on its Work Programme and Biennial Budget for 2020-2021.

293. Australia and New Caledonia thanked the Secretariat for its work.

294. New Caledonia noted the delay in effecting the commencement of EU projects, and requested information on whether such problems would occur in the future. The Secretariat responded that there will be some overspill of projects not yet finalised, but does not envisage any impacts of this on operations, noting that the Secretariat is very conservative in including only current and existing projects in the budget. Pipeline projects have not been included in the Biennial Budget.

295. The Director General highlighted the recently signed ACP SIDS Project and the Blue Carbon project announced at the SPREP Meeting as examples of anticipated increase to the 2021 provisional budget.

296. Australia requested information on any shortfalls due to reduced administration fees. In response the Secretariat referred to the earlier working paper and agenda item on Sustainable Financing which highlighted effective efforts undertaken by the Secretariat to overcome potential shortfalls noting EU projects as an example, where project management fees are capped at 7%, well short of the real costs of project management.

297. The Director General, in response to a query from Tuvalu on how the Secretariat will avoid the issue of ineligible expenses for EU projects as experienced by other CROP Agencies, stressed the Secretariat is aware of the risk of ineligible spending with all staff put on notice to ensure full compliance with EU regulations and advised that the Secretariat will carry out a mid-term audit for all EU projects to ensure that any issues can be addressed, as opposed to awaiting final audits. The Secretariat has sought appropriate training and capacity building from EU officials to ensure that project managers well understand and comply with EU processes.

298. The Meeting:

1. **considered and approved** the proposed Biennial Work Programme and Budget for 2020 for **USD 36,864,133** for 2021 for **USD 30,453,596**.

**AGENDA ITEM 13.1: Report on the Fifteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention)**

299. The Secretariat presented the report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Noumea convention.

300. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention.

**AGENDA ITEM 13.2: Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (the Waigani Convention)**

301. The Secretariat presented on the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Waigani convention.

302. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the Report of the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention.

**AGENDA ITEM 14.1: Items Proposed by Members: Biodiversity in Oceania IPBES workshop outcomes and recommendations**

303. New Caledonia in collaboration with the Secretariat informed the Meeting of the outcomes of the 'Biodiversity in Oceania' Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) workshop held in Nouméa, 24-25 June 2019, seeking endorsement of the scientific expert recommendations for the Pacific region.

304. United States welcomed the IPBES assessment which sets out a sobering picture of unprecedented loss noting that there are natural resource solutions being used in United States and the Pacific.

305. France thanked New Caledonia on their IPBES collaboration noting it gave Oceania an appropriately central voice on the eve of a number of very important meetings.

306. The Meeting:

1. **noted** the relevance of a future Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) regional chapter for the Oceania Region;
2. **endorsed** the recommendations proposed by experts at the 'Biodiversity in Oceania' meeting in Nouméa in June, 2019 included in the summary book; and
3. **endorsed** submission of these specific ocean recommendations to international fora, and especially:
  - Papeete April, 2020, One Planet Summit
  - Noumea April 2020, 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas,
  - Marseilles, June, 2020 World Conservation Congress
  - Kunming, October, 2020, Fifteenth Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties.

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**AGENDA ITEM 14.2: Items Proposed by Members: Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**

307. Australia introduced Members to the value proposition of attending the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Ministerial Summit in Canberra, Australia, 7-8 November, as part of GEO Week 2019 (4-9 November).
308. Interest was indicated by New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea (which sought further information) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, (which noted the dates coincided with their general election and asked if a representative of a Minister could attend). Australia responded that a representative other than the minister would require the authority and proper credentials to speak on behalf of its Minister noting that an Ambassador would be preferred to participate in the absence of a Minister.
309. Australia advised it was delighted to have Papua New Guinea's support in having the GEO recognised by leaders in the formal declaration of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation science meeting and commended Papua New Guinea's chief scientist on collaboration at the Meeting.
310. Australia explained larger governments such as the European Union, Australia, Japan and United States contributed to the GEO where and when they could noting the commitments were not always financial and also included data and expertise provided through its Alumni.
311. The Meeting:
1. *noted the invitation from Australia for Members to consider nominating ministers or their representatives to the GEO Ministerial Summit in Canberra, Australia (7-8 November 2019), to ensure Pacific earth observing needs are heard and national opportunities can be developed.*

**AGENDA ITEM 14.3 The Fourth Climate Action Pacific Partnership**

312. The Meeting welcomed the announcement from Cook Islands of their hosting of the Fourth Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP IV) in Rarotonga in 2020 noting the theme is "Climate Drawdown: Banking on viable Pacific futures".
313. The full statement can be found at Annex IV.

**AGENDA ITEM 15: Statements by Observers**

314. The 29SM was attended by a range of observers which included CROP agencies, NGOs and other conservation and environment groups. As time was short, the Chair requested that observers not present their statements, but submit them in writing to be attached to the record. The list of observers statements are attached as Annex V.

**AGENDA ITEM 16: Other Business**

315. The Chair opened the floor for other business to be raised.
316. Kiribati requested support of the Secretariat in providing timely briefings, presentations and analysis on issues discussed in the UN Negotiations including the Minamata Convention and ongoing discussions on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).
317. Kiribati highlighted the technicality of negotiations and noted importance on support of analysis on resolutions and acknowledged the support from FFA and encouraged the Secretariat to follow suit for future negotiations during BBNJ.
318. Kiribati requested the Secretariat to maintain a library of research journals on topics of interest for governments including research on circular economies and expressed concern on communication relating to financial support for country participation at UNFCC COP, highlighting

last years' experience from Kiribati's representative who did not receive financial support until their return. Kiribati also expressed concern on missing out on training and workshops opportunities due to the lack of or delay in communications and encouraged the Secretariat to make greater use of focal points in communication.

319.The Secretariat noted challenges expressed by Kiribati and expressed its commitment to taking on board the suggestions made.

320.The Director General suggested these types of issues should be presented to him directly so that he can address them in his capacity as Director General and provide solutions and improvements. The Director General reflected on the implications of receiving late nominations for representation, and/or changes to nominations as challenges during COP Meetings.

321.The Secretariat confirmed that its representatives have been presented in all BBNJ Negotiations as support to the countries.

322.France highlighted the METZ charter adopted by G7 environment minister's on biodiversity and as an important announcement for the Pacific, invited the members to become familiar with the charter and requested the charter be referenced in the Official Meeting's record.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 17: Environment Ministers High Level Talanoa: 'A Resilient Blue Pacific'**

323.The Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa: 'A Resilient Blue Pacific' was held on 6 September, 2019 (The Talanoa agenda is attached at Annex VI).

324.The Chair for the High-Level Talanoa was Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Samoa.

325.The Chair presented a Summary for the Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa: A Resilient Blue Pacific. A copy of the Chair's summary is attached at Annex VII.

326.United States made a statement on adoption of the Communique that is reflected in the record at Annex VIII.

327.The Environment Ministers High Level Talanoa; 'A Resilient Blue Pacific' endorsed the High Level Talanoa Communique (The Communique is attached at Annex VIII).

328.The Chair expressed gratitude to the Environment Ministers for their participation in the High-Level Talanoa and closed the Meeting at 5.26pm on Friday 6, September, 2019.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 18: Dates of the Second Executive Board Meeting**

329.The Meeting:

1. **agreed** to convene the second Executive Board (EB) Meeting in the first week of September in 2020; and
2. **noted** the composition of the EB for 2020.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 19: Adoption of Agreed Record of the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting**

330.The Meeting:

1. **adopted** the agreed record of the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting; and
2. **noted** that the draft full record of the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting would be circulated to Members for consideration no later than 2 weeks following the closing of the Meeting.

331.The Twenty-ninth SPREP Meeting of officials closed at 6.00pm on 5 September 2019.

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## ANNEX 1: List of Participants

### AMERICAN SAMOA

1. Mr. William Sili  
Deputy Director  
American Samoa EPA  
E: [william.sili@epa.as.gov](mailto:william.sili@epa.as.gov)

Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	HoD
Ministerial	√	HoD

2. Mr. Neil Pilcher  
American Samoa EPA  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

3. Mr. Victor Tuiasosopo  
American Samoa EPA  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

### AUSTRALIA

4. Hon. Trevor Evans  
Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and  
Environmental Management

Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

5. Mr Rohan McPhee  
Adviser, Office of the Hon Trevor Evans MP  
Waste Reduction and Environmental  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	

6. Mr Stephen Oxley  
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and Energy  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	

7. Ms Mahani Taylor  
A/g Assistant Secretary, Marine and International  
Heritage Branch, Department of the Environment  
and Energy  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF	√	HoD
Officials	√	HoD
Ministerial	√	

8. Ms Sharon Lane  
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Department of the Environment and Energy  
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Noumea COP	√	HoD
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

9. Mr Khokan Bagchi  
Assistant Director  
Chemicals Management and Hazardous Waste  
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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	HoD
PEF	√	
Officials		
Ministerial		

10. Mr Greg Brown  
Assistant Director  
Pacific Climate Change  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

11. Mr Ray Bojczuk  
First Secretary – Climate Change and Disaster Management  
Fiji High Commission  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

12. Mr Malcolm Hammer  
Senior analyst  
Pacific Security Cooperation  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
E: [Malcolm.Hammer2@dfat.gov.auPacific](mailto:Malcolm.Hammer2@dfat.gov.auPacific)

<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>		

13. Ms Sophie Fisher  
Acting Assistant Director  
Pacific Security Cooperation  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
E: [Sophie.Fisher@dfat.gov.au](mailto:Sophie.Fisher@dfat.gov.au)

<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>		

14. Mr Matt Johnston  
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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

15. Ms Rebecca Scouller  
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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

## COOK ISLANDS

17. Hon. Tingika Elikana  
Associate Minister of Environment

<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>		
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>

18. Mr. Nga Puna  
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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

19. Mr. Jim Armistead  
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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Noumea COP</b>	√	
<b>Waigani COP</b>	√	
<b>PEF</b>	√	
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

**FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA**

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>		

**FIJI**

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>

**FRANCE**

23. HE. Mr. Hervé DEJEAN de la BÂTIE, Ambassadeur,  
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<b>Noumea COP</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>

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<b>Noumea COP</b>	√	
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

**FRENCH POLYNESIA**

25. Hon. M. Heremoana Maamaatuaiahutapu  
Minister for Culture and Environment  
French Polynesia

<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>		
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	HoD
<b>Officials</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

**KIRIBATI**

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>		
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

#### MARSHALL ISLANDS

32. Hon. Wilbur Heine  
Minister for Education  
Republic of the Marshall Islands

Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

33. Mr Clarence Samuel  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

## NEW ZEALAND

42. Hon. Aupito William Sio  
Minister of Pacific Peoples  
New Zealand

Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

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Noumea COP		
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PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials		
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP	√	
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

**PALAU**

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	HoD
Ministerial	√	HoD

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

60. Mr. Calvin Ikesiil

Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF	√	
Officials		
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	HoD
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

**SAMOA**

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Environment  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

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<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>		
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>

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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

72. Ms Wendy Beti  
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<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>		

73. Mr George Titiulu  
Honiara City Council

<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>		

74. Mr Fred Wareareu  
Honiara City Council

<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>		

## TOKELAU

75. Hon. Aliko Faipule Siopili Perez  
Minister for Department of Finance and  
Associate Minister for Environment

<b>Noumea COP</b>		
<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>		
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	<b>HoD</b>

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<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

## TONGA

77. Hon. Poasi Mataele Tei  
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Environment and Climate Change

Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

78. Mr. Paula Pouvalu Ma'u  
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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

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Noumea COP	√	HoD
Waigani COP	√	HoD
PEF	√	HoD
Officials	√	HoD
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP	√	
Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	HoD

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Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF		
Officials	√	HoD
Ministerial	√	HoD

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
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Ministerial	√	

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PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Waigani COP		
PEF		
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Ministerial	√	HoD

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
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Ministerial	√	HoD

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Ministerial	√	

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Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
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Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
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Ministerial	√	HoD

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Ministerial	√	

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Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
Officials		
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
Officials	√	HoD
Ministerial	√	HoD

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PEF		
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Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
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Ministerial	√	

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<b>PEF</b>		
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<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	
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<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	
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<b>PEF</b>		
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<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
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Noumea COP		
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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF		
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Waigani COP	√	
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF	√	HoD
Officials	√	HoD
Ministerial	√	HoD

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PEF	√	
Officials	√	
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PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial		

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Noumea COP		
Waigani COP		
PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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PEF	√	
Officials	√	
Ministerial	√	

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<b>Waigani COP</b>		
<b>PEF</b>	√	
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<b>PEF</b>	√	
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<b>PEF</b>	√	
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<b>PEF</b>	√	
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<b>PEF</b>	√	
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<b>PEF</b>		
<b>Officials</b>	√	
<b>Ministerial</b>	√	

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<b>Officials</b>	√	
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<b>PEF</b>		
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Officials	√	
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<b>PEF</b>	√	
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<b>PEF</b>	√	
<b>Officials</b>	√	
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  72. Mr. Niraj Kumar, Internal Auditor
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  89. Mr. Salesa Nihmei, Meteorology and Climatology Adviser
  90. Ms. Sela Simamao, PacWaste Plus Finance and Procurement Officer
  91. Mr. Semi Qamese, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Intra-ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES).
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  97. Mr. Tavita Sua, Environmental Information System Developer and Analyst
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  99. Ms. Teuila-Jane Fruean, Climate and Ocean Services Program in the Pacific, Technical & Finance Assistant
  100. Mr. Vainuupo Jungblut, Protected Areas Officer
  101. Ms. Veronica Levi, Financial Accountant
  102. Ms. Vitolina Samu, Project Implementation Support Officer

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## ANNEX II: Opening Statement by Kosi Latu, SPREP Director General

Father Muliau Masealii Stowers

Hon. Fiame Naomi Mata'afa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Environment for Samoa and incoming Chair of the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting

Honourable Ministers and High-Level Representatives of the SPREP Governing Council

Honourable Ministers of Cabinet, Parliamentarians and Heads of Government and Representatives of Samoa

Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Your Excellencies

Outgoing Chair of the SPREP Executive Board, Your Excellency Ms. Lucy Bogari, Papua New Guinea High Commissioner to Fiji

SPREP Members

SPREP Partners

SPREP friends and colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen

Talofa, Greetings, Bonjour

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting.

1. This is the first such meeting of our SPREP membership including our Environment Ministers High-Level Talanoa to jointly convene under the new biennial governance arrangements. As you may recall the membership of SPREP now meets every two years and in alternate years through the SPREP Executive Board, which first convened in 2018.

This is also the first such meeting of all of our SPREP membership since the conclusion of our celebrations for the 25<sup>th</sup> year of signing the SPREP Treaty in 1993, which established SPREP as an autonomous body with the mandate '*to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment.*'

Our mandate remains more relevant now than ever and is why SPREP has a 'duty of care' to our Pacific environment, to our Pacific present and Pacific future – to create a platform for dialogue of our SPREP Membership on the

environment, including current and emerging issues.

2. Since the first SPREP Executive Board Meeting in 2018, SPREP has grown from strength to strength, no more demonstrated than the record number of SPREP delegates from our Members and Partners who have registered for this our 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting including the participation of Ministers from Australia and New Zealand for the very first time, new partners to SPREP such as the Asian Development Bank, and the World Bank. In noting our growth, we also have 23 of our 26 SPREP Members in attendance, which also reflects the challenges of some of our North Pacific members who are not present, and emphasises the importance of a strengthened SPREP sub-regional presence as agreed to by our Micronesian Presidents and previous SPREP governance meetings.
3. Our theme for this year's 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting is a Resilient Blue Pacific, which is aligned with our Strategic Plan 2017-2026 vision of '*A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*' As the *premier regional organisation for the environment and climate action* - SPREP must work in partnership with our Members and Partners – to address these environmental challenges.
4. Having recently returned from Tuvalu for the 50th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting I am reminded of the reason why SPREP was established '*to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.*' Our mandate is at a critical juncture with our environment under ever increasing pressure. We have witnessed the increase of unprecedented waste and pollution pressures from human induced activities such as industrial and agricultural run-off, marine litter, oil and chemical pollution, population growth, coastal development and modernisation, over-fishing and resource extraction. These pressures have been exacerbated by the challenges of climate change, extreme weather events including

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storms and droughts. The impacts of all these activities threaten our environmental, social, cultural and economic resilience.

This is why SPREP as your environment organisation - cannot ignore these pressures.

There is an urgency for Pacific collective action driven by the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the Blue Pacific narrative and work for SPREP to do for our region which our Pacific Leaders have led the call on:

- Climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific and our commitment to progress the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- Blue Pacific's Call for Urgent Global Climate Change Action through the Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Action.
- Concern for the significance of the potential threat of nuclear contamination, World War II wrecks and unexploded ordnances to the health and security of the Blue Pacific.
- Urgency to develop a Regional Mechanism to Address Oil Spills in 2020 including consideration of the SPREP review of the Pacific Island Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN).

This 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting will see the Secretariat report for the first time on progress regarding the Performance Implementation Plan 2018/2019 under the 10 year SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026, which now succeeds our Performance Monitoring Evaluation Report. Our strategic priorities of Climate Change Resilience; Island and Ocean Ecosystems; Waste Management and Pollution Control; and Environmental Monitoring Governance are all environmental challenges which has a direct impact on the sustainable development of the Pacific. As in 2018, 2019 and in 2020 the number one development partner of SPREP is the European Union primarily through EDF 11 funding valued in excess of € 35 million across all of our strategic priority areas. The EU is a strategic partner for SPREP and will continue to be, now and into the future. I would also like

acknowledge the longstanding support of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for your continued multiyear funding support towards our core budget which enables SPREP to do what it does best.

5. In our Regional Implementing Entity role with the Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund, we have our first climate finance funded project of the Vanuatu Klaemaet Infomesen blong Redy, Adapt mo Protekt (Van-KIRAP) valued at US\$ 18 million, which we are currently helping Vanuatu to implement. We also have a project portfolio of US\$ 200 million worth of project concepts which we must with the GCF and Members translate into transformational projects.
6. We also welcome the contribution of Australia with the Pacific Ocean Litter Project valued up to AU\$16 million over 6 years (2019 -2025). The POLP will help build capacity of Pacific island countries to plan and successfully implement measures to curb marine plastic pollution, as well as implement the Pacific Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter.
7. This year SPREP worked in close partnership and in support of the Government of Samoa through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Samoa Pacific Games Committee for the 'Greening of the XVI Pacific Games'. Its success included:
  - Over one million 500ml single-use plastic bottles NOT used or discarded as rubbish during the XVI Pacific Games.
  - Over 3,200 native trees planted in Samoa by visiting athletes and officials to help offset carbon emissions.
  - SPREP helped secure funding of SAT \$400,000 with its partners<sup>2</sup> which ensured athletes who had reusable hydro flasks had access to 350 water stations at all sporting venues.
  - 150 water stations will be gifted as a legacy to schools in Samoa.

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<sup>2</sup> Agence Française de Développement (AFD), UN Environment and the governments of Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom

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It is hoped the legacy of the 'Greening of the Games' led by Samoa will continue for the XVII Pacific Games in Solomon Islands in 2023.

8. Our Pacific region is at a cross-roads and SPREP must remain vigilant, adept to change, and responsive to current and emerging environmental challenges. Therefore it is important for the SPREP Membership to have a platform such as the SPREP Meeting for dialogue on pertinent and immediate issues, such as oil spills and marine pollution, plastics – and emerging issues – such as Seabed Mining. While our mandate remains relevant more now than ever, the operating context with which we work has changed. Much of the work of SPREP is cross cutting and in the same space as our CROP peers. There are more partners interested in the work of SPREP and our Pacific region, as evidenced with the rising levels of participation in our SPREP Meeting. SPREP is in demand, and as the demands and awareness of the environment have grown, the proliferation of regional and international meetings and priorities - have equally grown.

The geo-political dynamics as discussed by our Pacific Leaders is one which SPREP is conscious of noting the diversity of our membership and the vast interest in our Pacific region. The Boe Declaration endorsed by Pacific Leaders in 2018 states that *'climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihood, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific'*. Security is no longer viewed in traditional terms but also has climate change, and the environment as integral to the safety and security of our region.

The culmination of increased focus on the Pacific including a myriad of emerging and urgent environmental issues, is that there is now increased member expectations on SPREP to deliver on an expanding array of environmental challenges, for which SPREP needs to be adequately resourced to respond effectively to. The Secretariat alone cannot address these challenges and the support of Members in this Meeting is an opportunity to provide guidance and direction, with the support of our Partners.

9. 2019 is a milestone year for SPREP with the completion of the Pacific Climate Change Centre. Made possible through the vision of our SPREP Membership as first discussed in 2011 and with the commitment and generosity of the Government of Japan. The PCCC - our PCCC - will be a globally respected Centre of Excellence providing practical information, support and training to address the adaptation and mitigation priorities of the Pacific underpinned by strong partnerships. I would like to acknowledge the Government of New Zealand for their US\$ 2.3 million assistance towards key positions which will help operationalise the work of the PCCC.

To the Ambassador of Japan - HE Maugaoleatuolo Shinya AOKI; JICA Head of Delegation - Mr. Hiromichi MURAKAMI; JICA Resident Representative of Samoa, Mr. Akihiko HOSHINO; may I convey the sincere appreciation of SPREP for building upon the legacy of the 7<sup>th</sup> Pacific Leaders Meeting with the fully realised *'comprehensive assistance provided by the Government of Japan to support the efforts for tackling climate change by the Pacific region as a whole'*.

To the Government of Samoa as host of SPREP, which laid the foundations for the PCCC by prioritising bilateral grant aid to SPREP and for your extensive support as a champion of the Centre. To the Prime Minister of Samoa, the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, may I sincerely thank you for your exceptional leadership that has made the vision of the Pacific Climate Change Centre come to fruition and become an integral part of SPREP.

10. In closing, this 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting has an agenda of challenging items that requires deeper engagement and brave decisions of our Members. In 2019 our mandate remains more relevant now than ever, having built upon the lessons learnt and why SPREP has a 'duty of care' so central to our Pacific present and to our Pacific future *'to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.'*

Soifua.

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**ANNEX III: Keynote Address by the Honourable Fiame Naomi Mata'afa  
Acting Prime Minister and Minister of the Ministry of  
Environment - Government of Samoa**

Father Muliau Stowers  
Representatives of SPREP member countries,  
Director General of SPREP  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure, on behalf of my Government, to welcome you all to Samoa for the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting. Your presence for this week's meetings is testament to the continuous priority we place on the protection and management of the natural resources of our Blue Pacific continent. It is also a signal of our commitment in ensuring the priorities and work of our organisations including SPREP deliver and respond to the critical needs of our region and peoples.

It is two years since we met here in Apia for the last SPREP Meeting, although some of you attended the Executive Board Meeting in 2018. I believe we are seeing the benefits of the new governance arrangements of having the full meeting every two years; notably through the significant cost savings to the Secretariat and, importantly, providing more time for SPREP to focus on service delivery.

The release last year of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5o C was another wake-up call for all of us. It clearly spells out the consequences for the Earth of continuing the 'business as usual' approach to climate change, and the implications for Pacific island countries and territories are unequivocal – we are heading to disaster if we fail to reduce global carbon emissions now and with the level of ambition heightened.

With the challenges of climate change and the increasing demands on our natural resources, their protection and sustainable management are more critical now than ever. The Pacific Forum Leaders have recently met in Tuvalu, and continue to prioritise the importance of urgent climate action

to address the adverse impacts of climate change and the protection of our ocean and its resources.

Equally, while the answer to heading off these disastrous consequences is through stronger commitment to reducing carbon emissions at the global level, and particularly by those countries that produce the highest emissions, we in the Pacific also need to take action to protect ourselves.

We need to commit ourselves to better environmental management overall and deal with the many outstanding issues that continue to degrade our environment, such as mangroves destruction and damaging coral reefs, deforesting our catchments, polluting our rivers, infilling our lagoons, and continuing to place high value development in coastal hazard zones. Each one of these ecosystems is not only a vital resource upon which our sustainability depends but is also part of the vital 'front line' of defence for climate change adaptation. In this respect, as identified in the IPCC Special Report, we all have to get serious about committing to meaningful and effective Nationally Determined Contributions, which are at the heart of the Paris Agreement.

The links between climate change and ocean health have also advanced in our regional agenda, as reflected in the Pacific Island Leaders' commitments to the Blue Pacific Continent, and the commitment at the Tuvalu Forum Leaders' meeting to deliver the *2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent*. For efficient delivery, we need to address all relevant issues which will be discussed at the Ministerial High Level 'Resilient Blue Pacific' Talanoa later this week.

Our Blue Pacific region has reaffirmed that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific and declared it a regional security

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threat through the Boe Declaration on Regional Security. We have recently adopted the Action plan for the Boe Declaration, that should help advance the region's response to security threats which includes human security and environmental and resource security. As SPREP members, we must look at these regional priorities and explore how we can build a considered response to ensure a truly *Resilient Blue Pacific*.

The full agenda for the SPREP Meeting this week reflects the complex inter-relationship of our regional initiatives, as I note that we will be considering these under both the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and the Resilient Development in the context of environment. This is a logical step as environmental considerations are vital to achievement of both regionalism and resilient development. Among our many pressing issues are those of marine debris and pollution which require a response at all levels beyond national boundaries. As with climate change, failure to address waste management and pollution will have profound and lasting impacts on the health and well-being of our people.

In this regard, it is pleasing to note the growing donor support to SPREP to assist address these issues. We note with appreciation the contribution by the European Union of €16.5 million for the Pacwaste Plus Programme and Australia providing \$16 million to implement the Pacific Ocean Litter Project. The SPREP-Samoa partnership in the Greening of the Pacific Games initiative, had a positive impact on the games and subsequent follow up action and has also established a model for the next Pacific Games to be hosted by the Solomon Islands.

The opening of the Pacific Climate Change Centre is a special event for this week's meeting program an initiative of two years in the making. In this regard I wish to acknowledge the generosity of the Government of Japan commitment in funding and constructing the Centre. It is an asset for the region and a focus for our ongoing efforts to address climate change issues, apply the best science and help build capacity for our countries to deal with climate change adaptation and mitigation.

I wish you all successful and fruitful deliberations this week. I now declare the Officials meeting officially open and have a wonderful evening.

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## ANNEX IV: Climate Action Pacific Partnership (CAPP) IV Meeting

Thank you Chair for giving the Cook Islands the floor to provide a quick update on our preparations for Climate Action Pacific Partnership, or CAPP IV meeting we will be hosting in May 2020.

We realise we have a big job ahead as we build on the excellent work to date that Fiji has done in hosting previous CAPP Meetings. The Cook Islands is looking forward to working closely with our friends in Fiji to ensure a successful transition from CAPP III to CAPP IV.

The format of the meeting will not change as we look to form genuine partnerships to invest in accelerated climate action in the Pacific. We are looking to engage with Pacific Leaders, CROP agencies, International leaders, Multilateral agencies, CSOs and the private sector in an inclusive environment.

### **The Theme for our meeting is “Climate Drawdown: Banking on viable Pacific futures”**

The theme fits in well with the 2018 Nauru Leaders theme of “Building a Strong Pacific – Our People, Our Islands, Our will.” It also aligns nicely with Tuvalu’s Forum aim of “Securing our Future in the Pacific.”

Through the theme we want to amplify the investment required in building climate resilience in the Pacific. We want to direct the discussion towards investing in the future of the Pacific Islands and its peoples.

Our theme also speaks to reducing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to maintain the 1.5 degrees Celsius target through a climate drawdown. We also look at the drawdown needed on the financial side to address the climate resilience and adaptation investment. Our aim is to try and elevate our Pacific narrative beyond the region. We want our partners to bank on viable Pacific futures.

The Cook Islands will be circulating more details in the coming months to our Pacific Members and wider stakeholders. We are especially keen to tap into the expertise of our regional organisations with SPREP one of our key partners.

Chair, I’d like to thank you again for opportunity to update the meeting and the Cook Islands looks forward to welcoming many of you here today to CAPP IV next year.

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## ANNEX V: Observer Statements

### 1. Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

The Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency thanks SPREP for the opportunity to briefly address this meeting. It has been a great experience to listen to the presentations in the course of the week and learn more about the excellent work going on with SPRP.

FFA would like to work more closely with SPREP in aspects of our core work in Monitoring, Control and Surveillance and IUU prevention most particularly in MARPOL and marine plastics and we have been having discussions to this effect.

Delegates will be pleased to know that in reflection of our work in IUU mitigation, FFA was awarded first prize in the Global MCS Network – Stop IUU Fishing Competition.

Many of you will be aware that this week I have been approaching the national GEF focal points in regard to providing Letters of Endorsement for the Project Identification Form prepared for submission to the GEF for the next Oceanic Fisheries Management Project. This project draws on the GEF International Waters Funding and does not require any national level fiscal contribution.

GEF have indicated strong support for the development of a new project in reflection of the work the current project does to support FFA members in WCPFC processes and in IUU mitigation as well as fisheries agency capacity building and the adoption of new technologies. The project also supports the SPC climate change impacts on tuna fisheries research and analysis. In order to meet the time lines of the current GEF Council Meeting, FFA is asking GEF focal points to provide these letters by the end of September.

We are available to follow up on any queries.

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### 2. Pacific Community (SPC)

Chair,

Let me first join others in thanking Samoa for the hospitality in hosting the event, commending your skilled chairwomanship of this meeting, and extending appreciation to the SPREP Secretariat for an excellent organisation and for attending to our various needs.

The Pacific Community is grateful to SPREP for the opportunity to attend this meeting. And I am personally very pleased to be here.

As you know, SPC's strategic plan [and the next one which we are busy working on] is embedded in supporting member countries achieve the **Sustainable Development Goals**, as these represent the framework for a more prosperous and sustainable development path. As per the interlinkages and indivisibility of the 2030 Agenda, we at SPC are keen to promote an **integrated programming approach** across sectors, but also calling for greater integration of regional organisations' work, each with their own competence but together towards the same objectives. As such we are committed to the 'one CROP team' approach. For example, I know that the approach has been particularly exemplary in so far as supporting countries to participate in UNFCCC negotiations and COPs.

In the face of ever increasing global changes and development challenges for the region [and reduced resources], **we need to do more to synergize efforts and work collectively and collaboratively**. Let me give you some examples of what this could be, building on the MOU renewed with SPREP in June 2018:

- The two organisations recently signed an agreement to share information and strengthen the **Pacific Data Hub** that Member countries endorsed at CRGA in 2018;

- We are working together closely, with other partners, to bring up the **Pacific NDC Hub** to full operationality – and I wish to thank here the support from GIZ/Germany, Australia, NZ and UK. [such a multi partner, multi donor support initiatives is not easy ... but that's the only way to go ... bear with us, we are getting there and it will be good!];
- The collaboration and co-delegation on EU EDF11 projects PEUMP and PROTÉGÉ; and
- With the establishment of the **Pacific Community Center for Ocean Science**, we are also in a good place to collaborate on Ocean science, and Ocean-Climate nexus.

Finally, in the face of **global changes** which affect prospects for achieving the SDGs and threaten security of the whole region as emphasized by Leaders in Tuvalu last month once again, SPC is gearing up to bringing about higher ambition and transformative actions:

- factoring fully environmental and climate issues into our sectoral work and our operations;
- providing the region with solid science to inform decisions;
- doing our share helping countries access climate finance; but also
- helping bring about a more programmatic and strategic regional approach to planning and delivery of resilience actions.

SPC welcomes the opportunity to share lessons and options on aspects of organisational management, regional outreach or project delivery and to study how we can mutualize areas of work to more effectively serve our membership.

I thank you for your attention

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### 3. Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)

On behalf of SPTO, I would like to thank SPREP for the opportunity to present the following statement and to be invited to attend this auspicious meeting. Congratulations SPREP for the great achievements to date in protecting our environment.

The tourism sector is guilty for not being very active as well as strengthening our partnerships with international, regional and national partners mandated to protect and promote the natural environment. More could be done and attendance at this meeting is the beginning of a solid partnership between tourism and the environment sectors!

There is no doubt that the greatest threat to the tourism sector are natural disasters and climate change. This is because they threaten the Tourism's greatest assets; which is our land, oceans, people and culture. Without these assets, we have no tourism!

We all know that tourism sector is losing our reefs to coral bleaching, beaches to coastal erosion, our pristine marine life is being threatened by pollution and our people are becoming increasingly unhealthy, due to climate change diseases.

In the long term, the tourism industry is very concerned because it will affect our tourism private sector's bottom line. According to climate change science reports tourism earnings are predicted to be reduced by 30%.

Furthermore, with international arrivals reaching 3.1 million for Pacific Island Countries in 2018 (air and cruise) and predicted by World Bank to double in 2040. It is evident that increased responsibility and commitment is needed from all of tourism's diverse stakeholders. Only then can we ensure the continued, sustainable, growth, of this valuable sector; especially with regards to the Pacific's Small Island States.

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In view of the above, it is evident that Pacific tourism is up against a number of serious global challenges. Thus, Tourism joins the ongoing call for climate change and natural disasters to be treated with utmost urgency. Furthermore, our tourism sector is a valuable and innovative partner to achieve the SDGs and to assist mandated partners protect our region's environment.

Finally, SPTO's vision of advancing sustainability through tourism in our new strategic plan 2020-2024 looks forward to partnering with SPREP and any other key partners in ensuring that our greatest assets are protected and that we achieve sustainable tourism development and growth in our region.

Thank you.

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#### 4. **World Wide Fund (WWF) New Caledonia**

On behalf of WWF-France and WWF-Pacific I would like to thank you for your warm welcome, the relevant discussions and the new ambitions in our collaboration.

The shared energy provided during the 29SM allows us to be confident in the ability for the Pacific to be present at a historical stage in 2020 for the emergence of a civilizational renewal in the face of the worldwide challenge. This energy also gives us confidence in the Pacific's ability to fully participate in building a new deal for people and nature.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Nature Conference and the One Planet Summit Oceania comprise privileged areas to consider the wealth brought by our differences to build the Oceania voice in order to be audible and inspirational regarding major events such as the IUCN World Congress and the COP15 which will carry the responsibility of the renewal of the world's momentum.

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#### **Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

Excellencies and distinguished guests,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
It is a pleasure and an honour to have been invited to address you at this 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP meeting on behalf of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Although Chemicals and waste issues have been underplayed in the environmental agenda in the past, times are changing fast. The sustainable management of chemicals and waste is now seen as a fundamental cornerstone of the objectives in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development where the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are highlighted as the key legally binding instruments whose implementation contributes towards achieving by 2030 all the goals of the 2030 agenda.

Last May the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions took numerous decisions strengthening our conventions including landmark amendments to the conventions which are of great relevance to the work of this region and that of SPREP.

With the adoption of the Plastic Wastes Amendment, Parties to the Basel Convention by consensus amended the annexes to the Convention to clarify and strengthen entries for plastic wastes, bringing many types of plastics into the PIC procedure and therefore ensuring a more transparent, traceable, and enforceable set of measures concerning imports/exports of waste between countries.

At the same time a [Plastic Waste Partnership](#) has been established under the Basel Convention, providing a platform for exchanges and best practices, technical assistance and information-sharing, public awareness and more, to assist parties from all over the world implement the new measures for controlling plastic waste. Parties also adopted an improved version of the technical guidelines on the import/export on the

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e-waste and used equipment. Now Parties have more means to control import and export, with criteria and suggested documentation which should help prevent illegal movements of waste and of used equipment.

The Stockholm Convention listed 2 (out of 2) toxic chemicals: Dicofol (pesticide) and the industrial chemical Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and its salts and PFOA-related compounds. The latter comprises more than 4,000 chemicals with a wide a range of industrial applications ranging from non-stick cookware to firefighting foams. Listing means elimination, in the case of dicofol without exemptions, in the case of PFOA with country specific, time specific, use-specific exemptions. This brings the total number of POPs listed in the Convention to 30.

The Rotterdam Convention also listed two (out of 7) chemicals in its annex III, namely:

- Phorate (a pesticide)
- Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD) an industrial chemical.

This means they are now under the PIC procedure to share information between countries trading in hazardous chemicals. This brings the total of chemicals now listed under Annex III to 52.

Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a new Annex VII on Procedures and mechanisms on compliance;

The outcomes of our recent COPs demonstrate the commitment of you, our parties in implementing the chemicals and waste agenda for "a clean planet, healthy people".

In that regard I take the opportunity to highlight the success of SPREP in mobilizing funding in the area of chemicals and waste, especially in the area of marine litter. A word of thanks to the SPREP team for their dedication and vision and a special thanks to Vicki Hall and her team for leading this process. This is a seed change in the level of support to the region for the Conventions and it is now important that SPREP works with the other partners to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach for delivery

of results. The challenge lies ahead but I am sure the SPREP team, with support from colleagues at the BRS Secretariat and in UNEP, will ensure all of the initiatives benefit the countries and the region.

This region is very lucky to have a regional Centre that caters for the needs of SIDs, providing assistance for the implementation of the chemicals and wastes conventions and which is actually in a SID. There is only one other such regional Centre amongst our network of centres and that is the one for the Caribbean located in Trinidad and Tobago. SIDs in the African region are not that lucky, they are served by centres located in the continent.

The Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific region hosted by SPREP here in Samoa is one of our key players contributing towards the implementation of our three conventions, as a member of the network of 22 regional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology which have been established under the aegis of the Basel and the Stockholm Conventions. I am pleased to say that the centre has demonstrated that it has the technical know-how in the fields of wastes and chemicals, playing a key role in fostering the coordinated implementation of the chemicals and wastes conventions in the Pacific Region. I look forward to continuing working hand in hand with SPREP and our Regional Centre, strengthening the management of chemicals and wastes in the Pacific Region and thus contributing towards the global objectives of our conventions of protecting the environment and human health.

It only rests for me to reiterate the commitment of the BRS Secretariat to your endeavours and wish you much success.

Thank you for your attention!

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## ANNEX VI: Agenda for the Ministerial Talanoa Session

### Agenda Item 17: Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa: 'A Resilient Blue Pacific'

#### 17.1 - Panel 1: Climate Change

#### 17.2 - Panel 2: Oceans

#### 17.3 - Panel 3: Marine Pollution and Seabed Mining

*Each panel will be moderated by a Minister. The Samoa Deputy Prime Minister as Chair of the Environment Ministers' High Level Talanoa will make introductory remarks and moderate Panel 1 on Climate Change. At the conclusion of the Ministerial Talanoa the Samoa Deputy Prime Minister as Chair will provide the overall summary of the three panels.*

**Master of Ceremony:** Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP

- Welcome
- Opening with a short prayer from the Hon. Assistant Minister of Australia
- Introductory remarks
- Introduction of the Chair the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa.

#### **Panel 1: Climate Change (9:00am to 10:40am)**

1. **Formal introductions and Keynote Address: Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa** - Chair and Moderator of Panel 1: Climate Change.

*At conclusion of Keynote Address the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa (Chair) will introduce the Guest speaker.*

**Guest speaker: Ambassador Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean.** Setting the scene and discussing the 2020 UN Oceans Conference reporting on ocean action and commitments.

#### **Message from Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Executive Director, Green Climate Fund**

*Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa (Chair) to moderate session*

2. **Honourable Minister of Nauru:** The case for the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Climate and Security
3. **Honourable Minister of Marshall Islands:** Increasing emissions ambition through NDCs
4. **Honourable Minister of New Zealand:** A Just Transition to low emissions climate resilient futures?
5. **High-Level Representative of Tuvalu:** Implications of the 1.5 degrees report.
6. **High-Level Representative of Fiji:** COP25 expectations and outcomes

*Each panellist to speak for 10 minutes, followed by a brief period of discussion and responses.*

7. **Honourable Minister of Niue:** To provide a response
8. **High-Level Representative of France:** To provide a response

**Session Break (10:40am to 10:55am)** Morning tea

#### **Panel 2: Oceans (10:55am to 12:15pm)**

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1. **Honourable Assistant Minister of Australia** - Moderator of Panel 2: Oceans
  2. **Honourable Associate Minister of Cook Islands:** Marae Moana
  3. **Honourable Minister of Palau:** Building resilience of marine ecosystems as part of effective climate action
  4. **Honourable Minister of French Polynesia:** Management of marine resources

*Each panellist to speak for 10 minutes, followed by a brief period of discussion and responses.*

5. **Honourable Minister of Tokelau:** To provide a response
6. **High-Level Representative of New Caledonia:** To provide a response
7. **High-Level Representative of Kiribati:** To provide a response
8. **High-Level Representative of the United Kingdom:** To provide a response
9. **High-Level Representative of the United States:** To provide a response

**Session Break (12:15pm to 1:15pm)** Official photograph followed by Ministerial and High-Level Representative lunch

### **Panel 3: Marine Pollution and Seabed Mining (1:15pm to 2:45pm)**

1. **Honourable Minister of Solomon Islands** - Moderator of Panel 3: Marine Pollution and Seabed Mining

**Guest speaker:** Mr. Paul Adams, Director of Major Projects Foundation. To provide an overview of the impact of World War II polluting wrecks in the Pacific.

**Guest speaker:** Dr. Colin Tukuitonga, Director General, Pacific Community. To provide brief context on Seabed Mining in the Pacific.

2. **Honourable Minister of Tonga:** Marine Pollution
3. **Honourable Minister of Papua New Guinea:** Seabed Mining

*Each panellist to speak for 10 minutes, followed by a brief period of discussion and responses.*

4. **High-Level Representative of Wallis and Futuna:** To provide a response
5. **High-Level Representative of American Samoa:** To provide a response

**Session Break (2:45pm to 3:15pm)** Afternoon tea

**Environment Ministers' High Level Talanoa Summary:** Honourable Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa (Chair)

**Agenda Item 18: Adoption of the Environment Ministers' High Level Talanoa Communiqué**

**Agenda Item 19: Adoption of the 29<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting Outcomes**

**Agenda Item 20: Close**

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## ANNEX VII: Chairs Summary

1. Climate change, oceans health and marine pollution are all interlinked and have profound impacts on the sustainable development of the region. We here in the Pacific region have inherited an exceptional natural environment and biodiversity. We recognise that the natural environment plays an important role in climate regulation, and carbon sinks need to be protected for resilience of the local communities.
2. As the Pacific we have a shared experience of our climate change journey - being amongst the smallest contributors yet one of the regions most affected. **We must continue to make bold decisions** in our responses to climate change, encourage others to set higher ambitions to reduce their emissions as while the Pacific may be small, collectively our voices are bringing positive change in the world.
3. The transition to a low carbon economy needs to happen at a scale of the industrial revolution and at the speed of the digital revolution. **Low emission economies can be achieved but will need leadership, patience and engagement with all partners at all levels for just transition that is equitable and inclusive.**
4. Our region must work together, get our house in order, and coordinate ourselves regionally and internationally so we champion the **push for climate change to be considered at the UN Security Council Standing agenda bringing about effective results for our island region and our Pacific people.** The Pacific must work collectively to keep pressure on the UN system.
5. Our region has been leading with effective **ocean management models** that have proven to give life back to our ocean. Two examples which are well known in the region and the world are the Marae Moana and the Palau Marine Sanctuary. With regard to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas, the value of wide and inclusive consultations with all affected stakeholders is of paramount importance.
6. **Marine Protected Areas have high biodiversity values** and are recognised internationally for example through World Heritage listing and other international designations. The decision to refrain from issuing fishing licenses to foreign fleets and a ban on destructive fishing, specifically purse seine and trawling are key milestone examples of the MPA's at work in the region. One of the key solutions to addressing challenges in maintaining our MPA's include robust public-private partnerships and collaboration.
7. Building resilience of marine ecosystems is vital because oceans is viewed as an important part of our livelihood because of its economic, social and environment importance. It is **unique in the Pacific because it contributes to our identity and cultural connectivity.**
8. **Establishing effective management measures** that protect the key ecosystems have prevented impacts such as flooding from destroying properties. **Traditional management methods have been applied** to various areas to sustain management of the biodiversity resources.
9. Much work has been done on understanding the environmental impacts of deep sea mining but **still more needs to be done** which will require further financial support. **The Pacific is cautioned against relying on advice from the private sector.** Regarding the precautionary principle Papua New Guinea believes the granting of the environment permit for exploration was based upon extensive scientific knowledge and accept some Parties are calling for a moratorium but ask the Meeting to understand and respect their decision to continue exploration.

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10. **Plastic pollution is a disease that is much easier to address than climate change. Pacific islands are showing leadership** with 10 countries have policies to address single-use plastics and eight more have intentions to put in place policies to address single-use plastics. The **Pacific calls for an international framework** to address marine litter and plastic pollution as well as **ownership at the national level for addressing this issue.**
  11. World War 2 wrecks are a ticking time bomb due to the risk of oils pills complicated by unexploded ordinances (explosives – torpedoes etc) with war graves, **these vessels have no insurance and are a liability** – partnerships such as the Major Projects are the insurance. **Regional Plans such as PACPLAN will assist with the response to this.**

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## ANNEX VIII: SPREP Environment Ministers and High-Level Representatives Talanoa Communiqué 2019

The Twenty-ninth SPREP Meeting Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa was held on 6 September 2019 in Apia, Samoa. The Talanoa was attended by Environment Ministers and High-Level Representatives of American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Wallis and Futuna.

Ministers and High-Level Representatives expressed their appreciation to the Government and the People of Samoa for the warm and generous hospitality extended to all delegations. Appreciation was further extended to the Secretariat for its efforts in organising a successful meeting.

The Ministers and High-Level Representatives<sup>3</sup>:

### ***Climate change***

1. **Recall** the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, in which Pacific Islands Forum Leaders reaffirmed that climate change remains the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific, and the joint commitment to progress the implementation of the Paris Agreement;
2. **Further recall** the urgency of global action on climate change as underlined by 2019 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in the Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Change Action Now (Kainaki II declaration), **noting** with concern the impacts of natural disasters exacerbated by climate change are threatening our social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being and increasing the burden and risk of our security;
3. **Note** the need to pursue, bold and innovative regional solutions to climate change, including ecosystem-based solutions, recognising that our futures, as well as the actions we choose to take, are interconnected;
4. **Note** with grave concern that global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, reaching record levels, and based on current trends, without urgent action, global average temperatures above pre-industrial levels will exceed 1.5°C by as early as 2030 and will reach 3°C or more by the end of this century, which would cause devastating impacts on Pacific countries, territories and communities;
5. **Recognise** the particular vulnerabilities of atoll nations to climate change impacts, acknowledging their efforts to collaborate in the identification of adaptation strategies through the Atoll Adaptation Dialogues between Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and the Maldives;
6. **Reiterate** the need to take into account the imperatives of a just transition of the work force and creation of decent work and quality jobs for all people, especially those most vulnerable, as we collectively move towards a low-emissions future, managing the impacts and maximising opportunities for all involved;
7. **Commend** SPREP for its work in supporting the Pacific in climate change matters, noting the need for knowledge to be built and shared across the region on how to assess and mitigate threats associated with climate change;
8. **Welcome** the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the authoritative scientific body on climate

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<sup>3</sup> The United States of America made a statement on adoption of the Communiqué that is reflected in the record of the Meeting.

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- change that is regarded as providing governments with the best available science on climate change;
9. **Call** for the international community to consider in relevant decision making the findings of the *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius* (IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C), the *Special Report on Climate Change and Land*, and the upcoming *Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*;
  10. **Acknowledge** the urgency highlighted by the IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C and **call** for immediate action, not just discussion of ambition, to implement nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement with the objective of achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal;
  11. **Call** on the international community to focus on ambitious global climate change action to reduce emissions through NDCs and long-term low emission development strategies and pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, as set out in the Paris Agreement;
  12. **Welcome** the adoption of the rulebook of the Paris Agreement at COP24 in Katowice and **emphasise** the importance of completing the outstanding elements of the rulebook, including the work to ensure environmental integrity and transparency in the use of cooperative approaches under Article 6;
  13. **Welcome** Chile's Presidency of COP25 and its hosting of the meeting in Santiago in December and further **acknowledge** the priority placed by Chile on the important nexus between climate change and oceans;
  14. **Recall** the Kainaki II declaration and the firm belief that the United Nations Secretary General's Climate Action Summit, the SAMOA Pathway Review and COP25 are global turning points to ensure meaningful, measurable and effective climate change action, and **acknowledge** efforts of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom in leading tracks of the Climate Action Summit;
  15. **Welcome** the significant role that the Green Climate Fund plays in supporting developing countries in their efforts to address climate change;
  16. **Recall** the Kainaki II declaration and the call on the international community to continue efforts towards meeting their global climate finance commitment of USD 100 billion per year by 2020 from a variety of sources in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation, through bilateral, regional or global mechanisms, including the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund;
  17. **Call** on SPREP and other regional GCF Accredited Entities to consult with countries on the proposed Pacific flagship GCF programme on mitigation and adaptation to help island countries realise their climate ambitions;
  18. **Call** on the global community to continue to increase support for the operationalisation of measures to support Parties to the Paris Agreement with capacity constraints, especially those that are Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States;
  19. **Welcome** the announcement from the Cook Islands of their hosting of the fourth Climate Action Partnership Programme (CAPP IV) in Rarotonga in 2020 and **note** the theme of 'Climate Drawdown: banking on viable Pacific futures';
- Ocean Governance and Management***
20. **Reaffirm** that the Pacific region's most important natural resource is the ocean, and its marine resources and ecosystems, which underpins our identity and community livelihoods, and again **support** integrated ocean management and conservation as a crucial policy approach under the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape and the Blue Pacific focus of Pacific island leaders;
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21. **Urge** the Pacific to fully engage in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), taking note of the outcomes of the UN Decade of Ocean Science Workshop held at the Pacific Community in Nouméa on 23 - 25 July 2019, while recognising the need to identify the significant scientific gaps in order to improve and strengthen the capacity development in the Pacific region;
  22. **Express appreciation** to both the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, for its central role with respect to ocean governance and integrated ocean management in the region under the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, and the Pacific Community, for its work in relation to the Pacific Community Centre for Ocean Science;
  23. **Acknowledge** the importance of many key ocean related regional and international events that are critical to our efforts on ocean governance and management;
  24. **Congratulate** Palau for being a regional and global leader by agreeing to host the Our Ocean Conference 2020, and **encourage** all Pacific island countries and territories to use this important event to secure positive outcomes through joint coordination towards realistic decision making on marine protected areas, climate change, sustainable fisheries, protection of threatened and migratory species, marine pollution, a sustainable blue economy and maritime security;
  25. **Express appreciation** to New Caledonia for its leadership in agreeing to host the 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in April 2020;
  26. **Note** the importance of on-going discussions and negotiations at the Intergovernmental Conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) to promoting integrated ocean governance in areas beyond national jurisdiction and **call** for an ambitious outcome from the negotiations;
  27. **Acknowledge** SPREP and the Office of the Pacific Ocean Commission for providing technical support to Pacific Island Members engaged in the BBNJ negotiations;
- Marine Pollution and Seabed Mining***
28. **Noting** the impact of marine plastic pollution on food security, human health, biodiversity, livelihoods and culture, **reaffirm** support for SPREP's mandate to work with Members to eliminate unnecessary single-use plastics and reduce marine pollution overall, which may be done through regional and international partnerships and effective community engagement in Member countries and territories;
  29. **Express** appreciation for the collaborative relationship between SPREP, Members, donors and key partners, working together in a productive and collegial manner to address the critical issue of marine pollution in an integrated and holistic way;
  30. **Congratulate** SPREP and the Government of Samoa for their work on the Greening of the Pacific Games 2019, and **acknowledge** the commitment of Solomon Islands to continue this valuable initiative;
  31. **Note** the proposal for SPREP to consider a regional tree planting day;
  32. **Recall** the Kainaki II declaration for urgent action to support the implementation of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter 2018-2025, and **urge** Members to accelerate policies and actions to reduce plastic pollution that embrace sustainable materials management, life cycle and circular economy, and resource efficiency approaches to products, promote alternatives and drive more sustainable practices and consumption patterns;
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33. **Acknowledge** the actions of Members in reducing and eliminating single-use plastics and **note** that eight countries or territories have implemented bans on a variety of single-use plastic items and a further eight countries or territories have announced their intent to do so;
34. **Welcome** the decision to amend annexes to the Basel Convention that will make global trade in plastic waste more transparent and better regulated, whilst also ensuring that its management is safer for human health and the environment, and **urge** Members to consider how they will implement the new controls;
35. **Recognise** the need to shift to better liquid waste management practices to protect coastal waters and ecosystems;
36. **Endorse** PACPLAN 2019 as the framework agreement for addressing regional oil and hazardous and noxious substances spill response, **noting** that Members should implement their respective roles and responsibilities to ensure effective responses to marine spill incidents;
37. **Recognise** the significant potential environmental threat from oil leaks from the corroding hulls of World War II wrecks that are now over 70 years old, with such risk likely to be exacerbated by the projected increasing severe severity of tropical cyclones and typhoons due to climate change, and **note** with appreciation the action being taken by SPREP, in close collaboration with the University of Newcastle and the Major Projects Foundation, in addressing potentially polluting World War II wrecks in the Pacific to protect marine ecosystems, culture and livelihoods;
38. **Recognise** the significance of the potential threat of nuclear contamination and unexploded ordinances to the health and security of the Blue Pacific, her people and prospects, and **acknowledge** the importance of addressing the longstanding issues of nuclear testing legacy in the Pacific and further **recall** the need to address ongoing impacts of nuclear testing, including inter alia, human rights, environmental contamination, and health impacts, and acknowledge the need for the commissioning of an appropriate body to undertake a comprehensive, independent and objective scientific assessment of the contamination issue in the Pacific, including in the nuclear test site at Runit;
39. **Recognise** the urgent need for effective implementation of enabling and coherent policy instruments, regulatory frameworks consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and good governance to sustainably manage the marine environment and resources from the potential impacts of seabed mining and related activities;
40. **Recognise** that deep seabed mining has potential economic benefits for all small Pacific island economies and may support national sustainable development goals and such mining may also have the potential to negatively impact the ocean and its marine resources and ecosystems;
41. **Note** the ongoing negotiations to develop Regulations on Exploitation of Mineral Resources in the Area under the International Seabed Authority and **request** that SPREP engages in this process;
42. **Urge** SPREP and its Members to implement the precautionary approach, as set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992), and commit to ensure proper licensed exploration and research is conducted and collected data made available as part of effective implementation of robust and transparent environmental impact assessment processes that comply with existing national laws, regional and international conventions and best practice;
43. **Recognise** the need to develop and utilise the best available scientific knowledge to protect the marine environment and to
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ensure that robust environmental standards apply to seabed mining;

44. **Reaffirm** support to the effective implementation of the SPREP Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Pacific island countries and territories and its application to seabed mining and related activities in line with existing national laws;
45. **Acknowledge** the contribution of SPREP to the Regional Environment Management Framework for deep sea minerals through the Pacific Community's Deep Sea Minerals Project;
46. **Recognise** the importance of cooperation between CROP agencies and the need to develop expertise within the region to provide scientific expert advice with respect to seabed mining, deep-sea ecology and oceanography;

#### **Other business**

47. **Welcome** the opening of the Pacific Climate Change Centre on 5 September 2019 and **express appreciation** for the partnership by SPREP, the Government of Samoa and the Government of Japan, with support from the Government of New Zealand, in establishing the Centre as a regional hub and centre of excellence for coordinating strategic and effective Pacific solutions on climate change; and
48. **Note** the Metz Charter on Biodiversity adopted by the G7 in May 2019.

#### **6 September 2019**