Outcomes Statement

Clean Pacific Roundtable 2021
Clean Environment. Resilient Ocean. Healthy Communities

[PP0] At the 3rd Clean Pacific Roundtable hosted by New Caledonia and held virtually on 16 to 25 November 2021, representatives from Government, the Private Sector and Civil Society adopted the following Outcome Statement:

[PP1] We, the representatives of Government, the Private Sector and Civil Society of: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and, Wallis & Futuna.

[PP2] Reaffirm: The Pacific Ocean is the lifeblood of our society. It provides our cultural and historical identity since time immemorial and unites our islands in common purpose.

[PP3] Note with alarm the unprecedented severity and frequency of threats the Pacific Ocean faces from climate change, plastics pollution and marine litter, and other anthropogenic stressors.

[PP4] Restate our commitment to the “2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent”.

[PP5] Recognise that a resilient Blue Pacific is necessary to meet the extraordinary and unabating challenges of our times.

[PP6] Recall the commitments made by SPREP Ministers’ High Level Talanoa 2021 Accelerating Actions for a Resilient Blue Pacific to act now to identify and accelerate actions in order to achieve a resilient Blue Pacific.

[PP7] Further recall that marine pollution - including plastics pollution, nuclear waste, radioactive and other contaminants, hazardous and noxious substances, oil spills, and contamination from World War II wrecks, other shipwrecks and unexploded ordinances - produces negative impacts on food security, human health, biodiversity, livelihoods and culture. Entire ecosystems and species are placed at risk as well as the people whose livelihoods and economic development depend on them.

[PP8] Recall the successful outcomes of the inaugural 2016 and 2018 Clean Pacific Roundtable as a platform to initiate regional and national cooperation in the waste and pollution sector and enable monitoring and progress reporting against the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy (Cleaner Pacific 2025).

[PP9] Further recall the recommendations, endorsements and commitments made at the 30th SPREP Meeting for the implementation of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 notably the establishing of Environment Sectors (with disaster waste included) within National Disaster Management Offices to address disaster waste and other environmental issues, the Asbestos Management Legislative Reform Pathway and Code of Practice and Policy Note; the development of a Mercury Free Pacific Campaign to phase out mercury containing products; the development of a Healthcare Medical
Waste Investment Plan and support for donor intervention; and the Pathway for a sustainable financing mechanism for waste management.

[PP10] **Acknowledge** responsibilities of Parties to MEAs for record keeping and reporting and the value in monitoring to assist with informed decision making and agree to resource appropriate monitoring & evaluation activities in their governance framework.

[PP11] **Acknowledge** that the Clean Pacific Roundtable is a vehicle to disseminate outcomes, promote regional collaboration and resource complementarity to prevent pollution-related issues that impact the health of the ocean and communities within the region.

[PP12] **Recall** the “Pacific Regional Declaration on the Prevention of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and its Impacts” presented at the 2021 SPREP Meeting Environmental Ministers’ High-Level Talanoa recognizing the interlinkages between climate change and human rights, in a way that highlights the growing understanding of plastics pollution beyond marine litter, and which calls on governments to enter into negotiations regarding a binding global agreement on marine litter and plastic pollution.

[PP13] **Affirm** that as the Blue Pacific, we are implementing the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025, however, we recognise that the interconnectivity of the world’s oceans means that marine pollution as a transboundary problem, to be effectively addressed, requires the coordinated and effective involvement of all countries.

and, in relation to the following topics the outcomes of the Clean Pacific Roundtable are as follows:

**Circular Economy**

[OP1] **Strongly support and urge** all Pacific countries to acknowledge their responsibilities under MEAs to agree to resource appropriate monitoring, record keeping, evaluation, and reporting in their governance framework to assist with informed decision making.

[OP2] **Support** circular economy as an approach to addressing waste and pollution issues in the Pacific. Where the circular economy approach prioritises practices and products that are safe, toxic and hazard free at all stages of the supply chain.

[OP3] **Emphasise** that Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge Systems, Practices, and Innovations with free prior and informed consent already embody Circular Economy approaches such as composting and farming.

[OP4] **Commit** to putting in place processes and policies that will enable a circular economy, which prioritises waste and pollution prevention and includes but is not limited to bans on products that we do not want, such as single use plastics, extended producer responsibility, including backloading/reverse logistics, and container deposit fees/advanced recovery fees, which promote recycling.

**Technological Innovations with Public-Private Partnerships**
[OP5] **Emphasise** the value that private industry can bring to the issue of innovation in waste management and environmental protection and noting that there are certain waste streams and services that are best provided by industry.

[OP6] **Emphasise** that an enabling robust legislative framework environment that is aligned where necessary with other Pacific island countries and territories including the asbestos code of practice and used oil management incentives, is a useful tool to encourage investment and partnerships whilst ensuring the protecting of human health and the environment.

[OP7] **Support** Public Private Partnerships as well as partnerships with tertiary institutions in waste management that can take many forms, but are centred on the basis of a partnership where both risk and reward are shared.

[OP8] **Emphasise** that Pacific island countries and territories value of sustainable financing instruments and will encourage the design and implementation of these for the management of problem wastes.

[OP9] **Call** on new Public Private Partnerships to be a truly shared responsibility that enable significant improvements in waste management to occur.

[OP10] **Strongly support and urge** all SPREP Members and donor partners to support the development of a Mercury Free Pacific Campaign to phase out mercury containing products; the development of a Healthcare Medical Waste Investment Plan and support for donor intervention; and the Pathway for a sustainable financing mechanism for waste management.

[OP11] **Strongly support and urge** all SPREP Members and donor partners to support the development of National Plastics Elimination Plans, to phase out toxic and single-use plastics products, and support the drafting of legislation that ensures plastics are returned to point of production at end of life.

**Bridging people and waste: Enhancing consciousness in waste prevention and management**

[OP11] **Support** raising awareness that our way of consuming and therefore producing waste has a negative effect on our environment, and that everyone can limit and reduce this impact through appropriate actions targeted at waste prevention.

[OP12] **Support** the development and implementation of tools, devices, and practices for improved and sustainable behaviour change, while respecting people and their well-being.

[OP13] **Call** on businesses, community, and civil society groups to play an active role in waste prevention and waste management outcomes and to be best practise platform for enhancing behavioural change in key waste prevention and management agendas.

[OP14] **Emphasise** the importance of addressing disaster waste and understanding the complexities associated and challenges in addressing multiple waste streams following a disaster contributes towards Disaster Risk Reduction improving community resilience.

[OP15] **Emphasise** the importance of addressing plastics pollution, acknowledging the region’s import dependency and the complex transboundary challenges.