

#### Cluster 4: Green Economy and Circular Economy

##### **Item 10: Submitted to the Secretariat by the Government of Mongolia on 21 December**

To provide information and guidance on the draft resolution submitted by Government of Mongolia on *Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure*.

##### **Introduction**

As towns and cities and urban centers grow, people gain opportunities, prosperity and well-being, but that also upsets the social, economic and environmental balance. As an example, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) come from urban areas, most of which are due to poorly designed and decisions on infrastructure development. Therefore sustainable and resilient infrastructure is vital in our region.

The concept of sustainable and resilient infrastructure refers to infrastructure and systems that are designed to meet the population's essential service needs. This includes roads, bridges, telephone, hydroelectric power stations, water dam and buildings and land sub-divisions etc. — based on all-round sustainable principles. This means the infrastructure is environmentally friendly from end to end, and that includes economic, financial, social, environmental and institutional factors.

According to the development institutions, sustainable and resilient infrastructure prove more profitable as they make for more reliable services and greater resilience to extreme weather events, as well as lessening the impact of natural threats to people, environment and the economy.

**According to the definition provided by UNEP, Green Economy -** A green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

**The Addis Ababa Action:** The Action Agenda establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities:

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

The table below provide some analysis on the resolution proposed by Mongolia and how it aligns and benefit policies and programmes in the Pacific Region.

Paragraph – key messages	Alignment of the draft resolutions with Pacific region goals, initiatives and frameworks	Recommendation and comments

<p><i>Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action recognized that investing in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transport, energy, water and sanitation for all, was a prerequisite for achieving many goals, and expressed a commitment by countries to facilitate development of sustainable, accessible and resilient quality infrastructure in developing countries through enhanced financial and technical support</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) which identifies the importance of finance as a means of progressing sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We currently feel the adverse impacts of climate change, and other environmental issues which creates challenges and have placed additional burdens on national budgets and their efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals</li> <li>2. We will need adequate and coordinated support from the United Nations system and partners and the importance of accessible and transparent support from the international financial institutions that take fully into account the specific needs.</li> <li>3. This will also continue to strengthen financing from all sources, domestic. Regional and international, public and private for the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure.</li> </ol>
<p><i>Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, acknowledging Sustainable Development Goal 9 on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, and noting that the objective of promoting sustainable infrastructure is</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) which emphasize more public and private investment in building and maintaining appropriate Infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>This contributes to socio-economic growth and environmental sustainability will be strengthened.</p> <p>This can also contribute to healthy cities and towns in the region.</p> <p>There are member countries already adopting concept of creating healthy cities and towns.</p> <p>There is also Sister City Concepts.</p>

reflected in the other Goals and targets,		
<p><i>Recalling further General Assembly resolution 71/256 of 23 December 2016 endorsing the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), entitled “New Urban Agenda”, and highlighting the commitment in paragraph 45 of that document to develop sustainable and inclusive urban economies, building on resource-efficient and resilient infrastructure and promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns,</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) that reaffirms our commitment to the sustainable development of Small Island developing States.</li> <li>• Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy for integrated and sustainable waste management and pollution prevention.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Countries to continue to work on national initiatives on waste and pollution management;</p> <p>Continue to promote and strengthen policies proper town and urban planning and zoning polices.</p>
<p><i>Recalling also its resolution 4/5 on sustainable infrastructure, which encourages Member States to develop and strengthen national and regional systems-level strategic approaches to infrastructure planning, promotes nature-based solutions and encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to support countries in building the technical and institutional capacity to develop sustainable infrastructure as well as to prepare a report on best practices for sustainable</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li> <li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li> <li>• The Regional Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines and</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Environmental assessment and planning policies within respective countries are already existing and this will be good opportunity to access further support on capacity building at the National and Regional level. In areas of monitoring and enforcement and putting in place national guidelines to guide decisions and other EIA/SEA processes.</p> <p>This can also assist work in the region on understanding the connections between nature,</p>

<p>infrastructure, drawing on the wide body of existing normative guidance, and identifies gaps in existing knowledge,</p>	<p>Strategic Environment Assessment Guidelines is a commitment by PICS to strengthen national and regional approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• .</li> </ul>	<p>biodiversity, ecosystems, human health, sustainable economic development and infrastructure and how to incorporate climate variability into infrastructure planning and design.</p> <p>Nature based solution infrastructure and how best it should be best delivered. This is already being discussed in some of the member countries.</p>
<p><i>Recalling also General Assembly resolution 75/1 of 21 September 2020, entitled “Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations”, which emphasized that the COVID-19 pandemic offers a historic opportunity for countries to build back better and greener and stressed the need for international cooperation to ensure a more inclusive and sustainable recovery,</i></p>	<p>1. It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</p> <p>2. It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</p>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Covid-19 has been felt badly in our region and this needs to be supported to support countries in during this challenging time.</p> <p>This can also assist work in the region on understanding the connections between nature, biodiversity, ecosystems, human health, sustainable economic development and infrastructure and how to incorporate climate variability into infrastructure planning and design</p>
<p><i>Recalling further the updated, comprehensive overview of the UN system response to COVID-19, entitled “United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better”, which</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li> <li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Covid-19 has been felt badly in our region and this needs to be supported to support countries in during this challenging time.</p>

stressed the need for green jobs and infrastructure	Conservation 2021-2025.	
<i>Recognizing that infrastructure is inextricably linked to the UN Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) by directly or indirectly influencing 92% of the 169 individual SDG targets 4 and is central to many governments' COVID-19 economic recovery plans as a means of creating employment, boosting productivity, addressing inequalities and building resilience to future crises,</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li> <li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Covid-19 has been felt badly in our region and this needs to be supported to support countries in during this challenging time.</p>
<i>Recognizing also that a green economic recovery 5 will only be possible if investments are made in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, guaranteeing 'green and decent' jobs and income; natural and social infrastructure as well as economic infrastructure (integrating digital infrastructure and solutions where appropriate); sustainable consumption and production through circularity; responsible finance and investment for climate stability and ecosystems integrity; and socially inclusive outcomes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li> <li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li> <li>• Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy on Waste and Pollution</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Existing Green Growth Framework existing in some Pacific Island Countries are in line with this resolution that strengthens balance in development that is sustainable for our future.</p>
<i>Recalling further General Assembly Resolution 75/202 of 21 December 2020 entitled "Information and</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Information sharing and communication is vital during this</p>



communications technologies for sustainable development” that highlights the importance of information and communication technology infrastructure in providing access to basic services,	of Action (SAMOA Pathway).	challenging time we are in now. E.g. Tonga Volcano Communication Problem  Information and communication technologies management system at national level to support sound decision is important.
<i>Acknowledging that nature-based solutions, including natural infrastructure (for example for air quality, carbon sequestration, natural cooling, water filtration, flood protection and land stabilization) provide cost-effective and resilient alternatives or complements to build infrastructure in the context of constrained fiscal capacity and should be prioritized to restore and sustain healthy ecosystems and societies as part of a green recovery,</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li><li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li><li>• The Regional Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines and Strategic Environment Assessment Guidelines is a commitment by PICs to strengthen national and regional approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and development.</li></ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Initiatives by countries on tree planting programmes and promoting infrastructure that relies on natural energy will be strengthened.</p> <p>In this Climate Change Crisis the region is going through, this is an opportunity to build on initiatives in water harvesting and treatment which is put in place by some of our member countries.</p> <p>This will further strengthen integration and collaboration of the different sectors in terms of decision making and lessen impacts of development on biodiversity.</p>
<i>Noting that Multilateral Development Banks and other public and private financial institutions can deploy financial instruments for sustainable and resilient infrastructure, co-financing individual projects informed by the International Good Practice Principles for</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li><li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li></ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>This is an opportunity to strengthen existing work on developing Environment and Social Safeguards at National Level to be in line with Banks and financial institution ESS guidelines.</p>

Sustainable Infrastructure7 (the Principles)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regional Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines and Strategic Environment Assessment Guidelines is a commitment by PICs to strengthen national and regional approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and development assessment.</li> </ul>	Will also strengthen Environment Assessment processes and guidelines at National Level.
<i>Encourages Member States to align infrastructure planning and investments with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement to advance green recoveries from the COVID-19 crisis</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li> </ul>	<b>To support</b> because of opportunities that can arise to support the region on green growth and development. Especially during this challenging time we are going through (Covid-19, Climate Change and other natural disaster)
<i>Encourages Member States and other stakeholders to:</i> Fully implement the ten 'International Good Practice Principles for Sustainable Infrastructure' and integrate them into national policy and legal frameworks;  (b) Operationalize the Principles through use and development of available sustainable infrastructure tools;  (c) Co-develop knowledge products and participate in exchange mechanisms to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)</li> <li>It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025</li> <li>The Regional Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines and Strategic Environment Assessment Guidelines is a commitment by PICs to strengthen</li> </ul>	<b>To Support</b>  It will strengthen opportunity to strengthen ESS, EIA and SEA policies and programmes in the Region and at national level.

<p>share best practices and lessons learned;</p> <p>(d) Cooperate internationally to establish common frameworks and mechanisms for financing and monitoring sustainable infrastructure;</p> <p>(e) Consider the role of digital infrastructure in enabling sustainable consumption and production patterns and improving the sustainability and efficiency of other infrastructure systems as part of integrated approaches.</p>	<p>national and regional approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and development assessment.</p>	
<p><i>Encourages Member States to:</i></p> <p>(a) Advance integrated, systems-level approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and delivery;</p> <p>(b) Engage sub-national institutions to adopt the Principles where relevant, in local recovery-focused infrastructure plans and projects;</p> <p>(c) Prioritize investment in natural infrastructure, as an asset class for delivering essential services, creating employment and accelerating SDG progress;</p> <p>(d) Promote investments in sustainable health infrastructure for improved resilience and resource efficiency, with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)</li> <li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li> <li>• Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy</li> <li>• The Regional Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines and Strategic Environment Assessment Guidelines is a commitment by PICs to strengthen national and regional approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>This will be an opportunity to improve and strengthen these issues in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development planning and assessment.</li> <li>- National Building Codes</li> <li>- Environmental and Social Safeguards</li> <li>- Management of health waste.</li> </ul>

<p>environmentally sound management of medical waste;</p>	<p>and development assessment.</p>	
<p><i>Requests the Executive Director to support Member States by:</i></p> <p>(a) Developing knowledge and providing technical assistance and capacity support, within available resources, to plan and deliver sustainable infrastructure investments that will drive a green recovery;</p> <p>(b) Working with Member States, the UN system (e.g. through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy) and other international partners to establishing a platform or mechanism to support sharing of experiences, peer-to-peer learning, and technical assistance, capacity building, and training on sustainable infrastructure in the long-term;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway)</li> <li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025</li> <li>• The Regional Environment Impact Assessment Guidelines and Strategic Environment Assessment Guidelines is a commitment by PICs to strengthen national and regional approaches to sustainable infrastructure planning and development assessment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Due to the impacts of natural disaster in the region, this will be a good opportunity to strengthen engineering and building codes requirements at national level.</p>

#### Cluster 4: Green Economy and Circular Economy

##### **Item 11. Draft resolution from Eritrea on behalf of the African Group on green recovery**

To provide information and guidance on the draft resolution submitted by Government of Eritrea on behalf of the African Group on green recovery.

##### **Introduction**

COVID-19 has impacted the Pacific Islands Countries and territories significantly, primarily through declines in revenue due to border closures. Pacific Island Governments acted decisively to manage a major risk to public health. Restrictions on travel for tourists to Pacific Island Countries has had significant impacts on National and local economies.

The tourist industry has been hit the hardest with restrictions on travel costing the industry very highly. Many businesses have already closed and many face extreme hardship as the effects of COVID-19 continue to develop.

Furthermore declines in incomes have led to increased reliance on subsistence gathering, and on exploiting new areas of land for commercial activities (such as Kava cultivation) which has placed considerable pressure on natural resources.

The principles of green recovery are outlined in the submission Preamble.

- a. Green finance, including increasing flows, efficiency, and impact of funding,
- b. Supporting renewable energy, energy efficiency and national just transition,
- c. Nature-based solutions with focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, forestry, oceans, and ecotourism,
- d. Resilient agriculture, inclusive economic development and green jobs, and
- e. Green and resilient cities, including water flooding and water resources.

The resolution seeks to **provide a framework to support implementation of environment and sustainable development initiatives while identifying new areas requiring strategic interventions.**

The resolution also seeks to highlight the importance of prioritizing the institution of green and sustainable recovery measures and to increase efforts in awareness, capacity building, financing, technology transfer and cooperative arrangements So that progress toward SDGs are not lost.

The table below provide some analysis on the resolution proposed by Eritrea and how it aligns and benefit policies and programmes in the Pacific Region.

<b>Paragraph – key messages</b>	<b>Alignment of the draft resolutions with Pacific region goals, initiatives and frameworks</b>	<b>Recommendation and comments</b>
PP 3. Reiterating that the COVID-19 pandemic does not change the urgency of addressing the environmental and climate crisis challenges, but has instead accelerated the need for the world to take urgent action to address these challenges so as to prevent substantial impacts on the long-term recovery from COVID-19,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This also aligns with current negotiations in the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework which calls for more urgent and transformative approach to conservation and sustainable use and benefit sharing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>4. The COVID-19 crisis has placed pressures on all economies. SIDS must continue to advocate for nature-based solutions and good custodianship of natural resource management in line with Pacific Island regional frameworks</p> <p>5. COVID-19 should not be a reason to postpone environmental protections and ecosystem-based management, Rather it should be a stimulus for greater action.</p>
PP 7. Noting that the response to COVID-19 pandemic requires countries and stakeholders to be more proactive and take urgent measures and interventions that are commensurate to the rate of its uncertain and unfolding nature in a timely and impactful manner;		<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>There is a need for increased vigilance and support for monitoring and surveillance and positive actions to combat illegal fishing which has a great cost to Pacific Island States and has potential to cause severe damage to fish stocks.</p>
OP 1. Encourages Member States to strengthen current measures to promote sustainable management of natural capital, conserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although not specifically referring to pandemics, this aligns with</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p>

<p>biodiversity, protect ecosystem services and their functions, combat climate change and pollution as part of the contribution to implementing recovery measures.</p>	<p>Noumea Convention, Blue Pacific Narrative, Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy, Framework for Nature Conservation, Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Framework</p>	<p>The Pacific region leads the world in regional cooperation on these things</p>
<p>OP 2. Call upon countries and the international community to prioritize institutionalization of green and sustainable recovery measures, to enable communities to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic, that can deliver mutual benefits and co-benefits for social, economic and environmental resilience in a holistic and inclusive manner through green approaches, including finance, innovation, technology, awareness, capacity building and cooperative arrangements and the adequate, predictable and accessible provisions of support to developing countries, in particular African countries, to assist national efforts for implementation of such measures, such as:</p> <p>a) renewable energy initiatives and national just transition which promotes a long-term economically viable recovery, increase job opportunities,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li> <li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li> </ul> <p>National renewable Energy targets and NDCs.</p>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Pacific can agree with all of this., Perhaps the language “in particular African Countries” could be expanded to LDCs?</p> <p>Resource mobilization is key.</p> <p>In the face of the pandemic, national interests of donors may be taking priority so this resolution is timely to serve as a reminder that developing states still need support.</p> <p>The benefits of the biodiversity and natural resource assets (particularly the tuna Fisheries) of the Pacific region are shared amongst all of humankind, so it is important not to forget that PICTs need continued support for sustainable development.</p> <p>While Pacific are not large emissions, benefits of renewable energy can flow from decreased pollution, but solutions should</p>



<p>energy access and productivity, while contributing to mitigation efforts,</p> <p>b) Ecosystems based approaches that supports biodiversity, sustainable land management, forestry conservation, oceans management and ecotourism while contributing to improved livelihoods,</p> <p>c) Climate resilient and sustainable agriculture focused on creation of green jobs to eradicate poverty, reduce food insecurity and generate increased economic growth in agricultural sector and rural communities, and</p> <p>d) Green and resilient cities with a focus on information, communication and technology to support sustainable urban planning models, resilient infrastructure development, and disaster risk reduction strategies to ensure adaptation to climate change while also providing positive effects on biodiversity, climate, wellness and air quality</p>	<p>Pacific position is aligned to this in many regional policies and frameworks</p>	<p>focus on delivering affordable power.</p> <p>Support this wording, “oceans management” could be strengthened with “oceans and fisheries”</p> <p>Of relevance here also are climate driven changes to fisheries as the main source of revenue for many Pacific Island states.</p> <p>There may be opportunities to explore support for alternative livelihoods and adaptive management for fisheries post COVID.</p>
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OP 3. Encourages member states to strengthen measures to undertake COVID-19 recovery measures in national and sectoral development plans so as to create a clean, resilient, and inclusive society.	3. The Draft Pacific 2050 strategy mentions the challenges which have been imposed by COVID.	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Covid-19 has been felt badly in our region and this needs to be supported to support countries in during this challenging time.</p> <p>For national governments in Pacific it may be necessary to revisit the National Ocean Policies/Strategies to check how this language aligns.</p>
OP 4. Requests United Nations entities and partners to support and engage countries in research and development, innovative technology, finance mobilisation, capacity-building and knowledge sharing for an inclusive green recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p>
OP 5. Urges Member States to share knowledge and build capacity, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in the areas of research and development, technology transformation and transfer to ensure equal access to data, knowledge, technical support for an inclusive green recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</li> <li>It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>Covid-19 has been felt badly in our region and this needs to be supported to support countries in during this challenging time.</p>
OP 6. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to support countries, through the revamped United Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It supports the decision under the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b></p> <p>It could be worth raising that the principles of blue-green economies need to be clearly</p>

<p>development coordination system, on information, knowledge, capacity development and technical support, for a better and resilient green recovery.</p>	<p>of Action (SAMOA Pathway).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is in line with Pacific Framework for Nature Conservation 2021-2025.</li> <li>• Cleaner Pacific 2025 Strategy on Waste and Pollution</li> </ul>	<p>defined. Particularly in the ocean space where there are numerous interpretations of the term.</p>
<p>OP 7. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical assistance to countries, especially developing countries and countries with economies in transition that catalyses efforts for resource mobilization, for strengthening and scaling up country's efforts on green recovery measures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Also aligns with key provisions in CBD post 2020 GBF- which the Pacific support.</li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b>  It is important that knowledge and capacity building be delivered in a way that “catalyses efforts”</p>
<p>OP 8. Calls upon the international community, private sector, multilateral financial institutions, banks and insurance companies to support countries whose economies have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through provision of traditional and innovative finance for a green path to recovery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GEF7 Island 2 Island project will consolidate frameworks for blue economy.</li> <li>• </li> </ul>	<p><b>To Support</b>  In the Pacific context the term Blue-green economy may be more relevant, recognizing the importance of ocean and coastal resources for the sustainable livelihoods of Pacific people.</p>

## Cluster 4: Green Economy and Circular Economy

### **Item 12: Draft resolution on Enhancing circular economy**

To provide information and guidance on the draft resolution submitted by Government of Eritrea on behalf of the African Group on green recovery.

#### **Introduction**

This draft resolution seeks to enhance the circular economy through highlighting the importance of the circular economy and to address the full life cycle of materials from design, production to waste prevention and management and **ensure coherence and coordination of activities at national, regional and international levels.**

The draft resolution encourages member states to integrate the circular economy into national and regional development plans – with particular focus on micro small and medium enterprises.

While this is a position that the Pacific broadly agrees with, particularly in the area of waste management and in particular plastic waste, there exist significant challenges to implementing the circular economy in the Pacific due to issues of small scale which imposes significant challenges for the development of economically viable recycling operations.

Secondly the region faces challenges in developing economic circularity as the private sector is very small and does not have a lot of capital available for investment in new economic paradigms.

Therefore, the Pacific needs support from partners to create innovative solutions which are tailored to the Pacific context. The region will also require investment partners who are able to be prepared to operate at small scales and can develop creative solutions to manage financial risk.

The table below provide some analysis on the resolution proposed by Eritrea and how it aligns and benefit policies and programmes in the Pacific Region.

Paragraph – key messages	Recommendation and comments
OP 1. Invites member States, to take measures to develop national and regional circular economy strategies and action plans and integrate circular economy in the national development plans to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	<b><u>To Support</u></b>
OP 2. Underlines the need to develop and strengthen partnerships between Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, the scientific community, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant parties	<b><u>To Support</u></b>

to promote and enhance investments in circular economy solutions.	
OP 3. Invites member states to strengthen local, national and regional institutional and coordinating mechanisms to support the circular economy transition, including strong policies, legal and regulatory frameworks.	<b><u>To Support</u></b>
OP 4. Encourages the international community and partners to promote innovative solutions for a circular economy by facilitating and enhancing, inter alia, education, research and development, capacity development, private and public partnerships.	<b><u>To Support</u></b>
OP 5. Encourages member states to enhance knowledge management on circular economy, develop strong communication mechanisms, awareness creation platforms, and strengthen information sharing within and across countries and regions.	<b><u>To Support</u></b>
OP 6. Further encourages member states to support access to adequate, predictable and sustainable resources including green finance from private and public sources, technology development, dissemination, and transfer for uptake of circular economy especially by Micro Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, in particular to African countries.	<b><u>To Support</u></b>
OP 7. Urges Member States to transform markets for the uptake of circular economy including products that promote direct reuse, repair, refurbishment and remanufacturing and promote sustainable consumption and production for example through sustainable public procurement.	<b><u>To Support</u></b>
OP 8. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with other United Nations entities, development partners and the international community, to facilitate the collaboration among member states in the research, capacity building, knowledge management and sharing of best practices for the promotion of innovative solutions for a global transition to a circular economy.	<b><u>To Support</u></b>
OP 9. Also requests the Executive Director to report to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its sixth session on the implementation of this resolution.	<b><u>To Support</u></b>

## Cluster 4: Green Economy and Circular Economy

### **Item 13: Concept note on a draft resolution on mineral resource governance**

#### **Purpose of the paper:**

Provide guidance and recommendations on the concept note submitted by Argentina, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Senegal and Switzerland, on the proposal to draft a resolution on mineral resource governance.

#### **Analysis of key messages:**

The proposed draft resolution highlights the key challenges that the extraction of minerals and metals to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. It further casts doubt on the ability of governments around the world to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement due to increasing demand for minerals such as graphite, lithium, cobalt, and sand and gravel. Finally, the proposal draws attention to the significant amount of energy, water and raw materials that are used in extraction of minerals and the resulting waste they produce, citing a recent report from mining companies that mining waste is predicted to increase by 25% in the next 5 years.

The resolution is framed around 3 key questions:

Paragraph – key messages	Recommendation and comments
<p><b>1. Why do we need a resolution on mineral resource governance?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is a global challenge that requires urgent global action: all countries are dependent on minerals – whether extractive, trading, investing or consuming activities take place.</li> <li>• The existing fragmented international governance poses a challenge to transformative change. There is a need to intensify the changes on mineral resources governance to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. We lack a global and integrated approach to sustainable mining. Despite their essential role, minerals are not referenced in the SDGs. Furthermore, the multitude of instruments runs the risk of incoherence and inefficiency, while some issues are neglected. Sand for instance is the largest volume of solid materials extracted globally, yet one of the least regulated in many regions.</li> </ul>	<p>Agree with the rationale for the proposed resolution.</p> <p>Can also raise the challenges faced by the Pacific in seabed mining. The region needs the support of the international scientific community to understand the impacts of such mining practices before they venture into them.</p> <p>As coastal communities, the Pacific has many islands that contain naturally occurring sand. Several countries in the region have been approached by investors venturing into sand mining in the absence of regulations.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This might also prevent responsible investments, further exacerbating environmental problems. A high burden exists for mineral-intensive countries to regulate the sector, while insufficient support is available.</li><li>• Despite the fact that the safe management of tailings is achievable, the number of serious tailings dam failures has increased in recent years, and climate change increases the risks<sup>10</sup>. The newly launched Global Industry Standard on tailings management is a milestone, but needs further steps towards efficient implementation with setting up an independent entity.</li><li>• Strengthening the governance of mining is more important than ever before. The challenges have further aggravated with the COVID-19 pandemic. International cooperation can help ensure that governance efforts are aligned with internationally agreed environmental goals, and mining positively contribute to sustainable development</li></ul>	
<p><b>2. What does the resolution call for?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The draft resolution builds on the outputs of the implementation of the UNEA-4 resolution on mineral resource governance (EA.4/Res.19) <sup>11</sup>, in particular the regional consultations facilitated by UNEP. <sup>12</sup> These demonstrated the need for global policy action in a number of pressing areas such as: artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM); transparency and accountability; environmental due diligence; tailings management; the role of the financial sector, with the recommendation of setting up an intergovernmental working group<sup>13</sup>.</li><li>• The draft resolution takes the work one-step forward by calling for an ad hoc open-ended working group to further work on these pressing issues. It focuses on addressing environmental impacts linked to the extraction, processing and</li></ul>	<p>Agree and support.</p> <p>Can call for support to make the ASM sector in PNG free from the use of mercury.</p>



<p>refining of mineral resources where relevant, and along the full life cycle of the mine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It complements work undertaken under EA.4/Res.1 on sustainable consumption and production and EA.4/Res.5 on sustainable infrastructure. The way in which we use mineral and metals is a key aspect in a circular economy and can provide a fundamental contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12) globally.</li></ul>	
<p><b>3. What is the outline of the resolution?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In the preamble, the draft resolution describes the context. It recognizes the urgency and importance of ongoing action at international level. It recalls previous commitments under the SDGs, including SDG 12 and its target 12.214 , relevant UNEA resolutions and developments. It states the important role of minerals in this context, and refers to pressing issues, such as tailings safety, sand, ASM.</li><li>• In the operative paragraphs, the draft resolution outlines key elements setting out the mandate of the OEWG. It is proposed that the OEWG develops a vision and objectives for sustainable mining, and makes recommendations to UNEA on how to strengthen the environmental dimension of existing initiatives and standards, as well as on the need to develop new voluntary and legally binding instruments towards filling environmental governance gaps related to minerals.</li><li>• Thematic areas indicated are not exhaustive, but would include artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), sand, tailings management, repurposing of mining sites, the role of the financial sector, marginalized groups, local content. It will be for the OEWG to define the exact scope, prioritize work, and decide on the final content of the outputs.</li></ul>	<p>Agree and support</p> <p>The Pacific can play a prominent role on the OEWG given the strong mining industries in Australia and Papua New Guinea.</p>



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The draft resolution requests more research and work by UNEP with relevant stakeholders to address the current lack of data, monitoring and regulation on sand.</li><li>• The draft resolution also highlights the need for an authoritative certification process for the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management via the establishment of an independent entity.</li><li>• Action developed under the resolution should use synergies with existing initiatives and be mutually reinforcing. The OEWG will be informed by and building upon other relevant resolutions, reports by the UNEP, the International Resources Panel, the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development, and other initiatives as appropriate.</li><li>• Work under the resolution will be funded by voluntary contribution</li></ul> |  |
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