

Preparatory Plan for the 2nd Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2)

A. Introduction

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), through Members, is proposing a series of initiatives to prepare for the 2nd Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-2) scheduled to be held from 29 May to 2 June 2023 in Paris, France.

The 1st Session of the INC (INC-1) held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, set out the pathway and direction for our member countries to chart the next course for the upcoming INC-2. In that regard, SPREP is committed to work with our Members to sufficiently prepare for the INC-2.

B. Objectives

The broad objectives of the preparatory plan are:

- To recap on the outcomes of the INC-1;
- To unpack the outcomes of the INC-1;
- To develop negotiations and engagement strategies for INC-2; and
- To coordinate the Pacific Voices at the INC-2.

C. Methodology

SPREP through internal planning and consultations with technical teams is proposing the following methodology to sufficiently prepare our member countries for INC-2. These are proposed timelines and plans which will be confirmed through virtual discussions with Members.

(i) Virtual sessions

There will be a series of virtual sessions organised by SPREP for Members to recap on the outcomes and share experiences from INC-1 as well as prepare for INC2. These virtual sessions are proposed on the following timelines:

- a) Session 1: Week commencing 3 April 2023 on Wednesday 5 April @ 12pm–1pm (Apia time) in the following link:
<https://sprep.zoom.us/j/94129891389?pwd=MHRaZkxDRGxvaElyb2M5TjB2dkVzUT09>
- b) Session 2: Week commencing 17 April 2023 on Wednesday 19 April @ 12pm–1pm (Apia time) in the following link:
<https://sprep.zoom.us/j/91676133848?pwd=NVCxS0R6MnhMWTlrdG5rUUJsWnV3QT09>
- c) Session 3: Week commencing 8 May 2023 on Wednesday 10 May @ 12pm – 1pm (Apia time) in the following link:
<https://sprep.zoom.us/j/98166985850?pwd=ZjdMNkgrVW9OU2F3dG5Cc2tNQ2JQQT09>
- d) Session 4: Week commencing 15 May 2023 on Wednesday 17 May @ 12pm – 1pm (Apia time) in the following link:
<https://sprep.zoom.us/j/94419229475?pwd=ZHhwSHRjT2pKYmhWZDRySis3ZGcwdz09>

The virtual sessions 1 and 2 will set the scene for the in-person preparatory meeting scheduled to take place 24-25 April 2023 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. This will cover the outcomes and lessons learnt from INC-1, outline of the Pacific preparatory programme for INC-2, analysis of the submissions, discussions at AOSIS and APG regional stakeholder forums, and consultation on Pacific positions.

In addition a negotiation training is also being planned to be held ahead of the in-person preparatory meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

(ii) *In-person preparatory meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands*

This segment of the preparatory plan will be hybrid to be delivered face-to-face as well as virtual and is structured as follows:

- a) Monday, 24 April 2023 – an open session for Members, stakeholders and civil society groups. Primarily, this will be an opportunity for member countries to impart to stakeholders and civil society groups the following:
- Recap on outcomes and lessons learned from INC-1;
 - Recap and share updates on the Pacific positions and discussions; and
 - Introduce the INC-2.

The zoom link is available here:

<https://sprep.zoom.us/j/95834383669?pwd=SWpVN1pxR3dRNlhCbE0xOGpmdmhlZz09>

- b) Tuesday, 25 April 2023 – a closed session for Members only. This was a feature adopted from the regional preparatory meeting held in Suva, Fiji in August 2022. Members welcome this space to have focused discussions. For the closed session in Rarotonga, the following items will be discussed for endorsement:

- Recap of key messages from the open sessions with stakeholders and civil society groups;
- Negotiations trainings for our Pacific INC negotiators. This will be guided by available negotiations resources such as Taking the Floor booklet as well as facilitation by former Pacific negotiators at multilateral negotiations; and
- Draft Pacific Engagement Strategy for INC-2 will be presented to the Members for discussion and endorsement.

(iii) *Lead-up to INC-2*

The virtual sessions 3 & 4 will take place prior to the INC-2 in Paris, France. It is anticipated that these virtual sessions (week commencing 8 May and 15 May) will be opportunities to recap from the meetings in Cook Islands as well as have further discussions on the INC-2.

Two virtual negotiation trainings are also being planned to be held ahead of INC-2 in Paris.

In addition while yet to be confirmed, SPREP plans to hold another in-person meeting and negotiations training prior to the commencement of INC-2 **in Paris**. These plans are subject to confirmation of a room to bring together our Pacific delegates.

D. Overall outcome

The overall outcome of these plans is for our Members to be sufficiently prepared and familiar with the expectations of INC-2 which will include agreed Pacific Engagement Strategy. Familiarity with the engagement strategy will contribute to effective negotiations and agree on possible elements, scope and objectives of a legally binding global instrument to address plastic pollution including in the marine environment.

E. Documents



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SPREP will be sharing the following documents in the coming weeks:

- Provisional Agenda to the Regional Preparatory Conference for INC-2, Cook Islands;
- Outcomes of INC-1; and
- Information on the virtual sessions i.e., calendar invites on exact dates and programme.

F. Contact

The primary contact for queries relating to this preparatory plan is Mr Anthony Talouli, Director of Waste Management and Pollution Control (anthonyt@sprep.org).