

# 32<sup>nd</sup> SPREP Meeting of Officials Outcomes Meeting Report

## Agenda Item 1: Opening

1. The Thirty second SPREP Meeting (32SM) of Officials was held from 2 - 4 September 2025 at the Sheraton Aggie Greys Hotel & Bungalows, Apia, Samoa.
2. Present at the Meeting were representatives from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United Kingdom and Vanuatu.
3. A full list of participants, including observers, is available in Annex xxx
4. The official opening ceremony was held on 1 September at Sheraton Aggie Greys Hotel and Bungalows in Apia, Samoa with welcoming remarks from the Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Mr Sefanaia Nawadra.
5. The Meeting was officially opened by Peseta Noumea Simi, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Government of Samoa.

## Agenda Item 2: Chair and Vice Chair

The Meeting:

- 1) **Confirmed** the Representative of **Vanuatu** as **Chair**; and
- 2) **Confirmed** the Representative of **Nauru** as **Vice-Chair**.

## Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures

The Meeting:

- 1) **Considered** and **adopted** the Provisional Agenda.
- 2) **Agreed** on hours of work.

## Agenda Item 4: Action Taken on Matters Arising from the Fourth Executive Board Meeting

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** actions taken against the decisions and directives of the Fourth Executive Board Meeting.

### **Agenda item 5.1: Presentation of the Annual Report for 2024 and Director General's Overview of Progress since the Fourth Executive Board Meeting**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the overview of the Director General's Report and that the 2024 Annual Report would be available in October, 2025.

### **Agenda item 5.2: Performance Implementation Plan (PIP4): Progress Towards Achieving Strategic Outcomes and High-Level Summary Report**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the progress towards achieving PIP4 (PIP) 2024-2025 strategic outcomes and the implementation of the 2024-2025 Work Programme and Budget.
- 2) **Noted** the Secretariat's responses and actions undertaken on cross-cutting issues and lessons learnt in the implementation on the 1<sup>st</sup> year of implementation of PIP4.

### **Agenda Item 5.3: Outcomes of the SPREP Partnership Dialogue**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Acknowledged** the outcomes of the 2025 SPREP Partnership Dialogue as a strategic input into the development of the new SPREP Strategic Plan.
- 2) **Endorsed** the continuation of the Partnership Dialogue as a biennial platform in the margins of the SPREP Meeting to inform the implementation of SPREP's programmatic priorities and deepen engagement with partners.

### **Agenda item 6.1: Audited Accounts for 2024**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Reviewed** and **adopted** the audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for 2024.

### **Agenda item 6.2: Audit Committee Report**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** and **approved** the report of the Audit Committee for the period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025.
- 2) **Acknowledged** the significant improvement in the Secretariat's reserve position, from US\$2,304,271 in 2023 to US\$2,965,095 in 2024.
- 3) **Welcomed** the increased support from partners and donors.

- 4) **Encouraged** strengthened engagement between Members and the Secretariat, alongside the timely settlement of Member contributions, to support SPREP to effectively fulfil its mandates.
- 5) **Encouraged** the Secretariat to sustain and build momentum in addressing and implementing the recommendations prioritised by the ICR and MTR Working Group, while ensuring that adequate resources are allocated for their timely completion ahead of the next scheduled review.
- 6) **Encouraged** Members' active engagement and collaboration in finalising their respective Country and Territory Strategic Partnership Frameworks (CTSPFs).
- 7) **Urged** the Secretariat to strengthen project monitoring and prioritise the development of an integrated Project Management Information System under the IEMS initiative to enable real-time tracking and improved reporting.
- 8) **Encouraged** the Secretariat to strategically continue leveraging on its GCF and AF accreditation status to explore and access new project opportunities.
- 9) **Encouraged** the Secretariat to continue embedding a proactive risk management culture across all levels of the organisation, ensuring timely risk identification, clear accountability, and integration of risk considerations into strategic and operational decision-making.
- 10) **Urged** the expedited development and implementation of a Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to enhance accountability and responsiveness.
- 11) **Urged** the Secretariat to prioritise resolving human resource challenges and to strengthen capacity-building efforts, ensuring that the Internal Audit function is adequately resourced and empowered to deliver its essential oversight responsibilities.
- 12) **Encouraged** the Secretariat to address the identified gaps and leverage the opportunities highlighted in current and previous Committee reports, ensuring alignment with SPREP's strategic priorities and commitment to continuous improvement.
- 13) **Recorded** its appreciation for the continued cooperation and support of the Director General, Senior Leadership Team, and all staff of SPREP over the past 12 months.

### **Agenda Item 6.3: Report on Membership Contribution**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Considered** the report.
- 2) **Discussed** the issue of outstanding Member contributions.
- 3) **Requested** the Secretariat to continue to follow up with those Members with long-outstanding contributions.
- 4) **Committed** itself collectively and individually to paying current and outstanding contributions in full in 2025.

#### **Agenda Item 6.4: Appointment of External Auditors**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Considered** the paper and **endorsed** the recommendation of the Director General for the appointment of Lochan & Co to audit SPREP's financial accounts for the two (2) financial years ending 31 December 2025 and 2026.
- 2) **Endorsed** the replacement being Leota & Niumata Chartered Accountants for appointment, in the event Lochan & Co are unable to undertake this work.

#### **Agenda item 6.5: Report of the SPREP Working Group on the 2021 Staff Remuneration Review**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the report of Strategic Pay *'Review of SPREP Remuneration System Inclusive of all Staff Terms and Conditions: Final Report.'*
- 2) **Noted** the comments from the Secretariat and Members Working Groups position on the recommendations set out in *'Working Paper 6.5 Attachment 2 Annex B.'*
- 3) **Endorsed** the DG and Secretariat to progress implementation of recommendations that done have substantial budget impacts.
- 4) **Invited** the Secretariat to report to the 5<sup>th</sup> Executive Board in 2026 to seek decisions on recommendations with financial impacts for the supp 2027 budget process as appropriate.
- 5) **Endorsed** the Working Group to continue to provide oversight, support, and guidance for the Secretariats implementation of the recommendations.
- 6) **Endorsed** the Working Groups recommendations on the Strategic Pay Review of SPREP Remuneration System Inclusive of all Staff Terms and Conditions in *'Working Paper 6.5 Attachment 2 Annex B'.*

#### **Agenda item 6.6: Report on the review of the 2012 Staff Regulations**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** that substantive overarching principles that govern staff terms and conditions remain outstanding pending the outcomes of the Remuneration Review.
- 2) **Noted** the need for Members to prioritise finalisation of the Remuneration Review;
- 3) **Noted** that a report on the Remuneration Review was presented by the Members Working Group under Agenda Item 6.5.
- 4) **Approved** that a report on the Staff Regulations Review and Update be presented to the Members once the Remuneration Review is completed.

## **Agenda item 6.7: Update on the preparation of the next SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the update on the preparation of the next SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036.
- 2) **Encouraged** Members to engage in opportunities to contribute to the formulation of the SPREP Strategic Plan 2027–2036.

## **Agenda item 6.8: SPREP Director General's Performance Assessment and Contract Renewal (Closed Session)**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted and endorsed** the review completed by the Troika of the DG's PDP for the period September 2024 - August 2025, acknowledging the many initiatives and positive outcomes, as well as areas requiring attention over the next year.
- 2) **Invited** all Members through a circular to propose relevant and appropriate specific targets they wish to be included in the DG's next PDP by the 31 October 2025. The Troika will then discuss and finalise with the DG his PDP targets by the end of November 2025.
- 3) **Approved** renewal of DG's contract by 2 years to fulfil a maximum 6-year term.

## **Agenda Item 7.1 : Implementing the Pacific Leaders Agenda Update on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent implementation**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the progress on the 2050 Strategy implementation.
- 2) **Noted** the update on the Review of the Regional Architecture and that the Report of the HLPG will be presented to and considered by Forum Leaders at their upcoming meeting in Honiara.
- 3) **Noted** the Secretariat's designated roles and continued engagement in the 2050 Strategy implementation and the Review of the Regional Architecture.
- 4) **Affirmed** the decision of the 4<sup>th</sup> SPREP Executive Board Meeting in 2024 on Implementing the Leaders Agenda, which: "Confirmed that SPREP is an independent intergovernmental organisation established under the SPREP Agreement and the SPREP Meeting is the plenary body responsible for its governance."
- 5) **Requested** that the SPREP Troika and Director General work closely together on any issues arising from phase 3 of the Review of the Regional Architecture that may impact SPREP, noting the difference in the Membership within the CROP agencies.

## **Agenda item: 7.2 – Pacific Climate Change Centre**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the progress made by the Pacific Climate Change Centre towards its objectives (2024-2025).
- 2) **Endorsed** and **noted** the urgency to sustain current staff and the sustainability initiatives of the PCCC to deliver its services.

## **Agenda item 7.2a: Pacific Climate Change Centre Strategy and Business Plan 2025-2030**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the review of the PCCC Strategy and Business Plan 2025-2030 is ongoing and a final draft will be circulated for out-of-session endorsement.

## **Agenda item 7.2b: Pacific Climate Change Research Roadmap 2025-2036**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Endorsed** the Pacific Climate Change Research Roadmap 2025 – 2036.

## **Agenda item 8.1: UNFCCC COP29 outcomes and Preparations for COP30**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the outcomes of PSIDS engagement in COP29;
- 2) **Noted** the progress of preparations by SPREP and One CROP in the lead up to and at the UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, Brazil.
- 3) **Noted** their support for Australia's bid to host COP31 as an Australia-Pacific COP and discussed progress towards securing the bid, preparations for it, and SPREP's and PIFS' support for the Senior Officials Taskforce in their preparations to develop a COP31 work programme.

## **Agenda item 8.2: Report on the outcomes of the CBD COP16**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the outcomes of CBD COP16.
- 2) **Encouraged** Members to implement required national actions and engage in the intersessional CBD meetings.
- 3) **Utilised** the support of SPREP's technical advisory and assistance role and its designation as the CBD sub-regional Centre for Technical and Scientific Cooperation for Oceania.

### **Agenda item 8.3: Report on Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm (BRS), and Minamata Conventions**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the outcomes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.
- 2) **Encouraged** Parties to undertake necessary national actions to implement the outcomes of the BRS COPs.
- 3) **Noted** preparations toward the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
- 4) **Encouraged** Members who are not yet parties to accede and implement the BRS and Minamata Conventions.

### **Agenda item 8.4: Update on the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the outcomes of the INC sessions as well as the preparatory meetings and **requested** a report be made available, including reference to the next steps.
- 2) **Encouraged** active engagement from Members states in the execution and delivery of the current and future projects.
- 3) **Encouraged** SPREP and partners to secure additional support to implement national priorities in the area of plastic pollution.

### **Agenda Item 9.1: Regional Goal 1 Overview: Pacific people benefit from strengthened resilience to climate change**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** and **endorsed** the progress on implementation of Regional Goal 1 activities and planned activities for the biennial period 2026 - 2027.

#### **Agenda Item 9.1.1: Pacific Climate Change Roundtable Outcomes**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the outcomes of the 2025 Pacific Climate Change Roundtable.
- 2) **Agreed** that regional progress towards advancing the outcomes of the 2025 PCCR will be considered at the next PCCR, scheduled for 2027.

### **Agenda item 9.1.2: Outcomes of the Seventh Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-7)**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council.
- 2) **Requested** development partners to invest in the Weather Ready Pacific as the programme to coordinate the wider implementation of people-centred end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems for all Pacific island countries and territories.

### **Agenda item 9.1.3: Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the updated Pacific Roadmap for Strengthened Climate Services (2024-2033).
- 2) **Requested** SPREP Members to support your national meteorological & Hydrological Services, including sector agencies in the implementation of actions of this updated roadmap.

### **Agenda Item 9.2: Overview of Regional Goal 2 - Pacific people benefit from healthy and resilient island and ocean ecosystems**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** and **endorsed** the progress on implementation of Regional Goal 2 activities and planned activities for the biennial period 2026 - 2027.

### **Agenda item 9.2.1: Pacific Chapter of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the GYBN Pacific Chapter is being developed as a strategic platform for youth engagement in regional biodiversity frameworks and consultations.
- 2) **Supported** and **collaborated** with the GYBN Pacific Chapter to develop the regional Youth Engagement Strategy.
- 3) **Supported** the participation of youth in government regional training workshops, mentorship programs, and youth fellowships in biodiversity science, policy, and advocacy.
- 4) **Considered** including a youth representative/s in national delegations for CBD meetings and other global and regional fora.
- 5) **Nominated** youth focal points to engage with the Chapter.



### **Agenda Item 9.2.2: 11<sup>th</sup> Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Area**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the importance of the 11<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Nature Conference for setting the regional conservation agenda, as well as progress in preparations.
- 2) **Committed** to participating including through collaboration, partnership and financial support including to support participation of country representatives, youth representatives, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
- 3) **Noted** current process for updating the regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which will be a major outcome from the Conference to set the direction for regional action and collaboration into the future.

### **Agenda item 9.3: Overview of Regional Goal 3: Pacific people benefit from improved waste management and pollution control**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Endorsed** overview of key priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 3 for the biennial period 2026-2027.

#### **Agenda item 9.3.1: Development of a Pacific Women in Circular Economy (PacWiCE) Network**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Endorsed** the development of the Pacific Women in Circular Economy (PacWiCE) Network and to seek support for its activities.

#### **Agenda item 9.3.2: Pacific Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) Resilience Project**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the outcomes and findings of the PACPLAN Resilience Project.
- 2) **Noted** that SPREP will continue and build on the work of the PACPLAN Resilience Project and be guided by the decisions of the 18th Noumea COP

### **Agenda item 9.4: Regional Goal 4 Overview: Pacific people and their environment benefit from commitment to best practice of environmental governance**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Endorsed** the key strategic priorities to support the implementation and achievement of Regional Goal 4 for the biennial period 2024 to 2026

### **Agenda item 10.1: Draft Performance Implementation Plan (PIP5) 2026-2027 and Updates on the Country Territory Strategic Partnership Framework (CTSPF)**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Endorsed** the PIP5 (2026 – 2027) activities.
- 2) **Encouraged** Pacific Island Members to engage in initiating and or finalise CTSPFs.

### **Agenda Item 10.2: 2026-2027 Biennial Work Programme and Budget**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Considered** and **approved** the proposed Biennial Work Programme and Budget of USD\$51,686,939 for 2026 and provisional Work Programme and Budget of USD\$31,428,882 for 2027.
- 2) **Noted** that a funding gap of USD\$6,387,105 provision for Core expenditure for the 2026 Budget is not reflected in the proposed budget due to inadequate funding available at the time the budget was prepared. The Secretariat will continue to explore funding sources to address the gap as funding opportunities arise which when identified can cover the said unfunded 2026 budget allocations.

### **Agenda item 11: Items Proposed by Members**

#### **Agenda Item 11.1: The Fossil Free Pacific - A Call to support the Pacific's leadership on the proposed Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the paper submitted by Vanuatu on behalf of the 11 SPREP Member States that are leading the development of a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

### **Agenda item 12: Other Business**

#### **Agenda item 12.1: Update on the UN Ocean Conference (Government of France)**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the update on the UN Ocean Conference

## **Agenda item 12.2: Supporting Pacific Small Island Developing States to conclude an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution including in the marine environment**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the update provided by the Chair of PSIDS to the 32 SPREP Meeting on the status of negotiations to conclude an international legally binding agreement to end plastic pollution including in the marine environment.
- 2) **Noted** and **supported** the call of the PSIDS Chair urging for a majority call from UN member States to the UNEP, UNEA, and INC Heads to convene a special session of the INC to resume the negotiations to adopt a global agreement to end plastic pollution including in the marine environment that addresses the full life cycle of plastics, prior to the conclusion of UNEA7.

## **Agenda item 13: Observer Statements**

The Meeting:

- 1) **Noted** the statements presented from Observers

## **Agenda item 14: Dates of the Fifth SPREP Executive Board Meeting (5EB)**

The Meeting:

- 1) Noted the 5th Executive Board Meeting shall convene in Apia Samoa with dates to be announced in due course.
- 2) Noted the Executive Board shall consist of the Troika with Vanuatu as the current Chair, United Kingdom as past Chair and Wallis and Futuna as the incoming Chair of the 5EB. American Samoa as representative of Polynesia, Australia and France as representatives of the Metropolitan Members, Federated States of Micronesia as representative of Micronesia and Fiji as representative of Melanesia noting that Wallis and Futuna as the representative of the French speaking Members.

## **Agenda item 15: Adoption of the Outcomes of the Thirty Second SPREP Meeting**

Members present at the Meeting:

- 1) **Adopted** the Outcomes Report of the Thirty Second SPREP Meeting that will be circulated for acceptance by Members not present at the Meeting.
- 2) **Acknowledged** and **thanked** the preparation and support of the Secretariat and participation of Members and partners.

## **Agenda Item 16: Closure of the Thirty second SPREP Meeting**

The Meeting closed at 4.20pm