

## CIRCULAR

**FILE:** AP\_1/5/27 **TO:** National Focal Points  
**DATE:** 19 January 2026  
**CIRCULAR:** 26/02  
**SUBJECT:** **MEMBERSHIP STATUS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Dear Members,

Greetings for the New Year!

On 16 January 2026 the Secretariat received advice from the United States National Focal Point outlined as follows:

*'We are writing to inform you of President Trump's January 7 decision to end U.S. participation in 66 organizations that are contrary to the interests of the United States, including the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme. As a result, the United States will be ending its participation and will communicate next steps as soon as possible.'*

*We thank you for your attention to this matter.'*

On 19 January 2026 the Secretariat acknowledged receipt of notice and indicated we would await next steps and facilitate their decision.

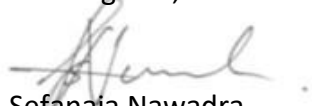
Separately the Secretariat has been contacted by Members and media on the financial implications to the Secretariat on the withdrawal, which is outlined as follows:

- Membership contributions – USD 190,000 per annum
- Noumea contributions – USD 3,778 biennium

In terms of percentage of the SPREP budget for 2026, it is 0.37 percent. The Secretariat does not receive any direct project funding from the United States.

The United States is a founding member of SPREP, and their proposed withdrawal will be a great loss to SPREP and our Pacific region. The Secretariat will continue to keep all Members informed of next steps.

Kind regards,



Sefanaia Nawadra  
**Director General**