

First Executive Board Meeting

Apia, Samoa
10-11 September 2018

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Agenda Item 6.1: Framework for Pacific Regionalism

Purpose:

1. To provide an update on the 'light' review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism
2. To note links to other regional prioritising initiatives
3. To seek Members' views on the way forward

Background:

4. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism was endorsed by Forum Leaders in 2014, following the 2013 Pacific Plan Review. Its implementation has been led by the Secretary General and coordinated by the Forum Secretariat. A number of processes have been established to support the delivery of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, including the establishment of the FOC Specialist Sub-Committee on Regionalism (SSCR), and the Regional Priority Setting Process, as set out in the FPR.
5. The Forum Officials Committee endorsed a recommendation of the Secretary General, that the FPR be reviewed in 2018, and agreed that a review of the Framework of Pacific Regionalism should ensure that regional prioritisation processes are aligned to national level priorities and processes to ensure its continued relevance, efficiency and effectiveness. The Review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism is being conducted to ensure that:
 - a. the arrangements and processes that have been put in place to support its delivery and implementation are aligned to the underlying principles of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism; and
 - b. the arrangements and processes put in place deliver on Members' expectations for the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.
6. The findings of the Review are to be presented to the 2018 pre-Forum Officials Committee, with a draft circulated in advance. The Secretariat has yet to see a draft at the time of writing this paper (July)
7. Further detail on the review and the TOR for consultants to undertake it are annexed as Att.1 and Att.2

SPREP Engagement

8. The revised CROP Charter was endorsed by SM28, and to be presented to Forum Leaders for consideration. It will be presented to Leaders for consideration at the 49th Pacific Forum Meeting Forum Meeting via the pre-Forum FOC.
9. A number of CROP initiatives have now been established in line with the new charter including:
 - CROP Governing Council Chairs and CEOs annual meetings
 - Regular meetings of CROP CEOs
 - Regular meetings of CROP DDGs
10. Budget implications of CROP arrangements to support the FPR are yet to be considered in the PIFS-led process.
11. At the instigation of the FOC, PIFS initiated the review of the FPR and procured consultants to undertake it. CROP Deputies have been consulted twice by the consultants. Wider consultations with Members and CROP are in process at the time of drafting (July).
12. SPREP and CROP sister organisations note that there is a growing list of regional prioritising mechanisms, including that established by the FOC for regional advocacy and engagement, and the development of a CROP Communications Strategy which require further discussion by CROP including the resourcing of action on regional priorities under the FPR where these do not align to the work programme and budgets of CROP agencies.
13. For the FPR to be of greater effectiveness there needs to be improved coherence between national policy and the leaders' agenda rather than the development of more regional coordination processes and mechanisms.

Recommendations:

14. The meeting is invited to:
 - **note** the engagement of SPREP in the Review;
 - **consider** the issues of FPR and provide guidance to the Secretariat in its further engagement with the Review; and
 - **request** Members to participate in the review.
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