

## **Outcomes Statement: Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee**

Grand Pacific Hotel, Suva, Fiji  
16-18 August 2022

1. The Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee was Chaired by the Fiji Government, hosted at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva, Fiji from 16 to 18 August 2022 and attended in person and virtually by SPREP Members from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and, Wallis & Futuna. Refer to Annex for List of Participants.
2. The Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly agreed to a resolution “End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument” and the formation of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to negotiate a new binding global agreement covering the whole life cycle of plastics. The aim of the preparatory workshop was to provide SPREP Pacific Members with the assistance needed in negotiating the new global agreement, which was made possible with funding support from the Government of Australia.
3. A closed session of SPREP Pacific Members was held on 18 August 2022 that discussed the key issues including next steps in the lead up to the first session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay from 28 November to 2 December 2022.

### **Issues of importance from workshop for discussion**

4. The Secretariat provided a summary of the workshop to Pacific Members. At the conclusion of the Secretariat's summary, the members requested further clarification on guidance on what the INC would be like; what needs to be prepared at the national and regional level; what should be the important issues on what to prepare for at the INC.
5. Pacific Members further requested clarification on the expectations of the Pacific region to attend. The Chair responded that these will be considered under the agenda item focusing on coordination. The Secretariat further added that one of the objectives of this closed session would be to obtain direction from the Members on how they would like to be organised in the preparations to the INC negotiations.
6. The meeting agreed:
  - i. To nominate and communicate to the INC Secretariat national focal points for the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) process.
  - ii. For Pacific Members to seek formal endorsement of positions proposed during the workshop from capital.

- iii. The Secretariat to use the agreed actions from the closed session to prepare briefings, develop interventions based on the INC Agenda as well as key highlights to prepare Members to the INC negotiations.
- iv. The Secretariat to provide briefings on existing regional groupings that may be accessed to support negotiations.
- v. The Secretariat to circulate to Pacific Members for review and input Cluster 2: Institutional Framework components specifically, the parties/non-parties provisions, compliance mechanisms as well as looking into the Montreal Protocol and other relevant MEAs' multilateral fund for comparative analysis on the finance mechanisms.
- vi. To support the establishment of a scientific technical panel for the global framework.
- vii. The Secretariat to circulate to Pacific Members the summary of Cluster 4: Sustainable Product Design and Manufacture discussions for review and further input.
- viii. The Secretariat to share as requested by the Chair the detailed recommendations and information on data sharing and centralised data portals to lessen burdens on the multiple reporting obligations.
- ix. Pacific Members are encouraged to reach out to the Secretariat for support and assistance in the development of a new national action plan or the review of an existing national action plan.
- x. The Secretariat to provide as requested by the Chair detailed briefings on each of the Clusters for circulation to Pacific Members.

**Coordination of Pacific Small Island Developing States leading up to INC-1, 28 November- 2 December 2022 Uruguay**

- 7. The Secretariat sought guidance from Pacific Members for direction and guidance of how they would like to be organised and coordinated to effectively prepare for the INC-1. Pacific Members were further informed that experiences from existing conference of the parties' coordination can be drawn from, in order for Members to be well organised and coordinated. The Secretariat shared information on processes for climate negotiations, biodiversity and other global negotiations to conference of the parties.
- 8. Pacific Members requested clarification on whether there are any terms of reference to cluster leads, and whether the role would impact national priorities. It was also recognised the importance of understanding the specific roles of countries that lead.
- 9. The Secretariat offered to share information relating to existing processes of global negotiations. Further, the lead on clusters to coordinate thematic areas, develop strategy and priorities, as well as ensure there is a back-up country with the support

of the Secretariat. During Pacific coordination meetings, cluster leads and back-ups provide updates and reports from their respective clusters e.g. countries opposed, who followed and what to do next.

**10.** The Chair clarified that regional coordination is important but does not prevent Pacific Members from making individual, and/or national positions.

**11.** The Secretariat informed Pacific Members that briefs will be developed based on outcomes from the preparatory workshop. A draft communications strategy will be shared with Members so that information on expectations for the INC-1 are received as soon as possible for preparations.

**12.** The Chair requested Members to voluntarily identify and lead any of the six Clusters.

**13.** The meeting agreed:

**i.** The leads for

- a)** Cluster (1): Objectives, Definitions and Structure of Work - (tbc)
- b)** Cluster (2): Institutional Framework - Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia
- c)** Cluster (3): Sustainable Production and Consumption - (tbc)
- d)** Cluster (4): Sustainable Product Design and Manufacture - Cook Islands
- e)** Cluster (5): Environmentally Sound Waste Management – Samoa, Tuvalu, Tokelau
- f)** Cluster (6): National Action Plans - Federated States of Micronesia

**ii.** Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu will communicate to the Secretariat the Clusters to lead on. The Secretariat to share with Cluster leads and back-ups information on the roles and process in the lead up to the INC-1.

**iii.** The Secretariat will invite technical experts to provide support to member countries on the INC process.

**iv.** Members to meet virtually for one hour on the following dates, with meeting agenda to be shared two weeks prior:

- a)** 15 September 2022;
- b)** 4 October 2022; and
- c)** 1 November 2022.

**v.** The Secretariat to make arrangements to ensure all members' input are accommodated noting that some Members may experience connectivity issues during virtual meetings.

**vi.** Members attending in person to the INC-1 will need to travel by 18 November 2022. Leads and back-ups will share progress on their clusters, other positions, identify areas where support is needed, requests for trainings such as in negotiations.

- vii. The Secretariat to set up a chat platform for Members' communication.

### **Communications strategy**

14. The Secretariat shared how a Communications Strategy for INC-1 can help amplify the Pacific Voice and what the strategy may offer. It was noted that such strategies are used at global conferences, with large number of participants and media, with similar COP processes. The key challenge is ensuring the position of the Pacific is "heard" at such large and global events. The Communications Strategy ensures the Pacific voice is heard and that the Pacific is a visible driving force in the Convention development. The Secretariat works to ensure people see the Pacific, hear the Pacific, to garner support for the Pacific priorities – in all spaces possible, not just the negotiating room.
15. Pacific Members expressed that there is strength in such a forum, as the Pacific is passionate and vocal, that exemplifies a strong presence. There is an existing SPREP website to centralise information and there is a need to ensure INC visibility on the platform.
16. Pacific Members shared the need to develop promotional materials tailored to the Pacific specifically for each of the Cluster elements, which identifies key media partners to support the one Pacific Voice campaign and effectively contribute to building the Pacific advocacy.
17. It was noted the focus of the Pacific should be for the plastic life cycle to be recognised at the start of extraction, noting the challenges from other global stakeholders.
18. Pacific Members further expressed the opportunity that side events present to help amplify the Pacific Voice and the importance of commencing preparations early, to ensure effective coordination.
19. Pacific Members offered national resources through dedicated media officers to assist with the implementation of the Communications Strategy. In addition, Members requested information on the potential role of Diplomatic Missions in the implementation of the Communications Strategy, particularly the New York based missions.
20. The meeting agreed:
  - i. The Secretariat to develop a Pacific Negotiating Strategy consisting, inter alia, what the position of the Pacific is on the Cluster elements of the INC.
  - ii. The Secretariat to develop a Communications Strategy that centres on Pacific Visibility and the "key asks" in the form of negotiating guidance that includes:

- a) Videos, brochures, bold statements from the Pacific leaders tailored to plastic pollution, Pacific Beats, briefs, survival tips, media briefings, financial support for media to attend, provide media mana classes and develop, enhance media partnerships.
  - b) Every cluster element to have promotional, communications materials attached to it.
  - c) Media partnerships i.e., who are we targeting in media, who are our key media partners so we can leverage their reach and help build advocacy in the Pacific for one voice.
- iii. The Secretariat to develop a fundraising strategy to fund the Communications Strategy implementation.
- iv. The Secretariat to develop a Communications Strategy for INC-1 followed by a broader strategy that will cover INC 2-5.
- v. Pacific Members to confirm budget and activities requiring support.
- vi. The Secretariat to confirm commitments on side events, media partners and recommendations.

### **Other Matters**

- 21. The Director General of SPREP expressed the importance of Pacific Members working closely with their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs to ensure coordination of positions and efforts in the INC negotiations process, particularly noting the important role of PSIDS, which the Secretariat will work closely with.
- 22. The Secretariat advised that the Pacific regional preparatory workshop for INC-2 will be held in New York scheduled for February/March 2023 with the purpose of involving Pacific SIDS missions in New York as well as linking to other SIDS through AOSIS.

### **Close of Preparatory Workshop**

- 23. The Chair of Fiji and the Director General of SPREP thanked Pacific Members and all technical observers for their participation and welcomed the continued support of the Australian Government and the Secretariat in the Pacific Voyage to INC-1 in Uruguay in November.

**Adopted on 18 August 2022 in Suva, Fiji.**