

**DECISIONS OF THE FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**
(17–19 November 2020, Virtual Meeting)

DECISIONS

AGENDA ITEM No. 2: OPENING

1. The 50th meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA 50) opened on 17 November 2020, and was conducted virtually, using the Zoom online platform. The Secretariat and a number of member delegates were present at the headquarters of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea, New Caledonia, and at the SPC Regional Office in Suva, Fiji. The meeting was chaired by Papua New Guinea (PNG), with French Polynesia as Vice-Chair, and was attended by representatives of the following SPC members: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna – and by observers and partners: the British High Commission in Fiji, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the European Union (EU), Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat (OCFO), Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), Pacific Disability Forum, Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), South Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO), UNESCAP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the UN Resident Coordinator’s office, University of Queensland and University of the South Pacific.
2. The Chair indicated that it was a great privilege and honour to Chair the 50th Meeting of CRGA, especially as the meeting marked the 50th meeting of this important governing body gathering for the Pacific Community – *our* Pacific Community. It was also the first time members had met in this hybrid style, forced by the current COVID-19 situation and enabled by the advancement of technology and innovation in our countries, region and the Pacific Community. The Chair indicated that we had come a very long way as an organisation and a region, and that she was proud of this progress. This had been made possible, in large part, through the individual and collective efforts of members, through supporting the education, cultural appreciation, partnerships, natural resource development, science and innovation, and aspirations of our people, countries and the closest partners in our Blue Pacific Continent. The Chair highlighted the importance of our respective roles in contributing to the rich, informed and effective governance of SPC. CRGA was part of the

apex in this governance responsibility, and, despite the unprecedented challenges brought about by COVID-19, the Chair looked forward to a successful three days of meeting on behalf of all members. She looked forward to working with the Vice-Chair from French Polynesia, to guide the deliberations of CRGA 50 to a successful outcome. The Chair also acknowledged Pitcairn's decision to defer their Vice-Chairing role for this year, given the challenges presented by virtual connection. The Chair welcomed the new Director-General, Dr Stuart Minchin, to his first CRGA at the helm of SPC, and thanked him and his staff for the effort put into the organisation of this important meeting.

3. The Chair mentioned the range of matters before CRGA 50, which would set the agenda for future years, including: reporting on a year of COVID-19-related challenges and innovations; pivots in approaches to key strategic planning and capacity building; ongoing work of the organisation through remote means and work arrangements; and programmes and budgets that are seeking to ascertain certainty in what looks to be another year of disruptions from COVID-19 in 2021.
4. The Director-General thanked the Chair for her generous opening remarks, and for the pertinent observations on the challenges we faced as a region. He welcomed and acknowledged members, partners and other stakeholders, and noted the importance of the input of all members to the full agenda before the meeting. The Director-General noted the unusual meeting circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, and thanked all members and other participants for their patience and adaptability. He acknowledged the Secretariat staff for the substantial and novel meeting logistics in these unusual circumstances. The Director-General acknowledged the excellent support and contributions of the two Deputy Directors-General, Mr Cameron Diver, and Dr Audrey Aumua, and Ms Efi Rex, Executive Office Manager, for whom this may be their last CRGA. The Director-General acknowledged the privilege he felt to be entrusted with the role of D-G, realising a life's ambition to contribute positively to the region. Action would be the critical difference between success and failure, and CRGA was a way to explore the many pathways available to the region.
5. The Director-General highlighted that, at the start of a new decade, we found ourselves in a global crisis, which needed to be addressed together, with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the United Nations, and other partners. Serious ongoing issues included the health status of our people (with the scourge of non-communicable disease in our region), the immediate and growing impact of climate and ocean change, and a growing economic and environmental debt. It was important to ensure we invested in recovery efforts from COVID-19 that were compatible with, and also addressed, the underlying challenges of climate change, public health and the health of our ocean resources. The Director-General acknowledged the importance of genuine partnerships, with members and other close partners, to support SPC's mission and objectives. The D-G also acknowledged that our region's Leaders had laid down a clear call to action and strengthened focus on regionalism in the Blue Pacific Continent and associated 2050 Strategy.

6. The Director-General then led the meeting through the meeting agenda.

Adoption of the Agenda

7. Following the Director-General's summary of the agenda, the Chair requested for a motion for its adoption. The United States moved that the agenda be adopted, which was seconded by Samoa, and the Chair declared the agenda adopted.

Election of the Drafting Committee

8. The Secretariat noted the drafting committee nominees: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and the United States. French Polynesia, as Vice-Chair of CRGA, would Chair the drafting committee.

AGENDA ITEM No. 3: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT (For noting)

AGENDA ITEM No. 3.A: Director-General's report

9. The Director-General noted that the organisation was in a phase of consolidating its work to meet the priorities of members, and his paper presented the main challenges and achievements of SPC in 2020. The Director-General summarised: progress made in strengthening collective senior leadership in the organisation, instilling team spirit around the organisation's new leadership, and the introduction of a 'One small thing' staff wellbeing and work-life balance initiative; SPC's response and pivot to COVID-19, in light of the pandemic's widespread and deep impacts; financial sustainability; issues for staff, including the implementation of local staff contracts; policy reform achievements; and Secretariat structural adjustments, in particular the merger of the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) and the Social Development Programme (SDP) into a new Human Rights and Social Development Division (HRSD), and a new functional split in the roles of the two DDGs to enhance integration and delivering as 'One SPC'. The D-G advised the meeting that, through this difficult period, SPC had delivered a balanced budget for 2020, with a balanced budget proposed for 2021, and a continuation of healthy reserves, which had not been drawn upon in this difficult year. The D-G updated members on the results of a staff engagement survey that was run in September, following a similar survey in 2018. The results showed an increase of five percent in staff engagement across SPC, from the 2018 results. This was an excellent outcome, given the challenging year, including the impacts of COVID-19. The largest positive movements, compared to 2018, were in the areas of leadership, organisational confidence, health and safety, enablement and innovation.

10. The Director-General indicated that the permanent observer status of the European Union would be discussed in closed session, and updated members on discussions around potential permanent observer status with Germany, as well as on engagement between the Secretariat and United Kingdom on the UK potentially rejoining SPC as a member. The Director-General outlined the performance of SPC under the Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2016–2020 (Strategic Plan), and the roadmap for a transitional period to collaboratively develop the new strategic plan to include response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and tropical cyclone Harold. The meeting was updated on the Secretariat's engagement with members – which took on a very different course as a result of COVID-19, and the D-G indicated he had been engaging remotely with members, and looked forward to visiting members directly when circumstances allowed. The D-G emphasised the importance of ongoing and wide partner engagement; and provided a detailed overview of SPC's successes and results, highlighting examples from across SPC. Information Papers 3.B and 3.C covered the implementation of CRGA decisions, including out-of-session decisions.
11. The Director-General indicated that the Pacific Community was well placed, with the people, tools, partnerships and determination, to address these challenges, and to support a sustainable pathway into the future for our Pacific people and region. The Director-General acknowledged the renewed Government of Australia-SPC partnership and funding agreement. The path forward was shaped by the rich and unique cultures and heritage of our Pacific islands, informed by the priorities expressed by our members, and supported by close cooperation with our key partners, to help deliver a sustainable and prosperous future for all Pacific peoples.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 3.B: Implementation of decisions from CRGA 49,
the Special Session of CRGA and out-of-session decisions**

12. CRGA was updated on progress made in implementing the decisions of CRGA 49, the Special Session of CRGA in November 2019 and out-of-session decisions. In previous years, the implementation of decisions matrix was annexed to the Director-General's report. For clarity, it was presented separately and for members' information only. This agenda item did not require discussion or decision by CRGA 50.

AGENDA ITEM No. 3.C: Out-of-session decisions

13. CRGA was updated with a summary of out-of-session decisions since CRGA 49, for the information of members only, to provide a complete record of decisions made inter-session by CRGA. This agenda item did not require discussion or decision by CRGA 50.

AGENDA ITEM No. 4: PACIFIC COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2021+ AND RESULTS REPORTING

14. New Caledonia, as Chair of the Subcommittee for the Implementation of the Strategic Plan (Subcommittee), presented an update on progress against the revised roadmap for the Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2021+, following the out-of-session presentation of a paper by the CRGA Subcommittee. The Chair of the Subcommittee also presented draft terms of reference for the Subcommittee to facilitate the continuation of its current membership for the duration of the transition plan. The Secretariat proposed a 12-month transition plan for 2021 – *Foundations for a resilient future: Response to recovery* – for consideration and approval. Taking members' comments into account, the Secretariat assured CRGA that the process for developing the plan, and the intent of the plan, aligned with the principles of being member driven, inclusive and informed by high-level thought leadership. The draft transition plan provided continued strategic guidance, and measures to track and monitor the delivery of regional and national services, transparent planning, budgeting and reporting. Members directed that the Secretariat would ensure that implementation was in support of national development plans, including through SPC's country and integrated programmes.
15. CRGA:
 - i. noted the progress made against the revised roadmap for the Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2021+;
 - ii. approved the revised terms of reference for the CRGA Subcommittee for the Strategic Plan, which will facilitate the continuation and expansion of its current membership for the life of the transition plan;
 - iii. approved the Pacific Community 12-month transition plan: *Foundations for a resilient future: Response to recovery*.

AGENDA ITEM No. 5: OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM No. 5.1: Audit and Risk Committee report

16. The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), Mr Alan Cairns, presented the report prepared by the SPC Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) to update CRGA 50 on the Committee's work over the last year. The Chair of ARC noted the unprecedented period of disruption in the past year as a result of COVID-19. Tangible efforts had been made to strengthen a range of important areas, including: the Project Management Unit (PMU), procurement; grant management; internal audit, cash management and investment. A programme of internal audit had been completed by KPMG, focusing on four areas: SPC's internal control framework, procurement, payroll and cash management. Findings had

been presented to SPC and ARC, and they would be reviewed thoroughly, and implemented over the coming months. There had been targeted strengthening through recruitment, including the establishment of an in-house internal audit team, further strengthening of the PMU team, additional procurement staff and a new role in business processes and internal control.

17. CRGA:
- i. noted the report from the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC);
 - ii. welcomed that the external auditors have provided an unqualified audit opinion for SPC's 2019 financial statements and that ARC recommends the acceptance of these statements;
 - iii. approved the Audit and Risk Committee's recommendations that KPMG's appointment as External Auditors for SPC is extended to cover the annual audit for the financial year 2021.

AGENDA ITEM No. 5.2: 2019 Audited Financial Statements

18. In accordance with regulation 46 of SPC's Financial Regulations, the Secretariat presented the 2019 audited financial statements for consideration by CRGA. The annual financial statements for both SPC and the SPC Provident Fund received unqualified audit opinions for the 2019 financial year.
19. CRGA:
- i. adopted the 2019 audited financial statements for the Pacific Community and the Pacific Community Provident Fund, noting that they were unqualified and presented a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of these entities in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

AGENDA ITEM No. 5.3: 2020 Revised Budget

20. The Secretariat presented the 2020 revised budget and financial performance review as at June 2020, based on the 2020 revised budget. Members made a series of substantive comments on the revised budget, including around SPC's financial health and execution levels in the COVID-19-impacted environment. The Secretariat also informed members on how any savings generated through, for example, lack of travel had been reinvested in organisational capacity and the COVID-19 pivot. In this context, the importance of flexible, multi-year funding was highlighted and acknowledged.

21. CRGA:
- i. noted the revision of the 2020 budget, which was primarily necessitated by the impact of COVID-19 on project implementation;
 - ii. noted the financial performance review as at June 2020, based on the 2020 revised budget;
 - iii. recognised the critical role that timely payment of assessed contributions and host country grants plays in SPC's financial sustainability and the Secretariat's capacity to continue to provide services and programmes to members;
 - iv. urged members that have not yet paid their outstanding contributions to SPC to do so;
 - v. noted that the revision of the 2020 budget will not affect existing contractual obligations in respect of all staff members of SPC, irrespective of location.

AGENDA ITEM No. 5.4: 2021 Proposed Budget

22. The Secretariat presented the proposed 2021 budget in accordance with paragraphs 32–38 of the *Pacific Community Governance Arrangement* and regulations 7–9 of SPC's Financial Regulations. Members acknowledged the Secretariat's efforts to present a balanced budget for 2021 and thanked the Director-General for the Secretariat's openness for negotiating payment plans for members who may have difficulty in paying their assessed contributions due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members noted with appreciation the contingency planning measures put in place by the Secretariat, including improved general reserves, to help cushion SPC against future financial impacts, given the outlook for 2021.
23. CRGA:
- i. approved the proposed 2021 budget;
 - ii. approved the Secretariat's proposal to liaise with members of the working group on assessed contributions and host country grants to assess whether consultations on this matter can recommence in 2021;
 - iii. encouraged all development partners to consider adopting multi-year programme funding and other flexible funding modalities;

- iv. noted the budgets for 2022 and 2023 were provisional and would be updated in 2021.

AGENDA ITEM No. 6: OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE REPORTS

AGENDA ITEM No. 6.A: Report on Human Resources and health and safety

- 24. The Secretariat presented an update on key initiatives being undertaken by the Secretariat's Human Resources department (HRD). HRD continues to create and deliver on a strategic work plan, ensuring a fit-for-purpose HR function focused on effective operational and strategic delivery. HRD has implemented several key initiatives, and delivered on its core activities of recruitment and operational HR management. The Secretariat noted with thanks the comments by members on the level of staff engagement and the critical role staff played in delivering services to the region. The Secretariat agreed to provide additional data as requested by members, including on the staff engagement survey results and methodology, and the number of Pacific Island staff members.
- 25. CRGA:
 - i. noted progress made in implementing the human resources work programme and key initiatives in alignment with the Operations and Management Directorate's business plan;
 - ii. encouraged the Secretariat to continue investing in health and safety initiatives to meet its objectives of zero accidents and occupational illnesses, elimination of hazards and reduction of risks;
 - iii. directed the Secretariat to continue working to develop a high-performing, engaged and diverse workforce as a critical contribution to 'One SPC' and to high-quality service delivery to members.

AGENDA ITEM No. 6.B: Report on remuneration

- 26. The Secretariat provided an update on its review of SPC salaries and allowances in 2020, and presented recommendations to CRGA that take account of the current economic climate.
- 27. CRGA:
 - i. approved the Secretariat's proposal not to implement a general market increase for salaries for 2021;

- ii. directed the Secretariat to defer implementation of the 2.5% midpoint band shift until 2022 (noting that in 2019, CRGA approved this shift for implementation in 2021).

AGENDA ITEM No. 7: MEMBERSHIP AND OBSERVER STATUS
(Closed session)

- 28. The Secretariat presented an update and recommendations to CRGA relating to the application from the European Union (EU) for permanent observer status with the Pacific Community. Following a presentation by the Secretariat of the background process and consultations undertaken, members discussed the proposed recommendations.
- 29. CRGA:
 - i. endorsed the European Union's application for permanent observer status with the Pacific Community;
 - ii. approved a waiver, for two years, of the annual permanent observer fee;
 - iii. decided that, at the expiry of that two-year period, should a decision on a mechanism for paying the permanent observer fee not be reached, the EU's permanent observer status with SPC would lapse;
 - iv. subject to the conditions set out in recommendations (ii) and (iii), instructed the Director-General to seek approval from the Chair of Conference to seek out-of-session approval from members for the EU's application for permanent observer status;
 - v. encouraged the EU to consider moving to a multi-year, flexible programmatic mode of funding;
 - vi. mandated the Secretariat to explore similar reciprocal status for SPC with the EU;
 - vii. directed the Secretariat to consult with members and provide a paper to CRGA 51 with options for decision on removing the permanent observer fee waiver from paragraph 38 of the Pacific Community Policy on Membership and Observer Status.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 8: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION
(Closed session)**

30. CRGA:
- i. endorsed the Standing Committee's assessment that the Director-General has, over the past year, performed in the 'adding value zone'; that is, his performance has consistently exceeded the requirements of the position;
 - ii. noted that the implementation of any salary increase for the Director-General is effective from the beginning of the year following this review. As the Director-General has indicated his intent to forego an increase, this will not be applied;
 - iii. endorsed the Standing Committee's desire that, for the coming year, the Director-General's areas of focus should be the implementation of the strategic plan, strengthened engagement with donors and member countries, maintaining financial sustainability and demonstrating a greater understanding of the cultural considerations associated with the role;
 - iv. noted that the Standing Committee will relay the outcome of this performance assessment to the Director-General following CRGA;
 - v. formally recognised the Director-General's excellent stewardship of SPC during the COVID-19 pandemic, and requested that the Standing Committee, on behalf of CRGA, express members' gratitude for his leadership during this time.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 9: CRGA 51 AND 12TH CONFERENCE –
VENUE, CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

31. The 11th Conference of the Pacific Community agreed that the 12th Conference would be convened in Vanuatu in November 2021. The Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Pacific Community state that 'When the Conference is held elsewhere than the headquarters, the host country/territory nominates the Chairperson'. As host country, Vanuatu will therefore provide the Chair of the 12th Conference. Following the long-standing procedure for appointing the Vice-Chair, Niue will provide the Vice-Chair for the 12th Conference. CRGA 51 would therefore also be held in Vanuatu, with the Chair to be provided by French Polynesia, and the Vice-Chair provided by Pitcairn Islands. The dates for these meetings would be finalised and members would be notified in due course. The Secretariat was hopeful that these meetings could be convened in person. Vanuatu indicated its great pleasure to be hosting the governance meetings in 2021, and welcomed members. Members congratulated and thanked Vanuatu for its offer to host CRGA 51 and the 12th Conference, and expressed members' collective hopes that these meetings would be able to be held in person.

32. CRGA noted that:
- i. the 12th Conference of the Pacific Community would be held in Vanuatu, and the Chair would be provided by Vanuatu, and the Vice-Chair by Niue;
 - ii. the venue for the meeting of CRGA 51 would be Vanuatu, and the Chair would be provided by French Polynesia, and the Vice-Chair by Pitcairn Islands;
 - iii. members would be advised of the meeting dates and arrangements in due course.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 10: STANDING AGENDA ITEMS
(For noting)**

33. The Secretariat advised members that the mid-term review of the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) had been delayed due to travel restrictions and other COVID-19 challenges. The Secretariat noted that Agenda Items 10.A and 10.B were particularly prescient in this period. A range of assessments had concluded that COVID-19 had exacerbated challenges such as youth unemployment and social exclusion, and created disruption in education and employment opportunities as a result of economic downturn. Impacts of COVID-19 on youth in the region would be further explored and validated as part of the mid-term review of the PYDF, and SPC continued to advance its integrated programming work, including through supporting COVID-19 recovery efforts. Members supported the continued mainstreaming of youth issues, and, while noting the understandable delays in completing the mid-term review of the PYDF, urged the Secretariat to push forward in these activities, recognising the ongoing economic and social impacts of the pandemic on our youth.

**AGENDA ITEM No. 10.A: Report from the Pacific Board for Educational Quality (PBEQ) –
a CRGA subcommittee**

34. The Secretariat presented the outcomes of the fifth annual meeting of the Pacific Board for Educational Quality (PBEQ), a subcommittee of CRGA, as agreed by the members of the PBEQ on 2 September 2020. The full report was appended. The Subcommittee met virtually on 2 September 2020 to discuss matters regarding regional education quality and regional qualifications.
35. CRGA:
- i. noted the report from the fifth annual meeting of the Pacific Board for Educational Quality (PBEQ), which is a subcommittee of CRGA.

AGENDA ITEM No. 10.B: Update on outcomes of the High-Level Dialogue on Youth – Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF)

36. The Secretariat presented an update on the mid-term review of the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) 2014–2023, and information on progress made in advancing youth development outcomes through SPC’s integrated programming. In light of COVID-19, the Secretariat also highlighted some of the specific impacts of the pandemic on youth, and associated responses at national and regional levels.
37. CRGA:
- i. recognised the impacts of COVID-19 on youth and the associated responses at regional and national levels;
 - ii. noted the update on the mid-term review of the Pacific Youth Development Framework (PYDF) and progress made in its implementation;
 - iii. reaffirmed the calls by CRGA 48 and CRGA 49 for more resources for implementation of the PYDF, for all members to lead resourcing for youth development, and for the Secretariat to deliver regional interventions aligned with the PYDF;
 - iv. supported the efforts being made to assist youth, and directed SPC to continue to strengthen integrated programming focused on youth across the organisation.

AGENDA ITEM No. 10.C: CROP cohesion and coordination

38. The Director-General presented an update on CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) cohesion and coordination, with a focus on progress in CROP’s Strategic Work Agenda for 2019–2020, in particular: supporting the Blue Pacific Continent and associated 2050 Strategy; securing maritime boundaries; regional health priorities; climate change resilience and ocean priorities; collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic and support for recovery and transformation in the region; and strengthening CROP coordination arrangements and exploring efficiencies. The Director-General noted the greater level of engagement between CROP agencies in the period. He thanked Secretary-General Dame Meg Taylor, Chair of CROP, who had expertly guided CROP agencies as a collective, throughout a difficult year.
39. His Excellency Nikenike Vurobaravu, Vanuatu's High Commissioner to Fiji, presented the Statement by the Co-Chairs of the Forum Officials Sub-Committee for the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent. His Excellency indicated that this broad and far-reaching

framework required maximum awareness and ownership, to steer the Blue Pacific canoe into the future. This strategy was meant for all in the region, and represented an ongoing commitment to work together as one, building on our shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and recognising our connection through natural resources, culture and livelihoods. The Strategy presented a unique opportunity to develop long-term approaches to climate change, sustainable development and security. The 2050 Strategy could only be realised through a collective commitment – regional governments, CROP agencies, the business community, civil society, youth, and leaders. His Excellency thanked members and CROP agencies who had contributed to this exercise. Nuclear weapons and nuclear power had been key drivers of change in the region, and Forum Leaders had agreed to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone, noting the devastating impact of nuclear testing, and now with COVID-19 as the single greatest threat to the region’s wellbeing and security – these were enduring drivers of change. As one region, we had collectively organised and contributed, such as through the Paris Agreement. The Pacific continued to be a global leader in calls for greater climate ambition. COVID-19 was shaping a new normal and the strategic environment in the mid-term future. Uncertainties included heightened economic, environmental and security challenges. Our Pacific solidarity would be key factor to our continued success in meeting these challenges.

40. The development of the new Pacific Community Strategic Plan would complement the development of the 2050 Strategy. Collective ownership would be critical to the success of the 2050 Strategy, and would ensure its effectiveness. His Excellency called for the continued and active engagement of all members, CROP agencies, the business community and civil society – participation would ensure this was a living strategy.

41. CRGA:
 - i. noted CROP’s progress against its Strategic Work Agenda for 2019–2020 and the process for developing an extended working agenda for 2021;
 - ii. welcomed SPC’s central role in supporting collective CROP responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and identification of areas to support the region’s recovery;
 - iii. acknowledged the collaborative work by SPC and other CROP agencies on key issues, including the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; regional health; climate change and disaster resilience; fisheries; and ocean affairs, sea-level rise and maritime boundaries priorities;
 - iv. encouraged the Secretariat, in collaboration with other CROP agencies, to continue efforts to streamline service delivery, explore efficiency gains and share relevant experience, including to inform the Regional Architecture Review in 2021.

AGENDA ITEM No. 11: OTHER BUSINESS

42. Members warmly acknowledged and thanked the two Deputy Directors-General, Dr Audrey Aumua and Mr Cameron Diver, and Ms Efi Rex, Executive Office Manager, for their outstanding work and many contributions to the Secretariat and to the Pacific as a whole. Members were thankful for their collegiality and assistance across the region. Members also acknowledged and warmly thanked Leituala Kuiniselani Toelupe Tago – Elisara, for her outstanding efforts in raising the profile of social, youth and cultural issues in the Pacific through her leadership of the Social Development Programme. Members further acknowledged the outstanding work of the Director-General, the DDGs, and Secretariat staff in organising a smooth and successful hybrid meeting in these special circumstances.
43. The Director-General acknowledged the enormous contributions of the two Deputy Directors-General, Dr Audrey Aumua and Mr Cameron Diver, and gave special recognition to the outstanding assistance provided by Ms Efi Rex, in the D-G's transition to his new role. The D-G invited Dr Aumua and Mr Diver to address the meeting.
44. The DDGs responded with thanks to the acknowledgement expressed by members for their service, and thanked members, Secretariat staff and partners for the privilege of serving with them in the interests of the Pacific Community.
45. Members acknowledged and thanked the two DDGs for their excellent work, service and support in and for the region, and expressed confidence in the Director-General and Secretariat staff in continuing to meet ongoing challenges, and in maintaining transparency and engagement with members and other stakeholders.
46. The Chair acknowledged and thanked the two DDGs and Ms Efi Rex once again for their dedication and service to SPC and to the region, and wished them well in their ongoing endeavours. She acknowledged and thanked the Secretariat and members for their dedicated contributions in ensuring a productive and successful meeting.

AGENDA ITEM No. 12: EVALUATION OF CRGA 50

47. CRGA responded to questions evaluating the conduct and content of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM No. 13: ADOPTION OF CRGA 50 DECISIONS

48. CRGA adopted its decisions.
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