

8th Conference decisions: Action and implementation matrix

Decision	Status as at 7 March
<i>Post-2015 development agenda</i>	
<p>1. Conference welcomed SPC's commitment to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. assist all its island members to position themselves to engage strategically in the post-2015 development agenda and requested that SPC take a leadership role in helping them develop shared solutions; b. facilitate collaboration to ensure that the territories are informed and represented through partnerships with the independent states of the region; c. analyse and communicate information to brief Permanent Missions to the United Nations based in New York; and d. build the capacity of members to contribute effectively to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Technical advisory support was provided to Pacific SIDS and some metropolitan members at the 3rd SIDS Conference. A number of key partnerships were developed and registered.</i> • <i>Participated in the high-level forum and other forums, with constant monitoring of developments in dialogue on the post-2015 agenda.</i> • <i>Meetings held with representatives of New Caledonia and French Polynesia on enhancing their participation in SPC's work and on establishing joint development projects with SPC's independent members.</i> • <i>Ongoing, with support from Director, SDD, on indicators</i> • <i>A number of key briefing papers have been prepared on priority areas such as renewable energy, water and sanitation, disaster risk management, NCDs and health, food security, and agriculture.</i>
<i>Director-General's overview</i>	
<p>2. Conference recognised the major challenges in coming years that will need the continued attention of SPC's Senior Leadership Team. They include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. further strengthening SPC's governance arrangements; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Governance Review Working Group was established and met several times with a report commissioned by the WG to review governance arrangements. A Special CRGA session will be held on 3 November to review and agree on recommendations.</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. ensuring sustainable financing of its work; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ongoing and part of the change agenda for SPC</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. strengthening engagement in the post-2015 development agenda; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ongoing and continuing support to Pacific SIDS provided</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> d. ensuring SPC's services remain relevant to the priorities of its island members; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>continued analysis through SLT Working Group – reflected in the change agenda for the organisation</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> e. properly addressing membership issues; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Work completed with Australia, as depositary of the Canberra Agreement, to produce an official depositary notification to all members. Ongoing discussions</i>

	<p><i>with founding members on legal aspects relating to amendment of the Canberra Agreement.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consultations took place throughout the year with founding members and a new proposal is being tabled at CRGA 44 as a way forward on this issue.</i>
f. dealing with the secretariat's human resources challenges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Director, HR, has been appointed, tasked with a number of key developments, including reviewing policies and procedures in HR, supporting the newly established recruitment unit, and reviewing medical and other benefits provided to staff.</i>
3. Conference agreed to formally accord posthumous recognition of the contribution to SPC of Mr William Forsyth, its first Secretary General, who, as a member of Australia's Department of External Affairs, proposed the 'South Seas Commission' in 1943 to facilitate regional cooperation in the post-war period – a vision that became the first example of regional cooperation in the Pacific.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gift for Forsyth Family purchased and engraved in recognition of W. Forsyth's contribution to SPC/Pacific regionalism.</i>
<i>Programmes Directorate</i>	
<p>4. Conference welcomed the establishment in 2013 of the Programmes Directorate, in which SPC's seven technical divisions will work together to leverage their multi-sector capacities and enhance programme effectiveness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education, Training and Human Development Division – Conference noted the recommendations of the review of the Secretariat of the Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA), acknowledged the importance of expanding the mandate of SPBEA to encompass education quality, and agreed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ establish a joint working group of members and the secretariat to further assess the optimum approach and resources required to take the recommendations forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CRGA Working Group chaired by Kiribati, with other country members, including Fiji, Nauru, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, was established. The working group met several times and has produced a report with key recommendations for consideration by CRGA 44.</i>

Strategic Engagement, Policy and Planning Facility	
<p>5. Conference also acknowledged the work led by SEPPF to improve the joint country strategy process and supported:</p> <p>a. the formation of a Joint Country Strategy (JCS) Working Group, comprising CRGA members and SPC divisions to develop a proposal for the new JCS process. Conference welcomed expressions of interest from Australia, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, RMI and Solomon Islands in participating in this working group, which is expected to begin work in early 2014.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This process has been postponed until 2015. The reasons for this are that SPC is evolving, and the programme approach being developed will, by its nature, mean a different approach, probably including ongoing dialogue with members and emphasis on a few critical development issues identified by members. As such, clarification of this approach, and what is possible given SPC's capacity, is needed before organising the working group. Financial constraints in supporting this working group have also been an issue and are expected to remain an issue in 2015.</i>
Operations and Management Directorate	
<p>6. Recognising the challenges faced by the secretariat in recruitment, as well as anomalies in the salaries of CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) CEOs, Conference:</p> <p>a. approved the establishment of a CRGA Working Group to look at these issues, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the appropriate salary band for the position of SPC Director-General, based on the size and scope of the role relative to CEO roles in the smaller CROP organisations; and ○ welcomed the expressions of interest from Australia, FSM, France (former Chair of CRGA), Guam, Kiribati (Chair), New Caledonia, RMI (incoming Chair) and USA in participating in the Working Group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A consultancy is under way to provide the future working group with the objective information and assessment it needs to consider these matters. It is anticipated that the results of the consultancy could be communicated to members of the working group by late November 2014.</i>
<p>7. Conference called for a post-RIF job-sizing exercise to be considered, and for the reconvening of the CROP Harmonisation Working Group (comprising member PICTs) to address anomalies in the application of remuneration harmonisation practices between participating CROP agencies and to share the findings of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Given the lack of appetite among other CROP agencies to truly work on harmonisation, it was decided to await the results of the consultancy mentioned at point 6 before addressing this issue again.</i>

the CRGA Working Group.	
Financial year 2014 budget	
8. Conference approved a forward-looking budget of 95,357,400 CFP units and acknowledged the secretariat's proactive approach to building its reserve with the aim of increasing it to a level sufficient to cover 6090 days of operation, as is the practice in similar organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New budget procedure circulated to the SLT Budget Committee. It will be refined and used to build the 2016 budget.</i> • <i>Due to financial constraints, it has not been possible to build SPC's reserves in the proposed 2015 SPC budget.</i>
Audit and Risk Committee report	
9. Conference noted the report of SPC's Audit and Risk Committee and its three-year work plan (2013–2015). It further noted that the committee has appointed an international accounting firm to undertake the internal audit work described in the three-year plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Audit and Risk Committee met three times during the year with the internal audit work having commenced. A report from ARC will be discussed at CRGA 44.</i>
10. Conference approved the resolutions that would confirm the legal effect of the 1997 Conference resolution to change SPC's name from the 'South Pacific Commission' to the 'Pacific Community', and reaffirmed the 1983 Conference resolution granting full and equal membership to all current members of SPC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Work completed with Australia, as depositary of the Canberra Agreement, to produce an official depositary notification to all members.</i> • <i>There are ongoing discussions on one aspect of the 1983 Resolution on which the secretariat will work with the depositary.</i>
Pacific Community membership policy	
11. Conference approved the resolution on extending the territorial scope of the Pacific Community to include Timor Leste to accommodate a probable request for full membership by Timor Leste and acknowledged the statement made by the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Timor Leste, and welcomed Timor Leste's expression of interest in full membership of the Pacific Community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>An explanatory letter was sent to Timor Leste by the DG outlining the process it would need to follow to become a participating government.</i> • <i>DG and DDG OMD met with the Timor Leste Ambassador in Brussels and this matter was discussed.</i> • <i>Timor Leste has been invited to CRGA 44 as an observer and the secretariat awaits an indication as to its official position on membership of SPC.</i>
12. Conference approved in principle the creation of new membership categories such as 'associate member' and 'observer' as an excellent means of enhancing engagement and organisational outreach and contributing to furthering the work of SPC on behalf of members. Conference directed the secretariat and the expanded Working Group on Membership – comprising Australia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consultations took place throughout the year with founding members on legal issues around creating such categories. A new proposal is being tabled at CRGA 44 as a way forward on this issue, which will allow the working group to resume its activities and make a concrete proposal to the 9th Conference of the Pacific Community.</i>

<p>New Guinea, Samoa and the United States – to further analyse a proposed ‘Pacific Community membership policy’ over the course of the coming year, with the results and recommendations to be presented to CRGA 44 in 2014.</p>	
<p><i>SPC governance arrangements</i></p>	
<p>13. Conference acknowledged the importance of further strengthening SPC’s governance processes, and agreed to commission a review of these processes in 2014, funded from SPC’s existing budgetary resources, with the findings and recommendations of the review to be presented to CRGA 44.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Governance Review Working Group was established and met several times, with a report commissioned by the WG to review governance arrangements. A Special Session of CRGA will be held on 4 November to review and agree on the recommendations.</i>
<p><i>Review of assessed contributions and host grants</i></p>	
<p>14. Conference agreed to: (i) the grouping of SPC’s 22 island members into five categories with associated levels of membership contributions (noting the request from Guam to be given until after 2015 to fully consider the increase); and (ii) the target for membership contributions for SPC’s founding members (noting USA is unlikely to meet this target in the foreseeable future). Conference welcomed the confirmation by France, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia of their agreement to the proposed levels of their respective contributions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>France and New Caledonia agreed to the increase but will transform funds from ‘voluntary’ to ‘assessed contribution’ to do this.</i> • <i>At the date of writing, no assessed contribution has been received from PNG and the secretariat is awaiting an indication from Guam as to its capacity to pay the increased contribution endorsed at CRGA 43 and the 8th Conference.</i>
<p>15. Conference agreed to the target of 3 million CFP units for the country host grants and directed the secretariat to consult further with the four host countries in 2014 to agree on the distribution formula for the grants, and to share with all members the findings of the study it commissioned on economic benefits to host countries. Conference welcomed the confirmation by Solomon Islands of its agreement to a proposed host grant of 50,000 CFP units beginning in 2014.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consultations have taken place and, to date, no host country has been able to confirm its willingness/capacity to pay an increased host grant.</i> • <i>The study on the economic benefits of hosting an SPC office was provided to all host countries.</i>
<p>16. Conference acknowledged the importance of integrating the separate regional frameworks for climate change and disaster risk management (DRM) into a single regional strategy, and endorsed the secretariat’s efforts to support the ‘roadmap’ process for the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Final consultations have been held on the integrated framework for disaster risk management and climate change. The draft integrated strategy has been endorsed by the SPREP Annual meeting and ministers. It is anticipated that CRGA 44 will also review the strategy.</i>

<p>development of the joint strategy for disaster risk management and climate resilient development in the Pacific by 2015.</p>	
<p><i>Findings of the Pacific Plan review and possible implications for SPC</i></p>	
<p>17. Conference welcomed the secretariat's initiative in presenting a preliminary assessment of the review of the Pacific Plan, noting the report is yet to be considered and adopted. Conference noted that when it has been considered, the secretariat will further assess the possible implications of the review's recommendations for SPC's work and bring this assessment to the attention of CRGA 44, recognising that not all members of SPC are members of the Pacific Islands Forum or associated directly with the Pacific Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A presentation shall be made on the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism.</i> • <i>Implications for SPC cannot be fully assessed, although the adoption of the new framework gives SPC an opportunity to continue to work within its own structures.</i> • <i>Leaders' recommendations have given ministerial meetings some autonomy to make key decisions in their own areas of competence.</i>
<p>Ninth Conference of the Pacific Community</p>	
<p>18. Conference accepted with thanks the offer from Niue to host the Ninth Conference of the Pacific Community in November 2015. As host, Niue will chair the Ninth Conference, with the Vice-Chair to be confirmed at CRGA 44.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This is on track</i>