

TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
(27 July 2017, Noumea, New Caledonia)

AGENDA ITEM No. 5: THE YEAR 2019 CONFERENCE: VENUE AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

Background

1. The Rules of Procedure for the Conference of the Pacific Community (Conference Rules of Procedure, or Rules)¹ provide that *'Conference meets every two years in June at Ministerial level. Meetings of the Conference are held at SPC's headquarters'*.
2. The Conference Rules of Procedure also indicate that *'[o]ther members may offer to host the Conference. In this case, the obligations of the host country are to be determined by the secretariat and the host country'*.
3. Therefore, unless a member expressly wishes to host the next meeting of the Conference, the 11th Conference of the Pacific Community will be held at SPC's headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair

4. The Conference Rules of Procedure provide that:
 - 7) *When the Conference is held at the Headquarters of the Organisation, the Conference elects a Government or Administration to provide the Chairperson for the succeeding Conference. Such Government or Administration normally is one that is not be in a position to act as host to the Conference in the foreseeable future.*
 - 8) *When the Conference is held elsewhere than the headquarters, the host country/territory nominates the Chairperson.*
 - 9) *Each Conference elects the Government or Administration that provides the Vice-Chairperson for the succeeding Conference. Such a Government or Administration normally is one that is chosen in alphabetical order of members from among the Pacific Island Countries or Territories.*

¹ Annex 3 of the Pacific Community Governance Arrangement.

5. For the information of members, the hosting, chairing and vice-chairing arrangements of previous Conferences have been as follows:

Year	CONF	HOST COUNTRY	Chair	Vice-Chair
1999	1	French Polynesia	French Polynesia	Tonga
2001	2	Nauru (hosted at SPC HQ)	Nauru	Vanuatu
2003	3	Fiji	Fiji	American Samoa
2005	4	Palau	Palau	Tuvalu
2007	5	Samoa	Samoa	Federated States of Micronesia
2009	6	Tonga	Tonga	Cook Islands
2011	7	Marshall Islands (hosted at SPC HQ)	Marshall Islands	France
2013	8	Fiji	Fiji	Guam
2015	9	Niue	Niue	Kiribati
2017	10	New Caledonia	New Caledonia	to be confirmed

Recommendation

6. CRGA recommends that Conference note that:
- i. the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Pacific Community will be convened at SPC's Headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, in June 2019;
 - ii. the decision about the Chair and Vice-Chair for the 11th Conference will be made at CRGA 48; and
 - iii. should any member wish to host the 11th Conference, it may do so (subject to members' agreement, and following discussion with the Secretariat should more than one member offer to host), noting that the host will need to meet the full additional cost to SPC of hosting the Conference, and the associated pre-Conference meeting of CRGA 49, away from SPC's Headquarters.