

**Secretariat of the Pacific Community**

**3rd SPC Heads of Fisheries**

*(18–23 August 2003, Noumea, New Caledonia)*

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**Compendium of Decisions of the thirty-second Meeting  
of the Committee of Representatives of Governments  
and Administrations  
(Noumea, New Caledonia, 4-7 November 2002)**

**Secretariat of the Pacific Community**



## **SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

### **COMPENDIUM OF DECISIONS OF THE THIRTY-SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS** (Noumea, New Caledonia, 4–7 November 2002)

#### **Adoption of Agenda and hours of work Election of drafting committee**

The Committee adopted its agenda and working hours. In accordance with the rules of procedure of CRGA, the Vice-Chairperson of CRGA 32 (Tokelau) was elected Chairperson of the drafting committee, which consisted of Australia, Fiji Islands, France, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu and United States of America.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1 – DIRECTOR-GENERAL’S REPORTS**

The Conference received the Director-General’s reports as contained in Information Papers 1.1 and 1.2.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2 – PROGRAMME FOCUS**

The focus of the programme presentations this year was the theme “Linking SPC technical programmes with Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) priorities and the SPC Corporate Plan”.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 2.1 – LAND RESOURCES DIVISION AGENDA ITEM 2.2 – MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION AGENDA ITEM 2.3 – SOCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION**

##### **Overview of Suva operations**

The Secretariat presented a broad overview of the SPC Suva office operations, which comprise the Land Resources Division (Agriculture and Forestry) and the Suva operations of the Marine Resources Division, the Social Resources Division, the Corporate Services Division and the Programme Support Services.

##### **Programme presentations and Strategic Plans**

All the SPC programmes from the three Divisions reported on their achievements for 2002. Programmes also presented their recently completed Programme Strategic Plans.

The Committee adopted the following Programme Strategic Plans:

- Regional Maritime Programme
- Coastal Fisheries Programme
- Oceanic Fisheries Programme
- Public Health Programme
- Statistics and Demography/Population Programmes
- Cultural Affairs Programme
- Pacific Women’s Bureau –PWB)
- Pacific Youth Bureau’s (PYB)
- Community Education Training Centre (CETC)
- Information and Communication Technologies Section

The Committee noted that these strategic plans are “living documents” that provide the basic strategic framework in which SPC programmes operate but also enable programmes to respond to emerging member needs.

### **External reviews of programmes**

The Committee also discussed external reviews of CETC and RMC.

With respect to CETC, the Committee noted that:

- (a) SPC would carefully study the final report of the external CETC review, undertake a “country mapping exercise” in 2003, and further explore the directions recommended by the review. He indicated that the CETC programme would continue in its current format for 2003, and that SPC would report back to its membership regarding SPC’s response to the review.
- (b) CETC’s strategic plan, indicating the Centre’s activities in 2003 would proceed as planned and that a revised strategic plan would be brought before CRGA in 2003.

The Committee endorsed the RMC review and adopted its recommendations. In doing so, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat could proceed with implementation of these recommendations and the proposed restructuring later in 2003, on the understanding that this would be cost-neutral and achieved within the existing RMC budget. The Secretariat would report to the next meeting of CRGA on implementation progress and the possible longer-term budgetary implications of this implementation.

### **Importance of renewable energy**

The Committee recognised the importance of renewable energy to the region and urged the continuation of collaborative work in this area.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 – POLICY ISSUES**

### **AGENDA ITEM 3.1 – THE SPC CORPORATE PLAN**

The Committee approved the SPC Corporate Plan and agreed that the Secretariat would revise the current wording guided by the comments made at this meeting. The revised draft would be circulated to members within the next few weeks, for further consideration. Members would have until Christmas to provide further feedback to the Secretariat and the document would go to print soon after.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3.2 – REGIONAL POLICIES**

The Committee:

- (a) noted the information provided by the Secretariat on inter-regional agency sectoral policy support processes in which SPC is involved;
- (b) expressed its agreement with the general principles contained in the Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy;
- (c) deferred the question of formal endorsement by non-Forum Pacific Community members until a French translation of the text of the policy became available and was circulated to French-speaking members;
- (d) agreed that, following this period, individual non-Pacific Islands Forum members would be able to associate themselves with the policy, by communication with the Secretariat out of session;
- (e) asked the Secretariat to keep all members fully informed about preparations for the proposed Pacific Islands Ocean Summit in 2003.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3.3 – SPC REGIONAL SECTORAL MEETINGS**

The Committee agreed that the technical meetings scheduled for 2003 should proceed, but that the Secretariat would provide an update at CRGA 33 in 2003 on the paper submitted at CRGA 32 this year, explaining the purpose and format of regional technical meetings and their relation to CRGA.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4 – ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE**

##### **AGENDA ITEM 4.1 – THE NEW PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

The Committee:

- (a) commended the Governments of France and New Caledonia and the Secretariat for their very fruitful and constructive efforts in negotiating a new agreement on SPC privileges and immunities in New Caledonia to supersede the original 1953 Angamarre agreement.;
- (b) endorsed in principle the new draft agreement on privileges and immunities accorded to SPC in New Caledonia;
- (c) noted the concern expressed by the representative of New Zealand on the different semantic interpretation of one of the articles and thanked France and New Zealand for their attempt to reach a consensus on this issue;
- (d) urged all members to advise the Secretariat of their final approval by 15 December, to allow the Governments of New Caledonia and France to finalise the signature and ratification process with SPC. Should there be no formal approval by the set date, the Secretariat will assume that there is tacit approval.

##### **AGENDA ITEM 4.2 – SPC’S QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS**

The Committee adopted the Secretariat’s quality assurance systems (as outlined in Working Paper 4.2).

##### **AGENDA ITEM 4.3 – MULTI-YEAR OUTPUT-BASED BUDGETING AND FUNDING SECURITY**

The Committee noted that the Secretariat had accepted and implemented the recommendation of the 2001 AusAID-sponsored independent review of the Secretariat that the organisation adopt a longer budgeting timeframe, with a two- to three-year cycle, and shift to output-based budgeting.

The Committee further noted the Secretariat’s comments on issues of funding security (as contained in Working Paper 4.3) and noted actions taken by SPC and donor members as regards funding security.

The Committee welcomed and encouraged the move by donors to provide a greater percentage of funding in the form of flexible support to SPC’s programmes.

##### **AGENDA ITEM 4.4 – SELECTION OF SPC’S AUDITORS FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2002–2004**

The Committee agreed to appoint the firm of Deloitte Touch Tohmatsu based in Papua New Guinea to audit the SPC accounts for financial years 2002–2004.

##### **AGENDA ITEM 4.5 – AUDIT REPORT: FINANCIAL YEAR 2001**

The Committee accepted the auditor’s report as presented by the auditing firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers of New Caledonia.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4.6 – YEAR 2002 BUDGET REVISION**

The Committee noted the secretariat's mid-year revision of the 2002 Core Budget and reaffirmed that the Secretariat may make budget revisions from time to time within the year, resulting from unforeseen or changed circumstances requiring budgetary adjustments to the approved budget, within the budget policy framework approved by the Conference.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5 – YEAR 2003 BUDGET**

The Committee approved and adopted the SPC budget for the year 2003 as presented by the Secretariat. The approved budget is attached to the full report of CRGA 32.

The Committee also agreed that a paper on assessed contributions would be presented to CRGA 33 next year.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

##### **Venue**

The Committee confirmed that Fiji Islands would be the venue for the Third Conference of the Pacific Community.

##### **Theme**

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat and the host country of the third Conference of the Pacific Community would liaise together to finalise the theme of the Third Conference of the Pacific Community, taking into account comments made by CRGA members (as contained in the full report of CRGA 32).

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 – THE YEAR 2003 CRGA: VENUE, AND MEETING CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

The Committee agreed that Fiji Islands will be the venue for the 2003 meeting of CRGA. Tokelau will provide the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson will be provided by Tonga, in accordance with the CRGA Rules of Procedure.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 – OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **CRGA Report**

The Committee agreed to discuss the policy of annexing statements to the CRGA report, at its next meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9 – ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

The Committee formally adopted its report as amended.

NB: The full text of the Summary of Proceedings of CRGA 32 appears in the Report of CRGA 32 published by the Secretariat. All the Working Papers, Information Papers, the full text of the Division presentations, the Powerpoint Presentations, the speeches and statements are attached to the companion CD-ROM to the CRGA 32 report, available from the Secretariat on request.