



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations **NO:** 24/28

Copy: Ministries and Departments responsible for Maritime Transport and Heads of Maritime Administrations in Pacific Island Countries & Territories (PICTs);

SPC Maritime Contacts and Maritime Partners

FILE No.: PRO 143/1/5/3; SPC TECHSEC: 48 **DATE:** 01/03/2024

SUBJECT: SPC Heads of Maritime Meeting and First Steering Committee Meeting for the Pacific One-Maritime Framework: 22-26 April 2024, [Nadi, Fiji]

Dear Members,

Warm greetings from your Pacific Community, SPC.

PURPOSE OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT:

1. This is an invitation to the **Pacific Community's Heads of Maritime Meeting (HoM), to be held in conjunction with the First Steering Committee Meeting for the Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF)**, in Nadi, Fiji, from **22 to 26 April 2024**.
2. This notice is:-
 - a. A request for SPC member country governments and territory administrations to nominate one official senior maritime representative and one head of maritime administration (where applicable) to the HoM & POMF meeting;
 - b. An invitation to other agencies, organisations, companies, and individuals with an interest in the maritime transport sector in the Pacific islands region to attend the meeting in-person and take the opportunity for discussions with Pacific Island maritime representatives and specialists, and with each other; and
 - c. An invitation to members to propose topics for inclusion in the agenda where possible (please submit these on or before 15 March 2024)

3. Financial support is available for the attendance of one representative from SPC island member governments and administrations (the Official of Maritime or their delegate). We kindly ask that Heads of Maritime Administrations self-fund their participation if possible.
4. All nominations for SPC funded participants:
 - a. Need to be received by Friday 30th March 2024 so that flight bookings can be made; and
 - b. Need to provide the completed nomination form and a copy of their passport photo page
5. Changes to SPC-funded nominations will **not** be accepted after 30th the March 2024
6. The Pacific Community is committed towards common principles and goals such as social inclusion and gender equality. We also acknowledge the various Pacific Leader's commitments towards gender equality. In this regard, the promotion of more Pacific women accessing capacity building opportunities and participating in decision-making processes remain important priorities, nationally and regionally. Thus, we would like to support and encourage our country partners in pursuing a fair, inclusive and gender balanced selection of participants.
7. All other self-funded participants do not need to complete a nomination form, but their online registrations are to be received by **30th March 2024** through the website: [HoM and POMF registration form](#)

PURPOSE OF MEETING

8. The SPC Heads of Maritime (HoM) meeting provides oversight of all SPC's work in the field of maritime transport, including the Pacific Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC-Pacific), as well as an opportunity to discuss relevant topics of regional interest.
9. The 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministerial Meeting (5th PRETMM) recommended that HoM meetings focus on guiding SPC's strategic direction and requested that a Steering Committee be set up for the development of a new Pacific One-Maritime Transport Framework (POMF) with SPC and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as the lead coordinators in collaboration with the SPREP, other CROP agencies and Pacific stakeholders, and regional and international development partners, using futures thinking tools.
10. The HoM meeting will emphasise and further enhance our commitment to mobilising appropriate resources, finances, infrastructure, technology transfer, and capacity building for a safe, resilient, green, clean, digital, gender-just maritime transport for the Blue Pacific. Discussions will also focus on the long-term sustainability for maritime connectivity in the context of the 2050 Implementation Plan.
11. The HoM meeting is intended to cover the entire range of members' maritime sector and the work of administrations. It may discuss issues outside the current range of SPC work-programme. This holistic view is essential for longer-term planning and is also of considerable assistance to organisations and partners interested in national as well as regional issues related to the maritime transport sector. The meeting is therefore an

opportunity to encourage and foster regional co-operation and engagement with international development partners to address relevant sustainable development challenges.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OVERVIEW

12. The HoM will be held as an in-person meeting, with an option for online participations to listen-in through Zoom to the plenary sessions, but there will be no interaction with online participants.
13. The following items are provisionally included in the five-day agenda:
 - a. Report from SPC Geoscience, Energy, and Maritime (GEM) division on the implementation of its Business Plan 2023-2027 and key priorities for 2024 and beyond
 - b. Long-term implementation plan aligned with the GEM Business Plan, SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031, 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, and the 2050 Implementation Plan 2023-2030
 - c. Pacific Maritime Transport Cooperation Centre (MTCC-Pacific) phase 2 introduction and workplan
 - d. Discussion on regional maritime transport technical and policy matters, and emerging issues of concern, including those identified at the 5th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting (5th PRETMM), and
 - e. Formation and first meeting of the Steering Committee Meeting for the Pacific One-Maritime Framework (POMF)
 - f. Formation of the POMF Drafting Committee
14. The draft agenda will be posted on the [Heads of Maritime and First POMF Steering Committee Meeting Event Page](#) (by 15th March 2024)
15. If any organisation or individual wishes to raise a maritime transport issue of wide significance, then it should be proposed to SPC by 15 March 2024 for consideration. Other information should be provided as a written statement or short video recording to be posted online.
16. Members are strongly encouraged to provide a brief member statement of 1-2 pages highlighting information on maritime in their country or territory, issues that they are facing in the maritime transport sector, and any experience or advice that they wish to share with peers from the region. A template will be uploaded to the event page on or before 15 March 2024 to guide members.
17. Observers who wish to share information or a statement with members and colleagues in the meeting are requested to provide written statements by 15 March 2024 to allow time to be uploaded and read in advance of the meeting.
18. Documents prepared for the meeting will be made available on the SPC website by **8th April 2024**.

LANGUAGE

19. The sessions will be conducted in English only.

TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS

20. An economy class return ticket by the most economical route will be provided to all SPC-funded representatives. If participants choose to travel by a route other than the one proposed, all additional costs will be at their own expense. Tickets will not be issued until the official nominations have been received. Please retain all boarding passes. SPC will require this documentation as proof of travel.
21. A per-diem will be provided to SPC-funded official representatives. If an overnight transit is necessary, full per diem will be paid as applicable (hotel, meals and incidentals), however participants are responsible for these hotel arrangements.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

22. Visas are the responsibility of delegates. Please note that SPC does not cover visa fees for participants. It is recommended that nominees work through their foreign affairs departments to assist with visa applications. A copy of this invitation can be used in support of your visa application.

MEETING CONTACTS

23. Official nominations, agenda items, papers to: Faranise Kinivuwai, Team Leader – Maritime Transport (faranisek@spc.int) with cc: to maritime_transport@spc.int. All nominees must complete the [registration form](#). Administrative issues, other enquiries: Leba Vaseva, Finance and Administration Assistant (lebav@spc.int), with cc: maritime_transport@spc.int.

INSURANCE

24. The Pacific Community does not insure participants while attending meetings or during travel to and from Australia and will not be responsible for any expenses arising out of loss, sickness, injury, other disability or loss of life. It is participants' responsibility to ensure that their travel is covered by insurance.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Paula Vivili
Deputy Director-General, Science and Capability