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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

## Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands  
30 September – 2 October 20014

### Agenda Item 6.5bis: Update on SIDS Conference 2014

#### Purpose

1. To further update Members on the final outcomes of the Third Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference 2014 and the **SIDS Accelerated Modalities Of Action (SAMOA)** Pathway Outcomes.

#### Background

2. The 3<sup>rd</sup> SIDS Conference was a major success and Samoa was widely praised for their outstanding efforts as host and chair of the conference. The conference was attended by 3,500 delegates including 115 UN member states delegations (21 Heads of State and 97 Ministers) and 548 NGOs and other major groups.
3. The Conference adopted the Outcomes Document titled:- SAMOA. Pathway and recommended its endorsement by the UN General Assembly at its 69<sup>th</sup> Session. It also produced outcome documents from the four pre-conference forums: Youth; Renewable Energy; Private Sector and Major Groups and also the six multi-stakeholder partnerships dialogues: Sustainable Economic Development; Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management; Social Development; Sustainable Energy; Oceans, Seas and Biodiversity; Water, Sanitation, Food Security; and Waste Management.
4. The SIDS Conference was very successful for SPREP and our objectives and action plan for the SIDS Conference were fully achieved. In particular, we were able to raise the profile of SPREP programmes and regional issues as well as strengthening existing partnerships, while establishing a number of new partnerships. SPREP was directly involved with 23 side and parallel events; including 8 events hosted on the SPREP campus. The majority of these events were implemented jointly with SPREP members and partners, such as the Ocean Acidification workshop where SPREP supported the Governments of New Zealand and United States of America. SPREP also fully participated in the preconference forums, multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues and at other parallel events. The executive also held more than 25 bilateral consultations and this was complemented by other similar consultations by technical staff. Attachment 1 contains the “Schedule of SIDS Side Events and Parallel Events with SPREP Involvement.”

5. SPREP highlights included: (i) the launching of the UNEP Sub-regional Office hosted at SPREP together with the signing of its Host Country Agreement between Samoa and UNEP; (ii) the launching of the “Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014 – 2020”; (iii) the signing of a €5 Million (Natural Solutions to Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region: Implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation) project with the German Government; and (iv) the signing of partnership agreements with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation International, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Waitt Foundation, National Geographic Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

6. The SPREP Communications team for the conference was exemplary in highlighting SPREP issues successfully with local and international media as well as at the various conference venues.

### Post Conference Actions

7. The Secretariat conducted a post conference debrief and assessment of implications for SPREP. SPREP has completed the mid-term review of its current strategic plan and will soon start the formulation of its next strategic plan and we will fully incorporate the SAMOA Pathway outcomes.

8. We identified two key priority areas that emerged from the conference relevant to SPREP’s work that require particular attention. The first priority area is oceans where we agreed that we would continue to support implementation through the Pacific Oceanscape Framework but focus on our areas of mandate and comparative advantage, in particular marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, marine debris, biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions and our ocean observation work, including the implications of climate change in ocean acidification. The second priority area is sustainable energy where we agreed that SPREP will work to maximise opportunities for funding of proposals on renewable energy with GEF and other development partners, building on the successes of the PIGGAREP and PIGGAREP Plus projects. We have established two SPREP working groups to lead our implementation in these two priority areas.

9. SPREP currently chairs the CROP Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG), which will coordinate follow up regional actions and also regional inputs from the SIDS Conference into the Post 2015 Development Agenda Process. An initial assessment of the SAMOA outcomes and existing regional implementation modalities shows that the region has existing implementation frameworks and strategies for most priority areas (attachment 2). The SDWG will continue to develop regional coordination arrangements to ensure implementation of the SAMOA Outcomes.

### Recommendation

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the update on the SIDS Conference 2014;
- **Note** the Secretariat’s highlights for the Conference;
- **Note** the adoption of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Outcomes and recommended endorsement by the UN General Assembly at its 69<sup>th</sup> Session; and
- **Consider and Endorse** the Post Conference Actions.