

*Theme: 'Sustainable Energy and Transport Services for the Blue Pacific'*

18–20 September 2019 | Apia, Samoa

## FOURTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING

Apia, Samoa, 18–20 September 2019

*Theme: "Sustainable Energy and Transport Services for the Blue Pacific"*

### APIA OUTCOME STATEMENT

1. The Fourth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting was organised by the Pacific Community (SPC) and hosted by the Government of Samoa at the TATTE Conference Centre, Apia, Samoa from 18-20 September 2019. The meeting consisted of the official opening and combined meeting of Ministers of Energy and Transport on Wednesday morning 18 September 2019, followed by parallel meetings of Energy and Transport Officials in the afternoon. There were separate meetings convened for Ministers of Energy (morning) and Transport (afternoon) on Thursday 19 September 2019. The final combined meeting was held on Friday morning 20 September 2019 for Ministers to discuss and endorse this *Outcome Statement*.
2. The Honourable Tuilaepa Dr. Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, officially opened the meeting and delivered the keynote address. The combined meeting and the Energy Ministers meeting were chaired by the Honourable Sili Epa Tuioti, Minister of Finance of Samoa. The Transport Ministers Meeting was chaired by the Honourable Papalii Niko Lee Hang, Minister for Works, Transport and Infrastructure of Samoa.
3. Energy and/or Transport Ministers from the following Members of SPC attended the meeting: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau and Vanuatu. Heads of delegations or senior officials also attended on behalf of Ministers of Energy and/or Transport of American Samoa, Australia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.
4. Representatives from the Government of Malaysia attended as observers. Representatives of the following CROP Agencies and other organisations participated in the meetings: the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO), the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Pacific Power Association (PPA), the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), the Pacific Women In Maritime Association (PacWIMA), the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the University of

the South Pacific (USP). Several international organisations and development partners attended as observers, namely, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the European Union (EU), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank (WB). Some representatives of port and private sector also attended as observers.

#### **The Ministers:**

5. **Expressed** their deep gratitude to the Honourable Tuilaepa Dr. Aiono Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa, the Government and people of Samoa for their warm welcome, generous hospitality and excellent arrangements of transport, catering, meeting venue and countless other things that needed to be organised in order to make this meeting an outstanding success. Ministers further expressed their appreciation to the Honourable Sili Epa Tuioti, Minister for Finance, and Honourable Papalii Niko Lee Hang, Minister for Works Transport and Infrastructure, for their capable leadership in chairing the meetings of Ministers.
6. **Expressed** to SPC their appreciation for the excellent arrangements in preparing for, funding and co-hosting the Ministers' meetings and the preceding meetings of Energy and Transport Officials.
7. **Conveyed** their deepest condolences to the Government and people of Tonga for the recent passing away of the Honourable Samuela 'Akilisi Pōhiva, Prime Minister of Tonga. At the official opening, the meeting observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the late Prime Minister who was praised as a champion for democracy in the Pacific Islands region.
8. **Reaffirmed** climate change as the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific and their commitment to progress the implementation of the Paris Agreement and their vision for a 100% renewable energy generation in the Pacific Islands region, and called for closer coordination and alignment of the regional efforts on sustainable energy by SPC, UNESCAP, SPREP and other development partners.
9. **Reaffirmed** the vital role of our energy and transport sectors in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and protecting our oceans.

10. **Noted** that the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C indicates that in model pathways with no or limited overshoots of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, global net anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions decline by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050, and recalled the United Nations Secretary General’s opening remarks at the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders-UNSG High-level Dialogue in May 2019 on carbon pricing, fossil fuel subsidies and just transition from fossil fuels.
11. **Acknowledged** the progress attained with regards to the implementation of the outcomes of the 2017 Energy Ministers Meeting, and the ongoing efforts of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), development partners, and the private sector in progressing the transition to low carbon development through various Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency initiatives, and noted the different levels of progress made by each PICT in relation to national energy targets and the SDGs.
12. **Noted** that the mid-term review of the SAMOA Pathway and the Progress Report on the SDGs both highlighted the need for urgent and accelerated work. This will enhance support for all initiatives and the strong momentum made towards the promotion of sustainable energy in PICTs.
13. **Reaffirmed** the need to thoroughly assess the environmental impacts of the various renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and applications employed to meet the national energy targets.
14. **Reaffirmed** the leading role of SPC in energy and maritime transport and called for innovative partnerships to advance data collection and analysis and measure progress against countries’ priorities and targets. Samoa indicated interest to partner with SPC on such an initiative and invited other countries to join.
15. **Noted** the work of IMO in the areas of maritime safety, security and the protection of the marine environment, and acknowledged the contribution of development partners in the enhancement of safety at sea and reaffirmed the paramount importance of addressing maritime safety issues and the protection of lives in the Pacific Island region.

#### ***Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan***

16. It is estimated that 8 million tons of plastic is disposed in the marine environment annually, of which the Pacific contributes less than 1%. Yet plastic pollution is the second most pressing environment issue for the Pacific Islands region; second only to climate change impacts. It has the potential to rival if not overtake climate change as the most pressing environment issue for the region due to its impact on climate change, energy, food security,

economic and health issues. Through the Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025, the Pacific Islands are implementing actions to address the scourge of plastic pollution.

### ***Pacific Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan***

17. Oil spill response capability is enhanced through the Pacific Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan 2030 (PACPLAN) and the support received from Australia and New Zealand for its development is acknowledged. Also noted the support from New Zealand to enable PICTs membership to Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) for a three-year period and thanked Australia for the support to assist countries in their oil spill response capability.

***In relation to the ENERGY SECTOR, the following developments and priorities were highlighted:***

### 18. REGIONAL VEHICLE FOR ACCELERATED PROGRESS

**Acknowledged** the PRIF-funded review of the *Framework of Action for Energy Security in the Pacific* (FAESP) 2010-2020 and endorsed the development of a new regional energy framework 2020-2030 to be a regional vehicle for an accelerated progress on the SDGs, SAMOA Pathway, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and energy roadmaps; and the need for the new energy framework to be supportive of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific continent.

### 19. PRIVATE SECTOR TARGETED INITIATIVES

- I. **Commended** the ADB's proposed Technical Assistance grant to provide initial funding to support the establishment and operation of OPERA and focus on the electricity subsector with future expansion into other subsectors, and directed SPC and ADB to finalise the host agency and to formulate a sustainable financing mechanism for OPERA.
- II. **Recognised** the efforts of development partners in supporting the installation of, and promoting private sector investment in renewable energy technologies, and called on development partners and PICTs to strengthen their collaboration through imposing proper policy incentives to ensure the resilience of installed renewable energy infrastructure. Further, called for concerted efforts by PICTs, development partners and the private sector to undertake studies and development of bio-energy, geothermal, ocean energies and waste resources, and to adopt new and emerging technologies, to increase renewable energy mix solution in PICTs.

- III. **Requested** SPC/Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE), UNIDO and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) energy transformation initiative (SIDS DOCK) to develop a regional policy document and program, and promote SIDS-SIDS cooperation and exchange on integrated e-mobility and renewable energy power systems.

## 20. MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM

- I. **Acknowledged** the various capacity building initiatives in sustainable energy undertaken by SPC, USP, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Australia-Pacific Technical College (APTC) and other agencies and encouraged PICTs to make use of educational pathway opportunities on sustainable energy available at national and regional accredited higher education institutions including the delivery of the regional qualification certificates and diplomas in sustainable energy.
- II. **Noted** the end of the Pacific Appliance Labelling and Standards (PALS) programme and supported the regional efforts in expanding minimum energy performance standards and labelling (MEPSL) in the region and encouraged PICTs to embark on appliance labelling and standards as a means of meeting their NDCs, and called on relevant agencies (i.e. Ozone and Energy) to pursue joint efforts and synergise minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and labelling programme and to phasedown hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerants.

## 21. SUSTAINABILITY OF REGIONAL ENERGY SERVICE DELIVERY

- I. **Recognised** the need to strengthen the regional petroleum advisory service at SPC to better serve the needs of PICTs and called on development partners to immediately assess and support the delivery of this regional petroleum advisory service, and noted the importance of data for evidence-based policies and reporting and the new funds that are required for the Pacific Regional Data Repository (PRDR) and energy efficiency.
- II. **Noted** that SPC is now an Accredited Entity of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and encouraged member countries to make use of SPC's role to secure more funding and accelerate the region's transition to low carbon development economies, and endorsed in principle the funding proposals developed jointly by SPC, partners and PICTs and their subsequent submission to donors including the GCF.

***AGREED in relation to the TRANSPORT SECTOR, the following as priorities for implementation:***

***21. A COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO SAFETY-FOR-ALL AT SEA IN THE PACIFIC***

- I. To allocate dedicated human and/or financial resources to Maritime Administrations to monitor implementation by domestic ships' operators of safety management systems and preventive maintenance under the Pacific Islands Domestic Ship Safety (PIDSS) programme;
- II. To undertake a community-based approach to safety-for-all at sea and implement national initiatives to instil a culture of safety and responsibility and a public claim for the right to safety for all at sea; and
- III. To direct ship operators to seriously prioritise safety issues and fully comply with international and national maritime safety standards.

***22. STRENGTHENING THE PACIFIC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FLAG STATE IMPLEMENTATION***

- I. Maritime Administrations to allocate financial and other resources internally to support their attendance at the Steering Committee meetings of the Pacific Memorandum of Understanding on Flag State Implementation (Pacific MoU); and
- II. Development partners to consider funding the Pacific MoU, as presented in Annex 2 of the paper, either through dedicated funding or existing assistance programme.

***23. SAFETY OF NAVIGATION IN THE PACIFIC***

- I. To set up or strengthen national mechanisms in order to facilitate consultation and coordination of activities related to safety of navigation; and
- II. To commit sufficient resources for agencies responsible for installing or maintaining safety of navigation services.

***24. LOW CARBON MARITIME DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC***

- I. To request further development and implementation of consistent programmes addressing the need for data, policies, laws, technology and finance; and

- II. To applaud the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership and agree to work towards the ambitious Partnership's targets for domestic shipping in the Pacific Islands Countries to reduce GHG emissions by 40% in 2030 and 100% by 2050.

#### 25. *PACIFIC PORTS 2030-2050: A VISION OF RESILIENT, GREEN AND CLEAN PORTS IN THE PACIFIC*

- I. To adopt *Pacific Ports 2030-2050*, a vision of Resilient, Green and Clean Ports in the Pacific.

#### 26. *MARITIME CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PACIFIC*

- I. To adopt the text of the *Memorandum of Understanding on the recognition of training and certification of seafarers for service on board vessels registered in Pacific island countries and territories 2019* and to sign it at the earliest on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2019; and
- II. Development partners to support technical assistance programmes to develop maritime competency frameworks, training courses and qualifications to create maritime career pathways in the Pacific maritime sector.

#### 27. *GENDER EQUALITY IN MARITIME*

- I. To endorse the *Regional Strategy for Pacific Women In Maritime (2020-2024)*;
- II. To implement priority actions of the Strategy such as:
  - a) Collecting, through national and regional networks, reliable and accurate data and information on women employed in the Pacific maritime sector;
  - b) Facilitating participation of Pacific Women In Maritime focal points to meetings and major events at the regional and national levels for capacity development on current issues within the maritime sector;
  - c) Supporting national Women in Maritime networks to conduct in-country promotion and visibility campaigns in schools and communities; and
- III. For the ministries responsible for transport, maritime administrations or other interested stakeholders to dedicate in-kind or financial resources for the support of establishment and/or operations of Women in Maritime network.

## 28. MARINE POLLUTION

- I. To endorse the revised *Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN) 2019* and agree to implement their respective roles and responsibilities, as outlined in the revised PACPLAN, to ensure effective response to marine spill incidents; and
- II. To endorse the *Pacific Regional Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 (PMLAP 2025)* and requested lead agencies and potential partners to implement priority actions.

## 29. COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION IN THE PACIFIC

- I. To request IMO to implement country-specific technical cooperation based on national priorities and a consistent deployment of global projects and regional presence in the Pacific;
- II. To actively support the continued participation of appropriate national agencies in PICTs to international meetings, including the sessions of IMO organs, in order to properly advocate the position of PICTs to such forums and influence decision-making at the international level;
- III. To request IMO to establish a regional office in the Pacific Islands, building on existing partnerships and technical cooperation programmes, and welcome Australia's offer to advocate for this at the next IMO Assembly; and
- IV. To task the SPC to consult and explore options for the development of new framework for transport taking into account the need to address aviation matters. SPC will report on the outcome at the first meeting of transport ministers or officials from 2020 and get advice on the way forward.

## 30. REGIONAL AVIATION MINISTERS' MEETING

- I. To note the preparatory work underway between PIFS and PASO to convene a Regional Civil Aviation Ministers' meeting in early 2020, to be hosted by Papua New Guinea, while recognising the need to streamline numbers of regional meetings. The meeting will invite consideration of how a vibrant aviation industry can be designed for the Blue Pacific and seek to consider aviation specific matters of importance to the region, in particular aviation safety and security, compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization standards (ICAO) and opportunities for increased connectivity.



## **RESOLUTIONS OF ENERGY AND TRANSPORT OFFICIALS**

31. Considered and adopted the outcomes of the Energy Officials' and Transport Officials' meetings as resolutions of this ministerial meeting. The resolutions are attached as **annex I** (Energy Resolution) and **annex II** (Transport Resolution) to this *Outcome Statement*.

## **FIFTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING**

32. Greatly appreciated the offer from Vanuatu to host the next Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting in 2022.

Adopted in Apia, Samoa the 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019