

CIRCULAR

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TO: SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 10 September 2024

CIRCULAR: 24/64

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Global Instrument on Plastics – Endorsement of Bridge to Busan Declaration

Dear SPREP Members,

Recent developments such as the *non-paper 05.09.24 INC Chair's initial thoughts on elements* points to the removal of all diverging issues such as production, chemicals of concern and design from the treaty text. What this means is that we are likely to have a treaty text that focuses primarily downstream, on waste management through reduce, reuse, recycling, and recover. This is not in line with the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) declaration on plastics that calls for the treaty to address the full lifecycle of plastics as per the mandate of the UNEA5.2 Resolution 5/14 and does not consider the already vulnerable circumstances of SIDS.

The Bridge to Busan Declaration is an initiative by likeminded countries led by the Federated States of Micronesia and launched at INC-4 in Ottawa Canada to keep the intent of UNEA 5.2 Resolution5/14 keeping the language of production of plastics in the draft text of the global plastics treaty. The proponents of the Declaration are inviting member states as well as organisations to sign up.

The endorsement of the Bridget to Busan Declaration is reflected in a number of regional high-level meetings.

- The 53rd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting (PIFLM53) Communique recommended the Pacific region endorsing the Bridge to Busan.
- The 4th SPREP Executive Board Meeting supported the PIFLM53 Communique and recommended that all SPREP Members endorse the Bridge to Busan Declaration.
- The 4th Clean Pacific Roundtable also encouraged Pacific island countries and territories to sign onto the Declaration to ensure an effective treaty to end plastic pollution.
- The Bridge to Busan is also in line with the Pacific Declaration on Plastic Pollution, the High Ambition Coalition to address plastic pollution, Pacific Partnership for Prosperity (PPfP) and regional collective action (RCA) of the 2050 Strategy Implementation Plan endorsed by Leaders at the 52nd Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting in 2023.

To-date there are seven Member States Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, that have signed up. It is very

simple to sign up. You can do this virtually through the link: www.bridgetobusan.com
Having all of our Members sign up to the Declaration will heed the call of our Pacific Leaders and position the PSIDS along with other like-minded states to maintain a treaty with high ambition. I will be signing for SPREP as an organisation.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to seek assistance through Mr. Anthony Talouli, Director Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme, anthonyt@sprep.org.

Kind regards



Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General