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**AGENDA ITEM No. 6: Review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and implementation of  
key priorities**

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

**Summary**

1. This paper provides an update on the review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and work to address key regionalism priorities identified by Pacific Islands Forum Leaders, in which the Pacific Community plays a key role.

**Recommendation**

2. CRGA is invited to note the update on the review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and related joint work addressing priorities in fisheries, climate change and disaster risk management, and cervical cancer.

## **Review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism and implementation of key priorities**

### **Purpose**

3. This paper presents an update on the review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and implementation of key priorities. The paper was jointly prepared by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and SPC.

### **Background**

4. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) represents Forum Leaders' political commitment to working collectively to achieve the region's key sustainable development aspirations. To deliver on this commitment, the FPR articulates an approach to priority setting that requires inclusivity, political ownership, and a focus on issues and areas where it makes sense to work collectively. Based on this, successful implementation of the FPR requires that the regional architecture – principally the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) – is a true partner during all stages of the priority setting process.
5. CROP agencies have a crucial role to play in the implementation of the FPR, primarily through:
  - providing technical and policy advice to guide and inform the development of regional policy;
  - implementing the decisions of Leaders in areas where they have a comparative technical advantage;
  - supporting monitoring and reporting of regional priorities.
6. In this regard, SPC continues to play a critical role in the implementation of the FPR, including through provision of technical policy advice and delivery of services addressing Leaders' priorities in its areas of expertise.

### **Addressing Leaders' priorities**

7. Currently, SPC is addressing Leaders' priorities as follows:
  - for fisheries through the work of the Fisheries Taskforce;
  - for climate change and disaster risk management through the work on the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) and the establishment of the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP);
  - for cervical cancer through the work of the Population and Health Working Group, which SPC chairs. SPC is working with partners through the Working Group's Cervical Cancer Taskforce. The Asian Development Bank has projects that will include vaccinations for HPV in four countries (Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu); UNICEF will be involved in procurement of the vaccines. A regional policy guideline is being developed. The recent meeting of Pacific Heads of Health also approved the establishment of a Pacific Cancer Registry hub to increase the availability of reliable and timely information on cancers, including cervical cancer.
8. The Leaders' priority on increasing the sustainable economic return from fisheries is coordinated by the Fisheries Taskforce, which consists of the Forum Fisheries Agency, SPC, the Parties to the Nauru

Arrangement Office and PIFS. The Taskforce is guided by a work programme focused on fisheries management, labour standards, increased value chain participation, and trade and investment. The Taskforce met on April 4 2018 and decided to present an update on its work to Leaders in 2018 to generate discussion by Leaders and settlement of key issues requiring consideration and focus, to ensure that their original decision on fisheries is carried out.

9. To progress action on the Forum Leaders' decision on coastal fisheries, a Coastal Fisheries Working Group was formed to bring together a small, stand-alone stakeholder group of representatives of communities, national and regional agencies and institutions to look at current and potential initiatives, with the aim of ensuring adequate support, resources and services are directed towards assisting national fisheries agencies and local communities to manage their coastal fisheries resources. The Working Group consists of SPC as Chair plus two other CROP agencies; three officers from national fisheries agencies (one per subregion) rotated every two years; three community representatives (one per subregion) selected and rotated each meeting; three representatives from NGOs and research/education institutions; and two donor and two civil society representatives. The Working Group approved its terms of reference at its first meeting in November 2017 in Noumea. At its second meeting in Noumea (April 2018), the Group agreed to have a direct line for reporting on important coastal fisheries issues to Leaders through the PIFS process. The Coastal Fisheries Working Group will provide outcomes and updates to the Marine Sector Working Group for information. Given the range and importance of issues for sustainable management of coastal fisheries resources, the Working Group will establish subgroups, e.g. at its second meeting, it established a Legal Task Force to look at legal issues for coastal fisheries.
10. Sustainable management of beche-de-mer to maximise value – Beche-de-mer is reputedly the region's second most valuable fishery after tuna. The difference is that beche-de-mer is mainly accessed in coastal waters by communities and thus has a direct impact on their livelihoods. It contributes to government revenue and rural and community economic development. However, it is also one of the most corrupt fisheries in the region as a result of poor governance. The Coastal Fisheries Working Group intends to bring to the attention of Leaders, CROP partners and observers the immense value that is lost to communities owing to issues of political will and interference in the sustainable management of beche-de-mer. The understanding is that CROP agencies will consider how the issue could most usefully be addressed within their spheres of influence.
11. The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP), approved by Leaders in 2016, provides guidance and support for building resilience to climate change and disasters in the Pacific Island region and a framework for the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP). It has three inter-related goals: strengthened integrated adaptation and risk reduction to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters; low carbon development; and strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery.
12. To give effect to the Leaders' 2017 decision on its governance arrangements, PIFS, SPC and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) have worked together to establish the PRP Support Unit. The Unit will facilitate the establishment of the PRP Taskforce as soon as practicable so that effective implementation of the FRDP can begin in earnest at regional and national levels. Operational focal points have been appointed by each of the three agencies as their commitment to responding positively to the Leaders' decision to build resilience in the region.

13. To progress the formation of the PRP Taskforce, a joint circular was sent to the three constituency groupings (member countries and territories, non-state actors and development partners) asking them to nominate a member and alternate. Nominations were received and the first meeting of the Taskforce was proposed for May 2018, with the Support Unit working to finalise the agenda and draft meeting papers.

#### **Review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism**

14. PIFS is currently undertaking a review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. The review will focus on the processes that have been established under the framework to ensure that they deliver on its underlying principles and intent. The review report and its recommendations will be delivered to Forum Leaders for consideration and endorsement in 2018.
15. The review is being led by PIFS, with a small consulting team providing technical support and the Forum Troika providing oversight and input into the review where possible.
16. The review team is consulting widely with all key stakeholders, including members, CROP agencies, and civil society, the private sector and development partners.

#### **Recommendation**

17. CRGA is invited to note the update on the review of the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and related joint work addressing key priorities in fisheries, climate change and disaster risk management, and cervical cancer.