

Annex 1: Clean Pacific Roundtable Outcome Statement



OUTCOME STATEMENT

The Clean Pacific Roundtable 2018:

Understanding the challenges that Pacific island national and local governments are facing with regard to the handling, treatment and disposal of all categories of waste;

Recognising our commitment to managing hazardous waste and chemicals through the global frameworks such as the Basel, Minamata, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention and the regional frameworks namely the Noumea and Waigani Conventions;

Acknowledging that aspects of waste minimisation and pollution prevention are embedded in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 3, 6, 11, 12 and 14 as well as the UN SIDS blueprint for development, the SAMOA Pathway;

Recalling our vision and values for the Pacific under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, as a region of 'peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity so that all Pacific people can lead free, healthy and productive lives';

Recognising our endorsement of the 'Blue Pacific', of Pacific people the custodians of an ocean of islands, who in understanding their needs and potential, plan and own their development agenda, and drive collective action in support of our vision under the Framework for Pacific Regionalism;

Recalling that in 2017 Forum Leaders made a commitment to fast track the development of policies to ban the use of single-use plastic bags, plastic and styrofoam packaging. The Forum Leaders also called upon Pacific Rim partners to join and commit to action on addressing marine pollution and marine debris, to maintain the environmental integrity of the Pacific Ocean for people, planet and prosperity;

Acknowledging the importance of Public and Private Partnerships in addressing effective waste management in the Pacific through innovative and creative solutions exemplified by the Moana Taka Partnership;

Recalling our vision and values for the Cleaner Pacific 2025, and its associated Implementation Plan, adopted by the Twenty-sixth SPREP Meeting of Officials;

Recognising the successful outcomes of the inaugural Clean Pacific Roundtable in 2016 held at the Holiday Inn in Suva, Fiji; and the subsequent endorsement by the Twenty-seventh SPREP Meeting of the roundtable to be held every two years under the direction of a Cleaner Pacific Steering Committee;

We hereby declare as follows:

1. *Encourage* Pacific island countries and territories to adopt and enforce a robust legislative framework dealing with waste and pollution issues and *promote* legal frameworks that use economic tools to minimise waste generation;
2. *Recognise* the important role of Public Private Partnerships to address the challenges of waste management and pollution in the Pacific;
3. *Recognise* the vulnerability and impacts of marine debris, plastics and microplastics, as a priority issue for the region noting that the main source is from outside the region;
4. *Recognise* that the issue of marine debris, plastics and microplastics is not just a waste and material management issue, but also has strong linkages to biodiversity, food security and climate change;
5. *Recognise* SPREP as the *UN Environment Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) Regional Node* for the Pacific region, and endorse, in principle, the *Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan* that will be presented to the upcoming SPREP Executive Board Meeting to be considered for endorsement;
6. *Endorse* the role of SPREP as the lead agency of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP), working with Pacific island Members and partners to coordinate and implement regional action across the Pacific to address marine debris, plastics and microplastics and that the regional approach be complemented by national efforts of information sharing on legislation, best practice and national approaches, between Pacific island countries and territories;
7. *Support* SPREP's lead role in assisting countries address marine debris, plastics and micro-plastics as a transboundary issue as part of its Regional Seas Programme at the international negotiations for a legal binding framework as well as commit to exploring a regional legal binding framework, possibly under the Noumea Convention;
8. *Develop* the regional action plan on disaster waste management in alignment with the Framework for the Resilient Development in the Pacific, the Cleaner Pacific 2025, the Disaster Waste Management Guideline in Asia and the Pacific and other relevant documents including national disaster plans;
9. *Recognise* the importance of disaster preparedness, response and recovery in reducing loss of human life , whilst minimising the adverse consequences to economic, social and environmental systems;
10. *Support* the full implementation of the Paris Agreement to minimise the increase of climate induced disasters;
11. *Develop* a standardised and coordinated regional response for a disaster waste mechanism that will attend to affected Pacific island countries and territories in a timely manner;
12. *Develop* a standardised estimation tool for the amount of disaster waste and related cost to be incorporated into the Post Disaster Needs Assessment processes;
13. *Commit* to managing hazardous waste and chemicals in an environmentally sound manner through the *development* of a regional work plan to address the challenges that Pacific island countries and territories are facing in the management of hazardous waste at the national level;

14. *Encourage* all Pacific island countries and territories to evaluate their national situations in hazardous waste management and consider becoming party to the relevant global and regional multilateral environmental agreements to help address their challenges;
15. *Note* the progress on the proposed GEF 7 Global 'ISLANDS' programme which was well received by Pacific island Members and donors and supported for continued development by the UN Environment and SPREP. *Welcome* the opportunity to benefit from closer cooperation with SIDS from other regions under the GEF7 proposal. *Note* the new programme will build upon lessons learnt from past projects and will consider careful integration of partner-funded activities across the region;
16. *Commit* to progress best practice in solid waste management through prevention, reduction, recovery, treatment and disposal reflected in the national waste management plans and strategies;
17. *Promote* the recovery of resources from green waste to avoid disposing of it to landfill or by burning which is harmful to human health and the environment;
18. *Promote* the establishment of recycling hubs in the Pacific to collect all categories of recyclable materials including sending them to recycling companies;
19. *Develop* the recycling information hub and explore the possibility of establishing the "Pacific Regional Recycling Association";
20. *Commit* to continue promoting the Pacific islands as a tourist destination through the healthy oceans and clean environment campaign;
21. *Develop* a regional programme to assist all Pacific island countries and territories in establishing proper waste management systems in tourist establishments;
22. *Commit* to strengthening partnerships between regional entities (such as CROP) and national tourism promotion agencies and operators;
23. *Develop* a matrix to identify, assess and address gaps not currently covered by waste management and pollution control activities and *strengthen* cooperation and collaboration between national, regional and development partners in resourcing of technical and financial assistance of appropriate waste management activities including development of relevant policies and regulations in addressing national waste management issues;
24. *Enhance, recognise* and *utilise* training initiatives and the sharing of information and opportunities available at national, regional, and international institutions for ongoing professional development and best practice related to waste and pollution management and *support* the establishment of an appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism to measure progress in waste and pollution management;
25. *Adopt* the diverse modes of technical capacity available at the national and regional levels, in the area of waste and pollution management to improve the capabilities of all relevant stakeholders at the national and regional levels;
26. *Recognise* the need for the establishment of institutional mechanisms to facilitate "Pacific People to Pacific People" cooperation for waste and pollution management and *emphasise* the need for national and regional waste experts, as key facilitators;

27. *Develop* the respective database of experts, public and private sector actors including community and faith-based groups, NGOs, CSOs and citizens in the management of all categories of waste and provide working and coordinated training opportunities where relevant for them;
28. *Generate, manage and disseminate* reliable qualitative and quantifiable data, based on agreed definitions, to ensure achievement of targets and provide reliable information for developing plans and actions; and
29. *Develop* a regional research agenda that supports the effective implementation of waste management and pollution control initiatives in the Pacific.

22 August 2018

Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Suva, Fiji