TO: Representatives of Governments and Administrations
(Heads of Delegations to the Second Regional Meeting of the Pacific Ministers of Energy and Transport)

No.: 14/03

Copy: DONOR AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

PICT Departments responsible for Energy and Transport

FILE: PRO 135/1/6
DATE: 11 April 2014


BACKGROUND

1. At the Forty-Fourth Pacific Islands Forum in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands on 3–5 September 2013, Leaders noted the Pacific Leaders Energy Summit in Tonga and the Pacific Energy Summit in New Zealand. It supported the initiative by Tonga to establish a Pacific Regional Data Repository (PRDR) for Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) and also reaffirmed the importance of infrastructure to the sustainable development of the Pacific, and the need for this to be recognised in the shaping of the post-2015 development agenda/SDGs.

2. Leaders therefore welcomed a proposal by SPC and Partner Agencies to organise a Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting in 2014 to assess progress in the implementation of the commitments made at the above two Pacific Leaders’ Energy Summits in achieving the United Nation’s Sustainable Energy For All objectives and to reach a regional position on Energy and Transport for the discussions of the post-2015 development agenda.
3. Following the Pacific Islands Forum, the Conference of the Pacific Community met in November and welcomed SPC’s commitment to assist all its island members to position themselves to engage strategically in the post-2015 development agenda and requested that it take a leadership role in helping them develop shared solutions; facilitating collaboration to ensure that the territories are informed and represented through partnerships with the independent states of the region; analysing and communicating information to brief Permanent Missions to the United Nations based in New York; and building the capacity of members to contribute effectively to the formulation of the SDGs.

THE MEETING

4. Responding to the Leaders and Conference, the Second Regional Meeting of Pacific Ministers of Energy and Transport (Aviation and Maritime) was co-hosted by the Secretariat and the Government of Fiji. The meeting of the Ministers was held on 2–4 April at the Sofitel at Denarau, Nadi. It was preceded by a meeting of officials on 31st March and 1st April at the Novotel, Nadi. The meetings were attended by over two hundred delegates, including a representative of the United National Secretary General, a representative of the UN’s office for the Sustainable Energy All Initiative, two deputy prime ministers and ministers and high level and senior officials from governments and development partners, civil society and the private sector. The Theme for the meeting was Sustainable energy and transport services for all Pacific Island countries and territories.

THE MEETING OUTCOMES

5. In terms of the progress from the Tonga and NZ Energy Summits, the meeting commended existing partnerships in the energy sector to enhance energy security and called for such partnerships to be expanded. Ministers acknowledged some examples of existing partnerships, including PRIF partners implementing the commitments they made at the Tonga and New Zealand Energy Summits of 2013.

6. For the PRDR for SE4ALL, the meeting welcomed the PRDR initiative and commended the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) for leading the initial work in this important area. Ministers further welcomed the decision for SPC to host PRDR for 12 months on an interim basis, noting that a review of this arrangement will be conducted after 12 months.

7. On a regional position on Energy and Transport for the discussions of the post-2015 development agenda, the meeting emphasised the importance of transport as a key enabler of sustainable development that must be included in the Pacific regional priorities for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In a region in which almost 99% of the total area is covered by ocean, sustainable, effective and efficient maritime transportation underpins livelihoods. Simply put, in the Pacific, without transport, neither ‘sustainable energy for all’ nor ‘sustainable development’ will be achieved. The meeting agreed that ‘transport for sustainable development’ must be included in the Pacific priorities to be submitted to the upcoming SIDS conference. It therefore welcomed the inclusion of ‘sustainable energy for all’ in the SDGs, and called for the inclusion of ‘transport for sustainable development’ in the SDGs and that this be conveyed to the SIDS conference.

8. The meeting outcomes are in the attached Denarau Communique and the Energy and Transport Ministerial Outcome. Energy Ministers Resolution and Transport Ministers Resolution can be accessed through the following link – http://www.spc.int/edd.

THE SIDS CONFERENCE IN SAMOA AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

9. The meeting acknowledged the importance of the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the opportunity for the Pacific to contribute and shape the new development paradigm.
10. It is the Secretariat’s wish that member states would now collectively take the outcome of the meeting to the relevant discussions on the SDG and post-2015 development agenda and to inform their UN missions accordingly. The Secretariat is aware that the comments on the zero draft document for the Samoa conference are due shortly and member states are encouraged to promote the language of the meeting Outcome and Communiqué as appropriate. The Secretariat will also be working very closely with the Forum Secretariat to ensure the outcome of the meeting is appropriately provided to NZ, who is one of the co-chairs for the negotiations leading up to Samoa, to PNG, Nauru and Palau as Pacific Island Countries on the Open Working Group of the SDGs, and that the outcome is fed into the Forum process.

Dr Colin Tukuitonga
Director-General

Attachs.

Original text: English