



## GOVERNING COUNCIL 38<sup>th</sup> SESSION

Port Vila, Vanuatu  
21-29 October 2009

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AGENDA ITEM	TITLE
10	REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
10.3	Implementation
10.3.5	PMEG and STAR <i>(To be circulated in Port Vila)</i>

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### Purpose of Paper

To appraise Council on matters and issues relating to the future of STAR and PMEG in respect of decisions under the Regional Institutional Framework to transfer the functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP.

### Background and comments

The Chair of Council will invite the Chairs of STAR and PMEG to present their collective views with regard to the future of the two Council mandated mechanisms that contribute to a) the effective dissemination of geoscience knowledge within the region; and b) provide an independent annual audit of SOPAC's three technical work programmes, respectively.

In all discussions to date leading up to the Joint Council Decision on the Regional Institutional Framework, members of Council have highlighted the need to retain STAR, noting its immense contribution to applied geoscience in the region and the value of free and independent technical advice available to member countries through this process. Similar sentiments have been expressed of the PMEG process that independently appraises the SOPAC Technical Work Programmes on an annual basis.