

SOPAC GOVERNING COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

23 February 2010

SOPAC Secretariat

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

A special SOPAC Council Subcommittee Meeting was convened on 23 February 2010 at the SOPAC Secretariat to address the issues of: (i) the unsecured 2010 Work Plan and Budget and (ii) to review progress with implementation of the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) reform.

Recommendation 1 – Progress with the implementation of the RIF

The SOPAC Council Subcommittee agreed that a two-track approach based on the following is the expeditious way forward on the RIF –

***Track 1:** Involves (i) the transfer of agreed SOPAC activities to SPREP; (ii) the transfer of the ICT Outreach activities of SOPAC to SPC, and (iii) the transfer of the Energy activities of SOPAC to SPC. Each of these clusters of activities can be transferred easily, simply and expeditiously, as was noted by the SOPAC Governing Council at its last meeting in Vila, and in a manner consistent with previous practice in the region. Each cluster is relatively small, certainly no larger than the activities previously transferred between regional organisations, for example when the Energy activities of PIFS transferred to SOPAC in 1998. Each transfer can be fully implemented subject to an Exchange of Letter between the respective CEOs and can be completed as early as 31st March with the agreed activities to be in SPREP and SPC respectively from 1st April 2010.*

***Track 2:** Dealing with the transfer of the bulk (or Core) of the SOPAC work programme to SPC. This is a substantive matter and involves around 100 staff and FJ\$30 million budget for 2010. No transfer of this magnitude has taken place between regional organisations previously and it almost certainly must be accompanied by changes to the SOPAC Constitution to facilitate the process, and subsequently the dissolution or suspension of the Commission. This will require careful consideration and be subject to a substantive Agreement and accompanying Implementation Plan between the governing bodies of SOPAC and the Pacific Community. The responsibility for drafting and circulating this Agreement and accompanying Implementation Plan, together with the relevant changes to the SOPAC Agreement will be with the Director of SOPAC and will be completed by July 2010. The Director General of SPC will be fully engaged. Consideration by SOPAC Council will take place in October 2010 (anticipated timing of Council Meeting during the week of the 18th) followed immediately by the SPC governing body. This process and timeframe is in accord with the SOPAC Council decision at its last meeting in Vila. Full and effective implementation will be from 1 January 2011.*

Recommendation 2 – 2010 Unsecured Work Plan and Budget

The SOPAC Council Subcommittee agreed that the Secretariat prepares a revised 2010 Work Plan and Budget by mid March taking into consideration the outcomes of this subcommittee meeting and circulate this to members for consideration.