



## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the SOPAC Council Committee of the Whole (SCW) on the Regional Institutional Framework

SOPAC Secretariat  
Wednesday, 19 March 2008

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AGENDA ITEM	TITLE
5	TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE WORK OF THE SCW
5.3	Revised Terms of Reference of the Committee of the Whole [Fiji Alternative]

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### **(Fiji Alternative)**

The SOPAC Governing Council during its 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Session meeting made the following decision:

1. Agreed to accept the challenge offered by the 2007 Leaders Communiqué which states “the need to rationalise the functions of SOPAC with the work programmes of SPC and SPREP, with the view to absorbing those functions of SOPAC into SPC and SPREP”.
2. Agreed the following course of action as a way forward in responding to the Leaders decision.
  - (i) Agreed that a Committee of the “SOPAC Council as a Whole”, be established and adequately resourced, to guide and advise the Director during the consultative process with the Terms of Reference to be agreed at its first meeting.
  - (ii) Agreed that the Director of SOPAC engage in a consultative process with the Director General of SPC and Director of SPREP, with the option of engaging the SG of PIFS as appropriate, providing regular briefings to the Chair of SOPAC Governing Council in the preparation of a draft road map to be submitted to the SOPAC Governing Council for consideration and approval with the intent of a final road map submitted to the Forum by 2010.
  - (iii) Agreed that during this consultative process some of the issues to be considered will include:
    - Proposing possible options for rationalisation and possible organisational models for the new arrangements taking into account realities such as the wider range of technical programmes, the possible rationalisation of certain common support services, the geographic location, and the membership differences.

- Examining the costs and benefits of the options considered during the process, the technical programmes, the memberships, and the external supporting agencies, identifying opportunities for improved service delivery.
  - Proposing a realistic timing for implementation that would need to be taken into account including practical, legal, contractual obligations, and or any other problems that might require prior resolution as a result of rationalisation.
  - Finding a mechanism that will enable the benefits of STAR to be continued.
- (iv) Agreed to emphasise to all stakeholders, especially members, donor partners, and Secretariat staff, that in the interim the Commission would continue with its current work and efforts to secure resources for sustained service delivery keeping in mind consultations with the Director General of SPC and Director of SPREP.
- (v) Agreed to immediately respond by writing to the Forum Chair, Chairs of the SPC and SPREP Governing Councils, Chair of STAR, donor partners and key stakeholders advising of the outcomes of its consideration of the issue at the 2007 Council Meeting.

As per SOPAC Governing Council decision 11.1.2(i), the Committee of 'SOPAC Council as a Whole' is now meeting "to guide and advise the Director during the consultative process" and establish "Terms of Reference to be agreed in its first meeting"

The Committee will no doubt discuss ways and means to guide and advise the Director.

This paper is basically to recommend a possible TOR scenario for consideration and approval by the Committee in its first meeting.

### **Terms of Reference for the SOPAC Council Committee as a Whole**

To implement the SOPAC Council decision AS36/11.1.2(i), the Committee agree that its Terms of Reference is as follows:

- Examine the work programme of SOPAC with a view to identifying which activities they consider may be rationalised and absorbed within SPC and/or SPREP.
- Examine how these activities of priority to the Island Member States may be delivered more effectively and efficiently, including governance and funding aspects.
- Request the Director to carry out the necessary work including consultations with the CEO's of SPC and SPREP to consider options and prepare a report for the Committee to consider.
- Ensure adequate resources are provided for the Director to carry out the tasks required.
- The Chair of the Committee to report to Council at its next session.