

# SOPAC

## GOVERNING COUNCIL 35<sup>th</sup> SESSION

Honiara, Solomon Islands

20-28 September 2006

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AGENDA ITEM	TITLE
10	INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
10.1 Suppl.	Letter to FOC Chair from SOPAC Chair on outcome of SOPAC Council discussion on the Regional Institutional Framework Review Report

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27 September 2006

Chair  
 Forum Officials Committee  
 03 – 04 October 2006-09-27 Forum Secretariat  
 SUVA

Dear Sir,

### Re: Regional Institutional Framework Report

As you will be aware the Pacific Plan Action Committee at its meeting on 24-25<sup>th</sup> August in Nadi agreed that the Report of the Review Team on the Regional Institutional Framework be brought to the attention of the SOPAC Governing Council.

I am writing to advise that this Report was presented to the SOPAC Governing Council at its meeting here in Honiara this week, by Ms Lucy Bogari a member of the Review Team.

SOPAC Council noted the Report. In doing so members agreed that I write to advise you, so you could update FOC and share Council's discussion of the Report. Council members also agreed that they would take the outcome of the discussions back to capitals in order to brief their officials attending FOC, next week in Suva, and their Leaders prior to the Forum meeting next month in Nadi.

There was no consensus on these issues. Also the Council noted that some delegates stated that they had not been briefed. However, after a lengthy discussion several issues began to emerge. It was clear to myself, that on the whole, they reflect important concerns in regard to the implications to members on the future delivery of the excellent scientific and technical work programme that SOPAC currently provides.

Those issues of concern to some members of Council, and which I feel can serve to inform and enrich discussion in FOC on the recommendations in the Report of the Regional Institutional Framework, included the following:

- The lack of clarity and assurance that improved delivery at national level of SOPAC's work programme and services would eventuate from implementing the Report recommendations.
- The lack of clarity surrounding the governance, establishment and operation arrangements of the proposed new single technical organization of which SOPAC would become a part, this includes legal and constitutional issues relating to SOPAC.

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 Suva  
 Monday, 18 December 2006

- The implication on SOPAC with regard to the potential risk of losing the progress made over the past three decades.
- SOPAC is nearing completion of a review and re-direction of SOPAC and its work programme that has taken 5-6 years, and the date for implementation of the Report recommendations of 1st January 2009 was considered by some Council members as overly ambitious, and should remain very flexible,.
- The Report does not address the implications for changes in membership in regard to enhancing work programme delivery and being cost effective.

Finally, SOPAC Council members were of the view that it was their responsibility to continue normal activities of SOPAC until directed otherwise by the Leaders.

I trust you will find the above useful and circulate to FOC members.

Kind Regards,

Hon. Toswell Kaua CSI, CMG, OBE.  
Minister of Mines, Energy and Water Resources,  
Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Chair of SOPAC 35<sup>th</sup> Governing Council Meeting

cc: Secretary-General, PIFS