CROP Sustainable Working Group – Informal Meeting

Discussion Synopsis

Date: 4 September 2012

Time: 4-5pm SPC Nouméa/Suva Campuses

Participants:

Brigette Leduc (Nouméa)
Hubert Geraux (Nouméa)
Iosefa Maiava (Suva)
Patricia Sachs Cornish (Suva)
Resina Katafono (Suva)
Scott Hook (Suva)
Sefanaia Nawadra (Nouméa)
Willy Morrell (Nouméa)
[*apologies if you've been missed here*]

Discussion Points

General Update (SPREP/PIFS)

- PIFS/SPREP provided participants with a brief status update on the work of SDWG which has been captured in a letter circulated to the Chair of the PSIDS grouping in New York on 20 July 2012.
- There was a short discussion on the key outcomes of the CROP CEO's ad hoc meeting on the 29th of July which amongst other things agreed to investigate the establishment of a small joint CROP/UN team to progress the SDG/Post 2015 agenda in the lead up to the 2014 SIDS meeting. Further to this point it was noted that CROP CEO's indicated that the joint team should draw on existing mechanisms and expertise within the sustainable development group and broader CROP/UN System where necessary. It was noted that PIFS is presently preparing a TOR to facilitate the establishment of this team following agreement in principal by relevant UN system agencies based in Suva.
- The group agreed the need to streamline and prioritise the focus of the "Rio+20 implementation matrix" that has been circulated to members and UN permanent representatives in New York. This was viewed as a difficult but important exercise. In this vein there was support for a formal meeting of the SDWG to progress this work.
- The group also discussed the need to reinvigorate the SDWG and to ensure we have adequate coverage/ expertise for all three pillars of sustainable development.

- It was agreed to re-circulate and update a membership /focal point list to participating agencies/organisations.
- UNICEF raised importance of the group mapping out meetings/engagement opportunities around Rio+20 implementation and SDG/MDGs post-2015 agendas. There was strong consensus around this suggestion.
- There was some discussion around the forth coming Ministerial Disabilities Meeting and upon a paper that has been developed focusing on SIDS experiences around Gender/Youth/HR [further details required].
- PIFS raised issue of the importance of regional engagement in UNDESA facilitated "Inter Agency Consultative Group" which is SIDS-focused and based in New York. This group has strong focus on the 2014 meeting and Ri0+20 implementation.
- ESCAP noted that Fiji may be preferred venue for the 2014 SIDS meeting but that the decision around modalities and venue will be made at the October UNGA.
- **Actions**: PIFS/SPREP to prepare and circulate participant list and meeting schedule.

Forum Leaders Outcomes (PIFS)

PIFS provided a brief run down on the key outcomes of the 2012 Forum Leaders Communiqué. The relevant Communiqué outcomes relating to Rio+20 are provided below for convenience.

> ***THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)***
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> *15. Leaders welcomed the important outcomes of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) for the Pacific, including reaffirmation of the special case for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), an emphasis on oceans, and the decision to develop Sustainable Development Goals.*
>
> *16. Leaders welcomed the decision of the Rio+20 Conference to convene the Third International Conference on SIDS in 2014. They fully endorsed the hosting of the Conference in the Pacific region and gave their full support to the Pacific Island country selected as the venue for it. Leaders gave their strong support to the full and active participation of all Pacific Islands Forum members in the 2014 Conference and its preparatory process.*
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> *17. Leaders further recognised that the effectiveness of this important Conference would require a thorough, comprehensive and well focused preparatory process and adequate financing to enable strong national and regional participation.*
>
> *18. Underlining the importance of the Conference, Leaders called on development partners and the wider international community to demonstrate their support for the success of the 2014 Conference and its preparatory process.*
>
> *19. Leaders tasked the Forum Secretariat, in collaboration with CROP and UN agencies, to work closely with FICs to develop a Pacific position on the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, and to contribute effectively to the relevant global processes, including the 68th UN General Assembly in September 2013.*
>
> *20. Leaders called on the UN system to clearly map out a merged process for the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals paths at the 67th UN General*

Assembly. Leaders also called for Pacific representation on the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group and the Finance Working Group proposed in the Rio+20 outcome document. Leaders acknowledged the importance of the review of the Pacific Plan in 2013 as an opportunity to encompass global developments and to better influence the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals in the Plan.

MDGS Reflections Workshop (ESCAP)

- ESCAP advised the group of two upcoming meetings of relevance to the group's implementation work. The UNDPPC are co-organising a workshop entitled "*Pacific sub-regional workshop on Sub-regional Consultations on MDG and Post-2015 development agenda/sustainable development goals in the Pacific*" from 10-12 October in Nadi (Tanoa). This meeting is taking advantage of another workshop (macro-economic policies and energy) which ESCAP is convening on the 8-9th in October (at the Tanoa as well).
- It was explained that since government representatives are being brought in for this other workshop, ESCAP are arranging for them to stay on to boost country participation at the MDG/post 2015 workshop. This will allow the MDG/post 2015 workshop to be allocated towards other (mainly non-government) participants.
- It was noted that ADB is also paying for an additional 15 participants for discussions on public sector management which fits well under the governance enabling "pillar".
- ESCAP noted that invitations to both of these meetings have been forwarded out and a draft agenda for the MDGs-focused workshop has been circulated to co-organising agencies.
- PIFS has agreed to "partner" on the MDGs workshop with the UN and ADB on behalf of CROP and will draw on the SDWG expertise as required.

Timing of Full SDWG

- A tentative date of 28th of September was suggested for a formal meeting of the SDWG in Suva. Participants were asked to check respective meetings calendars and revert on the proposed timing of the meeting. [Note: subsequent discussions between the co-chairs of the SDWG question whether it may be better to hold this meeting until after the forth coming UNGA (26 Oct-1 Sep) which, amongst other issues, will be discussing the modalities (including venue and timing) of the 2014 SIDS meeting].

END - 13 Oct 2012