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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 3/2/2 **TO:** **SPREP National Focal Points**

DATE: 12 February 2016

CIRCULAR: 16/06

SUBJECT: **Paris Agreement to be Opened for Signature by Parties to the UNFCCC**

Dear SPREP Members,

On 12 December 2015, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC adopted the Paris Agreement through decision 1/CP.21. The text of the Paris Agreement is contained in the annex to decision 1/CP.21, can be found here: http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?priref=600008831.

The authentic text in all six UN languages has been transmitted to the depository, by the UN Secretary General. The SG will convene a high-level signature ceremony on 22 April 2016 at the UN Headquarters. All Parties to the UNFCCC are invited to attend and to sign the Paris Agreement. All Members of SPREP that are Parties to the UNFCCC are eligible to sign.

It should be noted that under established international practice, only Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs are empowered, by virtue of their functions, to sign treaties on behalf of States without having to produce full powers to that effect. Other representatives, such as Permanent Representatives to the UN, wishing to sign the Agreement on behalf of their country must be in possession of appropriate full powers emanating from one of these authorities. States wishing to sign the Agreement need to contact in advance the Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, providing the required full powers as necessary.

There are of course other requirements agreed to in the Paris Agreement that would be needed for ratification of the treaty. SPREP will work with other regional agencies to develop a programme of support for the implementation and ratification of the Paris Agreement.

On behalf of SPREP, I would urge all eligible Members to sign the Paris Agreement, and look forward to working with you all towards its entry into force.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

KL/NP/rmg