

PACIFIC COMMUNITY

FIFTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING

(Port Vila, Vanuatu, 8-12 May 2023)

AGENDA ITEM E4 – STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR ENERGY SECURITY AND RESILIENCE IN THE PACIFIC

[Jointly submitted by the Pacific Community (SPC), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), University of New South Wales (UNSW), University of the South Pacific (USP), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Pacific Power Association (PPA), and Loughborough University]

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Energy Ministers' endorsement on strengthening collaboration between PICTs and partners and among partners in the implementation of the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021-2030.

Background

2. During the 4th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers meeting that was held in Apia, Samoa in 2019, Energy Ministers had endorsed the development of a new regional energy framework to replace the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific (FAESP) 2010-2020 that was due to expire in 2020. Subsequently, the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF), and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), University of the South Pacific (USP) and Pacific Power Association (PPA) had embarked on developing the new energy framework in 2020.
3. With funding support from PRIF, two consultants were engaged between March and October 2020 to prepare the new energy framework. Numerous stakeholder consultations including a questionnaire shared with PICTs and partners to complete, and virtual meetings with relevant individuals and groups were held between April and October 2020. After the review of the first iteration, it was agreed that the new framework would be referred to as “**Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021-2030**”. A virtual meeting attended by representatives of national energy offices was held in October 2020 whereby the Lead Consultant presented the revised FESRIP and offered the PICTs another opportunity to provide comments. The FESRIP was subsequently reviewed, and the second iteration was submitted to SPC and PRIF in the same month.
4. In February 2021, the SPC Director General presented the draft FESRIP during the 51st CROP Heads Meeting. The CROP Heads agreed that the FESRIP should be jointly owned and implemented by SPC, PIFS, USP, SPREP and PPA in collaboration with other partners. Further, the final independent review of the FESRIP was conducted by UNDP in early 2021 and all feedback received were appropriately incorporated in the framework. In April 2021, the final draft of the FESRIP was circulated to all PICT Energy Ministers for consideration and endorsement. The Heads of SPC, PIFS, USP, SPREP and PPA have signed the final version of the FESRIP.
5. The FESRIP was presented during the Forum Officials Committee (FOC) Meeting in July 2021 in which it was agreed to recommend the endorsement of the FESRIP to Forum Leaders. At the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Virtual Meeting that was held on 6th August 2021, the FESRIP was endorsed by the Forum Leaders. The goal of the FESRIP is to enable universal access to secure, robust, sustainable and affordable electricity, transport fuel and household energy services that are resilient to climate change and natural disasters, and are increasingly supplied by

renewable resources, with improved energy efficiency, and upgraded energy infrastructure and improved technologies.

Current status

6. SPC in collaboration with PIFS, USP, SPREP and PPA and other partners have been discussing through workshops and meetings (i.e. virtual, hybrid and in person meetings) how to strengthen partnerships in the implementation of the FESRIP. Subsequently, the FESRIP Implementation Steering Group (FISG) has been established to facilitate partnerships and coordinate fundraising efforts through the development of concept notes / project proposals and donor engagement. Apart from the CROP Agencies, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), University of New South Wales (UNSW), University of Papua New Guinea, and Loughborough University are members of the FISG.
7. A series of workshops were held to develop a research and innovation agenda for energy resilience in the PICTs over 2020 and 2021, led by Loughborough University, the University of the South Pacific (USP) and UNSW. A paper, published in Nature Energy, emphasized opportunities to better incorporate resilience principles into planning tools and processes, better work with communities to enhance their inherent resilience, and build viable business models for more resilient energy systems, including decentralized small-scale options.
8. In pursuit of strengthening women empowerment and addressing gender imbalance in the energy sector, SPC in collaboration with the US Department of State through the Bureau of Energy Resources had organized the Pacific Women in Energy Conference in Suva, Fiji in October 2022. The Pacific Energy and Gender Strategic Action Plan (PEGSAP) 2020-2030 was launched during the conference and a number of PGSAP priority areas were identified for action in the next 3-5 years. Additionally, the Pacific Energy Gender Initiative Steering Committee (PEGI) was established during the conference with membership comprising representatives from the 3 sub-regions of the Pacific, international / regional organisations, private sector and Civil Society Organisations.
9. Since the beginning of the joint effort for the implementation of the FESRIP in 2021, SPC has attracted the following partnerships and funding: (i) ADB is funding OPERA mainly in capacity building, technical studies and information sharing, (ii) the EU-OACPS funded Pacific Adoption of Waste to Energy Solution Project currently implemented by SPC and SPREP, (iii) the US Government through the US Embassy in Suva is funding the Tuvalu Biogas Project, (iv) a Gender Adviser has been engaged through Australia's RedR to coordinate and spearhead to implementation of the PGSAP, (v) financial assistance provided by the Austrian Development Agency in support of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency's work on electric mobility, renewable energy mini-grids and support to the tsunami recovery effort in Tonga, (vi) funding for energy through the SPC Climate Change Flagship funded by New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and (vii) Australia's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEE) is the main sponsor of the 5th PRETMM.
10. Events since the initial development of the FESRIP, including extreme weather events and other disasters in the region, and the impact of the global energy crisis on fuel imports and prices, have only highlighted the importance of energy security and resilience in the region, and the key role that renewables can play in addressing all of the regions' energy goals.

Issues

11. Against the backdrop of the 2022 global energy crisis, the Leaders discussed, among other priorities, a clear pathway for energy security and urgent requirement for decarbonisation of the

energy sector towards renewable energy during the 51st Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting that was held in Suva, Fiji in July 2022.

12. Enhancing partnerships is critical to the successful implementation of the FESRIP. SPC and relevant CROP Agencies need to work closely together to maintain and/or enhance collaboration with existing partners and to establish new partnerships.
13. The assistance of partners and donors are necessary in ensuring the implementation of the FESRIP is adequately resourced which, in turn will contribute to the region's collective effort to transition away from fossil fuel and an energy secure Pacific.

Recommendations

14. The meeting is invited to:
 - i. **acknowledge** the significant amount of work in preparing the FESRIP 2021-2030 and the funding provided by PRIF and UNDP for the development of the framework.
 - ii. **endorse** the collaborative efforts by SPC, PIFS, SREP, USP and PPA to jointly own and implement the FESRIP, and their ongoing efforts to work with other partners in this regard.
 - iii. **support** the Leaders' vision of a clear pathway for energy security and urgent requirement for decarbonisation of the energy sector towards renewable energy.
 - iv. **express** deep appreciation to partners who are currently supporting the implementation of the FESRIP and **call** on other development partners to support the implementation of the framework and the region's collective effort on energy transition.