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Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting

Port Vila, Vanuatu

8-12 May 2023

"Accelerating decarbonisation in the Blue Pacific"

Concept Note

Introduction

The current global energy crisis further emphasises climate change as the greatest challenge for our Blue Pacific. The Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) rely heavily on fossil fuels to drive their energy systems. Eighty per cent of commercial energy used in our region is fuelled by petroleum. Almost one hundred per cent of our transport, including maritime and land transport, is using petroleum. And 36% of our population still does not have access to electricity.

Recognising these challenges, Pacific leaders have declared their commitment to make the region carbon neutral by 2050. As the lead agency supporting the PSIDS' maritime transport sector and energy transition from fossil fuel to renewable sources, SPC is working with PICTs and many partners to realise 100% energy access and ultimately achieve carbon-neutral economies in our region. This is key to the survival of our people and nations.

Advancing the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions is also a priority for action in the Maritime Transport Sector. Additional challenges for maritime transport are numerous and centre around flag state implementation, safety of navigation, gender equality, ports, maritime capacity development, and marine environment pollution prevention and response capabilities.

It is therefore prudent to update the Energy and Transport Ministers on the progress against target in the energy and maritime transport sectors, and to provide a space for deliberations and seek their guidance in providing direction and endorsing commitments for the next 3 years and beyond.

The convening of the Fifth Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers' Meeting (5th PRETMM) was scheduled for the year 2022, and due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Vanuatu, in collaboration with SPC, has made the decision to reschedule the meeting to 2023.



Focus of the meeting

The 5th PRETMM will review and deliberate on progress regarding the provision of sustainable, modern and efficient energy services, and sustainable, reliable and safe transportation and mobility in the Pacific Islands region. The meeting will discuss the role and commitments of the energy and maritime transport sectors in supporting the implementation Pacific Leaders' vision under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

The meeting outcomes and commitments will be the pathways to ensure that PICTs have the resources and capacity to achieve ambitious targets and mobilise partnerships for both their Energy and Transport sectors under international, regional and national frameworks.

Outcomes

The Energy and Transport Ministers will recognise the progress made since the 4th PRETMM that was held in Apia, Samoa in 2019 and will endorse ongoing and new commitments in the energy and maritime transport sectors to be implemented in the next three years.

Output

The Energy and Transport Ministers will consider, deliberate and endorse the Outcome Statement of the 5th PRETMM. This Outcome Statement will be shared with representatives of PICTs and partners before it is finalised and distributed.

Participants

It is expected that a government minister or assistant minister responsible for Energy and Maritime Transport in the PICTs will be in attendance. In addition, senior government officials (i.e. 1 energy and 1 transport official) from each PICTs as well as representatives of development partners will attend.

Location and dates

The Ministers and Officials meetings will be held at the Warwick Hotel in Port Vila, Vanuatu, on 8th – 12th May 2023.

Format

The 5th PRETMM will be held in person, but virtual attendance will also be available for those who cannot attend in person (hybrid mode). Papers for discussion at the Ministers will be shared and discussed in advance with the relevant national officials to ensure that Ministers are well briefed and prepared for their meeting. Joint sessions are scheduled as follows:

- (i) Side events and opening of the 5th PRETMM on Monday afternoon 8th May,



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- (ii) Parallel meetings of officials for energy and maritime transport meeting on Tuesday 9th May,
- (iii) Joint round table discussions on Wednesday 10th May, followed by a partner dialogue
- (iv) Consecutive meetings of the ministers responsible for energy and maritime transport on Thursday 11th May, and
- (v) Consideration and endorsement of the ministerial outcome statement or declaration on Friday morning 12th May, followed by a field trip.

Organisation and facilitation

The Government of Vanuatu in collaboration with SPC, and with the support of Australia and New Zealand, as well as several development partners, are organising the 5th PRETMM.

Hosting

The Government of Vanuatu will host the 5th PRETMM.

Agenda and additional information

A draft programme of the meeting was sent out with the meeting announcement to PICTs, partners, and interest groups in February 2023. The overall week-long programme, detailed agenda, and papers will be finalised and made available to attendees in advance of the meeting on this website:

<https://gem.spc.int/meetings/5th-pacific-regional-energy-and-transport-ministers-meeting-2023>