



Fourth SPREP Executive Board Meeting
4 – 6 September 2024
Hybrid Platforms
12:00pm – 5:00pm Samoa Standard Time

Agenda Item 8.1: UNFCCC COP28 outcomes and Preparations for COP29

Purpose:

1. To inform SPREP Members of UNFCCC COP28 outcomes for Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) Parties at the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting in Dubai, United Emirates, in December 2023.
2. To inform SPREP Members of the current state of preparations being carried out by SPREP and the One CROP to support PSIDS Parties at the Twenty Ninth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11-24 November 2024.

Background:

3. SPREP's Climate Change Resilience Programme provides technical support and advice to Pacific SIDS Parties to the UNFCCC through its leadership of the One CROP Team (including PIFS, SPC, FFA and PIDP) to implement the Pacific Voyage Plan.
4. COP28 was the culmination of year- long support and preparations with of all PSIDS in partnership with One CROP Team. Work started with a post-COP27 analysis meeting and included a pre-Bonn intersessional preparation meeting, eight SPREP organized virtual in-depth analysis sessions to help prepare negotiators for COP28.
5. Finally, an in-person preparatory meeting was held at the Pacific Climate Change Centre, with support from Climate Analytics and the One CROP team, which culminated in an agreed PSIDS COP28 negotiations strategy and the development of tools such as briefings on 13 thematic priority areas, the delegates compass and a series of "Beats" on key topics for high level interventions.

Outcomes of COP28

6. The Pacific presence at COP28 was significantly higher than previous COPs with all 14 PSIDS having delegations totalling over 350 PSIDS delegates.
7. The Government of New Zealand supported the Pacific Delegation Office and jointly with the Government of Australia supported the Moana Blue Pacific Pavilion. These two spaces were the centre for daily coordination of the PSIDS and acted as the "home away from home" for Pacific delegates at COP.

8. Effective support for the 14 PSIDS at COP 28 was provided through coordinated “on the ground” support, including: the hosting of regular lead negotiator and Ministerial briefings; assisting lead negotiators’ coordination of thematic groups; policy and logistical support for Pacific Political Champions; close collaboration with AOSIS counterparts; briefs to support interventions and inform the status of thematic areas; as well as hosting and supporting bilateral meetings.
9. The briefings, technical work and bilateral meetings were held at the Pacific delegation office while the Moana Pacific Pavilion hosted 77 side events and was an informal workspace - both venues providing the space and opportunity for Political Champions, negotiators and partners to meet and strategise.
10. This was supplemented by the “1.5 to Stay Alive” digital media campaign which amplified the Pacific voice and the Mana Moana Pacific Voices campaign where poems from Pacific Island poets were showcased on film and across COP28. Both these campaigns garnered significant social media attention.
11. The most positive outcome of COP28 for PSIDS came early in the process with a decision on operationalising the Loss and Damage Fund, with over USD700 million in pledged financing.
12. This was followed by a decision in the first Global Stock Take that broke new ground with the inclusion of specific sectors for mitigation action including calling on parties to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency by 2030. The decision also called for parties to “transition away from fossil fuels”. Despite this being weaker language than what PSIDS had called for (i.e. phaseout of fossil fuels), it was still the first such reference to fossil fuels in a COP outcome.
13. These advances were balanced by a lack of substantive outcomes on climate finance, which puts an even greater onus on parties to progress discussions on a New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for climate finance, due to be agreed upon at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Preparations for COP29

14. Immediately following the closing of COP28, preparations commenced for COP29. A COP28 Summary Report was produced in February, identifying key COP28 outcomes and lessons learned.
15. This was followed by the PSIDS Post COP28 meeting, convened virtually from 27-29 February. This meeting addressed the state of play of the UNFCCC negotiations and key issues; provided updated information on the critical UNFCCC Meetings for 2024; and discussed initial planning for PSIDS activities in the lead up to the Subsidiary Bodies session in Bonn in June 2024 and COP29 in November 2024.
16. In May, SPREP hosted a Pre-Bonn meeting, preparing PSIDS for the Subsidiary Bodies meeting in Bonn, Germany in June. Technical briefs were also developed on key thematic areas to support preparations. Coordination and technical support were provided to PSIDS on the ground in Bonn.

17. SPREP continues to lead the work of the One CROP and is working with the PSIDS Chair Vanuatu to support PSIDS through the implementation of the Pacific Voyage Plan.
18. A communication strategy and calendar of events have been developed to further guide preparations toward COP29, including planning for a COP29 Moana Pacific Pavilion and Pacific delegation office.
19. Further technical workshops will be convened in August and will culminate with the PSIDS final pre-COP29 preparatory meeting, which is scheduled for 30 September – 4 October 2024. This will ensure PSIDS negotiators have an agreed strategy to advance their key priority outcomes at COP29 in November.

Recommendation:

20. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
 - 1) **Note** the outcomes of PSIDS engagement in COP28; and
 - 2) **Note** the progress of preparations by SPREP and One CROP in the lead up to and at the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.
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