



## Agenda item 9.4.2: SPREP Ocean Governance Framework 2024 - 2026

### Purpose:

1. To seek Members' endorsement of the SPREP Ocean Governance Framework 2024 - 2026.

### Background:

2. At the 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting in 2023, Members requested the Secretariat to develop a strategic framework for strengthening its capacity on Ocean Governance. To implement the 31 SPREP Meeting decision, the Secretariat through its internal 'Ocean Coordination Group (Blue Team)' has developed the SPREP Ocean Governance Framework 2024-2026 (Refer WP9.4.2/Att.1).
3. The objectives of the SPREP Ocean Governance Framework are to:
  - a. Clearly define the Secretariat's role and areas of ocean work related to SPREP's mandate, the Noumea and Waigani Conventions, SPREP Strategic Plan 2017–2026, 2050 Strategy, ocean-related global MEAs and associated MOUs, and regional strategies and frameworks;
  - b. Strengthen internal coordination and collaboration on ocean work, through the Secretariat's Ocean Coordination Group (Blue Team);
  - c. Strengthen the Secretariat's support for the Noumea and Waigani Conventions and on-going support to Parties with the implementation of their obligations under the Conventions; and
  - d. Strengthen SPREP's collaboration and engagement with Members, CROP agencies and other regional and international partners on ocean governance issues.
4. It is proposed that the implementation of the Ocean Governance Framework will be led by the SPREP Ocean Coordination Group by:
  - a) Identifying and coordinating SPREP representation, collating technical input from SPREP Programmes, and providing capacity-building services to support Members' participation in ocean-related fora (e.g. climate change, biodiversity, pollution and waste MEAs, and the UN Ocean Conference);
  - b) Contributing to the development of cross-cutting strategies and solutions to address matters raised by Members in ocean-related fora;
  - c) Collectively providing technical advice and technical inputs to support Members in addressing key environmental issues;
  - d) Coordinating technical input and leading or supporting ocean-related implementation of the 2050 Strategy;
  - e) Strengthening the Secretariat's role and services for the Noumea and Waigani Conventions and supporting their implementation;

- f) Convening discussion fora for reviewing ocean issues and events, and sharing lessons learned for the benefit of all SPREP Programmes, ultimately leading to better representation of Members' interests on ocean matters; and
  - g) Identifying gaps in work areas to allow for targeted, coordinated project development that addresses ocean governance priorities identified by Members.
5. The timeframe of the SPREP Ocean Governance Framework is aligned with the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026. The Framework will inform the formulation of the next Strategic Plan, particularly the ocean dimension.

**Recommendation:**

6. The Executive Board Meeting is invited to:
- 1) **Endorse** the SPREP Ocean Governance Framework 2024-2026.

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