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

CIRCULAR

FILE: SPM 21/5 **To:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 20 September 2019
CIRCULAR: 19/74
Subject: **Clarification on the Rotation of Membership on the SPREP Executive Board**

Dear SPREP Members,

Members at the 29th SPREP Meeting sought confirmation of the membership of the second Executive Board Meeting in light of the rotational nature of non-Troika membership.

In its response the Secretariat drew on the matrix that had been presented to the 28th SPREP Meeting, however, following Members' queries after the close of 29SM, we note that this matrix predated the decision of the Meeting on the TOR of the Executive Board and does not, therefore, reflect the decision of the Meeting.

A revised version in line with the decisions of 28SM under Agenda Item 8.1 is attached as Annex 1 which identifies the Membership of the Second Executive Board to be:

- Troika – Solomon Islands, Samoa, and PNG;
- Rotational Members:
 - Polynesia - American Samoa,
 - Micronesia – Guam and Kiribati
 - Melanesia – New Caledonia
 - Metropolitan – New Zealand

Background

The 28th SPREP Meeting agreed the Terms of Reference for the Executive Board (refer Annex 1).

The Cook Islands proposed an alternative principle to more equitably guide the rotation of non-Troika Membership noting the greater relative size of the Polynesia constituency and provided an indicative matrix to illustrate the principle.


28SM favoured the Cook Islands principle, but neither the Cook Islands proposal nor its matrix were specifically endorsed by the Meeting. Subsequent assessment by the Secretariat notes that the Cook Islands matrix does not fully align with the 28SM decision on the Executive Board TOR as it includes the Troika members in identification of constituency representation, whereas the rotational membership of the Executive Board provided for in the TOR is explicitly for the non-Troika membership, including constituency representation.

In order to rectify the announcement made at 29SM, the Secretariat has amended to Cook Islands matrix to fully reflect the TOR (refer Annex 2). This should be viewed as the definitive guide to Executive Board Membership.

In summary, Membership of the second Executive Board in September 2020 will comprise:

- Troika – Solomon Islands, Samoa, PNG;
- Polynesia – American Samoa (deferred from 2018)
- Melanesia – New Caledonia
- Micronesia – Guam, Kiribati;
- Metropolitan – New Zealand;

Yours sincerely,



Roger Cornforth
Acting Director General

RC/ae