

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP_6/4/11; ORG 1/14 UNEP **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 20 December 2021
CIRCULAR: 21/155

SUBJECT: Preparations for UNEA 5.2 relating to draft resolutions and decisions

Dear Members,

The Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly is fast approaching being held on the 28 February to 2 March 2022 with the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives (OECPR) to be held the week before. The meeting itself will be held in Nairobi, Kenya and online and the format and structure can be found in the link [here](#).

UNEA5.2 draft shows resolutions and decisions are clustered into the following: Cluster 1: Marine / Plastic Pollution; Cluster 2: Nature-based Solutions and biodiversity; Cluster 3: Chemicals and minerals; Cluster 4: Green recovery and circular economy; and Cluster 5: Organisational and administrative matters. Details are available through this [here](#).

To assist Member States on the various resolutions and decisions the Secretariat would like to offer its technical assistance for Clusters 1, 2, 3 and 4, and to invite Member States to a **UNEA5.2 Preparatory Workshop** tentatively scheduled for the **2 February 2022**. More information will be provided in January 2022. We envisage that this preparatory workshop could also contribute to Members States preparation for other major international events such as the *One Ocean Summit* 11-12 February 2022, *Our Ocean Conference* 15-16 February 2022, as well as the *BBNJ OGC4* 7-18 March 2022.

In relation to **Cluster 1: Marine / Plastic Pollution**, as you may be aware Member States will be required to agree on a resolution on a process and terms of reference for development of a new international agreement on marine plastic litter. This follows the work the region has already done developing a Pacific Regional Declaration on the Prevention of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and Its Impacts which contains a call for a new binding global agreement on the prevention and reduction of marine litter and plastic pollution.

Other recent agreements where some Pacific countries have signed include the:

- Ministerial Statement from the Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution Conference
- WTO Joint Statement endorsements
- Ocean Day Declaration

Currently there are two alternative resolutions that have been submitted in view of the UNEA5.2. One is by Rwanda/Peru which has around forty countries co-sponsoring and a Japanese one which was just recently submitted. For your information we have attached a

table comparing the two resolutions side by side. Currently no Pacific Island States are co-sponsors of either resolution. The SPREP leads in this Cluster are Anthony Talouli, A/Director WMPC Programme anthonyt@sprep.org and Karen Baird, Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser, karenb@sprep.org.

In relation to **Cluster 2: Nature-based Solutions and biodiversity** the Secretariat can provide technical support on the two concept notes submitted by the EU, one for a draft resolution on accelerated adaptation measures to secure water quality and strengthened climate resilience in aquatic ecosystems; the other on a draft resolution on Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development. The SPREP leads in this Cluster are Sione Fulivai, Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific Coordinator, sionef@sprep.org, and Nicolas Rocle, Marine Environment and Conservation Specialist, nicolasr.ext@sprep.org. There may also be some interest in the draft resolution on animal welfare and sustainable development nexus and SPREP lead on this is Karen Baird, Threatened and Migratory Species Adviser, karenb@sprep.org.

In relation to **Cluster 3: Chemicals and minerals** the Secretariat can provide technical support on sustainable nitrogen management; sound management of chemicals and waste; and science policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution. The SPREP lead in this Cluster is Joshua Sam, Hazardous Waste Management Adviser, joshuas@sprep.org.

In relation to **Cluster 4: Green economy and circular economy** the Secretariat can provide technical support on green recovery; circular economy; and biodiversity and health. The SPREP leads in this Cluster are Peter Davies, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Adviser, peterd@sprep.org and Melanie King, Manager Project Coordination Unit, melaniek@sprep.org.

We look forward to engaging with you in the next few weeks and at the **UNEA5.2 Preparatory Workshop** tentatively scheduled for the **2 February 2022**.

Have a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General