

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 3/2/2

TO: PSIDS Focal Points

DATE: 8 July 2021

CIRCULAR: 21/66

SUBJECT: CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – COP 26 POLITICAL CLIMATE CHAMPIONS

Dear PSIDS Focal Points,

Recognising the capacity constraints faced by Pacific Island Countries to meaningfully engage at the highest political level at recent UNFCCC COPs, the Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting in 2020:

- *“Tasked the Forum Secretariat and the One CROP+ team to progress the appropriate advocacy initiatives for stronger political engagement and advocacy in the lead up to and at COP26”;* and
- *“Supported the need for consistent senior Pacific political representation for the duration of COP26 negotiations, including clarity on the role of political champions, and tasked the One CROP+ team to explore funding opportunities to ensure this”.*

In response, the One CROP+ team¹, through a sub-committee led by PIFS, SPREP and SPC, took a joint response to the Forum Foreign Ministers’ decisions in assessing the practicality of the proposed COP 26 Political Climate Champions for the Pacific. This is based on the many years of experience supporting Pacific Island leaders within the climate change negotiations.

The Concept Note (see [Annex 1](#)) seeks to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island Countries to strategically engage at COP26, through well-supported Political Climate Champions, to influence strong COP26 outcomes which reflect Pacific priorities.

To enable the One CROP+ team to develop relevant briefs and workplans for respective political champions, **Expressions of Interest are invited from Pacific Island Countries** that are willing to step up and be a voice for the region at COP26 on relevant priority themes – Climate Finance, Ambition, Environmental Integrity, Loss and Damage and Oceans. The Champion should ideally be at the Leader or Ministerial level with demonstratable evidence of championing the issue and relevant national plans.

Once the list of Political Champions is consolidated and endorsed by Members, the One CROP+ team will develop relevant briefs on the following:

- What the regional policy positions are in each priority area and ensure they do not undermine national positions.
- What are the key issues at stake and state of the negotiations?
- Where are we in terms of the policy positions and what are the sticking points?
- What specific regional outcomes are we seeking from the various negotiations?

¹ One CROP+ team is led by SPREP and includes PIFS, SPC, USP, FFA and non-CROP agencies such as UNDP and UNEP.



- What are lobbying/negotiating tactics to get us where we want to go?

Please send any queries or Expression of Interest (containing full name, position title, priority theme and contact details for supporting senior official) to Mr. Espen Ronneberg, SPREP Climate Change Adviser (espenr@sprep.org) and Mr. Exsley Taloiburi, PIFS Resilience Team Leader (exsleyt@forumsec.org) **no later than Friday 16th July.**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kosi Latu".

Kosi Latu
Director General

KL/TC/fj