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FILE: AP 6/9/2 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 6 September 2022
CIRCULAR: 22/78

SUBJECT: **Invitation to the Regional Seminar on biofouling management and invasive aquatic species**

Dear Members,

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are organising the 1st Regional Seminar on biofouling management, as a first step leading to the development of a regional strategy on Biofouling for the Pacific islands' region.

The Regional Seminar will be held online and should be considered as a preparatory meeting for a future regional workshop to be conducted in 2023 with the goal of defining a regional strategy for biofouling management that will ensure a harmonised approach to biofouling management in the region. The objectives of this seminar are to:

- raise awareness on the issue of invasive aquatic species transferred through biofouling;
- capacitate government representatives to participate in future meetings and negotiations on the issue;
- exchange information and knowledge on biofouling management, approaches, best practices and innovation that are currently available in the region; and
- identify existing challenges, knowledge and technical gaps in the region.

Please find attached a provisional agenda (Annex 1 – Provisional Agenda) of the Seminar for your noting and preparation as well as an Information note on biofouling and invasive aquatic species (Annex 2 – Information Note).

The seminar expected participants include representatives from focal agencies of countries in the region as well as relevant stakeholders from regional organizations, ocean-based industries, academia and non-governmental organizations working on maritime legislation, policies and programs pertaining to marine pollution or more specifically biofouling management and invasive aquatic species.

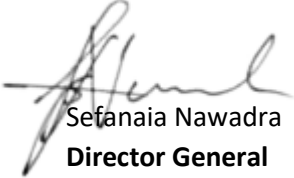
Based on the above considerations, we kindly request suitable government representatives to participate in the Seminar that will take place on 20 September 2022 from 11:00am to 13:30pm Apia time.

We would appreciate if you could confirm as soon as possible your availability and acceptance of this invitation.

To ensure necessary arrangements can be made to facilitate colleagues participation, kindly confirm their participation by registering on line through this link here: <https://sprep.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJA1cO6hpzqGdwTNJ-rppZAkea3psRM5O6x>.

For further information please contact Mr. Anthony Talouli on anthonyt@sprep.org, and/or Ms. Davina Tiitii on davinat@sprep.org of the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme.

Yours sincerely,



Sefanaia Nawadra
Director General

SN/AT/rmg