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South Pacific Regional Environment Programme



**Eighth  
SPREP  
Meeting**



**11–13 October 1995  
Apia, Western Samoa**

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November 1995

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# Meeting Report

## Agenda Item 1:

### Official Opening

1. The *Eighth SPREP Meeting* was convened in Apia, Western Samoa, from 11 to 13 October 1995. Representatives of the following eligible SPREP countries and territories attended: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa. Advisers also attended from the South Pacific Commission and the South Pacific Forum Secretariat. A range of countries, regional, international and non-government organisations were also present. A list of participants is at Annex 1.

2. The representative of Kiribati, as outgoing Chair, called the Meeting to order and introduced Pastor Milo Siilata, who led the Meeting in prayer.

3. In officially opening the Meeting, the Hon. Fa'aso'otauloa Pati, Minister of Lands, Surveys and Environment of the Government of Western Samoa, welcomed delegates and expressed pleasure at being able to address members at the first SPREP Meeting in which the organisation had attained its fully independent status, an important event both for the region and for Western Samoa. He congratulated the Director and member countries on the speed at which the Agreement had entered into force.

4. The Minister referred to the large task before the Meeting in addressing the many matters on the Agenda. This Meeting, the Minister noted, placed most emphasis on Work Programme implementation, given that many of the institutional, legal and procedural matters, necessary at past meetings to ensure smooth passage for the organisation in attaining its autonomous status, had now been resolved. The Minister wished delegates well in their deliberations, stressing the importance to the region of balancing protection of the environment with economic development and hoped that delegates' stay in Western Samoa would enable them to enjoy the many attributes of his country's environment and way of life. The Minister's speech is at Annex 2.

5. The Hon. Kamuta Latasi, Prime Minister of Tuvalu, thanked the Minister for his opening address and reiterated that a significant milestone had been achieved in the Agreement coming into force and hoped that others would soon ratify. The Hon. Prime

Minister expressed deep concern over the resumption by France of nuclear testing and restated the outrage of Forum Island leaders and appealed to France to put an immediate end to nuclear testing in French Polynesia.

6. The Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission, Mr Ati George Sokomanu, congratulated SPREP's current Director and his predecessors on the monumental achievement which had culminated in this historical event that had taken place with the SPREP Agreement entering into force, making SPREP a legally recognised intergovernmental regional organisation.

7. The South Pacific Commission was proud to have been associated with the other major players (UNEP, ESCAP and SPEC, now the South Pacific Forum Secretariat) in the embryonic development of SPREP. This close association had its formal establishment in 1980 when SPREP was housed in SPC Headquarters in Noumea and continued until 1992 when SPREP moved to Western Samoa. Strong links had been maintained and would continue into the future.

8. The Secretary-General drew delegates' attention to the united common goal – providing service to the region for the betterment of its people, be it in environmental matters, developmental, educational, scientific and/or economic matters. The Secretary-General referred to the importance of partnership involving regional organisations and their shareholders. The Secretary-General's speech is at Annex 3.

9. The SPREP Director, Dr Vili Fuavao, expressed his appreciation to States for the speedy entry into force of the SPREP Agreement which had enabled the organisation to gain full, legal autonomy and welcomed the high-level support and commitment given to SPREP's new status, evidenced by the presence at this Meeting of the Prime Minister of Tuvalu and Ministers from French Polynesia and Vanuatu.

10. The Director also thanked the Minister of Lands, Surveys and Environment of Western Samoa both for his opening address and also the continuing support and cooperation given by his Government to the establishment of SPREP in its host country, Western Samoa. Further, he acknowledged the assistance over many years of the South Pacific Commission as the original host of SPREP at its headquarters in Noumea and thanked the Secretary-General for his presence and message on this auspicious occasion.

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11. The presence of Guam and French Polynesia was welcomed and recognition given to the difficulties of principle which they had overcome to again take up their seats in this Meeting.

12. The Director referred to this Meeting's agenda which concentrated mostly on Work Programme issues rather than institutional and policy matters. However, he stated that some necessary institutional matters such as: Frequency of Future SPREP Meetings, the Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC Organisations; the Secretariat's Salaries and Terms and Conditions of Employment and the Design Concept for a New Headquarters, all needed to be addressed. The issue, too, of revision of the SPREP Action Plan and the way to proceed with this was also mentioned.

13. The Director regretted the need to express his deep concern at the level of outstanding voluntary contributions from Members which left the Secretariat facing a shortfall in its primary function budget. He noted also a similar shortfall of outstanding Parties' contributions under both the SPREP and Apia Conventions. The Director called upon the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee to address these matters as a matter of urgency and to come up with workable solutions to avoid a financial crisis in the years ahead. The Director's speech is at Annex 4.

#### **Agenda Item 2:**

##### **Appointment of Chair**

14. Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure of the SPREP Meeting relating to Chair and Vice-Chair was amended and adopted. The revised Rules of Procedure are at Annex 5.

15. The representative of Australia was appointed as Chair and the representative of Cook Islands as Vice-Chair. The representative of Australia, on behalf of the Meeting, thanked the outgoing Chair, Kiribati, for continuing guidance to the Secretariat in the period since the last Meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 3:**

##### **Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures**

16. The Agenda was adopted and is attached as Annex 6. The working hours of the Meeting were

agreed as proposed by the Secretariat and an open-ended **Meeting Report Drafting Sub-committee** was established. Representatives of Australia, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, France, New Zealand, Tonga, United States of America and Western Samoa indicated their intention to participate.

17. It was also agreed to reconvene an open-ended **Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee**. Representatives of Australia, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Tonga, United States of America, Vanuatu and Western Samoa indicated their intention to participate.

18. The representative of New Zealand suggested informal discussions should be held on the options for review of the SPREP Action Plan next year. It was agreed that these discussions would take place following the deliberations of the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee.

#### **Agenda Item 4:**

##### **Matters Arising from Seventh SPREP Meeting**

19. It was agreed that discussion of implementation of matters arising from the Seventh SPREP Meeting, as outlined in Working Paper 4/Att., be discussed under ensuing agenda items.

#### **Agenda Item 5:**

##### **Director's Overview**

20. The Director presented an overview (Working Paper 5) on institutional, policy, finance and Work Programme developments in SPREP during 1994/95 together with information on relationships with other governments and international organisations as well as reference to the proposed re-appraisal of SPREP's functions. Several issues referred to by the Director were reported upon in more depth under separate agenda items.

21. He reported that the Government of Western Samoa, as Depository of the SPREP Agreement, had received from the Government of Niue the tenth instrument of ratification on 31 July 1995. This brought the SPREP Agreement into force on 30 August 1995, marking a milestone in the evolution of the organisation. In line with a decision of the Seventh SPREP Meeting, the Secretariat had advised Palau of the coming into force of the SPREP Agreement and urged accession to it.

22. He reported on staff movements during the year and stated that, in line with the approval of the Corporate Plan by the Seventh SPREP Meeting, new divisional arrangements were instituted from 16 October 1994.

23. The Director brought to the Meeting's attention the cementing of relations with other governments and international organisations such as a Memorandum of Understanding between SPREP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); SPREP's continued "Adviser" status to the Pacific/Philippines/Indonesia Constituency on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council; involvement with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and funding from Australia and Canada for an ICRI Workshop to be held in Suva, Fiji, in November this year. He also referred to the Forum Secretariat's assistance to SPREP in enabling its expert in Japanese affairs to accompany the SPREP Director on his first visit to Japan where SPREP was able to apprise the Japanese Government and non-government organisations (NGOs) of SPREP's activities and to formalise a relationship with the ECO-Asia Conference Secretariat. As a result of this visit, a team comprising other regional organisations and led by SPREP with funding from the Sasakawa Foundation will visit Japan to compile an inventory of people and companies working on environmentally friendly technologies as part of a feasibility study associated with a proposed three-year programme.

24. In reporting on SPREP's financial situation during the past year, the Director stated that the late payment of voluntary member contributions to SPREP continued to hamper and frustrate effective implementation of the Work Programme, forcing the Secretariat to grapple continually with cash-flow problems. He called upon the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee to discuss this issue and advise the Secretariat on how best to deal with this problem. Computerisation of SPREP's financial system had been completed and the recommendations of an independent assessment of SPREP's financial systems implemented. This system, which would be continually refined, adopted a strict "user-pays" principle, and called for effective accountability, streamlining of payments and timely donor reporting.

25. Fundraising efforts continued to be successful in 1994/95. In addition to substantial and continuing assistance from UNDP, UNEP, AusAID, NZODA, CFTC, UNFPA, Canada, France and USA, SPREP entered into the following funding arrangements in 1994/95:

- AusAID: extrabudgetary funding of USD 1.04 million for 1995/96;

- NZ: NZD 750,000 for assistance to SPREP activities in 1995/96;
- CFTC: 42,000 pounds sterling for 1994/95;
- Japan: USD 43,900 assistance to SPREP activities in 1995;
- UNEP/UNEP EAP-AP: USD 179,000 assistance to PENRIC activities in 1994;
- Taiwan: USD 110,000 assistance to SPREP activities in 1995; and
- USA: University of California's National Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA: USD 1,005,000 assistance to SPREP activities 1995/96/97.

26. The Secretariat continued to pursue diligently efforts to diversify its sources of funding and had established important links with government and non-government agencies in Japan and Denmark. The Secretariat has also initiated further contacts and dialogue with the European Union, the Asian Development Bank, Canada, the USA (New Mexico), IMO, WMO and UNESCO.

27. As the Barbados Conference did not provide new and additional resources for the sustainable development of Small Island States, this makes it imperative that Pacific Island countries position themselves to take advantage of funds, for which there was strong competition under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in its four focal areas—Climate Change, Biodiversity, International Waters and Ozone Depletion. Accordingly, a joint SPREP/UNDP Workshop was convened in Nadi in August 1995 which developed a strategy emphasising Pacific Island country priorities and the importance of a country-driven consultative process to further develop both national and regional projects for submission to the GEF.

28. The Director drew attention to the fact that there are some areas within the environment sector that are more attractive to donors while others, which have nevertheless been identified as regional priorities, find difficulty in attracting long-term funding. The GEF is a good example of this selective approach. Further, he stated that the Secretariat and SPREP members should keep abreast of these global developments, continuously assessing how they affect the priorities and work programmes of the organisation so that decisions on the future of SPREP were taken on an informed and realistic basis. The Secretariat continued to strive for effective means to implement its Work Programme. At a time of increasing competition and dwindling donor assistance, it continued to work towards transparency of expenditure,

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well-defined priorities, quality of staff output and effective management of projects to ensure the continuing support of donors.

29. The Director referred to the challenge, given uncertainties of core budget contributions and dependence on extra-budgetary sources, associated with formulation of a single, integrated SPREP Work Programme related to an annual budget in light of priorities identified in the National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) and the Barbados Programme of Action. Based on these priorities, multi-year packages had been submitted to donors on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Waste Management and Pollution Prevention, Environmental Education, Marine Biodiversity, Environment and Population, Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise, and Environmental Information.

30. Institutional strengthening in member countries is regarded as critical to the success of SPREP's Work Programme. Accordingly, with financial assistance from the Governments of New Zealand and Canada, SPREP embarked on an Attachment Programme to the Secretariat for staff from member countries and territories.

31. Further, the Director referred to the proposed review of the SPREP Action Plan by the Ninth SPREP Meeting at Ministerial Level which would be the appropriate time to discuss the mandates, issues and functions of SPREP with a view to giving the Secretariat more focus and an implementable, practical and realistic Action Plan. (See paragraphs 123-125 for further development on this issue.)

32. The Meeting noted the report and thanked the Secretariat.

## **Agenda Item 6:**

### **Policy**

#### **Agenda Item 6.1: Frequency of Future SPREP Meetings**

33. At the Sixth SPREP Meeting, the Director first raised the possibility of convening the SPREP Meeting at two-yearly intervals rather than annually. This was further discussed at the Seventh SPREP Meeting which requested the Secretariat to report back to the Eighth Meeting with an analysis of linkages between the SPREP Meeting and technical meetings and a further analysis of costs and benefits of annual and biennial meetings. These matters were addressed in Working Paper 6.1.

34. The Secretariat's view remained the same as at the time of the Seventh SPREP Meeting. That is, that with most institutional and policy issues relating to SPREP's establishment as an autonomous organisation resolved, it was appropriate for members to consider reverting to biennial meetings as was the case when SPREP Meetings were held prior to 1990. The Secretariat outlined the obvious financial benefits for members and time benefits for Work Programme implementation. Further, the Secretariat pointed out that should the Meeting agree with this in principle, its implications needed to be considered in light of future revisions to the Action Plan and the Corporate Plan, the appointment of the next Director, the convening of Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions and the need to be consistent with SPOCC practices.

35. The Meeting agreed to the following schedule, submitted by the Secretariat:

- 1995 - Eighth SPREP Meeting
- 1996 - Ninth SPREP Meeting at Ministerial Level (reviews Action Plan and Corporate Plan and appoints Director)
  - Appointment of Director
  - Formalise Procedures for conducting SPREP Meeting
- 1997 - Tenth SPREP Meeting (reviews Corporate Plan and gives directions to the new Director)
  - Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions
- 1998 - No Meetings
- 1999 - Eleventh SPREP Meeting (reviews Corporate Plan and appoints Director)
  - Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions
- 2000 - No Meetings
- 2001 - Twelfth SPREP Meeting at Ministerial Level (reviews Action Plan and Corporate Plan)
  - Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Apia and SPREP Conventions
- 2002 - Thirteenth SPREP Meeting (reviews Corporate Plan and appoints Director)

36. The representative of the United States of America, supported by the representative of American Samoa, requested the Secretariat to continue providing Work Programme and Budget reports to Member countries on an annual basis for their information. The Secretariat agreed.



37. In recognition of the need for financial rigour, the representative of New Zealand requested that there was still a need to work towards a biennial meeting schedule. The New Zealand delegation also noted that a move towards biennial meetings placed increased responsibility on the Secretariat to achieve a high quality of transparency and accountability. He called upon the Secretariat and members to reflect, for reconsideration in 1996, upon the proposal raised by the representative of French Polynesia, that a three-person Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee (comprising the Chair of the SPREP Meeting, the Secretariat and the Chair of the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee) could meet on the request of the Director and/or SPREP Meeting Chair, as the need arose, to consider Work Programme and Budget Reports in non-meeting years.

38. The representative of Western Samoa drew to the Meeting's attention the possibility that a degree of flexibility might need to be adopted in the year 2000, in light of the possibility of a new Director taking up the post in that year. Several other delegates supported this view.

#### Agenda Item 6.2: Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC Organisations

39. The Secretariat tabled recommendations from the Sub-committee established by the Seventh SPREP Meeting concerning the Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC Organisations (Working Paper 6.2).

40. The Sub-committee, consisting of members with representation in Apia (Australia, New Zealand, United States of America and Western Samoa) met in Apia in June and August 1995, chaired by Western Samoa. The Sub-committee made recommendations of the Forum Officials Committee, the Forum Fisheries Committee (FFC) and the Pacific Commission's Committee of Governments and Administrations, which had considered the Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC Organisations.

41. The representative of Western Samoa drew to the Meeting's attention additional recommendations to the methodology to apply to the Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC Organisations (under Recommendation 13) to be forthcoming in the near future. He stated that this matter, a vital element of the Review, should be referred to the Secretariat for its deliberations and recommendations to all Members.

42. The Meeting approved the Sub-committee's recommendations on the SPOCC Review, subject to agreement on and finalisation of Recommendation 13 and adopted the revised Staff Regulations, subject to similar agreement and finalisation in respect of Regulation 23(b).

43. In order to complete the Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC Organisations, the Secretariat commissioned, from a firm of consultants based in Apia, a Review of Salaries and Terms and Conditions of Employment for Administrative Staff. The consultants' report (Working Paper 6.2.1/Att.1) was considered on 22 September 1995 at a meeting of the Sub-committee established by the Seventh SPREP Meeting for this purpose. The Sub-committee subsequently endorsed, for submission to the Eighth SPREP Meeting, the consultants' recommendations which were endorsed by the Meeting.

#### Agenda Item 6.3: Appointment of Selection Advisory Committee

44. The Secretariat presented Working Paper 6.3, relating to the need to appoint a Selection Advisory Committee to initiate recruitment procedures for the next Director of SPREP in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Appointment of Director (WP 6.3/Att.). The Meeting was advised that the term of office for the current Director would expire in January 1997 and that under Rule 8, he was not eligible for re-appointment. To comply with the time-frame as specified in Rule 5, the Eighth SPREP Meeting was required to appoint a Selection Advisory Committee, comprising the current Chair of the SPREP Meeting (as Chair of the Selection Advisory Committee) and at least two other members of the SPREP Meeting so that notification and advertising procedures could begin in 1996. The Selection Advisory Committee would be required to make its recommendations concerning the next appointment to the Ninth Meeting.

The Meeting appointed the Selection Advisory Committee, comprising the following:

Australia (Chair)	Tonga
Fiji	American Samoa
New Zealand	France

In relation to participation on the Selection Advisory Committee by France, the Meeting agreed that its participation would depend on its ratification of the SPREP Agreement. In relation to participation on the Selection Advisory Committee by American Samoa, the Meeting agreed that its participation

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would depend on ratification of the SPREP Agreement by the United States, and authorisation by the United States for American Samoa to participate as a SPREP member. Some minor changes to the rules governing the Selection Advisory Committee, as a consequence of changes to the Rules of Procedure of SPREP meetings, would be made by the Secretariat.

## **Agenda Item 7:**

### **Reports**

#### **Agenda Item 7.1: Institutional**

##### ***Agenda Item 7.1.1: Director's Annual Report for 1994/95***

47. The Director presented his 1994/95 Annual Report. The Meeting endorsed the Report.

##### ***Agenda Item 7.1.2: Agreement Establishing SPREP - Status Report***

48. The Agreement Establishing SPREP ("the SPREP Agreement"), which was opened for signature on 16 June 1993, entered into force on 30 August 1995, following receipt by the Depository on 31 July 1995 of Niue's instrument of ratification which had brought the total number of ratifications to 10. At the time of the Meeting, the total number of ratifications or accessions was 12, given recent ratification by Nauru and accession by Tonga. Eligible countries which had not yet acceded to and/or ratified the SPREP Agreement were urged to do so.

49. The Meeting noted the status of the Agreement Establishing SPREP.

##### ***Agenda Item 7.1.3: Membership Status of Guam and French Polynesia***

50. Agenda Item withdrawn.

##### ***Agenda Item 7.1.4: New Headquarters***

51. The Seventh SPREP Meeting authorised the Secretariat to invite seven shortlisted companies to participate in a design concept competition for a new SPREP Headquarters based on the Master Plan approved by the Sixth SPREP Meeting. The design concept competition was held as authorised, with the seven entries being assessed by an invited jury in

June 1995. The presiding architect of the Jury, Mr Joseph Farrell, presented the criteria used to assess the concepts under consideration. The Jury's report is attached at Annex 7. He noted that the project submitted by Gazzard Sheldon Architects received the recommendation of his panel.

52. The Secretariat requested that the Meeting come to a final decision on the selection of a concept design, and clarified that the Meeting's approval of the Gazzard Sheldon firm would authorise them to work up a more detailed presentation of its design concept. Mr Farrell added to this understanding by explaining that the design concept to date represented only a five per cent work effort. As such, it was not a definitive reference from which to determine the exact cost or nature of the proposed project.

53. In discussing the proposed design, New Zealand emphasised the necessity of adopting a design concept which recognised the importance of keeping recurrent costs at an acceptably low level. The United States noted its surprise that a sports facility was still incorporated in the design concept for the new Headquarters and reiterated its previous reservation in opposition to the inclusion of such a complex. The Secretariat advised that the sports facility was part of the Master Plan approved in 1993.

54. The Secretariat, in its paper, also advised the Meeting of its efforts to raise funds for the new Headquarters and gratefully acknowledged the assistance offered by Australia in allocating funding to enable the successful architectural company to proceed with working drawings and tender documents. The Meeting noted that one of the principal issues in the development of the final design was the need for it to be both environmentally friendly and appropriate, whilst ensuring minimisation of capital and recurrent costs. The Meeting approved the recommendation of the Jury that Gazzard Sheldon Architects be engaged to design the SPREP Headquarters complex. Further it was agreed that members of the Jury be retained to oversee the finalisation of the design.

##### ***Agenda Item 7.1.5: Review of Institutional Arrangements in Marine Resources Sector***

55. The Secretariat informed the Meeting of decisions taken by the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee (SPOCC) on the Review of Institutional Arrangements in Marine Resources Sector as they affect SPREP. The Meeting noted the Review and also noted the benefits of using local consultants in the execution of SPREP's Work Pro-

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gramme in the marine sector. The Meeting agreed to consider the implications for SPREP in detail during the review of the Action Plan.

## **Agenda Item 7.2: Regional**

### ***Agenda Item 7.2.1: Regional Convention on Hazardous Wastes***

56. The Seventh SPREP Meeting had noted endorsement by the Forum that SPREP act as the Secretariat under the Waigani Convention. In light of difficulties expressed by the United States of America, the Seventh SPREP Meeting could not agree on this matter. Accordingly members agreed to make a decision on this question through a written polling/consultation process to be completed in a time-frame consistent with the negotiating process. However, in April this year, the Forum Working Group finalised a draft text for submission to Leaders at the Twenty-Sixth South Pacific Forum, such text making provision for SPREP to be the Secretariat of the Convention. At that meeting of the Working Group, the United States formally announced that it would join the consensus that SPREP act as the Secretariat to the Convention. By circular, the SPREP Director advised members that the written polling/consultation process no longer appeared necessary. No advice to the contrary was received from any SPREP member.

57. The Secretariat, in its paper, reported on its early consideration of financial and substantive implications associated with its role as Secretariat for the Waigani Convention, recognising that it would be possibly one or two years before the Convention entered into force. Concern was expressed by the Secretariat over lack of resources to discharge effectively its responsibilities under all three Conventions for which it was designated as Secretariat.

58. The representative of New Zealand offered technical support to SPREP to assist with its Secretariat obligations under the Convention. Delegates agreed that consideration of SPREP's resources to enable it to discharge its obligations under the Waigani Convention, possibly through a Unit within the Secretariat, should be included in the Terms of Reference of the Working Group established to discuss issues under the SPREP and Apia Conventions.

59. The Meeting noted developments and reaffirmed its agreement for SPREP to act as the Secretariat of the Regional Convention on Hazardous Wastes.

### ***Agenda Item 7.2.2: Regional Mechanism to Implement Barbados Conference Outcomes***

60. A Regional Consultative Mechanism to coordinate the implementation of the outcomes of the Barbados Conference had been established as requested by the Barbados Programme of Action (para. 132) and the Twenty-Fifth South Pacific Forum. The modalities for this mechanism were endorsed by the Seventh SPREP Meeting. A meeting of the Advisory Committee for the mechanism was convened immediately prior to the Eighth SPREP Meeting to discuss progress in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action.

61. The report of the Advisory Committee meeting was tabled as Working Paper 7.2.2/Attach. The Meeting noted the report and reaffirmed its commitment to the work of the support units and of the Advisory Committee.

### ***Agenda Item 7.2.3: Second Regional Meeting of Meteorological Services Directors***

62. The Secretariat tabled recommendations from the Second Regional Meeting of Meteorological Services Directors convened in Nadi, Fiji, in October 1994. This meeting had provided an opportunity for heads of meteorological services in the Pacific Islands to discuss matters of mutual interest and strategies for strengthening their individual capacity through a programme of regional cooperation which ensured that meteorological services play a role in the formulation of economic, environmental and social plans.

63. The representative of Tonga thanked the Secretariat for its assistance in establishing a PC-based weather satellite system in Nuku'alofa, commended the Secretariat on its collaboration and cooperation with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and encouraged it to continue this working relationship, which ensured complementarity and avoidance of duplication. This sentiment was echoed by several other delegates including the United States of America, Australia, Fiji, and Tuvalu, the latter delegate requesting specific assistance for his country.

64. The recommendations (Working Paper 7.2.3/Att.) were endorsed and the Meeting encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts in the field of regional meteorology.



#### **Agenda Item 7.2.4: Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific**

65. The Secretariat reported on work carried out and work planned to support the implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific Region 1994–1998. SPREP members were encouraged to use the Action Strategy in developing annual work programmes; for reviewing annual progress; for developing project plans and funding proposals.

66. The representative of New Zealand noted the wide level of participation behind the Action Strategy and endorsed the Secretariat's recommendation to monitor progress of the Action Strategy.

67. The representatives of Tonga, Western Samoa and American Samoa noted with appreciation the practical value of the Action Strategy and endorsed the Secretariat's recommendation.

#### **Agenda Item 7.2.5: Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in the South Pacific**

68. Following a faxed request from Papua New Guinea to the Seventh SPREP Meeting, an "Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in the South Pacific" was tabled at that meeting. The Secretariat agreed to evaluate that document, including the recommendation that SPREP establish a Wetlands Project Officer position, and report back to the Eighth SPREP Meeting. Following the above request, the "Action Plan" was reviewed both internally and externally and the Eighth SPREP Meeting endorsed the following recommendations:

- that the process of developing a regional Wetlands Action Plan continue as a priority activity;
- that a draft Wetlands Action Plan be prepared and presented to the Pacific Regional Workshop for the International Coral Reef Initiative in November 1995 (recognising that workshop's focus on "coral reefs and associated ecosystems");
- that SPREP continue to pursue funding for a Wetland Management Officer to oversee the implementation of the Wetlands Action Plan;
- that SPREP continue to work with relevant organisations (e.g. Asian Wetlands Bureau); and

that SPREP members note the next Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention to be held in Brisbane in March 1996 and assess the benefits and obligations associated with Ramsar membership. Australia has made AUD50,000 available for participation in this meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 7.3: International**

##### **Agenda Item 7.3.1: Global Environment Facility: Regional Strategy**

69. The Secretariat presented a report on implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It was reported that a Regional Scoping Workshop was held from 1 to 4 August 1995 in Nadi, Fiji, to develop a range of national and regional projects based on national priorities that have significant global benefits. The workshop recommended a draft Pacific Regional Strategy for the GEF. As part of this Strategy the SPREP Secretariat was invited to prepare and submit to the Eighth SPREP Meeting a proposal to further develop a multi-focal area project under the Small Island Developing States criteria of the International Waters focal area of the GEF.

70. The representatives of Cook Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa expressed appreciation to the Secretariat. The Meeting noted the development and implementation of the Regional Strategy, noted and adopted the Pacific Regional Strategy for the GEF which has been endorsed by the South Pacific Forum and endorsed the proposal to the GEF for project development funds.

##### **Agenda Item 7.3.2: Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities**

71. The Secretariat presented a report on international negotiations towards finalising a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities. It was reported that two meetings had been convened by UNEP in preparation for an Intergovernmental Meeting on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities that is to be held in Washington DC from 23 October to 3 November 1995. There, the Global Programme of Action would be considered for endorsement. The Meeting noted progress towards

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negotiation of the Global Programme of Action, including Pacific Island input to this process, and discussed issues relevant to regional preparations for the Intergovernmental Meeting. The Secretariat noted UNEP's criteria for providing assistance to governments in order to enable them to attend and urged eligible Pacific Island Nations to confirm their attendance as soon as possible.

72. The representative of the United States stressed the critical nature of this issue and the particular relevance of the conference proceedings to Pacific Island countries. The delegate provided additional information to the Meeting on the proposed Technology Forum, the Program of Action, and the Intergovernmental Meeting in Washington.

73. The Meeting noted the progress towards negotiation of a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities.

#### *Agenda Item 7.3.3: International Coral Reef Initiative*

74. The Secretariat provided an update on the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) since the Seventh SPREP Meeting. SPREP represented its members at the ICRI Workshop Planning Meeting in Washington in November 1994 and fourteen member governments were represented at the ICRI Workshop which was held in Dumaguete City in the Philippines from 29 May to 2 June 1995. At this meeting a Call to Action, Framework for Action, a strategy for the future of ICRI and a draft regional report on coral reefs and related environments were produced. A follow-up Pacific Workshop on the ICRI is being organised for late 1995 in Suva, co-sponsored by Australia and Canada.

75. The significant support to the ICRI by Australia, France and the United States was noted. Delegates expressed appreciation to donor countries and the Secretariat, several delegates requesting financial assistance to send more than one national participant. It was also noted that the regional ICRI Workshop should examine an effective mechanism for implementation of ICRI.

76. The Meeting endorsed the Call to Action and endorsed the recommendations as contained in Working Paper 7.3.3.

#### *Agenda Item 7.3.4: Convention on Biological Diversity*

77. The Secretariat reported on work carried out and planned to support the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the SPREP region during 1994/95. It was noted that eleven South Pacific Forum countries, in addition to France and the United Kingdom, are now Parties to the Convention. Solomon Islands had ratified the Convention on 4 October 1995.

78. Delegates welcomed the initiative of a Preparatory Meeting for Parties prior to the second Conference of the Parties (COP2) in November 1995 and the Regional Workshop proposed for February 1996 and noted the intention of Niue to accede to the Convention. Delegates noted that Pacific Island countries had played a key role in ensuring that coastal and marine biodiversity was covered in the medium-term work programme of the Convention. New Zealand urged delegates to ensure that Pacific Island countries maintained a focus on marine and coastal biodiversity in their work relating to the Convention. The United States noted the existing United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which would have to be taken into account when addressing marine biodiversity issues.

79. The Meeting considered and endorsed the report.

#### *Agenda Item 7.3.5: Framework Convention on Climate Change*

80. The Secretariat presented a report on the First Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The decisions of the first Conference of the Parties (COP1), concerning the strengthening of commitments and activities implemented jointly, were both of benefit to the region and held some promise for meeting the ultimate aims of the Convention. The COP was another significant step forward for Small Island States, and the Pacific can be justifiably proud of their achievements. In recognising that current commitments under the FCCC were inadequate, an Ad Hoc Group was established by the COP to take appropriate action for the period beyond the year 2000, including the strengthening of commitments of Annex I Parties in Article 4, paragraph 2(a) and (b), through the adoption of a protocol or another legal instrument. The Secretariat also presented its intention to assist Pacific Island countries' involvement in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on

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Climate Change (IPCC). This will include a regional meeting early next year for scientists of the Pacific to examine the latest findings of the IPCC. Members called for more information about the climatic impact of the El Niño Southern Oscillation.

81. The Meeting noted the report and expressed its appreciation of the ongoing work of the Secretariat in relation to the FCCC. Delegates welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat concerning the IPCC, thanked Australia for its financial assistance in this regard and thanked the Secretariat for its support for Pacific Island participation in FCCC-related meetings. The Meeting also noted Tonga's intention to accede to the FCCC in coming months.

***Agenda Item 7.3.6: The Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol***

82. The Secretariat tabled information concerning the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. The confusion between the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion was explained and, as well, the obligations of Parties were outlined along with information on how to access the Multi-lateral Fund.

83. The representative of the Federated States of Micronesia informed the Meeting that his government had ratified the Convention and Protocol on 26 September 1995. The representative of Vanuatu also reminded the Meeting that his government had ratified the Convention and Protocol in December 1994. The representative of Tonga advised the Meeting of his government's intention to join soon, and the representatives of New Zealand and Fiji highlighted the advantages of being a Party to the Convention and urged other members to consider joining the Convention. The report was noted by the Meeting.

***Agenda Item 7.3.7: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)***

84. The Secretariat reported on work carried out and planned to support the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) during 1994/95. Five member countries attended the Ninth Conference of the Contracting Parties at which the Secretariat provided written advice on the issue of marine turtle ranching. The Secretariat noted that Papua New Guinea has been confirmed as Oceania's representative on the CITES Standing Committee

with New Zealand as alternate. The Secretariat proposed a one-day regional workshop on the benefits of acceding to CITES to be linked with the regional workshop on biodiversity next March.

85. The representative of Western Samoa sought assistance from the Secretariat in clarification of certain provisions in the Convention to facilitate Western Samoa's consideration of joining. The Secretariat also stated that its advice on turtle ranching remained unchanged and does not support this activity in the region. The representative of the United States expressed appreciation for the position taken by SPREP at the Ninth Meeting of the Parties, concerning guidelines on turtle ranching.

86. The report and recommendation were noted and endorsed.

***Agenda Item 7.4: Work Programme***

***Agenda Item 7.4.1: Coastal Protection***

87. The Secretariat tabled a joint SPREP-SOPAC Action Plan for addressing the recommendations of the regional Coastal Protection Meeting as requested by the Seventh SPREP Meeting. The meeting was informed that both the SPREP and SOPAC Secretariats were now working on implementing their respective areas of responsibility under the Action Plan.

88. The Meeting supported the plan, emphasising the multi-disciplinary nature of coastal protection and the need for land-use planning and infrastructure development to be integrated with any coastal protection measures.

***Agenda Item 7.4.2: Environmental Education***

89. The Secretariat tabled its report on activities in the area of Environmental Education undertaken in both the formal and non-formal education sectors. It reported that the major source of funding for Environmental Education during 1994/95 had been from AusAID for an in-country model trialled in Kiribati, Western Samoa and Solomon Islands and involving training of media personnel, community groups, church leaders and teachers. Funding had also been provided by UNEP, WWF and the Government of Canada for curriculum development activities. However, it was noted that this area of the Work Programme required additional financial and staff resources to keep pace with the increasing demand for environmental education and awareness-raising training and material production.

90. The Meeting noted the report and the importance of environmental education to the region. The representative of the Cook Islands thanked the Secretariat for its assistance under the AusAID-funded Environmental Education pilot project. The Meeting also noted additional efforts to integrate existing US Peace Corps curriculum development activities into the Secretariat's environmental education work.

91. The Director advised the Meeting of SPREP's Country Attachment Scheme funded by the Governments of New Zealand and Canada, under which officers from Member countries could be attached to the Secretariat for a period of three to twelve months to gain first-hand experience of working at the regional level and Work Programme activities of SPREP. Under this scheme, officers from the Governments of American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia and Tonga had so far been attached to the Secretariat.

92. The representatives of Tonga and American Samoa thanked the Secretariat for the SPREP Attachment Scheme opportunity given to their governments' officers which they believed was a very effective way of capacity building for Member governments.

#### *Agenda Item 7.4.3: Environmental Impact Assessment*

93. The Secretariat presented a report on activities in the area of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). During the first half of 1995, an independent review of SPREP's EIA activities was carried out with financial assistance from AusAID. The recommendations of this review were now incorporated in the current programme.

94. The Meeting noted the report and highlighted the importance of EIA to the sustainable development of SPREP Members. The Meeting expressed its appreciation of the work of the Secretariat in this area, welcomed the caution taken by the Secretariat in relation to review of EIA software and called for particular assistance in relation to access to the EIA database, the development of guidelines and in the drafting of appropriate EIA procedures.

#### *Agenda Item 7.4.4: Library and Information Centre*

95. The Secretariat reported on the establishment of its Library and Information Centre which functions as a clearing-house for environmental informa-

tion dissemination. The major sources of funding in 1994/95, besides the Core Budget, were from New Zealand and Australia. As a means of strengthening national capabilities, the Library and Information Centre had, in mid-1995, instigated a training programme to assist several Environment Units with establishment of their own Environmental Library and Information Centres. Countries assisted under this training programme so far included Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, with plans to expand this training to other countries as the Secretariat receives requests for such assistance.

96. The representative of French Polynesia requested French Polynesia's involvement with SPREP's Information Centre, especially as regards exchange of experience. The Meeting noted the report.

#### *Agenda Item 7.4.5: Population and Environment*

97. The Secretariat presented a report on the UNFPA/AusAID-funded Population and Environment project. The project is concerned with the impacts of human activities on the environment as a result of changing lifestyles, increasing economic activities and new technologies. The Secretariat highlighted the need to review the project document in order to accommodate consultant services and also to allow SPREP to redirect resources to meet countries' needs more appropriately and efficiently.

98. The Meeting noted the report and requested the Secretariat to also consider the issue of population and tourism, given related impacts on natural resources.

#### *Agenda Item 7.4.6: South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP)*

99. The Secretariat reported on progress with the implementation of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP). As of December 1994, fourteen conservation area project proposals from ten countries had been approved for SPBCP support. The report also noted a landmark decision by Pacific Island leaders in 1994 declaring 1995 as the "Year of the Sea Turtle".

100. The Meeting noted the report and congratulated the Secretariat on implementation of this project which they saw as an important one that they would watch with interest, given its multi-faceted approach and close consultation with local communities.

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*Agenda Item 7.4.7: Year of the Sea Turtle*

101. The Secretariat reported on progress with the 1995 "Year of the Sea Turtle" region-wide campaign. Regional and national follow-up action of particular significance included: a one-year ban on the taking of sea turtles by one Member country; two others are considering similar action; a very successful world-wide campaign to draw attention to the plight of sea turtles in the Pacific; the launching of the regional campaign in Apia in March with more than 20 countries in and outside the Pacific region now participating; an increase in the number of reports from Member countries of turtles caught and released in their waters, suggesting that the campaign message was getting through.

102. The representative of Australia noted that there was a need for more research to better understand the behaviour of turtles and asked for feedback on the effectiveness of past and current research in the area and requirements for the future. The representative of Western Samoa advised that his government was developing legislation to ban the harvesting of sea turtles. The Secretariat referred to the ongoing convening of the Marine Turtle Research Group, the next meeting of which would take place in early 1996.

103. The Meeting noted the high quality of material produced in support of the Year of the Sea Turtle and called for the continuation of efforts for the conservation of this important resource.

*Agenda Item 7.4.8: Pollution Prevention, Waste Minimisation and Management*

104. The Secretariat presented its report on activities in the area of Pollution Prevention, Waste Minimisation and Management. This area has focused on the development of the Regional Waste Management, Minimisation and Pollution Prevention Programme, advice to countries during negotiations towards the Waigani Convention, input to the Global Programme of Action for Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities and limited training in oil spill contingency planning. The new Waste and Pollution Prevention Officer, with the support of NZODA, will commence his work with SPREP in early November 1995, initially focusing on demonstration projects in the area of pollution prevention. Support is expected from the European Union for waste awareness and education activities and from CFTC in relation to marine pollution.

105. The representative of the United States addressed the second component of the Action Plan –

development and maintenance of national and regional pollution emergency response and planning capabilities – by offering to make available to the Secretariat a list of scheduled US Coast Guard pollution emergency training exercises in the region. The US suggested that perhaps SPREP and Pacific Island nations could have mutually beneficial exchanges of information concerning emergency responses based around the exercises. Guam and American Samoa expressed their support for this exchange of information.

106. The Meeting noted the report, highlighted the critical importance of action in this area and recognised the need for a long-term mechanism to assist the region in pollution prevention and waste minimisation.

*Agenda Item 7.4.9: Global Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise*

107. The Secretariat presented a report on activities in the area of Global Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise. The report highlighted the great concern of Pacific Island countries in this area since global warming is likely to result in sea-level rise, changing rainfall patterns, increased incidence of extreme events such as tropical cyclones, extinction of species unable to adapt to changes and disruption of ecosystems.

108. The representative of the Federated States of Micronesia requested SPREP's assistance with the installation of a sea-level monitor in his country. The representative of Tuvalu requested a study of low-lying islands to provide further information on changing sea levels. Such a study could include local knowledge to complement scientific data, thus ensuring a complete and comprehensive understanding of this phenomenon.

109. The Meeting noted the range of activities being coordinated by SPREP in this area. It also looked forward to implementation of the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme (PICCAP) once adopted by the GEF Council.

*Agenda Item 7.4.10: Capacity 21 and Related Activities*

110. The Secretariat reported on implementation of the UNDP-funded/SPREP-implemented Capacity 21 Project which emphasised capacity building and institutional strengthening in six target countries: two in Melanesia (Solomon Islands and Vanuatu); two in



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Micronesia (Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati); and two in Polynesia (Cook Islands and Western Samoa). Issues being addressed under Capacity 21 included development of National Frameworks for Sustainable Development, linking National Development Plans with National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS); consideration of sustainable development by planners and finance institutions, including development banks; incorporation of sustainable development issues in training of extension officers; strengthening of national environmental legislation and enforcement procedures; and work with community groups in environmental monitoring, resource management and awareness raising.

111. In all activities, strong emphasis was placed on capacity building through utilisation and augmentation of the skills of consultants from Pacific Island countries as well as employment of Capacity 21 Programme Officers for Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia from countries involved in the project. Significant assistance had also been provided by a range of regional and international organisations in a collaborative implementation effort.

112. The representatives of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu and Western Samoa expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the work being achieved under this project and called upon the Secretariat to seek additional funding for implementation of activities beyond 2 1/2 year lifespan of Capacity 21.

113. The representative of the South Pacific Forum Secretariat congratulated the Secretariat on Capacity 21 activities and referred to collaboration between SPREP and the Forum, especially on capacity-building activities under the Planning and Financing Component and suggested that an additional source of potential collaboration might be the Pacific Finance Technical Assistance Programme. The representative of New Zealand called for collaboration and coordination of activities in Cook Islands and Western Samoa, where his government was also involved in capacity-building work under a Capacity 21 Project. The Meeting noted the report.

114. The representative of Niue expressed interest in the Capacity 21 Project being extended to other countries within the region.

## **Agenda Item 8:**

### **Items Proposed by Member Countries**

#### **Nuclear Testing Resumption**

115. The representative of Australia requested the Meeting to note the written statements and Declaration made at the Third Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols in Apia, 6-7 October 1995, expressing profound concern over the continuation by France of nuclear testing in the South Pacific. At that Meeting, France's attention was called to its obligations under the Convention to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment before commencing a major project such as nuclear testing. Australia called on France to cease nuclear testing in the Pacific.

116. The New Zealand delegation noted that the New Zealand Government had expressed its strong opposition to French nuclear testing in the bilateral, regional and international contexts. It had also sought to reopen its case in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) where the Noumea [SPREP] Convention had been central to its argumentation. The delegation had been pleased by the degree of support shown by delegations in the Noumea [SPREP] Convention Meeting last week and called on the French Government to cease testing.

117. The representative of Tuvalu associated with the statements of Australia and New Zealand and called upon France to discontinue nuclear testing in the region.

118. The French delegation said that SPREP was a regional organisation dealing with technical issues, and that it was therefore not competent to discuss the French nuclear tests. The delegation recalled that the French Government had sent Mr Godfrain, Minister of Cooperation, to take part in the post-Forum dialogue last September in Port Moresby and reply to the questions put to him on this matter by regional leaders.

119. The representative of Western Samoa supported the inclusion of the item in the SPREP Meeting given its mandate and the current concern of Pacific Island countries over the environmental impact of French nuclear testing in the Pacific. He expressed Western Samoa's strong opposition to the resumption of nuclear testing and requested that its concerns be relayed to France.

120. The representative of Tonga sought information on a reported collapse of part of Johnston atoll and sought clarification of possible implications for Mururoa, given the geological/tectonic similarities between the two atolls. In response, the representative of the United States agreed to refer back to Tonga with information relating to the subsidence of Johnston atoll.

121. The representative of Niue also expressed concern over the resumption of French nuclear testing in the Pacific and referred to his country's fears of uncertainty relating to marine pollution, given Niue's heavy dependence on the marine environment for its livelihood.

122. The representative of American Samoa also associated with the earlier statements by Australia, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Western Samoa and Niue in expressing concern over resumption of nuclear testing.

#### **Review of SPREP Action Plan**

123. On the issue of Review of the SPREP Action Plan, delegates agreed to convene an informal meeting at this Meeting which would be the beginning of longer-term discussions in anticipation of this item being on the agenda of the Ninth SPREP Meeting.

124. The Secretariat presented a report of an informal meeting on the revision of the SPREP Action Plan. The informal meeting noted the special constitutional importance of the Action Plan under Article 2 of the Agreement Establishing SPREP. The development of detailed terms of reference by the Secretariat, to be circulated to all Members, would be necessary. These terms of reference would deal with the consultative process, proposed mechanisms for review and a timetable. The provision of detailed information would also be required by countries and the process should begin with the Secretariat presenting its thinking on how to focus the Action Plan. The Secretariat agreed to produce terms of reference plus information on its thinking, if possible, by the end of 1995. A first draft of the revised Action Plan would be produced by the end of the first quarter of 1996 at the latest. Once this draft was available there are a number of options for its review and finalisation. The revision may also consider harmonising the periods for review of the Action Plan and Corporate Plan.

125. The Director envisaged a formal meeting immediately before the Ninth SPREP Meeting to finalise the revision of the Action Plan. It may also be possible to call on the Chair of the SPREP Meeting and the Chair of the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee to assist with the review process. The Meeting supported the view expressed by the repre-

sentative of New Zealand that the revision of the Action Plan needed to take into account the financial situation of the organisation and that appropriate budgetary information should be fed into the review process. The Meeting noted that the Action Plan was required to establish the strategy of SPREP and endorsed suggestions on the need to define in the plan SPREP's respective roles as a coordinator, project implementer, and disseminator of information.

#### **Agenda Item 9:**

##### **Finance**

##### **Agenda Item 9.1: Status of Member Contributions**

126. In accordance with Financial Regulation 13, the Secretariat reported to the Meeting on receipt of Member contributions, outlined in Working Paper 9.1. The Secretariat expressed concern at outstanding contributions and urged Members to promptly remit their contributions, noting that SPREP's Primary Function commitments were dependent on this source of funding.

127. In response to a report from the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee, the Meeting:

(a) noted that with the entry into force of the SPREP Agreement it is important for the newest regional organisation to be financially secure, while maintaining the high levels of professionalism it has already achieved. SPREP is out of step with all other regional organisations which require their members to pay assessed contributions;

(b) considered the proposal by the Sub-committee to move to a system of assessed contributions (the United States did not support recommendation (b));

(c) agreed that a decision on this matter would be taken at the Ninth SPREP Meeting;

(d) agreed to present their views on this issue to the Secretariat in time for their circulation and consideration at the Ninth SPREP Meeting;

(e) agreed to Guam's request that it not be obliged to pay its 1994 voluntary contributions to SPREP, because of its absence from the organisation.

##### **Agenda Item 9.2: Report on 1994 Cash Flow**

128. The Fifth SPREP Meeting directed the Secretariat to present to each SPREP Meeting a report summarising cash flow for SPREP finances. The

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Secretariat presented its report (Working Paper 9.2). The Meeting noted the report and encouraged Members to remit their contributions early in each year.

#### **Agenda Item 9.3: Audited Annual Accounts for 1994**

129. The Secretariat tabled Working Paper 9.3 and attachments, containing the report of the Audited Annual Accounts for 1994 and the Financial Statements. These were adopted by the Meeting. The Meeting requested that the appointed Auditors be present at future SPREP Meetings when addressing issues relating to the Audited Accounts.

#### **Agenda Item 9.4: Appointment of Auditors**

130. In accordance with SPREP's Finance Regulations, the Meeting re-appointed Coopers and Lybrand as SPREP's Auditors for 1996. The Meeting noted that the Auditor should be available at the next SPREP Meeting and that in future, should other internationally recognised accounting firms establish offices in Apia, appropriate tendering arrangements would be considered.

#### **Agenda Item 9.5: Rules Governing Quotations and Tendering Procedures**

131. The Secretariat tabled Rules Governing Quotations and Tendering Procedures (under Rule 25 of SPREP's Rules and Procedures) to apply to procurement of equipment and supplies by the Secretariat. This paper, which outlined current practice, was tabled to formalise procedures. The Secretariat requested some degree of flexibility in obtaining three quotes in cases where fewer than three suppliers existed.

132. Delegates agreed that the Rules, as tabled, represented a fair and equitable procedure and requested the Director to write a note to file in cases where three quotes were not able to be obtained. Delegates also welcomed the offer by Australia to provide information on their tendering procedures.

### **Agenda Item 10:**

#### **Work Programme and Budget**

- Primary Function Budget: Options to Address Projections of Increased Expenditure and Reduced Income
- Evaluation of Scientific Aspects of Implementation of Work Programme
- Work Programme Review for 1994
- Revised Budget for 1995
- Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 1996
- Indicative Work Programme and Budget for 1997 and 1998

133. In line with the process approved by the Fifth SPREP Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) (1992), the items under Agenda Item 10 were put to the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee. The report of the Sub-committee was considered and is attached as Annex 8. Following consideration of the report of the Sub-committee, the Meeting:

- (a) encouraged delegates of Members currently with outstanding contributions to pursue the issue of payment with their relevant authorities;
- (b) called on Members to pay their contributions early in the year to assist with the cash-flow requirements of the Secretariat;
- (c) requested Australia, as Chair of the SPREP Meeting, to encourage those countries in arrears to make their appropriate contributions;
- (d) agreed to examine the possibility of increased Members' contributions at the Ninth SPREP Meeting;
- (e) recommended that the Secretariat report to the Ninth Meeting on this matter in the context of budget projections, activity levels, and efficiency gains in the Primary Functions area;
- (f) recommended that the present *ad hoc* arrangements within SPREP of scientific reviews of projects be continued;
- (g) recommended that the present arrangements, where applicable, for reviews of projects by regional committees be continued;
- (h) agreed that an independent scientific review by a panel of experts of selected projects be an option that could be employed at the request of the SPREP Meeting;

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(i) requested the Secretariat to review its Primary Function expenditure projections and that expenditure projections for 1996–1998 be based on a sustainable basis and be presented for approval at the next Meeting, and to control 1996 expenditure at no more than current levels;

(j) agreed that the Secretariat should provide similar information to that provided under Agenda Item 10.3 to Members on an annual basis;

(k) approved the Work Programme and Budget proposal as contained in Agenda Item 10.3, subject to Recommendation (i) above.

## **Agenda Item 11:**

### **Statements by Observers**

134. The following Observers made statements: Ambassador of Switzerland to New Zealand; International Ocean Institute of the University of the South Pacific; University of Oregon; European Commission; IUCN; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); O le Siosiomaga Society; National Centre for Development Studies (NCDS) of the Australian National University; United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO); and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A summary of statements is at Annex 9.

## **Agenda Item 12:**

### **Other Business**

#### **Proposal for a Regional START Network for Oceania**

135. The representative for the Australian Academy of Science and the Royal Society of New Zealand, Dr. Elspeth Young, presented the proposal for a Regional START Network for Oceania. The Meeting noted the Secretariat's intention to review the implications of the proposal for SPREP and to provide its views to Dr Young.

136. The Forum Secretariat outlined the decisions taken at the 26th South Pacific Forum, held in Madang, particularly those concerning development of the Regional Strategy and its relationship to the activities of SPOCC and the review of the Forum Secretariat. The development of the Regional Strategy called for close working relationships with other SPOCC agencies and the Forum Secretariat looked forward to working closely with SPREP in that regard.

## **Agenda Item 13:**

### **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

137. The Meeting heard with appreciation an expression of interest by Tonga in hosting the Ministerial-Level Ninth SPREP Meeting in 1996. It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a detailed estimate of the additional costs to the Secretariat of hosting the meeting in Tonga. Should Tonga not be able to host the meeting on the basis of this cost estimate, the Secretariat would seek further offers from Members. If no further offers were received, the 1996 Meeting would revert to being hosted by the Secretariat in Apia.

## **Agenda Item 14:**

### **Adoption of Report**

138. The Meeting adopted the Report of its proceedings.

## **Agenda Item 15:**

### **Close**

139. The Meeting closed with appreciation to the Secretariat and thanks to the delegates for their deliberations.

# Annexes

## Annex 1: List of Participants

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**Annex 2: Opening Address by Hon. Fa'aso'otauloa Pati,  
Minister of Lands, Surveys and Environment,  
Government of Western Samoa**

Reverend Milo Siilata,  
Mr Chairperson,  
Hon. Prime Minister Kamuta Latasi,  
Hon. Ministers of State,  
Representatives of the Member Countries and Administrations,  
Dr Vili Fuavao, Director of SPREP  
Representatives of Regional Organisations and Institutions,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Visiting Observers,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

On behalf of the Government of Western Samoa, I am highly honoured to welcome you all here today to the Eighth SPREP Meeting, the annual management meeting for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

I am also very pleased to address you now as this is the first SPREP Meeting at which SPREP is a completely independent regional body. I congratulate the member countries of SPREP for the remarkably short period of time that they took to have the SPREP Agreement come into operation, thus granting SPREP the autonomy which it currently enjoys, and separating it amicably from the South Pacific Commission.

The coming into force of the SPREP Agreement is a significant event for both the region and Western Samoa. As a consequence, SPREP is now the region's newest regional organisation, completing a long process which started in 1991. SPREP has also attained full legal standing not only in our country but in our region, as well as an advanced position in the international arena. Furthermore we as Member governments of SPREP have demonstrated to the people of the Pacific and the world our commitment towards protecting not only our national environments but both our regional and global environments and our collective efforts in addressing the environmental problems that surround us. In particular my country, Western Samoa, remains steadfast in its opposition to activities that endanger the safety of our Pacific environment. SPREP also provides the platform from which to make our region's contributions to protecting the overall environment of the globe.

The Government of Western Samoa which has been and still is a strong supporter of SPREP and its work programme accords great significance to hosting the SPREP Headquarters here in Western Samoa, and we perceive this as another instance of our sincere commitment to our precious but fragile environment.

I also congratulate the Director of SPREP, Dr Vili Fuavao, on the new status achieved for this very important organisation in the South Pacific region. I am sure you will all agree with me that there is a high level of commitment and professional ability amongst the Secretariat staff.

As this is the first time the SPREP Secretariat has hosted a SPREP Meeting, we also applaud Dr Fuavao and his staff on their dedicated performance and commendable preparations which have brought us together here in Apia for this meeting.

As you are aware, SPREP began hosting a series of important meetings over the past week here in Apia, which will culminate with the end of this meeting on Friday. I greatly appreciate the unselfish efforts of delegates and the SPREP Secretariat during the past weekend where major decisions were made in preparation for this meeting commencing today.

Mr Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, you have a challenge before you which is to deliberate and make decisions on various important issues as set out on the agenda. The previous recent SPREP Meetings were concentrated on institutional, legal and procedural meetings establishing SPREP as a regional entity. However, this particular SPREP Meeting is geared towards studying and directing SPREP's work programme and budget. I am confident that improved guidelines and directions for SPREP will ensue from this meeting and should facilitate and also encourage greater cooperation between member countries across our vast region.

I also note that the agenda provides an opportunity for you to examine various regional and international activities in which SPREP and our Member countries are involved and also methods and approaches we can utilise as a group to achieve sustainable development, or our goals of balancing our current economic development, which relies heavily on our natural resources, with maintaining and even enhancing these natural resources and the environment on which they depend, for the sake of the future generations – our children and grandchildren.

In spite of your busy schedule and workload, I trust that before you leave our shores you would have had the opportunity to sight part of our environment and to experience Samoan hospitality and culture. We have pride in our heritage and wish to share it with you. On behalf of the Government of Western Samoa I wish you well in your deliberations over the next three days. I respectfully urge you all to honour your respective countries' commitments, as the fu-

ture of SPREP relies on our participation and cooperation and contributions and, more importantly, the value we place upon the protection and preservation of our unique Pacific environment.

It is now my great pleasure to declare open the Eighth SPREP Meeting.

Soifua.

### Annex 3: Address by the Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission (SPC), Mr Ati George Sokomanu

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished Representatives to the Eighth SPREP Meeting,

Director of SPREP,

Heads of SPOCC Organisations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I represent the South Pacific Commission at this historical gathering, marking the first SPREP Meeting held under what is now a legally recognised intergovernmental, regional organisation, having the same status as those already in existence in this, our Pacific region.

Mr Chairman, please accept my sincere congratulations to your Meeting and to the current Director and his predecessors for this monumental achievement. I am sure that our Island countries and territories will only stand to gain from this major milestone in the history of this organisation. And it is my hope that this organisation will continue to serve without fear and prejudice the needs of the region, and that it will achieve the main purpose of its existence.

Mr Chairman, the South Pacific Commission is proud to have been associated with the embryonic development of SPREP, when this viable seed was sown some two decades ago. The active involvement of the four major players then, namely UNEP, ESCAP, SPEC (now the Forum Secretariat), and SPC ensured that SPREP during its infancy and development was given all possible resources.

The 1994/95 Annual Report of SPREP provides a short history of this organisation. I, therefore, need not trace it again. However, allow me just to mention that the South Pacific Commission has had a cordial and close association with SPREP since its formal establishment in 1980. The Programme was housed in the SPC Headquarters in Noumea, and resourced by external and core SPC funds and fully serviced by the Commission's Administrative and Financial Services until a decade later when, after gaining autonomous status, SPREP moved to its Headquarters here in Apia. I am proud to say that during all these evolutionary changes to the organisation, the South Pacific Commission was fully committed to this transition.

Hence, the 30th of August 1995 is when, if you like, SPREP came of age, reaching a legally recognised international/regional organisational status, and joined other such organisations serving the interests of the Pacific region.

Mr Chairman, whilst all these different organisations involved in the Pacific region have different mandates to follow, I believe there is a united common goal which we all share. And that is, to provide a service to this region, for the betterment of its people, be it in environmental matters, developmental, educational, scientific and/or economic matters.

Mr Chairman, lest we forget, the main reason of our mere existence is to cater for the interests of the island countries and territories that we serve. And I say this, not only for this organisation, but also all other organisations involved in this very region of ours, including our shareholders. No one organisation, and/or shareholder, can lay legitimate claim to be a leading role model, and that whatever they say should be seen as gospel. Such an attitude can only lead to the demise of our region and our failure to fulfil our mandates. We will serve our purpose if all partners involved work together to achieve this united common goal. It is my prayer that the different organisations involved in the region, together with shareholders, work towards this end.

Let me, Mr Chairman, end by quoting a Chinese saying, which is not only reflective of the closeness of the SPC's association with SPREP, but one which I hope will guide us with the way we go about in carrying out our responsibilities to this region we serve:

"Do not walk in front of me, for I may not follow,  
Do not walk behind me, for I may not lead,  
Just walk beside me, and be a friend."

Thank you.

Soifua.

## Annex 4: Opening Address by Director, Dr Vili A. Fuavao

Mr Prime Minister,  
Pastor Milo Siilata,  
Mr Chairman,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Heads of Regional Organisations,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Observers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to say that I am somewhat overwhelmed at actually being present this morning on the occasion of the opening of the first SPREP Meeting since the organisation gained full, legal autonomy. To those governments which made this possible by ratifying or acceding to the SPREP Agreement, I express my appreciation. To those whose constitutional processes are still under way, I look forward to your joining us soon.

I am overwhelmed, too, at the high-level support given to our new status evidenced by the presence in this room of the Honourable Prime Minister of Tuvalu – an old friend of SPREP's I might add – and of Honourable Ministers from French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. For you to make time available in your busy schedules to be with us today is an indication of your support and commitment to SPREP and the ideals it stands for. On behalf of the meeting, I would like to convey my thanks to you for coming all this way to deliberate with us on vital issues affecting the course of our region's future development.

My thanks also to the Hon. Fa'aso'otauloa Pati, Minister of Lands, Surveys and Environment of Western Samoa, not only for his gracious opening address but also for the support and commitment which his government shows at all times towards SPREP. Without your wholehearted cooperation from the outset, the establishment of an independent SPREP would have been a much more difficult exercise.

Speaking of that I would like to acknowledge the assistance of the South Pacific Commission over the many years it hosted SPREP at its Headquarters in Noumea. It is most fitting that the Secretary-General, Ati George Sokomanu, is able to be with us today and we thank him for his gracious message.

At this stage I think it would be appropriate also to mention the presence in our midst once more of del-

egations from Guam and French Polynesia. It is well known that you have overcome considerable difficulties of principle in order to take up your seats again at a SPREP Meeting and on behalf of all the membership I would like to acknowledge the efforts and compromise you have undoubtedly made to join us today. Welcome back.

This is also the first SPREP Meeting which we in the Secretariat have hosted ourselves. We have tried to do everything right. However, if there is something we might have missed that you need, please let us know.

For this year's agenda, we have tried to concentrate on Work Programme issues. That is why you have before you a rather long list of items dealing with reports on our activities during the past year. These are grouped under three headings – International, Regional and Work Programme. I hope you find them useful. If you need further information, or have any questions, on these reports, please let us know. SPREP's programme officers are here to assist you with the technical details.

Work Programme matters I would like to highlight for you as being of particular significance include the report of yesterday's Advisory Committee on implementation of the outcomes of the Barbados Conference, the status of the region's strategy for dealing with the Global Environment Facility, the region's input to the Conference to be held in Washington DC later this month to finalise a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities and the recent conclusion of the Waigani Convention on Hazardous Wastes. A lot of work has been put into these issues by SPREP members and the Secretariat and I hope this Meeting can agree on and advance any outstanding issues.

Despite the Secretariat's best intentions, it was not possible to avoid institutional issues altogether on your agenda. All of them have been raised before, and no doubt some will be raised again. This is because they deal with issues of fundamental significance to the way your Secretariat is structured, how it operates and even how it is physically accommodated.

One of these issues is the major question of the frequency of future SPREP Meetings. The Secretariat's views are well known – we are convinced that it would be more cost-effective and efficient if the SPREP Meeting were held less frequently than every year. Our reasons are set out clearly, I believe, in the work-



ing paper which I ask you to consider carefully and come to a definite decision one way or the other.

Another major issue is the Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC organisations. The Secretariat's salaries and terms and conditions of employment have now been under review continuously for four years – since the special Meeting in 1991 in fact. This has brought enormous uncertainties to management and staff alike. A Sub-committee which you established last year has worked hard to produce recommendations on the SPOCC review which were sometimes controversial. The Secretariat strongly endorses the Sub-committee's recommendations and pleads with this Meeting to endorse them so that SPREP can operate under a fully settled system for the first time since its move from Noumea to Apia.

The other matter I want to bring to your attention is the need for this Meeting to decide on a design concept for a new headquarters for the organisation. This will enable funding possibilities to be pursued to their fullest extent. Our temporary headquarters has reached its capacity. We have exhausted all options for extending existing temporary buildings. The only option now is to put up new buildings. I am convinced that this should only happen at the new site at Avele. We therefore need to move ahead as quickly as possible on the new headquarters proposals. We are putting up a display of the seven entries in the design competition and later in the Meeting the Chairman of the judging panel will brief you on the panel's findings and recommendations.

On finance issues, I have to express my deep concern at the level of outstanding voluntary contributions

from Members going back, in some cases, nearly four years. The Secretariat is now facing a shortfall in its Primary Function budget as a direct result of this situation, which I might add applies also to the Apia and SPREP Conventions budget funds. Despite frequent reminders from the Secretariat, the situation has not improved in the past year. Of a core budget of \$500,000 a year, over \$400,000 is currently outstanding in respect of 1995 and earlier years. The cumulative effect of this will soon give us cash-flow problems. I would ask the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee to address this and other finance matters – such as our proposals to address projections of increased expenditure and reduced income – with the utmost urgency and to come up with workable solutions. Unless this is resolved, the Secretariat faces financial crisis in the years ahead.

Finally, in this litany of good news and bad news, I must mention the SPREP Action Plan which is now due for revision. Later in the Meeting we will discuss how this is to proceed so as to ensure that SPREP has a living document to carry it into the next century with realistic goals based on the clearly identified priorities of its Members.

It only remains for me now, Mr Chair, ladies and gentlemen, to wish you well in your deliberations over the next three days. In doing so let me say how pleased I am to see so many old friends of SPREP around the table this morning as well as several new faces. It is good to have new blood and ideas coupled with tried and tested experience. I will be following your discussions this week with great interest and wish all of you all the best.

Soifua.

## Annex 5: Rules of Procedure of the SPREP Meeting

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### Scope

#### Rule 1

These Rules shall apply to all SPREP Meetings, including committees, sub-committees and other subsidiary bodies established by the SPREP Meeting under Article 3.4 of the Agreement.

### Definitions

#### Rule 2

For the purposes of these Rules:

- “Action Plan” means the *Action Plan for Managing the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region* adopted from time to time by the SPREP Meeting, setting the strategies and objectives of SPREP;
- “Agreement” means the *Agreement Establishing the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme as an intergovernmental organisation* done at Apia on 16 June 1993;

- “Meeting” means any Ordinary or Special Meeting of the Members, including meetings of committees, sub-committees and other subsidiary bodies;
- “Members” means the Parties to the Agreement and, with the appropriate authorisation of the Party having responsibility for its international affairs, each of the following:
  - American Samoa
  - French Polynesia
  - Guam
  - New Caledonia
  - Northern Mariana Islands
  - Tokelau
  - Wallis and Futuna
- “Parties” means governments which have ratified, accepted, approved or acceded to the Agreement;
- “Rules” means the Rules of Procedure adopted by the SPREP Meeting at its first meeting as an intergovernmental organisation at Apia, Western Samoa, on 11 October 1995;
- “Secretariat” means the Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme established under Article 1.2 of the Agreement;
- “Sessions” means plenary sessions of the Meeting, including meetings of committees, sub-committees and other subsidiary bodies;
- “SPREP” means the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme established pursuant to Article 1.1 of the Agreement as an intergovernmental organisation;
- “SPREP Meeting” means the organ of SPREP established pursuant to Article 1.2 of the Agreement.

### Venues

#### Rule 3

1. Each Meeting shall decide the venue and timing of the next Meeting.
2. In unforeseen circumstances, the Secretariat may, in consultation with the Chair and the Members, change the venue and timing of the next Meeting.
3. The Secretariat shall make all necessary arrangements for the convening of Meetings.

**Dates****Rule 4**

1. As provided under Article 3.2 of the Agreement, the Meeting shall be held at such times as the Meeting may determine and shall be hosted by one of the Members or by the Secretariat.
2. A Special Meeting may be convened in accordance with Article 3.2 of the Agreement no later than six weeks after receipt by the Secretariat of a request to this effect from a majority of Members, or on a date decided upon by the Meeting.

**Invitations****Rule 5**

1. The Secretariat shall invite all Members to nominate representatives to each Meeting.
2. The Secretariat shall also invite the Forum Secretariat, the South Pacific Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to nominate advisers to each Meeting.
3. The Secretariat may invite any State Member of the United Nations, any State Member of any United Nations Specialised Agency, any United Nations Specialised Agency, any intergovernmental organisation or non-governmental organisation which has a direct concern in the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific region to each Meeting.
4. Invitations to representatives, advisers and observers shall be sent by the Secretariat no later than six weeks before the date of each Meeting.
5. Names of all representatives, advisers and observers shall be advised to the Secretariat before the commencement of each Meeting. Any subsequent changes shall also be notified to the Secretariat.

**Participation****Rule 6**

1. Plenary sessions shall be open to those invited to attend, unless the Meeting decides otherwise.
2. Sessions of committees, sub-committees and other subsidiary bodies shall be held in closed session, unless the Meeting decides otherwise.
3. Advisers and observers may, with the consent of the Chair, address the Meeting and participate in its discussions.

**Agenda****Rule 7**

1. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair, shall prepare a Provisional Agenda for each Meeting. The Provisional Agenda shall be circulated to Members no later than six months prior to the date of the Meeting.
2. The Provisional Agenda shall include, without limitation:
  - any items which the previous Meeting has requested be included;
  - any items in respect of which the previous Meeting has not completed consideration;
  - a report by the Director on the activities of SPREP;
  - a review by the Secretariat of progress with the implementation of the SPREP work programme and an integrated work programme and budget for the next financial period;
  - a report by the Secretariat on any administrative and financial implications of new proposals; and
  - any matter proposed by a Member or the Secretariat.
3. Agenda items proposed by Members following circulation of the Provisional Agenda shall be communicated to the Secretariat no later than three months before the Meeting and shall be incorporated in a Revised Provisional Agenda. Working or background papers for such items shall also reach the Secretariat no later than three months before the Meeting.
4. The Revised Provisional Agenda shall be circulated by the Secretariat to Members with the Working Papers for the Meeting no later than six weeks before the Meeting.
5. When adopting the Agenda for a Meeting, Members may add, delete, defer or amend items.
6. The Provisional Agenda for a Special Meeting shall include only those items proposed by a Member or Members for that Meeting and shall be circulated to Members at the same time as the invitation to the Special Meeting. A Special Meeting shall deal only with items on its Provisional Agenda.

## **Chair and Vice-Chair**

### **Rule 8**

1. Pursuant to Article 4.1 of the Agreement, and subject to Rule 8.2, the role of Chair shall rotate alphabetically.
2. Where a Meeting is hosted by the Secretariat, the Meeting shall appoint by consensus a Chair in accordance with Rule 8.1. Where a Meeting is not hosted by the Secretariat, the Chair shall be provided by the delegation of the host country.
3. Subject to Article 4.1 of the Agreement, the role of the Vice-Chair shall rotate alphabetically whether or not the Meeting is hosted by the Secretariat.
4. Pursuant to Article 4.1 of the Agreement and subject to Rule 8.3, the appointment of the Vice-Chair shall be made from the delegation of another country other than that of the host country.
5. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall remain in office until their successors are appointed at the next Meeting. At the first session of each Meeting, the current Chair shall preside until a successor is appointed by the Meeting.
6. The Chair may exercise the speaking rights of his/her delegation in the absence of another representative of the same delegation at the Meeting.
7. In addition to any other functions conferred by these Rules, the Chair shall declare the Meeting open and closed, direct discussions, ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak and announce consensus and decisions.
8. In the absence of the Chair from the Meeting, the Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the meantime.
9. Should the Chair resign or otherwise become unable to complete a term of office, the Vice-Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Rule 9**

1. The Secretariat shall be responsible for arrangements for and administration of Meetings, including secretarial and interpretation and translation services and printing and circulation of documents. It shall have custody of the archives of Meetings and shall generally perform all other work which the Meeting may require.

2. The host country shall be responsible for providing the venue for the Meeting, arrangements for accommodation and transport, communications facilities, secretarial facilities and assistance and stationery and office supplies.

3. The host country shall also be responsible for meeting the direct additional costs to the Secretariat of hosting the Meeting in the host country over and above the cost of holding the Meeting at the Secretariat's Headquarters. Such additional costs would normally include airfares and per diems for the Secretariat team, and for the interpreters and translators, and airfreight costs for necessary conference equipment such as computers and simultaneous interpretation equipment.

## **Conduct of Business**

### **Rule 10**

1. Two-thirds of Members shall constitute a quorum.
2. In raising a point of order concerning the Meeting's procedure, a representative may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. Any point of order shall be decided immediately by the Chair. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Chair which appeal shall immediately be put to the Meeting for decision. The Chair's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a consensus decision of the Meeting.
3. Substantive motions and amendments shall normally be circulated to Members with the Working Papers for the Meeting at which they are to be considered. However, unless any representative calls for a postponement, the Chair may permit discussion and consideration of amendments without previous circulation.
4. Subject to Rule 10.2, the following motions shall have precedence, in order, over all other proposals or motions before the Meeting:
  - to suspend a sitting;
  - to adjourn a sitting;
  - to adjourn debate on the question under discussion; and
  - to close debate on the question under discussion.
5. Permission to speak on a motion under Rule 10.4 shall be granted only to the proposer and to one speaker in favour and two against. The motion shall then be put to the Meeting for decision.

6. If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the Meeting, unless it decides otherwise, shall decide on the proposals in the order in which they have been tabled.

7. Any representative may request that parts of a proposal or of an amendment be decided separately. If an objection is made to the request for a division, the Chair shall permit two Members to speak, one in favour and the other against. The request shall then be put to the Meeting for decision.

8. If a request under Rule 10.7 is adopted, those parts of the proposal shall then be decided as a whole. If all the operative parts of a proposal or an amendment have been rejected, the proposal or amendment shall be considered to be rejected as a whole.

9. A motion is considered to be an amendment to a proposal if it adds to, deletes from, or revises part of, that proposal. An amendment shall be decided before the proposal to which it relates is decided. If the amendment is adopted, the amended proposal shall then be decided.

10. If two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the Meeting shall first decide on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, then on the amendment next furthest removed, and so on until all amendments have been decided. The Chair shall determine the order of decision on amendments under this Rule.

11. A proposal or motion may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before a decision has been reached, provided the motion has not been amended. A withdrawn proposal or motion may be reintroduced by any other representative.

12. When a proposal has been either adopted or rejected, it may not be reconsidered at the same session, unless the Meeting decides otherwise. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to the mover and such other person as the Chair may decide.

## **Decisions**

### **Rule 11**

1. In accordance with Article 4 of the Agreement, the work of the Meeting shall be conducted on the basis of consensus of all Members, taking into account the practices and procedures of the South Pacific region.

2. In the event that a decision is required, that decision shall be taken by consensus of the Parties which consensus shall ensure that the views of all Members have been properly considered and taken into account in reaching that consensus.

## **Reports**

### **Rule 12**

The Report adopted by each Meeting shall be printed and circulated by the Secretariat to Members as soon as possible after each Meeting.

## **Committees, Sub-committees and Subsidiary Bodies**

### **Rule 13**

1. The Meeting may convene such committees, sub-committees and subsidiary bodies as may be required for the effective transaction of its business, during or between Meetings, either of representatives or of experts to consider issues of a specialised nature and to report back to the Meeting.

2. Unless otherwise decided, the Meeting shall determine the terms of reference for each such committee, sub-committee or subsidiary body and shall also appoint a convenor for each such group.

## **Languages**

### **Rule 14**

The working languages for Meetings shall be English and French.

## **Amendments**

### **Rule 15**

These Rules may be amended by consensus decision of the Meeting

## **Repeals**

### **Rule 16**

These Rules shall supersede any existing Rules of Procedure as may have been adopted by the SPREP Meeting.

## **Overriding Authority of the Agreement**

### **Rule 17**

In the event of any conflict between any provision of these Rules and the Agreement, the Agreement shall prevail.

## **Annex 6: Agenda**

1. **Official Opening**
2. **Appointment of Chair**
3. **Adoption of Agenda and Working Procedures**
4. **Matters Arising from Seventh SPREP Meeting**
5. **Director's Overview**
6. **Policy**
  - 6.1 Frequency of Future SPREP Meetings
  - 6.2 Review of Terms and Conditions of Employment of SPOCC Organisations
  - 6.3 Appointment of Selection Advisory Committee
7. **Reports**
  - 7.1 Institutional
    - 7.1.1 Director's Annual Report for 1994/95
    - 7.1.2 Agreement Establishing SPREP – Status Report
    - 7.1.3 Membership Status of Guam and French Polynesia
    - 7.1.4 New Headquarters
    - 7.1.5 Review of Institutional Arrangements in Marine Resources Sector
  - 7.2 Regional
    - 7.2.1 Regional Convention on Hazardous Wastes
    - 7.2.2 Regional Mechanism to Implement Barbados Conference Outcomes
    - 7.2.3 Second Regional Meeting of Meteorological Services Directors
    - 7.2.4 Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific
    - 7.2.5 Action Plan for Wetland Conservation in the South Pacific
  - 7.3 International
    - 7.3.1 Global Environment Facility: Regional Strategy
    - 7.3.2 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
    - 7.3.3 International Coral Reef Initiative
    - 7.3.4 Convention on Biological Diversity
    - 7.3.5 Framework Convention on Climate Change
    - 7.3.6 The Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol
    - 7.3.7 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
  - 7.4 Work Programme
    - 7.4.1 Coastal Protection
    - 7.4.2 Environmental Education
    - 7.4.3 Environmental Impact Assessment
    - 7.4.4 Library and Information Centre

- 
- 7.4.5 Population and Environment
  - 7.4.6 South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
  - 7.4.7 Year of the Sea Turtle
  - 7.4.8 Pollution Prevention, Waste Minimisation and Management
  - 7.4.9 Global Climate Change and Sea-Level Rise
  - 7.4.10 Capacity 21 and Related Activities
- 8. **Items Proposed by Member Countries**
  - 9. **Finance**
    - 9.1 Status of Member Contributions
    - 9.2 Report on 1994 Cash Flow
    - 9.3 Audited Annual Accounts for 1994
    - 9.4 Appointment of Auditors
    - 9.5 Rules Governing Quotations and Tendering Procedures
  - 10. **Work Programme and Budget**
    - 10.1 Primary Function Budget: Options to Address Projections of Increased Expenditure and Reduced Income
    - 10.2 Evaluation of Scientific Aspects of Implementation of Work Programme
    - 10.3 Work Programme Review for 1994
      - Revised Budget for 1995
      - Proposed Work Programme and Budget for 1996
      - Indicative Work Programme and Budget for 1997 and 1998
  - 11. **Statements by Observers**
  - 12. **Other Business**
    - Proposal for a Regional START Network for Oceania
  - 13. **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**
  - 14. **Adoption of Report**
  - 15. **Close**
-

## Annex 7: New Headquarters Proposal – Selection of Architect (Agenda Item 7.1.4)

### Report of the Sub-committee on new headquarters complex design competition

1. The Seventh SPREP Meeting agreed to invite seven architects' companies to participate in the design competition for the new SPREP Headquarters complex. The companies were:

- Architects Pacific
- EDGe-Environmental Design Group Pty Ltd
- Phillipe Flagel Architecture
- Jaimi Associates Ltd
- Jasmx Architects
- G.M. Meredith & Associates Ltd
- Gazzard Sheldon

2. The invitations went out on 20 October 1994.

3. Representatives of the companies met in Apia on 25 January 1995 for site visit and were briefed on the rules of the competition. All submissions were received by the closing date of the competition.

4. The Sub-committee (Jury) met from 7 to 9 June 1995 in Apia to review seven invited Architectural Design Competition submissions, made an assessment of each, and provided this report to the 1995 SPREP Meeting.

#### Jury Members

5. The selection of the Sub-committee (Jury) was done carefully to get architects with appropriate background and experience. To ensure independent judging and fairness, architects from countries participating in the design competition were not considered.

6. The Jury consisted of:

Mr Joseph Farrell, AIA, Principal, Architects Hawaii Ltd (Jury Chairman)

Dr Christopher Yip, Architectural Historian Professor, University of Hawaii

Mrs Makurita Baaro, Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Kiribati), Chair of the Seventh SPREP Meeting

Mr Mose Sua, Secretary for Foreign Affairs later replaced by

Mr Terry To'omata, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Western Samoa

Dr Vili Fuavao, Director, SPREP

Mr Donald Stewart, Deputy Director, SPREP

7. Dr Yip is an architectural historian from the School of Architecture, University of Hawaii, and Mr Joseph Farrell, Architects Hawaii Ltd, has over 30 years in major design experience in the Pacific Islands. This was a good cross-section of administration, government and the architectural profession to whom the competing architects were unknown, eliminating bias. Mrs Makurita Baaro did not make it, due to cancellation of airline flights.

#### Design Criteria

8. The Jury used both the Master Plan Report (adopted by the Sixth SPREP Meeting) and the Functional Design Brief prepared by ARUP, dated August 1993, as a guide and the criteria for assessing the competition designs. The commendable quality of the Master Plan Report and ARUP's report and brief added greatly to the success of this competition. The criteria used to assess the designs were:

- general design quality and ability from designs provided;
- a prominent Conference Centre;
- appropriate functions;
- economical design;
- durable materials;
- low maintenance;
- good building siting;
- landscaping;
- relationship to neighbouring buildings;
- environmental design and ability to blend buildings with the surroundings;
- great weight was given to ARUP's recommendations that designs appropriately express the Pacific Islands and the aims and objectives of SPREP; and
- the Jury added one more criterion and that was that the design needed to demonstrate the architect's capability to carry out the balance of his/her work in an experienced and aesthetic way.



## Jury Process

9. All Jury members studied ARUP's Master Plan Report and Functional Design Brief, visited the site and the surrounding areas of Apia prior to the following judging process:

- The Jury first discussed the design criteria and gave Jury numbers to each project.
- Collectively, they then reviewed and discussed all of the submissions.
- The Jury members then individually studied each submission, making notes for the subsequent discussion and evaluation.
- Each submission was then individually discussed in detail, with each juror systematically explaining his positive and negative thoughts about each project.
- All seven submissions were next displayed and each juror assigned a numeric rating to each submission. These ratings were then averaged for the Jury's final rating for each competitor. All jurors agreed.
- The Jury then recorded the positive and negative comments for each competitor, which the Chairman will use to give direction to the successful architect in finalising the design of the Headquarters complex.
- Lastly, the Chairman prepared this report.

## General Jury Statement

10. Each submission had something good to offer, and each had shortcomings. In general, there were good functional site arrangements and the Conference Centre was prominently located, as required. There were some interesting Samoan forms and other good sloped roof schemes. However, one submission stood out as a well-designed scheme which the Jury felt expressed better what the SPREP Headquarters should be like.

11. The Chairman and members of the Jury appreciate the opportunity of assisting the SPREP Membership in its worthwhile goals of ensuring an appropriate Headquarters complex for SPREP and for preserving our Pacific Island environment. The Jury wishes also to acknowledge the good work of the seven companies who submitted designs for the competition. They were all good, which made the work of the Jury difficult indeed.

12. The results of the assessment are as follows:

Companies	Points scored out of 10
• Phillipe Flagel Architecture	2
• G.M. Meredith & Associates Ltd	3.4
• EDGe-Environmental Design Group Pty Ltd	4
• Jasmax Architects	4
• Jaimi Associates Ltd	4.2
• Architects Pacific	5
• Gazzard Sheldon	7

## Recommendations

13. The Jury strongly recommends that:

- Gazzard Sheldon Architects be engaged to design the SPREP Headquarters complex. The submission by Gazzard Sheldon displayed highly competent professional ability and came closest to producing the most successful design and would require the least revisions.
- The Chairman and members of the Jury be maintained to oversee the finalisation of the design by the architect.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Farrell, AIA

Chairman

## Annex 8: Report of the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee

The Sub-committee met on 12 October to consider all items under Agenda Item 10: Work Programme and Budget. New Zealand was elected Chair.

### Agenda Item 10.1: Primary Function Budget: Options to Address Projections of Increased Expenditure and Reduced Income

1. At the Seventh SPREP Meeting the Secretariat was directed to present the Eighth SPREP Meeting with options to address the problem of projected annual deficits in the Primary Function Budget. This paper presents only one option – that of increasing member contributions sufficiently to cover budgeted Primary Function expenditure in 1996.
2. The Sub-committee is sympathetic to the concerns raised by the Secretariat in this paper and to their concerns about the non-payment or late payment records of many Members as covered in Item 9.1 (Status of Member Voluntary Contributions). Clearly the existing budget situation is untenable, income is not meeting expenditures in the Primary Functions. The Director has already warned the Meeting that the Secretariat may soon have to grapple with cash-flow problems as a consequence of non-payment by Members of the 1995 contributions. This Meeting must face up to these concerns.
3. The Sub-committee does not believe that the answer lies in simply adopting the Secretariat's option as presented in this paper. The issue is more complex.
  - (1) Non-payment of contributions is part of the problem.
  - (2) The voluntary or "optional" nature of contributions is part of the problem.
  - (3) The static level of Members' contributions is part of the problem.
  - (4) The failure of the Secretariat to contain expenditure in the Primary Function Budget is part of the problem.
4. The Sub-committee discussed all four issues and has a number of recommendations to submit to the Meeting for consideration. The issues will be discussed in turn with specific recommendations after each.

5. Non-payment and late payment of Members' contributions have hampered the work of the Secretariat and therefore of our organisation for a number of years. Repeated requests for payment continue to be made. Yet late payments continue to be the pattern and the shortfall from members is about USD 85,000 per annum. As noted in the table in WP 9.1, the situation for 1995 is extremely serious.

6. On the one hand it is reasonable for the Secretariat to budget for income from Members of \$500,000 on the presumption that all Members are willing to pay for, and therefore "control", the "core" services of SPREP. On the other hand, such budgeting is unrealistic if non-payment of contributions continues.

7. The Sub-committee **notes** that an important factor in achieving a balance between income and expenditure for the Primary Function Budget is the prompt payment by all Members of their respective contributions each year.

8. The Sub-committee **recommends** that:

- (a) delegates of Members currently with outstanding contributions pursue the issue of payment with their relevant authorities;
- (b) Members pay their contributions early in the year to assist with the cash-flow requirements of the Secretariat.

### *Status of Contributions*

9. The status of members' contributions was discussed at length and, in the view of the Sub-committee, is strongly linked with the problems of non-payment or late payment of contributions.
10. Members' contributions are presently voluntary. Some members on the Sub-committee expressed the view that obtaining payments from their governments is much easier if contributions are assessed rather than voluntary. Voluntary contributions can be given lower priority and are more likely to be seen as "optional" than assessed contributions.
11. The Sub-committee noted that with the entry into force of the SPREP Agreement it is important for the newest regional organisation to be financially secure, while maintaining the high levels of professionalism it has already achieved. SPREP is out of step with all other regional organisations which require their Members to pay assessed contributions.

12. The Sub-committee therefore **recommends** that the Meeting:

- (a) note these points;
- (b) consider the merits of moving to a system of assessed contributions (the United States did not support recommendation (b)); and
- (c) further consider this matter at the Ninth SPREP Meeting.

### *Level of Members' Contributions*

13. The Sub-committee discussed the Secretariat's proposal to increase the level of Members' contributions. These amounts have not increased since 1990. The Sub-committee accepts that, even allowing for increased efficiencies, the budgets required to support the Primary Functions have increased over this time.

14. The Sub-committee is aware of the importance Members attach to controlling the Primary Functions of the Secretariat and believes some increase in membership contributions is now justified. With a target of holding expenditure levels at 1995 levels (which are lower than the 1996 levels recommended by the Secretariat as the benchmark), an increase in total Members' contributions of about USD 75,000 per year would be necessary to raise sufficient income to produce a balanced budget.

15. An increase of \$75,000 from Members represents an average increase of 15 per cent on the existing contributions by Members (see Table 1 to this Report of the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee).

16. The Sub-committee, after careful consideration, therefore **recommends** that the Meeting **agree** to address the question of an increase in contributions at the Ninth SPREP Meeting. (The United States did not support this recommendation.)

17. The Sub-committee also discussed the Secretariat proposal that contributions in subsequent years be calculated on the basis of the previous year's contributions, and adjusted for inflation so as to maintain zero growth in real terms. The Sub-committee was reluctant at this time to propose an automatic adjustment for inflation as it believes the Secretariat can continue its positive efforts to increase financial efficiencies and effectiveness in its operations.

18. The level of Members' contributions should also be considered in the context of future changes in the amount of activity required in the Primary Functions.

19. The Sub-committee **recommends** that the Secretariat report to the Ninth SPREP Meeting on this matter in the context of budget projections, activity levels, and efficiency gains in the Primary Functions area.

### *Projected Budget Deficit 1996-1998*

20. The Sub-committee noted with concern the projected budget deficit as provided in Attachment 1 to Working Paper 10.3 which projects a growing cumulative deficit to a figure of over \$250,000 by 1998. It does not believe expenditure should proceed on this basis, nor that membership contributions should rise to a level necessary to meet this level of shortfall.

21. Concern was also expressed that projected increases in expenditure of the Primary Function Budget exceeded projected incomes by a significant margin in each of the next three years. Given that Meetings have not added to the activities to be covered by the Primary Function Budget, the Sub-committee found it hard to accept some of the increases proposed in this area. However, it refrained from identifying specific areas where expenditure could be cut as this is a task for the Director to manage.

22. The Sub-committee therefore **recommends** that the Meeting direct the Secretariat to **review** its Primary Function expenditure projections and hold expenditures in 1996-1998 to levels much closer to those given for 1995 and constrained by projected incomes.

### **Agenda Item 10.2: Evaluation of Scientific Aspects of Implementation of the Work Programme**

23. The Sub-committee considered the Secretariat's paper and noted the detailed review mechanisms that were already being applied to major programmes of work. With this in mind, and noting the relatively limited number of non-reviewed projects, plus budget constraints, the Sub-committee felt that it was not necessary to implement a regular programme of scientific review of projects.

24. The Sub-committee recommends that:-

- (a) the present *ad hoc* arrangements within SPREP of scientific reviews of projects be continued;
- (b) Similarly, present arrangements, where applicable, for reviews of projects by regional committees be continued; and

(c) independent scientific review by a panel of experts of selected projects be an option that could be employed at the request of the SPREP Meeting.

**Agenda Item 10.3: Work Programme Review for 1994**

25. The Sub-committee congratulates the Secretariat on the quality of the Budget and Work Programme papers and for the detail of the material presented. The Sub-committee reviewed all of the material presented under Agenda Item 10.3. Comments on the indicative budgets have already been made under Item 10.1 with regard to the need to balance budgets.

26. The Sub-committee draws to the attention of the Meeting the importance of work under the Environmental Education, Information and Co-ordination Division, while noting that much of the required fund-

ing was still unsecured beyond 1996. To the extent that this work on Capacity 21 picks up on the National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) projects, and other priority work for member countries, it is a priority for the region.

27. The Sub-committee commends the Secretariat on its initiatives to obtain further funding for other Work Programme areas and notes the major importance to the region of funding for implementing work on the Climate Change and the Coastal Management and Planning Projects.

28. The Sub-committee **recommends:**

(a) that the Secretariat provide similar information as provided under Agenda Item 10.3 to Members on an annual basis;

(b) approval of the Work Programme and Budget proposals as contained in Agenda Item 10.3, subject to the Meeting's decisions taken under Agenda Item 10.3.

**Table 1 to the Report of the Work Programme and Budget Sub-committee  
of the Eighth SPREP Meeting**

<b>COMPARATIVE TABLE OF MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS</b>					
COUNTRY	%	CURRENT	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE
		CONTRIBUTION USD	CURRENT CONTRIBUTION USD	CURRENT CONTRIBUTION USD	CURRENT CONTRIBUTION USD
			10%	15%	20%
American Samoa	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Australia	20.811%	104,055	114,461	119,663	124,866
Cook Islands	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
FSM	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Fiji	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
France	15.088%	75,440	82,984	86,756	90,528
French Polynesia	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
Guam	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
Kiribati	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Marshall Islands	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Nauru	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
New Caledonia	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
New Zealand	6.764%	33,820	37,202	38,893	40,584
Niue	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Northern Marianas	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Palau	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Papua New Guinea	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
Pitcairn Island	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Solomon Islands	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
Tokelau	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Tonga	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Tuvalu	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
United States America	21.851%	109,255	120,181	125,643	131,106
Vanuatu	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
Wallis & Futuna Islands	1.145%	5,725	6,298	6,584	6,870
Western Samoa	2.289%	11,445	12,590	13,162	13,734
		500,000	550,012	575,005	600,000

## Annex 9: Statements by Observers

Observers' statements, outlining environmental activities and collaboration with SPREP, were presented as follows:

1. The **Ambassador of Switzerland to New Zealand** highlighted the benefits of locating the Secretariat for the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in Geneva.
2. The representative of the **International Ocean Institute** of the University of the South Pacific drew the attention of the Meeting to the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to the protection of the marine environment and to the Independent World Commission on the Oceans currently under way. Under Agenda Item 7.4.6, the USP-IOI also expressed its desire to work with SPREP in the educational components of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP).
3. Mr Eldon Haines, representing the **University of Oregon**, informed the Meeting of the nature of the Micronesia/South Pacific Program of the University of Oregon and invited those interested in technical assistance to make further contact with him.
4. Mr Gerd Jarchow, representing the **European Commission**, outlined the European Union's policy on environment. He informed the Meeting of a project proposal on waste awareness and education in the Pacific currently being appraised by SPREP and the EU and which the EU expects to fund up to ECU 500,000.
5. Mr P.H.C. Lucas representing IUCN recalled the long history of close collaboration between SPREP and IUCN. The production of a four-volume publication called *A Global Representative System of Marine Protected Areas* which contains a substantial Pacific section; technical assistance for the SPREP/GEF Scoping Workshop; and support for the implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the South Pacific are some of the activities IUCN has recently undertaken in support of SPREP and its Member countries. IUCN also has plans for a regional Members' meeting in mid-1996 organised by the Australian Committee of IUCN. Mr Lucas reiterated IUCN's continuing support to SPREP and expressed the desire to see IUCN/SPREP relations continue to evolve.
6. Mr Hari Dewan, representing the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**, paid tribute to the work carried out by SPREP and the excellent cooperation between FAO and SPREP in areas such as sustainable management of natural resources including land, forests and coastal and marine resources. As a result of this cooperation, the recent Heads of Forestry Meeting had unanimously agreed that the South Pacific Regional Forestry Programme be handed to SPREP at the completion of the present phase. FAO and SPREP will also jointly convene a South Pacific Technical Consultation on Small Island Developing States and Sustainable Development of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in Apia in March 1996.
7. Mr Koroseta To'o, Director of the **O le Siosiomaga Society**, a non-government organisation (NGO) in Western Samoa, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate at the Eighth SPREP Meeting. O le Siosiomaga Society is developing active partnerships between governments and NGOs. He expressed the opinion that there was room for greater participation by NGOs in the work of SPREP and requested that NGOs be given official status in the work of the organisation. Mr To'o then presented a resolution, on behalf of a number of NGOs, in protest against nuclear testing by France in the Pacific.
8. Dr Elspeth Young, representing the **National Centre for Development Studies (NCDS)** of the Australian National University, informed the Meeting of the Environmental Management Programme of the NCDS.
9. Mr Trevor Sankey, representing the **United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** office for the Pacific States, outlined activities in support of the sustainable development of Pacific islands. He highlighted UNESCO's Communications Programme with SPREP, the Science Education in Pacific Schools Programme, a microbial technology network and the **Vaka Moana** project.
10. Mr Anthony Patten, representing the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, noted the support UNDP continues to provide through SPREP to Pacific Island countries. He highlighted the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme and the Pacific Capacity 21 project which both place a strong emphasis on peoples' participation. Mr Patten also reported that the GEF Scoping and Training Workshop convened jointly by UNDP and SPREP had successfully developed a Pacific Island Climate Change Assistance Programme, developed a request for project development funds and recommended modalities for access by NGOs in the Pacific to the GEF Small Grants Scheme. On behalf of UNDP he looked forward to a continuing close relationship between UNDP and SPREP.