

# Regional Pacific NDC Hub Meeting Report

July 25, 2018 – Suva, Fiji

## Welcome

Ms. Makereta Konrote, Permanent Secretary of Fiji's Ministry of Finance, provided the welcome remarks for the meeting. She underscored the central role the NDC Hub will have in supporting Pacific Island Countries (PICs) as they endeavor towards NDC implementation and enhancement, striving for low-carbon development pathways. She underlined the technical, knowledge, and financial support required for the achievement of the region's NDCs and future ambition, commending the NDC Hub's intended fit for purpose. Ms. Konrote emphasized that the NDC Hub is Pacific-centered and –driven, and encouraged the active participation of Focal Points and Steering Committee members to ensure the NDC Hub can meet its overall objective.

Dr. Audrey Aumua, Deputy Director-General at the Pacific Community, gave the opening address, highlighting the collaborative spirit of the NDC Hub. She explained that this is a joint effort between PICs, the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Region Environment (SPREP), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and the NDC Partnership's Support Unit (NDCP SU), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). She stressed the importance of speeding up NDC implementation and increasing ambition by all countries. She applauded PICs for having shown the world that the region is ready to lead by example with their NDCs. Lastly, Dr. Aumua noted that the NDC Hub will prioritize in-country capacity building and serve as an opportunity to channel specific requests for tailored Pacific expertise and support.

## Session 1: Where Are We Now?

Ms. Hanna Sabass, Portfolio Manager and Climate Change Advisor at GIZ, presented an update on operationalization of the NDC Hub at this first convening since the NDC Dialogue in March 2018. She provided participants with an overview of the rationale and history behind the formation of the NDC Hub, which seeks to support the implementation, enhancement, and leveraging of finance for NDCs in the region. She presented the NDC Hub's principles, overall objective, and draft outputs (further information can be found in the NDC Hub Project Summary and PowerPoint presentation from the meeting). Ms. Sabass explained that the NDC Hub can provide technical assistance as an implementer and/or support in match-making services with providers, based on country requests. She informed participants that the NDC Hub is supported by 2.1 million Euros from the governments of Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom for an initial phase through 2020. To end, she underlined the importance of further resource mobilization for this phase and an aspirational second phase for 2020-2025.

During the Q&A, the principle of impartiality was discussed in regards to accessing the NDC Hub and its resources. It was requested by participants that the NDC Hub remain accessible for

all PICs, not just front-runners. It was underscored that the NDC Hub will ensure that fairness and objectivity are central to its country engagement and allocation of resources.

Furthermore, participants remarked on the need to cross-fertilize lessons learned between regions and small island developing states. For example, it was noted that other regions and mechanisms (e.g. the African NDC Hub or forthcoming Caribbean NDC Hub) may be useful resources to share knowledge about reporting obligations to UNFCCC for NDCs.

Some participants noted that adaptation components will be included in some of the region's NDCs in 2020 and the questioned whether or not the NDC Hub would support adaptation requests. It was explained that if a country chooses to prioritize adaptation for its support request, then the NDC Hub will respond according to this expressed country need.

## Session 2: Governance of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub

Ms. Sylvie Goyet, Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Director at SPC, provided a summary of the proposed governance structure for the NDC Hub. She emphasized that, first and foremost, the NDC Hub will be guided and owned by the region. It was explained that the NDC Hub will have a Coordination Group comprised of the five partner organizations collaborating on this effort (GIZ, GGGI, NDCP SU, SPC, and SPREP). She described that the NDC Hub will have an Implementation Unit handling the coordination and day-to-day management of NDC Hub activities, and will function as a secretariat to the NDC Hub's Steering Committee and Coordination Group meetings. The Implementation Unit will be hosted at SPC in Suva and SPREP in Apia and have staff members of the different partner organizations.

Modalities and process for the establishment of a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from each of the three sub-regions (Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia), in addition to the Fiji Government as the host, were agreed upon. Sub-regions were tasked with conferring amongst themselves to nominate a Steering Committee representative and alternate, both from the same country (more information on the Steering Committee can be found in the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee). Furthermore, it was noted that the Steering Committee will provide information to the steering structure under the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) within the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).

Lastly, Ms. Goyet informed participants that 13 out of 14 PICs have nominated their Focal Points who will serve as communications conduits for the NDC Hub.

Overall, participants supported the proposed governance structure of the NDC Hub. The question emerged as to how development partners can be engaged within the NDC Hub's governance structure. In keeping with country-driven spirit of the NDC Hub, it was decided that the Steering Committee will be comprised of PIC representatives. The NDC Hub Implementation Unit will keep its stakeholders, including development partners, informed through various channels including but not limited to regular reporting, meetings on the sidelines of regional meetings, dedicated information sessions, etc.

Some participants felt that annual, in-person meetings of the Steering Committee may not be sufficient during the initial phase. It was agreed that the Steering Committee will determine the meeting frequency once established and that additional meetings will be held virtually.

In addition, it was agreed that Steering Committee members should represent the collective opinions of their sub-region, ensuring that views from non-Steering Committee members are gathered and elevated. It was suggested that sub-regional focal points consider coordinating their own meetings ahead of Steering Committee meetings so that discussions are representative of the mandate from the sub-region.

### Session 3: Initial Process for Country Support Requests

The NDC Hub Coordination Group took the decision that this session would be shortened given the time constraints for the meeting. It was explained that country requests may be served by a menu of options which includes: support provided by the NDC Hub itself as implementer; match-making by the NDC Hub to service providers (e.g. the Regional Technical Support Mechanism); or a combination of the two abovementioned options.

It was noted that the NDC Hub will become operational by approximately Q4 2018 and that the process for submitting country requests for support will be clarified in the coming months. In the meantime, questions and feedback can be sent to members of the NDC Hub Coordination Group.

### Session 4: Results Framework and the Work Plan of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub

First, Ms. Hanna Sabass provided an outline of the NDC Hub's Work Plan and Results Framework before participants gathered as sub-regional break out groups to validate the project documents. PICs provided feedback around likely support requests and agreed, overall, that the proposed outputs and activities of the NDC Hub aligned sufficiently. It was requested that the work plan of the NDC Hub and its Results Framework should include a linkage to long-term planning when reviewing and enhancing NDCs.

Several examples of support requests emerged during the exercise. Some PICs emphasized a need for support in developing roadmaps and investment plans for NDC implementation, others suggested support for data analysis, interpretation, and NDC reporting to the UNFCCC, and others pointed to the need for project development and finance to be leveraged for NDCs.

### Session 5: Closing Remarks

Ms. Lee Cando, Regional Specialist for the NDC Partnership Support Unit, detailed the next steps for the NDC Hub in the coming months. It was explained that consultations with PICs and partners will be on-going to gather essential feedback. A review of the RTSM, with an eye towards strengthening it, will be undertaken by September 2018. Moreover, the coming months will focus on NDC Hub operationalization and recruitment of core staff for the Implementation Unit, including the NDC Hub Manager. PICs stressed that ideal candidates should either be from the region or have experience in the region. Lastly, it was explained that the NDC Hub will

endeavor to develop branding guidelines, a provisional communications strategy, and a resource mobilization strategy by December 2018.

Mr. Kosi Latu, Director General of SPREP, provided the closing remarks for the meeting. He underlined the consensus that the NDC Hub needs to be owned by PICs, and supported by development partners, with robust engagement between and amongst members. He further emphasized the NDC Hub will make use of existing regional initiatives, such as the SPC data repository, the Pacific Climate Change Portal, and the Regional Technical Support Mechanism, rather than recreating the wheel. Mr. Latu encouraged all stakeholders to operate with a sense of urgency and focus on realistic expectations in the initial phase, while calling for the development of a strategic plan beyond the first phases of the work plan. He reminded participants that the NDC Hub will not operate in a vacuum but be linked closely to the Paris Agreement and will work to promote cross-regional learning and knowledge generation. He closed by underscoring the importance of telling the story of how the NDC Hub is necessary and important for the region. Everybody needs to be able to access support of the NDC Hub and stressed the sense of equality that it will carry forward.