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Regional Pacific NDC Dialogue

12 – 14 March 2018

Chair's Summary

Introduction

The **3rd Pacific Regional Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** and consultations on the **Regional Pacific NDC Hub** was held from 12-14th March and provided an opportunity for Pacific Island Countries to share experiences and needs on the implementation of their NDCs. Countries, partners, regional organisations, private sector and civil society organisations were present to provide inputs to the establishment of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub – a regional arm of the NDC Partnership. The meeting aimed to support countries in the process of implementation and enhancement of their NDCs.

The meeting was opened by the Hon. Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney General and Minister for Economy of Fiji with additional remarks from Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UNDP Country Director and Head of Regional Policy and Programming, Pacific Office in Fiji and Mr Donald Cooper of the UNFCCC Secretariat.

The meeting had four main outcomes as summarised below:

Exchange of national experiences and views related to NDC implementation planning, including linkages to SDG processes, on opportunities to advance gender equality, on future steps on NDC's enhancement and revision, and on linkages to long-term strategies.

The Pacific Islands contribute the least, but are facing the worst impacts of climate change. Nevertheless, the Pacific Islands are making significant progress in implementing their ambitious NDCs. However, full implementation of NDCs and the development of integrated, comprehensive, long-term, low-emission development plans and strategies requires further bold and innovative steps from the Pacific Islands and the many partners in the region willing to assist the Pacific countries to implement their NDCs. Countries exchanged many experiences so far in implementing their NDCs, including developing NDC implementation plans, seeking financing, implementing energy projects (Cook Islands, Fiji, Solomon Islands), reviewing and revising legislation to create a more enabling environment for NDC implementation (Niue) and establishing Green energy funds (Vanuatu), amongst many other examples. The participants also elaborated on the links between the NDCs and their national development plans, national energy plans and strategies, and SDG implementation, with clear recognition that NDCs are in many cases already closely linked to these strategies (e.g.,

Tuvalu's NDC is based on their Energy Master Plan). There was some agreement that more can be done to mainstream NDC implementation into national sectoral and budget processes. Countries were forthcoming about the challenges and barriers they are facing, which are not insignificant. Some of these challenges are around financing, capacity, and skills and data gaps, amongst others. Many, if not all, countries expressed their ambition to review and enhance their NDCs adding sectors such as transport, forestry and agriculture, and strengthening adaptation aspects. The opportunity to communicate this ambition through the Talanoa Dialogue was underscored, and there are many stories from the Pacific that can be told on the global stage. Participants also discussed opportunities for enhancing the gender responsiveness of current NDCs and using NDC implementation as an opportunity to advance gender equality in countries. Examples were provided by Fiji and other countries on successful efforts to mainstream gender and continuing barriers to that.

Identification of concrete opportunities for action in translating NDCs into actionable projects, in particular in the energy sector, to contribute to NDC goals, including linkages with sectoral planning.

Pacific countries have set and are already working towards implementation of ambitious targets in the electricity sector, with many countries targeting 100% renewable electricity. The countries exchanged a number of national experiences related to NDC implementation, including establishing energy committees (RMI, Palau) and developing projects in solar energy (Cook Islands), biomass (Samoa), hydropower (Fiji), and other renewable-energy projects for rural electrification. It was agreed that there are strong linkages between the NDCs and sectoral energy planning documents, such as the Energy Roadmaps in Niue, Vanuatu and Kiribati. Fiji has developed an NDC Roadmap that has enabled it to identify concrete opportunities for action in the energy sector. While other countries are planning to develop implementation plans for their NDCs (PNG), many countries are also using their existing sectoral energy strategies where concrete opportunities are already identified. As NDCs are enhanced, countries would like to strengthen the linkages with national sectoral strategies.

Discussion of finance considerations, including private-sector engagement, in the context of NDC implementation.

The development of financing strategies to support implementation of NDCs, including the development of investment plans and public-private partnerships, were identified as a key need.

An overview of the regional climate finance landscape and common findings from climate finance assessments were also discussed.

The private sector also provided its perspectives and there was general recognition that partnerships with the private sector need to be strengthened to create opportunities for financing the NDC implementation. The private sector is already taking action but there is potential for much more participation. The need for and role of governments in creating

enabling environments at the domestic level were emphasized in the context of attracting private investment for NDC implementation.

Agreement on details of the Regional Pacific NDC Hub (in terms of services provided, funding mechanism, structure, and governance), inputs to the draft design document based on country priorities and needs and agreement on next steps

The consultation process and results were presented to the participants, and there was general agreement on many points. **On the services to be provided by the Hub**, there was general consensus that all areas that emerged from the consultations are relevant areas of technical assistance that the Hub should provide. There was also agreement that the Hub should provide assistance in the area of enhancement, review and the inclusion of adaptation where requested by countries. The countries also suggested that the Hub provide guidance on synergies between mitigation and resilience, and the adaptation co-benefits of mitigation action due to the need for increased resilience across all sectors.

New ideas for services were also added, including NDC roadmaps beyond 2030, knowledge management platforms including improved data sets and information, support for national reporting, expansion of NDCs to new sectors, desegregating sectoral targets, linking climate action with development and development of investment plans, national and regional project pipelines. Knowledge sharing with other regions, in particular SIDS regions, was also suggested.

On delivery mechanisms the Hub will deliver services to the countries there was general consensus that all mechanisms identified in the consultations were valid and relevant depending on circumstances. New suggestions included online NDC training (webinars, MOOC, training modules), strengthening national and regional knowledge management and data management and embedded technical medium term support. It was agreed that the RTSM should be revived but also improved and with better outreach. Countries identified the need to ensure the provision of consultants that are familiar with the region and context, increasing the pool of experts including women, and ensuring local counterparts are used to retain local expertise. There was recognition that in-country capacity is needed to supplement existing local capacity and that funding and technical assistance needs to be made available to all countries with no strings attached. Overall, it was agreed that the RTSM should be demand-driven, relevant, and effective.

Regarding **Governance and Steering** of the Hub, there was general consensus to build on existing structures and link to the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and Pacific Resilience Partnership. The Steering structure should be practical, streamlined and efficient, while being clear. There will be further work needed to have clarity on governance arrangements and minimising overlaps, to be addressed as next steps. Regular reviews of performance and for support delivered should be conducted. Reporting should be efficient and valuable in donor coordination and avoid duplication of reporting. There was general consensus to keep the Hub flexible and lean to ensure that services can be accessed quickly and to promote coordination.

The countries reiterated that the aim of the Hub is to assist countries to implement their NDCs and that to fast track support from the Hub, the Hub must be demand-driven, timely, relevant, effective. **The next steps for the Hub will be:**

- The link to PRP will be discussed at the PRP Task force meeting in April.
- TOR for Management team of Hub
- Outcomes of this dialogue should be tabled at other regional meetings, SPC, SPREP, FOC to get further regional buy in on the positioning and nature of the Hub.

The countries also called for long-term funding from the development partners to continue with NDC review and NDC implementation while acknowledging that, in time, countries will be able to develop the capacity to deliver NDCs on their own.

The Chair and Co-Chair wish to express their sincere appreciation to countries, the development partners and supporters of this NDC Dialogue for their work to successfully hold this meeting and achieve the desired outcomes.

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