

EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PACIFIC METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

PMc-8

Nuku'alofa, Tonga • 10, 11, 14 September 2026

Eighth Pacific Meteorological Council (PMc-8)

Weather Ready for a Secured and Sustainable Pacific

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Agenda Item 8.1: Review of the PMc Terms of Reference

Purpose:

1. To seek endorsement of the revision of PMc's Terms of Reference, following from the recommendations of the PMc and PMDP Review undertaken by SPREP

Background:

1. A review of the PMc and PMDP was undertaken by SPREP at the request of the PMc-5 in 2019. This work was considerably delayed because of COVID-19 and the need to ensure it is harmonized with the Weather Ready Pacific Initiative approved and established at PMc-6. At the PMc-7, the Final Report of the Review of the PMc and PMDP was first presented and this work completed in early 2025. An Extended Executive Summary of this review report (attached) was presented to members and endorsed online. There are 37 recommendations in the report relating to PMc and PMDP governance and management, and 8 supplementary recommendations relating to PMc Panels and participation in WMO Technical Commissions. Some of these recommendations require key governance decisions from the PMc. These include:
 - Adjustment of the PMc ToR (Recommendations 1, 5, 6)
 - PMc meeting arrangements (Recommendation 20)
2. This paper considers Recommendation 1,5,6,18,19 and 20:
 1. *Adjust PMc Terms of Reference to clearly link them to the achievement of the Pacific 2050 Vision.*
 5. *Adjust PMc Terms of Reference to include references to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and Hydrological outcomes, consistent with the PIMS.*
 6. *Explicitly include reference to and responsibility for promoting integrated MHEWS (including geohazards) in the Terms of Reference, work programme, and Panel structures, in coordination with SPC.*
 20. *Noting the large attendance at in-person meetings and various frustrations expressed, consider a revised management approach for in-person meetings that explicitly includes inclusive and creative engagement with PMc observers.*

Discussion on the Terms of Reference

3. The recommendations relating to the PMC Terms of Reference are to a) streamline the language slightly, b) link the PMC more explicitly to the overarching Pacific Vision (since the good operation of hydrometeorological services is essential), and c) be more explicit about a multi-hazard early warning system intent, with wording chosen to reflect that, while not all countries centralize organizational arrangements, every country is committed to multi-hazard early warning systems under the Sendai Framework.
4. The suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference, together with comments, are given in Appendix 1

Format of in-person meetings

5. The Review received varied and occasionally very strong commentary from stakeholders and observers on the format of PMC in-person meetings in terms of the degree of engagement with observers. The Review report sought to summarize this feedback in language that honestly reflected the variety of views expressed. In the Review, the PMC format was criticised by observers as old fashioned and does not give sufficient opportunities for engagement. It is also noted that observers can provide interventions during the meetings following from members intervention, however, such interventions are short. It is a practise of the PMC and covered in the Terms of Reference.
6. It is unlikely that there is any 'right' meeting format. Nevertheless, PMC may wish to consider this feedback and the suggestions made in the Review, by continuing to explore the formats and organizational arrangements that best fulfil the Terms of Reference. For the sake of practicality, it is suggested that this recommendation be referred to the Executive Board (or Management Group), if/once established, to consider, in consultation with the Secretariat, or else discussed directly between the Secretariat and the Chair and Vice-Chair during preparations for the next PMC.

Recommendations:

The Meeting is invited to:

- I. **Endorse** the recommended revisions to the Terms of Reference (with any further modifications requested) as given in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for PMC

(Recommended amendments shown in tracked changes)



Terms of Reference

For the Pacific METEOROLOGICAL Council

1. Introduction

1.1. The Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) is a specialized subsidiary body of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Meeting, established in 2011 to facilitate and co-ordinate the scientific and technical programme and activities of the Regional Meteorological Services. The PMC provides policy relevant advice to the SPREP Meeting on the needs and priorities of SPREP member countries and territories which will be referred to as members¹ in relation to meteorology (weather and climate) and related fields. These Terms of Reference describe the vision, objectives, principles, core roles and functions of the PMC, including its governance and administrative arrangements within the SPREP framework.

2. Vision

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are able to provide, [where] appropriate, weather, climate, [water, Oceans] and [integrated multi-hazard] early warning services² to their nations and communities to safeguard life and property, and are contributing to national development programmes through sustained observing systems, telecommunications, and data processing and management systems serving [our people of the Pacific].

3. Objective

3.1. The PMC will work to strengthen the capacity of the NMHSs thus contributing to maximization of the safety, well-being, and development aspirations of the people of the Pacific with respect to provision of weather, climate, [water, oceans] and related development services³ by:

¹ Refer to definition of members as per Rule 1 in PMC Rules of Procedures]

² Hydrological and multi-hazard early warning services might be coordinated through agency partnerships under various national government arrangements.

³ The PMC and the nature of its linkages to fields of disaster management, climate change, hydrology, and others will require that its Members shall coordinate their work mutually to facilitate enhanced effectiveness of services nationally and regionally.

- (a) Providing an open forum for members to discuss and collaborate on issues related to the advancement of meteorological and related services in the Pacific;
- (b) Building on mutual and complementary strengths in order to develop innovative approaches that support the sustained achievement of agreed national and regional development goals;
- (c) Collaborating with partner organizations, [institutions] and agencies in related sectors;

3.2. [Advocating for the needs of the Pacific, consistent with the ambitions and vision of the Pacific Island Leaders Forum as outlined in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent]

3.3. These Terms of Reference are a tool to guide the Pacific Meteorological Council as to membership, governance, meetings and principles of engagement and provide record of how Members of the PMC would like to work together, with a view to achieving a common understanding on its role, capacity and framework of operation.

4. Membership

4.1 The PMC comprises the Directors/heads of [NMHSs, which is referred to as members] of SPREP Members⁴.

4.2 The PMC will actively engage with relevant CROP agencies, international agencies, development partners and donors. Representatives of these organizations shall be invited to PMC meetings [as observers] to participate in and contribute to PMC deliberations related to mutual and complementary fields of activity.

5. Governance

5.1 The PMC Rules of Procedures apply to the PMC meetings.

5.2 The PMC is established by endorsement of the 21st SPREP Meeting, Madang, Papua New Guinea, 2010. It is designated as a subsidiary body of the SPREP Meeting, [pursuant to Article 3(4) of the SPREP Agreement].

5.3 The PMC shall report to the SPREP Meeting on decisions and resolutions and other relevant outcomes from its meetings.

- 5.3 (a) [In addition to reporting on decisions and resolutions, the PMC shall report on progress toward the outcomes and Vision set out in these Terms of Reference and aligned with the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy) PIMS results framework.]
- 5.3 (b) [PMC reporting shall draw on existing programme and partnership reporting, including Weather Ready Pacific reporting and Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership monitoring and evaluation, to avoid duplication and reduce reporting burden on members and executing agencies]

⁴ Where there is any ambiguity who shall represent the NMHS (for example, if Meteorological and Hydrological Services are provided from separate agencies), the Member shall be asked to provide a nomination to represent the full interests of the NMHS.

5.4. Secretariat support for the PMC shall be provided by the SPREP [and WMO] Secretariat. This includes planning and logistical support for PMC meetings and for managing documentation and procedures relating to planning and administration.

6. Meetings

6.1. The PMC will generally meet biennially, but may meet as required [during extraordinary sessions.]

6.2. [The conduct of PMC meetings and intersessional meetings shall be in accordance with Rule 10 of the PMC Rules of Procedure].

6.3. At the commencement of each meeting of the PMC, a Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall serve intersessionally at [extraordinary sessions], working closely with the [SPREP and WMO] Secretariat to ensure that decisions agreed by the Council are acted upon, and that adequate preparations are made for forthcoming Council meetings, including the timely preparation of relevant working papers and reports.

7. Roles and Functions of the PMC

7.1. The PMC shall:

- (a) Provide an open forum for its members to discuss and collaborate on the needs of PICTs with respect to weather and climate services, and related issues;
- (b) Promote capacity development within the region, focused on improving members' capability to provide accurate, timely and reliable weather forecasts, [oceans, multi-hazard early warnings of natural hazards⁵, and hydrological information as appropriate, and] climate outlooks and scenarios;
- (c) Develop strategies with associated goals and targets to support the advancement of meteorological and related services in the Pacific, in collaboration with WMO and relevant partner organizations;
- (d) [Monitor and evaluate] progress in the implementation of strategies to support the advancement of meteorological and [other] related services in the Pacific, [against the PIMS results Framework and its Priority Key Outcomes (PKOs), and toward the Pacific 2050 vision];
- (e) Provide guidance to PMC members and the SPREP Secretariat and partner organizations with respect to programmes related to weather, climate and associated environmental matters in the Pacific;
- (f) Collaborate with the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership on the implementation activities and priorities of members, and contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the Pacific Meteorological Desk Partnership, and

⁵ Multi-hazards (for example, for hydrological and geological hazards) might be provided by agencies in partnership, but PMC will strongly encourage members to ensure an integrated service regardless of in-country organisational arrangements.

- (g) Report regularly on the activities of NMHSs, [structured against the PIMS result Framework and Pacific Key Outcomes], so as to assist the advancements of meteorological, [hydrological and other related environmental] services in the Pacific [and to feed the regional progress reporting].
- (h) [Establish subsidiary bodies under Rule 13, such as Panels of experts, to fulfill the needs of the Member countries.]

8. Principles of Engagement

8.1. The PMC subscribes to the following key principles:

- (a) *An open, trusting and safe environment*: The PMC will work to enhance transparency and accountability of its decision making process, through open dialogue and constructive engagement among the Council's members.
- (b) *Participatory approach*: The PMC will promote a participatory and inclusive environment incorporating gender equity which will continue to strengthen its participatory approach to decision-making. Decisions will be made by consensus and through a consultative process. Where this should prove unfeasible, the Chair will make a decision taking into account [Rule 10 of the Rules of procedures on the conduct of Business].
- (c) *Teamwork*: The PMC members will create an environment to work collaboratively to achieve better results, learn from one another, and ensure the enhanced delivery of measurable results in support of the national, regional and international development agenda.
- (d) *Coherence*: Within the context on each NMHS [Strategic Plans including the] objectives, deliverables and performance indicators the Council will proactively [coordinated and work with NMHSs] to identify opportunities and synergies for joint regional approach.
- (e) *Respect for diversity*: The PMC will invest the necessary time and effort to understand each of its Member national goals, objectives, deliverables and performance indicators, and recognize and appreciate the cultural diversity among the Members programme modalities, operational activities and capacities.
- (f) *Creativity and innovation*: The PMC will explore means of improving work towards achieving the desired outcomes for all NMSs in the Pacific region to being able to provide all relevant and appropriate meteorological, hydrological and other related environmental services to their nations, and bringing them closer to their clients and partners.
- (g) *Accountability for results*: National ownership and leadership will drive the renewed focus on creativity and innovation. The PMC will be guided, to the extent possible by the national governments and authorities to determine the most appropriate actions to be taken both programmatically and operationally.
- (h) *Build on existing capacities*: Rather than creating new institutional units, the PMC will work with the capacities available within SPREP [and other CROP agencies, WMO and other UN

agencies] and NMHSs to drive weather climate, [water, Oceans and other related environmental] fields in the Pacific region.

9. Update of the Terms of Reference

- 9.1. The PMC may update this Terms of Reference as the need arises.

