



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY
AND
THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION
FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Pacific Community (SPC) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) reaffirm their desire to work together in areas of mutual interest in the service of developing countries of common membership in the Pacific region through the present Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which supersedes the memorandum of understanding signed between SPC and ESCAP in 1994.

II. PURPOSE OF COOPERATION

2. As both SPC and ESCAP are mandated to promote inclusive and sustainable development of small islands developing States, including least developed countries, in the Pacific, SPC and ESCAP plan to work together to accelerate the implementation and the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway by supporting the implementation of the *Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD)* and the *Regional Roadmap for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific*.

III. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR SPC-ESCAP COOPERATION

3.1. SPC and ESCAP are guided by the following principles:

- (a) country and, where relevant, regional or sub-regional ownership of sound development policies and programs are necessary to ensure inclusive sustainable development;

- (b) evidence-based development policies for inclusive and sustainable development, supported by innovative research and analysis;
- (c) full stakeholder participation in consultative processes should be encouraged, consistent with available resources; and
- (d) results-oriented programs that are built on transparent relationships between development assistance providers and beneficiary countries are needed.

3.2. SPC and ESCAP plan to jointly:

- (a) focus on the shared strategic and operational priorities of the two organizations;
- (b) use the comparative strengths and advantages of each organization;
- (c) produce analytical work, implement capacity building initiatives, and organize conferences/policy dialogues at regional and sub-regional levels;
- (d) share knowledge, lessons learned and evaluation of developments in the Pacific;
- (e) consult each other in policy dialogue at the regional and sub-regional levels and programming for regional and sub-regional activities, where feasible and appropriate; and
- (f) explore the potential of co-financing or regional and sub-regional programs and projects.

3.3. Any specific activities conducted under this MOU are subject to (a) their inclusion in the organizations' respective programs of work and budgets and subject to the availability of funds, and (b) an administrative arrangement in relation to principles of implementation that may be agreed to in writing between SPC and ESCAP in the form of a project document or written agreement.

IV. FOCUS OF SPC-ESCAP JOINT ACTIVITIES

4. The priority areas for joint activities and their respective divisions and programs are listed in the Appendix, which may be amended from time to time.

V. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

5.1 SPC and ESCAP recognize that effective cooperation depends on open, comprehensive and regular exchange of information at the institutional level. They agree to make appropriate arrangements to:

- (a) provide electronic copies of every publication, all public documents of each organization to the deposit library of the other organization to be maintained as reference documents; and

- (b) give notice, through information posted on the websites of each organization, of:
- conferences, seminars and workshops being organized or sponsored in the Pacific;
 - regional, sub-regional, country, sector or thematic policy/strategy/documents; and
 - regional and sub-regional program, country program, sectoral, project and other evaluations.

5.2 SPC and ESCAP agree to maximize cooperation, eliminate undesirable duplication of work, and ensure the most efficient use of their technical personnel in the execution of their mandate.

5.3 SPC and ESCAP may consult and exchange information as necessary and appropriate, in the interest of identifying areas and potential projects and/or activities for cooperation.

VI. RECIPROCAL INVITATIONS

6. SPC and ESCAP recognize that appropriate representation is important for the purpose of joint positioning and advocacy. They agree that:

- (a) reciprocal invitations will be extended to attend the annual governing body meetings of SPC and annual governing body meetings of ESCAP; and
- (b) invitations to other meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops relevant to cooperation in the priority areas set out in the Appendix to this MOU will be sent, where appropriate.

VII. PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS

7. SPC and ESCAP recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations to review what is being planned, what is being implemented and what is being achieved in terms of results as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. They agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and no less than once every two years.

VIII. FOCAL POINTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE MOU

8. SPC and ESCAP agree to designate as focal points for the activities under this MOU:

- (a) for ESCAP: Head, ESCAP Sub-regional Office for the Pacific
- (b) for SPC: Deputy Director General – Operations and Integration

IX. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND USE OF INSTITUTIONAL EMBLEMS

9. ESCAP and SPC recognize that the involvement of both organizations in joint cooperation activities needs to be publicized. They agree that:

- (a) there will be public acknowledgement of the role and contribution of each organization to cooperation projects in all public information documentation related to such cooperation; and
- (b) the use of emblems of each organization in documentation related to cooperation will be in accord with the current policies of each organization concerning such usage.

X. MISCELLANEOUS

10.1 The term of this MOU will be from the date of signature by both Parties until 31 December 2030.

10.2 This MOU may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.

10.3 This MOU may be terminated by either Party on six months' notice in writing.

For the Pacific Community



Dr. Stuart Minchin

Director-General of SPC



For the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific



Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP



Place: Noumea, New Caledonia

Date: 26 April 2021

Place: Bangkok, Thailand

Date: 26 April 2021

APPENDIX

PRIORITY AREAS FOR SPC-ESCAP COOPERATION

1. Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Resilience and Geospatial Information Applications
2. Environmental Sustainability
3. Sustainable Agriculture
4. Sustainable Energy
5. Sustainable Oceans
6. Sustainable Maritime Transport
7. Social Development, including Gender Equality and Disability
8. Data and Statistics