

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 13–17 November 2006)

**COMPENDIUM OF DECISIONS OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**

AGENDA ITEM 1 – DIRECTOR-GENERAL’S REPORT

CRGA:

- i) approved the Director-General’s report;
- ii) noted the progressive reforms that have taken place and will continue to take place in 2007; and
- iii) agreed on the need to provide support for (a) the resources urgently needed to bridge the communication gap suffered by disadvantaged rural and remote communities in the region through the digital strategy, and (b) the establishment of a team of senior advisers within SPC to provide policy analysis and advice to members in all areas of work covered under SPC.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – SPC’S SECTORAL PROGRAMMES

AGENDA ITEM 2.1 – LAND RESOURCES

CRGA, noting the clarification by the Director-General that it was empowered by the Conference of the Pacific Community to make decisions in years when Conference does not meet, approved the proposed amendments to the constitution of the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) as submitted by the Secretariat in paper 2.2.1.2 (the full text of the amendments is appended to this report).

CRGA also agreed that the Land Resources Division, in collaboration with partners, should:

- i) seek to increase its involvement in facilitating increased regional and international trade in sustainably produced agricultural and forestry commodities by PICTs;
- ii) expand the capacity of the Regional Germplasm Centre, which is to be renamed the Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees (CePaCT);
- iii) continue to seek support for the Pacific Ant Prevention Programme (PAPP) initiative;
- iv) provide support for the development of organic agriculture and forestry certification standards;
- v) foster the growth and continued development of the Pacific Agriculture and Forestry Policy Network (PAFPNet);
- vi) continue supporting and developing the Pacific Island Extension Network (PIEN) and the Extension Award;

- vii) facilitate the development and eventual implementation of a TCP proposal for FAO on the Pacific Regional Crop Improvement Programme (PARCIP);
- viii) provide support to address PICTs' needs for ISPM15 compliance through proper training in relevant areas and in the establishment of a Pacific Treatment and Accreditation scheme; and
- ix) work towards establishing centres of excellence in atoll agriculture and forestry in Kiribati and Marshall Islands.

AGENDA ITEM 2.2 – MARINE RESOURCES

CRGA:

- i) noted the report by the director of the Marine Resources Division and the excellent work of MRD,
- ii) noted the positive feedback from delegations that provides guidance to the Secretariat on the direction of MRD's work.

AGENDA ITEM 2.3 – SOCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION

CRGA:

- i) noted the comprehensive overview of the achievements and operations of the Social Resources Division in 2006; and
- ii) further noted with satisfaction the achievements and performance of SRD programmes in 2006, as presented in the Secretariat's detailed papers.

AGENDA ITEM 3.1 – KEY ISSUES AFFECTING PICTs

CRGA:

- i) noted and discussed the challenges facing the region presented in the Director-General's paper;
- ii) further noted that some of the challenges are covered in more detail in CRGA policy papers to follow;
- iii) further noted that some of the challenges are being addressed by other competent authorities, but are presented in the paper for the sake of completeness; and
- iv) recommended that the Director-General of SPC be given an opportunity to make a presentation of the key issues to Pacific leaders at their next meeting in Tonga in 2007.

AGENDA ITEM 3.2 – TOWARDS A PROSPEROUS PACIFIC: SPC’S CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

CRGA:

- i) confirmed SPC’s role in supporting economic growth in its member countries and territories;
- ii) endorsed SPC’s main strategies for supporting economic growth:
 - a) Helping PICTs accelerate economic growth in the productive sectors and maritime transport
 - b) Helping PICTs address fundamental growth factors
 - c) Helping PICTs measure and analyse their economic performance;
- iii) supported SPC’s intention to continue its collaboration with other relevant agencies, in particular with PIFS;
- iv) recommended that the Secretariat be given an opportunity to make a presentation of the key issues in Paper 3.2 to Pacific leaders at their next meeting in Tonga in 2007; and
- v) requested SPC to increase its capacity to help members produce economic statistics at the national level and to complement this with strengthened capacity for economic analyses, to provide members with options that can facilitate decision making at the national level.

AGENDA ITEM 3.3 - STRATEGIC APPROACH TO PACIFIC FISHERIES

CRGA noted:

- i) that world fisheries are at a critical turning point, and although the Pacific Islands region has been less impacted than other regions and has generally exercised its marine resource custodial responsibilities well, that firm and probably politically-difficult decisions will need to be taken in the immediate future if the sustainability of these resources in general is to be maintained into the future
- ii) that the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management¹ provides the best prospect for effective governance of Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and for maintaining or restoring fisheries production. CRGA recognises that the application of the EAFM by the 2010 deadline agreed by members at the WSSD will require commitment at the regional, national and local levels to (a) carrying out the necessary analyses and consultations, and (b) developing the legal frameworks, inter-departmental and community linkages, and monitoring mechanisms necessary for its operation;
- iii) the growing need for the establishment of national and territorial aquatic biosecurity capacity as one of the essential bases not only for sustainable aquaculture development and fisheries trade but the protection of marine and freshwater ecosystems, asked the secretariat to report on national and territorial progress towards the establishment of aquatic biosecurity capacity at the 2007 CRGA meeting, noting that Heads of Fisheries had required that members have such capacity in place by 2010;
- iv) that interaction and competition are the critical issues in fisheries governance, whether it be interaction between different groups of fishers using the same fish stock or resource (whether foreign, domestic commercial, recreational or subsistence), between different potential ocean-space users (including fishing, shipping, tourism, heritage or wildlife conservation, and ecosystem

¹It is noted that the ecosystem approach to fisheries management is not confined just to setting up marine protected areas (MPAs), nor does it preclude the use of MPAs. It is an holistic approach to management based on participatory social, economic, and biological analysis of each fishery, where decisions are triggered and success measured not just on the basis of target species status, but on the status of the whole system.

- services), or between government departments or resource custodians, and that research into these interactions is needed;
- v) that although regional tuna fisheries are comparatively well-reported, there is no annual regional report on the status of all fisheries, or other aspects of ocean use in the Pacific Islands region, and that such a report, based on the best available statistical and scientific data, and a fair balance of available opinions in cases where data is not available, would be valuable to national and international decision-makers. CRGA directed SPC's Marine Resources Division to coordinate the production of a regular annual report addressing the status of the Western Tropical Pacific Ocean and its resources and uses, with the first report produced in time for consideration by CRGA 37; and
 - vi) that SPC should continue to explore options for addressing the problem of declining tuna stocks in the region.

AGENDA ITEM 3.4 – MANAGING FOREST RESOURCES

CRGA

- i) noted the forestry-related challenges highlighted in CRGA Paper 3.4, including fragmented forest sectors; outdated and inadequate forest policies and legislation; inadequate government machinery to protect and support traditional land tenure systems; Forestry Acts that in some cases do not protect land owners, serve to undermine their livelihood, and offer no recourse to justice; undue influence by some foreign logging companies in national decision-making machineries; the need for correct political choices and a vision for future generations to guide sustainable management of forest resources alternatives to logging and round log export;
- ii) noted in addition that that some PICTs are currently harvesting their natural forests at unsustainable levels, while acknowledging that progress is also being made by some PICTs with respect to improved forest management;
- iii) endorsed a renewed call for a strong commitment by PICTs to sustainable forest management, including the full implementation of their forestry and other related acts and laws; and
- iv) further endorsed the proposed SPC interventions, which are consistent with discussions in international forums, and which focus on three themes aimed at strengthening national forest sector machineries, enhancing strategic alliances and fostering more effective partnerships to shift the forestry agenda to the next level, with the goals of achieving real outcomes and benefits from forestry for present and future generations.

AGENDA ITEM 3.5 – ADDRESSING YOUTH CHALLENGES

CRGA noted and endorsed the proposed way forward, which will be guided by PYS2010 and its monitoring and evaluation framework and relevant initiatives contained within the Pacific Plan, and will encompass interventions aimed at strengthening national youth machineries, enhancing strategic alliances and fostering more effective partnerships. It will also include strengthening the Pacific Youth Council, commissioning research on youth-related issues, enhancing regional service delivery and support for regional and international youth events, and establishing a technical advisory group to provide advice to PYB on PYS2010 implementation and youth issues more generally.

AGENDA ITEM 3.6 SMALL ISLAND STATES²

CRGA:

- i) noted the direction taken by the Secretariat in increasing its focus on small island states and taking a more coordinated approach to its service delivery to SIS members through the designation of a 'specific SIS focal point' at the executive level;
- ii) noted also the initiatives already undertaken by SPC to meet the needs of SIS through its various programmes;
- iii) endorsed SPC's strategic direction on meeting the unique needs of SIS;
- iv) noted that the Secretariat will consider possible scenarios to improve its services to SIS, including the proposal for the establishment of a dedicated SIS unit, will report to CRGA 2007 on the options and associated resource implications, and will also consult with PIFS on the establishment of the SIS unit;
- v) noted the Secretariat's intention to develop joint country strategies within the next 12 months for Nauru, Cook Islands, Tokelau, French Polynesia and American Samoa in close cooperation with development partners; and
- vi) noted SPC's ongoing work to identify and implement programme activities specifically targeting SIS, which could form part of the basis for developing the joint country strategies.

AGENDA ITEM 4.1 – SPC'S ENGAGEMENT ON THE PACIFIC PLAN AND THE REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK REVIEW

CRGA:

- i) noted the Secretariat's paper on its engagement with the Pacific Plan and the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) initiative;
- ii) noted that CRGA has not yet adopted a position on the eventual outcome of the RIF initiative;
- iii) received the paper titled "Development of a Pacific Regional Institutional Framework Stage Two Taskforce Terms of Reference Draft 10 November 2006" tabled by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat through the Secretariat (SPC);
- iv) welcomed the establishment of the taskforce to further study the RIF proposals;
- v) fully supported the recommendation that the task force should consist of representatives of all Forum members, France, the United States of America, Pacific territories and relevant regional organisations;
- vi) regarding the proposed terms of reference, requested that the TORs include an in-depth analysis of:
 - a) the full range of legal, organisational, administrative, governance, membership and financial implications of the RIF proposals; and
 - b) the extent and character of measurable benefits of the RIF proposals, particularly regarding improved service delivery and also regarding efficiencies and potential cost savings.

CRGA members further agreed to send any further comments on the TORs directly to the Pacific Plan Office of the PIFS, as individual country or territory contributions.

² The use of small island states (SIS) in this context refers to both countries and territories.

AGENDA ITEM 4.2 – STRATEGIC DECENTRALISATION OF SERVICES TO MEMBERS

CRGA noted:

- i) the Secretariat's willingness to further pursue the subject of decentralisation of services to members;
- ii) that with the formal opening of the Pohnpei regional office in FSM, SPC now has three official offices in three countries, and operational field offices in 14 other member countries and territories;
- iii) that the Secretariat will report to the membership at CRGA 37 (2007) on the specific role and cost implications of the Pohnpei regional office, together with full details of the costs and activities of operational field offices; and
- iv) the Secretariat's intention to present a policy discussion paper to CRGA 37 on host country responsibilities in hosting regional programmes.

AGENDA ITEM 4.3 – REACHING OUT TO RURAL AREAS THROUGH THE DIGITAL STRATEGY

CRGA:

- i) noted the high priority SPC gives to the successful implementation of the Digital Strategy with an emphasis on reaching out to rural and remote communities;
- ii) noted the partnership approach, especially with local operators, regulators, telecommunications companies and key national stakeholders, to enhance real opportunities to reach out to rural and remote areas in Pacific Island countries and territories;
- iii) Noted the need to have a dedicated Pacific hub to ensure the Pacific VSAT network is regulated and coordinated for greater efficiency and effectiveness;
- iv) noted SPC's current efforts to establish some operational pilot projects in a number of countries and territories, including PNG, Solomon Islands and Kiribati, as soon as possible; and
- v) commended Pacific IP Services of New Caledonia, who have been very proactive in assisting SPC and PIFS to demonstrate/present the technology for the benefit of CRGA and member countries and territories, and acknowledged the partnership-related efforts of PITA aimed at improving telecommunications infrastructure in the region.

AGENDA ITEM 4.4 – COUNTRY STRATEGIES: THE JOINT KIRIBATI-SPC COUNTRY STRATEGY

CRGA:

- i) noted the progress to date in the Secretariat's efforts to implement one of the key recommendations from the corporate review aimed at improving services to member countries through the development of joint country strategies, in this case with the Government of the Republic of Kiribati;
- ii) also noted the process agreed with the Government of Kiribati for the next steps in finalising the joint Kiribati-SPC country strategy;
- iii) further noted the intention of the Secretariat to work with and take into account the work of other development partners and CROP agencies in Kiribati in the next steps of developing the country strategy for Kiribati; and
- iv) thanked the Government of Kiribati and all other national stakeholders, including development partners in Kiribati, for their contribution to and support for the initiative.

AGENDA ITEM 4.5 – REVITALISING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICES IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

CRGA:

- i) noted the huge benefit to a member country (in this case, Solomon Islands) of SPC technical assistance that is supported by development partners to achieve agreed outcomes;
- ii) noted the achievements of the project in reviving a number of core statistical outputs and in building capacity of staff at the Solomon Islands Statistical Office;
- iii) requested the Secretariat to conduct a review of the project in 2007, to look at its sustainability and the lessons learned, and consider the need for further input by SPC;
- iv) acknowledged the commitment shown by the Solomon Islands government, and the particular efforts of the Solomon Islands Statistics Office, to making the project a success;
- v) commended the work of the SPC Statistics and Demography Programme, in particular, that of its Solomon Islands-based statistical adviser, Mr Willie Lahari, who will be leaving the regional service of SPC to return to Papua New Guinea after this CRGA;
- vi) thanked the development partners for funding this project and the Solomon Islands Government for hosting it; and
- vii) further commended this approach as a good practice example of how to address a number of the priorities of member countries and territories at national level.

**AGENDA ITEM 4.6 – A CASE STUDY:
TRANSLATING INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS INTO REGIONAL/NATIONAL STANDARDS AND
CONTRIBUTION TO NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING AND ECONOMIC GROWTH –
A GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE FROM THE REGIONAL MARITIME PROGRAMME**

CRGA:

- i) noted the success of Pacific island countries in complying with the requirements of the STCW-95 Convention and the ISPS Code, and the need for each PICT to sustain its individual compliance;
- ii) noted the need for each PICT to accord higher political support to the national maritime sector;
- iii) noted the new priority areas the RMP will be including in its work programme, including specific assistance to SIS to assist them in improving existing shipping services;
- iv) directed the Secretariat to report to CRGA 37 in 2007 on the outcome of discussions with PIFS regarding transport-related services;
- v) commended the work of the Regional Maritime Programme, which has been undertaken in partnership with PICTs, and which demonstrates another good practice example of how international requirements can be translated into regional and national frameworks that are achievable; and
- vi) thanked SPC's development partners for funding the programme, and tasked the Secretariat with seeking additional funding for the programme from development partners and other sources.

**AGENDA ITEM 4.7 – RESPONDING TO THE HEALTH CHALLENGES IN THE REGION –
A MORE HOLISTIC AND STRATEGIC APPROACH**

CRGA:

- i) discussed and endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to develop an overarching health strategy for the region;
- ii) endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to develop the regional health strategy prior to exploring funding mechanisms, including development of the Pacific Health Fund concept;
- iii) noted the Secretariat's intention to present concept papers for the Health Strategy and Pacific health funding mechanisms to the Pacific Ministers of Health meeting in Vanuatu in March 2007 for their deliberation, guidance and endorsement; and
- iv) further noted that following endorsement by the Ministers of Health, both papers will be further developed for presentation to the Forum leaders' meeting and the SPC Conference in 2007 for their deliberation.

**AGENDA ITEM 4.8 — RESPONDING TO THE HEALTH CHALLENGES OF THE REGION —
DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE FOR RECRUITMENT OF HEALTH
WORKERS IN THE PACIFIC REGION**

CRGA:

- i) commended Pacific Ministers of Health for their decision to seek solutions to the health worker migration challenge facing PICTs through the development of a Pacific Code of Practice;
- ii) commended WHO for its commitment to both leading and providing resources to develop the code;
- iii) noted the role played by SPC in the actual development of the code in partnership with WHO and other stakeholders;
- iv) noted that a draft Code of Practice will be submitted to the Pacific Health Ministers meeting in Vanuatu in March 2007 for their deliberation and approval; and
- v) welcomed the intention to present the finalised version of the code to the Forum leaders meeting and the SPC Conference.

**AGENDA ITEM 4.9 – WORKING TOWARDS BETTER COORDINATION OF TVET IN THE PACIFIC:
SPC’S ENGAGEMENT IN TVET DEVELOPMENT**

CRGA:

- i) noted the work accomplished to date in the development of a draft inventory of TVET in the Pacific Islands region by PATVET and SPC;
- ii) encouraged development partners to support PATVET and SPC to complete the work on the TVET inventory for the region;
- iii) requested development partners and other stakeholders to urgently support the work being led by SPBEA in partnership with PATVET, SPC and PIFS to fast-track establishing a regional qualifications register and eventually a regional qualifications framework; and
- iv) asked CRGA members to assist in collecting information from their own countries and territories for the TVET inventory, given the difficulties of collecting up-to-date and comprehensive information for each country.

AGENDA ITEM 4.10 – PACIFIC AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY POLICY NETWORK

CRGA:

- i) endorsed the Pacific Agricultural and Forestry Policy Network (PAFPNet);
- ii) expressed the region’s appreciation to CTA for this important evolution in the area of agriculture and forestry and for providing funding support of 400,000 euros over a three-year period;
- iii) noted that the Secretariat would conduct a scoping exercise to assess the capacity of countries in regard to infrastructure and known resources; and
- iv) welcomed the launch of PAFPNet by the Director-General and the Chairperson of CRGA 36.

**AGENDA ITEM 4.11 – ALIGNING SPC’S PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME
WITH THE HEALTH PRIORITIES OF THE REGION**

CRGA noted:

- i) the Secretariat’s efforts, through regular external assessments, to continually align the focus and relevance of its programmes to the prevailing and emerging needs and priorities of its members;
- ii) the recommendations of the PHP review and of the review of the Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS;
- iii) that the Secretariat will circulate to members a detailed and formal response to the review recommendations;
- iv) the Secretariat’s intention to develop a comprehensive strategy to promote a healthy Pacific lifestyle, with a focus on NCDs; and
- v) that the Secretariat will bring to the attention of the health ministers the outcomes of the review of PHP.

AGENDA ITEM 4.12 – OFFICE AND STAFF ACCOMMODATION FOR NOUMEA, SUVA, POHNPEI AND OTHER LOCATIONS

CRGA:

- i) noted the various challenges relating to office accommodation and staff housing facing SPC in its three formal offices – Noumea, Suva and Pohnpei;
- ii) for Noumea headquarters:
 - a) commended the initiation of consultation between the Secretariat and the host government to find ways to address the serious staff accommodation issue, as well as to explore possible office space expansion areas, and
 - b) requested the Secretariat and the delegate from New Caledonia to provide an update to CRGA 37 on these subjects;
- iii) for the Suva regional office:
 - a) noted that the Government of Fiji has provided temporary office accommodation to house SPC programmes located outside of Nabua and CETC, as committed to during CRGA 35 in Palau last year, and
 - b) noted Fiji's update on progress on the planned construction of the Pacific Village project,
 - c) requested the Secretariat and the delegate from Fiji to provide an update to CRGA 37 on this subject;
- iv) for the Pohnpei regional office:
 - a) formally thanked the people and Government of FSM for making the dream for a Northern Pacific office of SPC a reality,
 - b) thanked the Pohnpei State Government for allowing the use of one of their buildings as a temporary home for the Pohnpei regional office,
 - c) commended the Government of FSM for commencing discussions with SPC on an interim larger office as well as longer-term office needs, not just for SPC but also for other partners wishing to have a physical presence in the Northern Pacific,
 - d) requested the Secretariat and the Government of FSM to provide an update to CRGA 37 on this subject;
- v) for the field offices in 14 other member PICTs: noted the current partnership arrangements governing this mode of decentralised provision of services to member PICTs;
- vi) also noted the Secretariat's intention to progress the decentralisation of services during the course of 2007; and
- vii) further noted the Secretariat's intention to produce a policy paper dealing with the subject of host country responsibilities for tabling and discussion at CRGA 37 in Apia next year.

AGENDA ITEM 4.13 – SPC CORPORATE PLAN 2007-2012

CRGA agreed in principle to endorse the draft Corporate Plan with the proviso that the final document would take their comments into account and would be circulated in December 2006 for further comment and approval by February 2007.

PRESENTATION OF OCT/EU RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMME

CRGA:

- i) noted the presentation of the OCT/EU Renewable Energy Programme set up to improve the living conditions and income-generating activities of the rural and isolated populations of French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna, through access to environmentally friendly renewable energy;
- ii) welcomed the project's emphasis on sharing information and expertise with other Pacific countries, as part of its third phase.

AGENDA 5 – OBSERVER STATEMENTS

CRGA noted observer statements made by representatives of the Fiji School of Medicine, Forum Secretariat, Oceanic Customs Organisation, Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Secretariat of the Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), UNICEF, and the University of the South Pacific.

AGENDA ITEM 6.1: AUDIT REPORT — FINANCIAL YEAR 2005

CRGA:

- i) considered and accepted the SPC and Provident Fund financial statements and auditors' reports, the management report on internal control-related accounting issues, and the Secretariat's response to the management report; and
- ii) encouraged members that have outstanding arrears in their assessed contributions to settle all arrears as soon as possible over the next twelve months.

AGENDA ITEM 6.2: FINANCIAL YEAR 2006 CORE BUDGET REVISION

CRGA noted the report on the mid-year revision of the 2006 Core Budget.

AGENDA ITEM 6.3 – CROP REMUNERATION ISSUES – OUTCOME OF TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF CROP TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

CRGA:

- i) noted the consensus reached by the Heads of CROP agencies in regard to the Mercer recommendations;
- ii) approved the consultants' recommendations 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 10, with the exception of the United States, which disassociated itself with respect to Mercer recommendation 6 (regarding the provision of housing and educational benefits to all staff);
- iii) approved the consensus reached by CROP Heads and SPC on recommendation 8 for a 6.6 per cent increase to grades J, K, L and M of the professional staff salary structure, to be achieved within existing resources;
- iv) noted the consultants' recommendations 3, 5, 9, 11, 12 and 13;
- v) noted the salary structure for support staff in Suva will not change while the salary structure for Noumea will be adjusted by 0.5 percent to keep pace with the local market in New Caledonia; and
- vi) noted that the cost for the above increases (449,300 CFP units for professional staff increases and 14,400 CFP units for support staff increases) is funded from efficiency savings and other cost reduction measures in the 2007 budget.

AGENDA ITEM 6.4 – REVISION OF MEMBERS' ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION FORMULA

CRGA:

- i) decided to retain the current "global" split of 10.0577 for the Island members and 89.9423 for the metropolitan members, as agreed by CRGA 34 in 2004;
- ii) noted that island members had agreed to retain the current percentage allocation of the members' assessed contributions to be met by each member for the 2007–2009 triennium, based on the current category breakdown:
 - **Category 1:** 0.8304 (each)
Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea
 - **Category 2:** 0.3795 (each)
American Samoa, FSM, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands
 - **Category 3:** 0.3246 (each)
Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu
 - **Category 4:** 0.2646 (each)
Nauru, Niue, Pitcairn, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna
 - **Special host grant met by New Caledonia and Fiji:** 1.0337
- iii) noted that New Caledonia and Fiji had agreed to the new split for host grants: New Caledonia: 0.6512% and Fiji 0.3825%, to make up the total of 1.0337%, based on current proportion of staff based in the host countries;
- iv) noted that metropolitan members had agreed to retain the current percentage share of assessed contributions: Australia (32.7368%), France (19.3806%), New Zealand (19.1794%) and United States (18.6455%) to make up their total share of 89.9423%;
- v) agreed that the formula for assessed contributions would continue to be assessed on a triennial basis;
- vi) noted that the Secretariat would provide an update to CRGA 2007 on
 - a) the possible impact of the new Pohnpei Regional Office on host country contributions, and

- b) the outcomes of its discussions with the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs on how to cushion the impact of the decision by the Fiji Ministry of Finance to tax Fiji nationals at SPC for reasons of harmonisation with other international organisations based in Fiji.

This decision is superseded by the outcomes of the discussion on Agenda Item 7 relating to the adoption of the 2007 Budget and to the Secretariat's proposed increase of 10% of members' assessed contributions.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – YEAR 2007 BUDGET

CRGA:

- i) approved the SPC budget for Financial Year 2007, including the transfer from the General Reserve, with the exception that the United States disassociated itself from consensus concerning the increase in SPC's management fee and the transfer from the general reserve,
- ii) approved a 10% increase in assessed contributions, with the exception
 - a) that the United States opposed consensus to increase the core assessment by 10% and noted it would not support an increase in its assessed contribution, and
 - b) the following countries endorsed the increase in principle subject to final confirmation by their governments: Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Niue and Fiji;
- iii) noted that
 - a) cost increases and the remuneration adjustments arising from the 2006 CROP remuneration review have been fully absorbed by SPC for the 2007 budget year;
 - b) the Secretariat plans to use the increase in assessed contributions to further improve direct service delivery to island members of the Pacific Community; and
 - c) the impact of the budget decision in (ii) above will result in changes to the percentage shares for members (which will supersede the percentages agreed to under Agenda Item 6.4). The actual amount of each member's contribution based on a 10% increase in their respective assessed contributions will however not change. The following table summarises the changes resulting from decision (ii) above.

Assessed Contribution – Global Split

	Current distribution	Proposed to CRGA & approved before budget discussion	Final approved percent distribution
Metropolitan Members	89.9423 %	89.9423 %	89.7692 %
Island Members	10.0577 %	10.0577 %	10.2308 %

Individual member percentages for PICTs by the four categories

	Current distribution	Proposed to CRGA & approved before budget discussion	Final approved percent distribution
Category 1	0.8304 %	0.8304 %	0.8448 %
Category 2	0.3795 %	0.3795 %	0.3860 %
Category 3	0.3246 %	0.3246 %	0.3302 %
Category 3	0.2446 %	0.2446 %	0.2692 %

Host Country Grants

New Caledonia	0.6132 %	0.6512 %	0.6625 %
Fiji	0.4205 %	0.3825 %	0.3891 %

AGENDA ITEM 8 – VENUE AND DATES FOR CRGA AND CONFERENCE 2007

CRGA:

- i) i) noted that the venue for the Year 2007 Meeting of CRGA 37 is Apia, Samoa (members will be advised in due time of the exact meeting dates); and
- ii) ii) noted that the Chairperson for CRGA 37 will be provided by Wallis and Futuna and the Vice-Chairperson by American Samoa.

AGENDA ITEM 9 – OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a request for the Secretariat to follow up on the issue of host country responsibilities, the Director-General said he would submit a policy paper on the issue for consideration by CRGA 37.

AGENDA ITEM 10 – ADOPTION OF REPORT

CRGA 36 adopted the record of decisions, and agreed to a process by which members will provide feedback to the Secretariat on their interventions as recorded in the meeting record.