

**SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY****EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**

(Suva, Fiji, 18–19 November 2013)

**NINTH CONFERENCE IN 2015: VENUE AND ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON
AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

Introduction

1. The 7th Conference of the Pacific Community agreed that all future meetings of the Conference of the Pacific Community (CPC) will be convened at SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, as a cost-saving measure.
2. Notwithstanding this, member countries wishing to host the Conference and the preceding CRGA meeting may do so on the basis that they meet the full additional cost of convening the two meetings outside of SPC headquarters.
3. Therefore, unless a member expresses a wish to host the next meeting, the 9th Conference of the Pacific Community in 2015 will be held at SPC headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

4. The current 'Rules of Procedure for the Conference' state:
 - i. *'When the Conference is to be held at the headquarters of the Pacific Community, the Conference will elect the government or administration to provide the Chairperson for the succeeding Conference. Such a government or administration will normally be one that will not be in a position to host the Conference in the foreseeable future.'*
 - ii. *'When the Conference is to be held elsewhere than headquarters, the host country/territory will nominate the Chairperson.'*
 - iii. *'Each Conference will elect the government or administration that will provide the Vice-Chairperson for the succeeding Conference. Such a government or administration will normally be one that is chosen in alphabetical order of members from among the Pacific Island countries and territories.'*
5. In addition, since 1997 the Vice-Chairperson of Conference is elected by 'clockwise' rotation among island governments and administrations.
6. For the information of Conference, the host, chair and vice-chair arrangements for Conference meetings since 1997 have been as follows:

YEAR	CONFERENCE	HOST COUNTRY	CHAIRPERSON	VICE-CHAIRPERSON
1997	37 th South Pacific Conference	Australia	Australia	Wallis & Futuna
1999	1 st Conference of the Pacific Community (CPC)	French Polynesia	French Polynesia	Tonga
2001	2 nd CPC	Nauru hosted at SPC HQ	Nauru	Vanuatu
2003	3 rd CPC	Fiji	Fiji	American Samoa
2005	4 th CPC	Palau	Palau	Tuvalu
2007	5 th CPC	Samoa	Samoa	FSM
2009	6 th CPC	Tonga	Tonga	Cook Islands
2011	7 th CPC	RMI hosted at SPC HQ	Marshall Islands	France
2013	8 th CPC	Suva, Fiji	Fiji	Guam

7. The secretariat is recommending a review of SPC's governance processes in 2014 under Paper 5.2. With this in mind, and pending CRGA's decision on the recommendation, it is the secretariat's view that the decision on the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the 9th Conference of the Pacific Community should be made at the meeting of CRGA 44 in 2014.

Recommendation

8. Conference is invited to:
- i. note that the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Pacific Community will be convened at SPC headquarters in Noumea in 2015;
 - ii. note that the decision on the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the 9th Conference will be made at CRGA 44; and
 - iii. further note that, should any member wish to host the 9th Conference, it may do so, recognising that it will need to meet the full additional cost of hosting the Conference and the preceding meeting of CRGA 45.
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