

Working Group Briefing #2

7 August 2014

This briefing note outlines the review team's proposals for the Working Group meeting to be held at SPC headquarters in Noumea on Tuesday 19 August.

We continue to welcome any and all feedback on our initial thinking, including on our proposals for this meeting.

Note: another, more substantive, briefing – Working Group Briefing #3 – will issue in the week before the meeting summarising our findings to date, including specific issues and questions for the Working Group to discuss.

Venue, date and timing

SPC headquarters in Noumea: small conference room adjacent the main conference hall

Tuesday 19 August 2014

08:30 to 17:00

The review

The objectives and the scope of the review, and our understanding of the terms of reference, were set out in Briefing Note #1. In summary:

The review will analyse SPC's current governance arrangements and likely future requirements and make recommendations for streamlining them. The review is to:

- Clarify the role and purpose of governance in organisations like SPC;
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of SPC's current governance arrangements;
- Propose options for streamlined, improved, governance structures and processes; and
- Offer practical ways forward to implement governance reform.

Consultants Peter Bazeley and Tony Liston were appointed on 27 June 2014 to undertake the review. They started work at SPC headquarters on 4 July 2014.

The Working Group is to provide oversight and will ultimately agree any recommendations to the November 2014 CRGA on future governance arrangements.

The purpose of the 19 August meeting

This meeting takes place midway through the review. It follows an initial round of consultations with Working Group members, SPC management and other organisations, as well as our own reading and research. **The purpose of this meeting is to:**

- Brief the Working Group about our findings to date, in terms of:
 - Common and emerging issues and imperatives in the governance of international membership organisations;
 - Why reflecting on SPC's governance may be important, now and for the future;
 - Our analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of SPC's governance, and issues arising;
 - Including the anonymised views of stakeholders consulted;
 - Including wider contextual issues.
- Present to the Working Group for debate a number of models of, and approaches to, the governance of comparable organisations;
- Obtain from the Working Group consensus on the direction the team might take as it moves into the final stage of the review and drafts its report, including:
 - Which options might be more or less acceptable to the membership;
 - And what key features must be preserved;
 - The scope, scale and likely timeline of any reforms envisaged;
 - The nature of the recommendations to be made:
 - How far should they go? Should they represent a prescription or menu of governance arrangements for CRGA's approval, or a longer-term process for the further deliberation of options for, and consensus-building about, reform?
 - Are recommendations to be those of the review team, or of the Working Group?
- Agree next steps and important dates.

Style of the meeting

The issues to be debated are substantive and the Working Group's input at this stage will form a vital part of the review process.

However, the style of meeting will be informal as we would like to encourage healthy debate, constructive criticism and frank exchanges of opinion. We will likely ask Working Group members to debate particular issues in smaller groups and feed-back their conclusions to the wider group. We may use anonymous polling techniques to rank issues and options.

The Group may wish to appoint a Chair from among its members.

Attendance

We are currently expecting representatives from:

Australia • Federated States of Micronesia • Fiji • France • French Polynesia • New Caledonia • New Zealand • Niue • Republic of the Marshall Islands • Solomon Islands • United States of America.

In addition the following SPC staff will attend:

Director General Colin Tukuitonga • Deputy Director General Cameron Diver • Director Strategic Engagement and Planning Facility (SEPPF) Cameron Bowles • SEPPF Strategy & Planning Adviser Frédérique Lehoux.

Review consultants Peter Bazeley and Tony Liston will present their initial findings and facilitate the Working Group's discussions.

Logistics

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Participants are also warmly invited to a dinner on the evening of Tuesday 19th August. SPC's Senior Leadership Team will also be present at the dinner, providing an opportunity for informal interaction with them. (Venue to be confirmed.)

Contacts

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