



CALL FOR PROPOSALS – SIDE EVENTS

The virtual **14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women** will be held from **27 – 29 April 2021** followed by the **7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women** on **4 May 2021**. Delegations to both meetings will comprise of policy decision-makers and representatives from 22 member Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) of the Pacific Community (SPC). Other relevant stakeholders that will be participating include representatives of development partners, research institutions and civil society including faith-based organisations. The Conference provides a space for PICTs to review and analyse the progress in the implementation of the Pacific Platform for Action for Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights including the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) in the past 25 years. This year the triennial conference provides a space to analyse implementation of these gender commitments against the impact of COVID-19.

In response to the expressed priorities received from PICTs, the focus of the two meetings will be to address the 3 key priorities received from PICTs in terms of:

1. gender responsive climate justice,
2. women’s economic empowerment and
3. gender based violence.

The meetings provide further a principal opportunity to identify strategic and practical measures and build partnerships towards advancing gender equality and women’s human rights commitments in the Pacific region.

The Pacific Community, as Secretariat to the Triennial Steering Committee, chaired by French Polynesia, invites interested organisations and individuals to submit proposals to be considered as official side events in the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women. There will be a total of **10 official side events** scheduled over three days in the Conference agenda. We encourage organisations to align their side event to the Conference’s theme - *‘Our Ocean, Our Heritage, Our Future – Empowering All Women in the Blue Pacific Continent’*. This call for proposals is open to all organisations – government, CSOs, NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, academia, and networks. However, please note that due to the limited number of side events organisations are encouraged to collaborate in side events and submit joint proposals.

Like many Pacific regional conferences held over the last year, the 14th Triennial Conference will be virtual. The Triennial Conference agenda will be split into morning and afternoon sessions and each session will be followed by two simultaneous virtual side events. Please note that whilst there are only 10 side events for the Triennial; SPC will continue to coordinate with partners in the Pacific Gender Technical Working Group to convene a series of virtual events in 2021 and 2022.

Noting this is a regional conference and with travel and COVID-19 restrictions in place, the Secretariat encourages organisations to convene their side events in a virtual manner whilst taking into consideration seating capacity at your venue of choice within your country, to cater for stakeholders within your country who may wish to attend in person. The Secretariat also advises that side events should be hosted by the lead agency, as the Secretariat has limited resources. Side events are up to one hour. Necessary IT requirements to host the virtual session must be provided for by the lead agency. Technical capabilities to host the side event session will be taken into consideration by the Triennial Steering Committee when considering proposals.

The Secretariat invites you to provide a short 1 – 2 page proposal with the following information:

- ❖ Title
- ❖ Objectives
- ❖ Content
- ❖ Format (presentation, roundtable, etc.)
- ❖ Name of Panellists (please consider diverse representation in your side event)

Proposals should also include:

- ❖ A contact person in the Lead organisation who SPC can liaise with (email and phone number)
- ❖ All collaborating organisations
- ❖ Logistical information on side event (e.g., panellists/speakers are all joining remotely from different countries OR whether majority of panellists and organisers are in one country with stakeholders/registered participants joining remotely)
- ❖ A note-taker and an ICT focal point who SPC can liaise with
- ❖ Interpretation requirements (for French speakers)

For further information or to submit your proposal, please send an email to Joanne Lee Kunatuba, JoanneK@spc.int and copy to Veena Singh, VeenaS@spc.int at SPC. Proposals are due on March 15, 2021. A decision will be made on successful proposals by 2 April 2021.

Please note you will still be required to register officially to participate in the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women.