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Challenges**

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**Secretariat of the Pacific Environment  
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by

**Mr. Alex Kerangpuna**  
Pacific Islands Forum, WTO Office, Geneva

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**Statement on delivered behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment and Climate Programme (SPREP) by Mr. Alex Kerangpuna (Pacific Islands Forum WTO Office- Geneva) at the SIDS Transport, Trade Logistics and Trade Facilitation 3<sup>rd</sup> Session**

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the floor.

I firstly would like to thank UNCTAD for hosting this very important conference on Transport, trade logistics, and Trade facilitation. Chair, it is my great pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. In short form SPREP. This sister organization, due to its none-attendance, it had asked the Pacific Islands Forum Permanent Mission to the WTO in Geneva to share with the participants on the work that it has been doing within the context of regional collaboration with the CARRICOM and Indian Ocean Commissions in addressing climate change challenges affecting SIDS. This is the partnership across the SIDS region.

At the outset, I would like to inform you and the delegates that my statement is purely based on a general joint partnership between SPREP and the two regional SIDS organizations. The statement will not specifically mention impact of climate change on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation. However, it aims to capture the work being undertaken under this special cooperation among the three inter-regional organizations/institutions in addressing climate change impact which, off course, directly have greater implications on transport, trade logistics and trade facilitation in the SIDS.

The cooperation is called Climate-Resilient Islands Partnership that SPREP has established with CARRICOM, through the Caribbean Climate Change Community Centre or 5Cs, and the Indian Ocean Countries (IOCs) that help the regional institutions working in different small states region to help SIDS prepare for climate change.

This partnership focuses on the regional exchanges in ensuring that SIDS citizens have access to real-time climate change information, access to climate change modelling that is relevant at the national level to support their climate change planning and decision making, building strong institutional arrangements at the regional and national levels to facilitate SIDS readiness to access climate finance, and establish integrated plans for climate change and disaster risk reduction and management.

Mr. Chair, these three regional institutions acknowledged impact of climate change that has been shared throughout the presentations in the last two days.

SPREP anchor this inter-regional partnership through signing of MoU with the two regional SIDS organizations.

On March 2011, SPREP signed an MoU with the 5Cs, in which both region agreed to cooperate on a number of key areas of mutual interest. Under this arrangement, SPREP and the 5Cs were able to undertake a number of activities, which include, 'Island Pavilion' at Durban UNFCCC COP that the two regional organizations share space for networking and participated in events. Both participated in high level support Mechanism and SIDS DOCK-Renewable Energy in SIDS.

Secondly, the SPREP cemented its co-operation with the Indian Ocean Commission by signing a MoU in 2012 at the Rio+20 Conference with the same aim of enhancing the mutual interest of both regions. This arrangement is aimed at enabling the two countries to share information on the climate change resilient. SPREP has offered support in strengthening capacity of IOC regarding climate change and environment. Although positive cooperation to date, there is less work than the work it is doing with the 5Cs.

In terms of the key priorities areas under the partnership, the three organizations have identified five areas, which include:

- i. On-line Portals - where each partner its developing its own public focused information portal to build public understanding on climate change impacts, climate variations and disaster risk reduction,
- ii. Climate Modelling –each member of the partnership is down-scaling climate models to support its members countries, and the partnership is creating an inter-regional network of climate modellers to learn from one another in the use of different approach and SIDS-tailored products,
- iii. Integration of adaption and disaster risk reduction (DRR) where each partner is currently working in its own region to deliver tools ad approaches, in which the partnership is able to strengthen national planning processes by sharing different experiences with regional plans, roadmaps and the application of the dynamics system modeling and resilience profiling,
- iv. Regional implementing Entity/National Implementing Entity accreditation – concern access to climate change financing through the major international climate funds requires accreditation to those funds. SPREP has already achieve RIE status for the Adaptation Fund and commissioned a report on its experiences seeking RIE Status which will provide useful guidance to OIC and CCCC as they seek accreditation.
- v. Developing an OIC implementation Plan – the partnership aims to strengthen regional arrangements for the Indian Ocean region in particular. Taking lessons from processes that the Pacific and the Caribbean have implemented, to rapidly develop regional capacity within the India Ocean region.

Mr. Chair, through the partnership, SPREP and the two regional organizations were able to already implement some of the activities: For example, (i) an exchange of visit of technical advisers within the CCCCC and the SPREP to share knowledge, and tool kits developed within the two institutions on the cost and benefits of climate change actions within a SIDS Context, (ii) Collaboration through web portals – the partners portals were survey and a format for OIC portal was prepared. The partnership is now poised to link portals and begin jointly in producing materials. (iii) Assessing virtual learning –a report on the virtual learning network between respective knowledge management officers from 5Cs and SPREP has been completed. (iv) Sharing tools to study climate – Tools and lessons in export networking and modelling have been identified, ready for sharing across the regions, (v) Assessing what the region share in common – a comparative assessment of the three regions has been completed which will develop a roadmap for the IOC over the next three years, to deliver the regional Strategy on Adaptation and to anchor this with a MoU with the partners.

In terms of SPREP own activities, one of its activities is exchanging experiences on what it is doing in the Pacific 'on the ground adaptation' with the fourteen (14) Pacific Island Countries under the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change. In Samoa, it had provided a fieldtrip excursion for the CCCCC executives on one of its project sites. SPREP introduced the executives of the 5Cs to integrated coastal zone management, seawall demonstration, and coastal native re-plantation that helps to protect the coastline of village communities from severe coastal erosion. Coastal rehabilitation is also aimed at protecting key assets of the community (church buildings, schools, residents, sacred meeting grounds of cultural values). The executives also learnt from the engineering aspects of these walls against other environmental disasters such as inland coastal flooding. The goal here Mr. Chair is to demonstrate how adaptation interventions are developed in similar island environments in the Caribbean.

In addition, SPREP has close and effective working relation with the CoMSec. The ComSec supported positions at the SPREP and 5Cs which provided a vehicle for cross regional collaboration on areas like resources economics.

SPREP also have positive relations with the EU. The EU funded the Pacific Hazardous Waste Management (Pac Waste) for the Pacific ACP countries.

Mr. Chair, there are lessons learnt from the regional relationship that the SPREP has with the two regional organizations and the international development partners. Organizations have different strengths and weaknesses, and this enable SPREP to learn from others through the partnership.

More importantly, the partnership assist the SPREP and its two regional SIDS partners to work together in effectively assisting the Members in their participation international fora, such as the UNFCC, Islands Pavilion that I already mentioned above. The cross regional initiatives that is supported by the EU, provides good opportunities for strengthening links between region and between organizations

In conclusion, SPREP cross regional initiatives with the 5Cs and the IOCs has the potential of making a difference in the SIDS. The partnership allows the Members to share experience on how to address challenges and the positive stories on how they are able to address the challenges that can be shared.

The three regions can work together in using the partnership to work with the Comsec and the EU which need to be encouraged and increased.

Thank you.