



Government of Samoa

## **2019 Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting**

### **OUTCOME STATEMENT**

**6 July 2019 Apia, Samoa**

1. The 2019 Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting was held in Apia, Samoa on 6 July 2019 and was attended by Ministers of Sports as well as senior representatives from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna. The meeting was opened by the Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment and chaired by the Hon. Loau Solamalealo Keneti Sio, Minister of Education, Sports and Culture of Samoa.

2. The Pacific Games Council (PGC), the Oceania Regional Anti-Doping Organization (ORADO), the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC), the United Nations (UN), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Oceania International Federation of Physical Education, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and the Japan Anti-Doping Agency were represented by their respective Heads of Organisations and senior officials. Ministers also welcomed the opportunity to engage with Civil Society Organisations, Development Partners and national and regional sport stakeholders from the Pacific and beyond that attended the meeting.

3. Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Government and the people of Samoa for the warm hospitality extended to all delegations. Ministers also commended the preparations and facilitation of the 2019 Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting, held prior to the Opening of the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games, which enabled Ministers to hold constructive discussions under the theme of '*Strengthening Sport and Sustainable Development in the Pacific*'.

4. Ministers welcomed and endorsed the Outcome Statement and recommendations of the 2019 Pacific Sport Policy Roundtable held on 5 July in Apia, Samoa as presented by Ms. Nisha, Director of the Office and UNESCO Representative to the Pacific States.

#### **Sport and Sustainable Development Agenda**

5. Ministers reiterated the valuable contribution of sport in the social, cultural and economic life of the people of the Blue Pacific Continent and strongly advocated for continued investments in the Pacific's greatest resource "our people". Ministers also underscored the importance of existing international and regional frameworks such as 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SAMOA Pathway, Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development, the Kazan Action Plan, and

the SPAPE Action Plan 2019 – 2030, which emphasises the importance of sport as a vehicle to drive development, promote peace and foster empowerment and inclusive participation.

6. Ministers reaffirmed the need to further integrate sport into national policies to address challenges posed by Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and issues affecting youth in the Pacific, and to support efforts to promote healthy and clean environments, cities and communities. The contribution of sport towards the elimination of all forms of violence, enhanced education for partnerships, leadership, environmental impacts through facilities innovations was also acknowledged.

7. Ministers also recognised the need to further invest in data and statistics to assess the impact of sport to Pacific countries and their economies by looking at current and future research and to advocate nationally for data on the contribution of sport, physical activity and physical education towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. Ministers agreed to further explore the sport and development nexus by developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for consistent data at scale to inform, monitor and evaluate policies, as well as track the contribution of sport to sustainable development in the Pacific. Ministers endorsed the importance of comprehensive and inclusive sport policies as reflected the 2019 Pacific Sport Policy Roundtable and emphasised the:

- i. importance of resource mobilisation and budget consideration in the development of national policies;
- ii. need to strengthen collaboration amongst key sport stakeholders;
- iii. significance of linking sport and all SDGs, particularly in relation to healthy lifestyle choices; gender equality; job creation; empowerment of individuals; promotion of national unity and identity; and traditional knowledge;
- iv. need to encourage peer learning and knowledge exchange and sharing within the Pacific on comprehensive and inclusive sport policies; and
- v. crucial role of leadership at the highest level to ensure the successful implementation of national sport policies and plans.

### **Shared Vision and Coordinated Action for Sport in the Pacific**

9. Ministers recognised the importance of strong and effective coordinated action for sport in the region and warmly welcomed the endorsement by Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) in May 2019 of the SPAPE Action Plan 2019-2030, noting the cross-cutting dimensions of gender, inclusivity, youth, and climate change.

10. Ministers further welcomed the endorsement by FEMM of the newly formed Regional Task Force on Sport to provide guidance and oversight of the development and implementation of the SPAPE Action Plan 2019-2030. Membership of the Regional Task Force comprises of the Hon. Baklai Temengil, Minister for Sport of Palau; Hon. Sili Epi Tuioti, Minister of Finance of Samoa; Hon. Jean Pierre Nirua, Minister for Education and Training of Vanuatu; and the Hon. Iferemi Waqainabete, Minister for Health and Medical Services of Fiji including member agencies of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) PIFS, USP and SPREP, as well as UN Agencies UNESCO and WHO, as well as ONOC. Ministers requested that the FEMM consider additional membership to the Regional Task Force to include sport representatives. Specifically, Ministers:

- i. recognised the secretariat role of PIFS captured in the Terms of the Reference for the Pacific Regional Sports Taskforce for the first two-year term;

- ii. noted an extension of the regional research project to assess the ‘*Socio-Economic Impacts of the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games*’ that will be led by USP in the next 12 months to be co-funded by USP and the Government of Samoa Education Sector; and
- iii. recommended that the SPAPE Action Plan 2019-2030 be tabled for the attention of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders at their meeting in Tuvalu in 2019.

### **Strengthening Sports Performance in the Pacific**

11. Ministers expressed concern regarding the ongoing manipulation in sport at national, regional and global competitions, which demonstrates that no jurisdiction is immune from influences of organised crime, including those that seek to exploit vulnerabilities and opportunities, and to undermine the values of sport.

12. Ministers emphasised the important contribution of sport to sustainable development and the need to strengthen the protection and promotion of integrity and human rights in sport. They further emphasised the importance of efforts to keep crime out of sport and protect against the threat of doping in particular through implementation of key international and regional frameworks such as the World Anti-Doping Code and the UNESCO International Convention Against Doping in Sport 2005.

13. Ministers specifically:

- i. noted the proposal for a Pacific framework on integrity of sport for the Pacific, taking into account existing international frameworks, recognising the Pacific way of promoting, defining and protecting the integrity of sport;
- ii. acknowledged the importance of investment through financing to ensure protection of the integrity of sport and efforts to fight against doping in sport;
- iii. highlighted the importance of ensuring good governance, autonomy and transparency and the need to work closely with international and regional sports bodies, such as the ONOC, ORADO, PGC, and CGF;
- iv. stressed the need to ensure visibility of the Pacific and its issues at international meetings such as the International Conferences of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS), World Conference on Doping in Sport in November 2019 in Poland; and
- v. endorsed the need to develop and implement programs for youth through sport.

14. Ministers agreed to consider signing and/or ratifying the Macolin Convention to support efforts to keeping crime out of sport defined as an international arrangement, act or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sport competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sport competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others. Ministers further noted the purpose and main objectives of the Macolin Convention as being to:

- i. prevent, detect and sanction national or transnational manipulation of national and international sport competitions; and
- ii. promote national and international co-operation against manipulation of sport competition between the public authorities concerned, as well as with organisations involved in sport and in sports betting.

15. Ministers also acknowledged the need for strengthened partnerships between government and sport organisations, recognising that these organisations maintain their

autonomy and independence. Ministers further noted the suggestion for MOUs to promote strengthened partnerships.

### **Support to Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meetings**

16. Ministers recalled the decisions of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting in Nauru in September 2018, including where Leaders 'noted the agreement of the 2018 Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting to establish a Pacific Islands Sports Ministers' Secretariat, including the proposal for a new operational and funding model for the Pacific Games. Leaders also noted their decision to review the Games Charter and the Host Agreement with the Pacific Games Council'.

17. Recalling the cross cutting dimensions of gender, inclusivity, youth, and climate change reflected in the SPAPE Action Plan 2019-2030, including the contribution of sport to economic and social development of Pacific countries, Ministers discussed possible governance arrangements to support their annual meetings, identifying the need for secretariat support, and implementation and follow up of decisions. Ministers agreed that CROP agencies would be well placed to support the annual meetings of Pacific Islands Sports Ministers in this regard. Ministers therefore requested the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat to lead coordination efforts at the regional level, ensuring the full support of all CROP agencies where relevant in developing and enhancing regional efforts across research, education and training to strengthen the contribution and links between sport and sustainable development priorities of the Blue Pacific.

18. Ministers requested the Chair of the 2019 Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting to present the Outcomes of the Meeting for the consideration of Forum Leaders at their meeting in Tuvalu, and to seek Leaders' support in identifying and tasking specific CROP agencies to provide necessary secretariat support, and implementation and follow up of the decisions of Pacific Islands Sports Ministers.

19. Ministers agreed to recommend for the consideration of Forum Leaders at their 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Tuvalu the following:

- i. welcome the endorsement by Forum Economic Ministers Meeting in 2019 of the SPAPE Action Plan 2019-2030 and the establishment of the Pacific Regional Sport Taskforce; and
- ii. endorse the Outcomes of the 2019 Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting and identify and task, as appropriate, specific CROP agencies to provide necessary secretariat support, and implementation and follow up of the decisions of Pacific Islands Sports Ministers.

### **Next Host**

20. Ministers welcomed the offer by Palau to host the 2021 Pacific Islands Sports Ministers Meeting and agreed to hold the Ministers' meeting on a biennial basis.

6 July 2019  
Apia, Samoa