



SPECIAL FORUM ENERGY MINISTERS MEETING

Brisbane, Australia, 30 June 2010

Brisbane Communiqué

The 2009 Forum Leaders Meeting expressed strong concern on the region's energy security and directed that a Special Forum Energy Ministers Meeting be convened to consider progress on relevant resource mobilisation and activity identification with a report to be provided to the 2010 Forum.

At their special meeting in Brisbane, Australia, in June 2010, Forum Energy Ministers¹:

recognised that energy security is fundamental to achieving the social and economic aspirations of the Pacific;

recalled:

- the 2007 and 2008 Forum meetings which accorded urgent priority to providing available, reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy for the sustainable development of all Pacific Island communities;
- the decisions of the Forum Economic Ministers, and Pacific Ministers for Energy for effective and appropriate 'Pacific approaches and solutions' to addressing energy challenges in the region, including the call to review the 2004 Pacific Islands Energy Policy;
- the 2009 Cairns Forum Communiqué, which called for action to "...identify options for scaled-up, better-coordinated financing for clean and affordable energy in the region".

noted the implementation of the decisions on reform of the regional institutional framework, which resulted in the Secretariat of the Pacific Community assuming the role of lead coordination agency for the energy sector in the region;

acknowledged the outcome of the review of the Pacific Islands Energy Policy 2004 led by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in partnership with CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) agencies and other development partners, which has resulted in the development of a new 'Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific' and draft regional Implementation Plan for Energy Security in the Pacific; and

¹ Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

reaffirmed the outcomes and recommendations of the Special Forum Energy Officials meeting (attached).

Forum Energy Ministers therefore:

- **welcomed** the progress to date on the implementation of decisions by Forum Leaders on the energy sector;
- **recognised** that petroleum will continue to play a key role in meeting the energy needs of Forum Island countries, especially in the transport sector, and efficient management of petroleum products should underpin energy policy decisions;
- **recognised** that while renewable energy can offer many benefits, its development should be pursued in conjunction with a conducive regulatory environment and energy efficiency and conservation measures that can deliver early significant gains toward energy security in the Pacific;
- **endorsed** the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific;
- **encouraged** the adoption of a whole-of-sector approach to effectively address energy challenges on the basis of “many partners, one team, one plan” as outlined in the Framework;
- **noted** that the regional Implementation Plan for Energy Security in the Pacific, which will focus on a prioritised list of regional interventions to support national activities, will be presented to the 2011 Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting for their consideration and approval; and
- **recommended** the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific to Forum Leaders for consideration and endorsement at their 2010 meeting in Port Vila, noting that similar endorsement will be sought from non-Forum Island countries and territories at the next Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting in 2011.

Brisbane, 30 June 2010



SPECIAL FORUM ENERGY OFFICIALS MEETING

Brisbane, Australia, 28-29 June 2010

MEETING OUTCOMES

The Special Forum Energy Officials Meeting was held in response to decisions reached at the 2009 Forum Leaders Meeting on the need for action to improve energy security in the region. Leaders were particularly concerned about the impact of rising prices for energy on Pacific economies. The outcomes of this meeting and subsequent Forum Energy Ministers Meeting will be reported to Forum Leaders at their Port Vila meeting in August.

Participants at the Special Forum Energy Officials Meeting came from Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) agencies, development partners and the private sector attended as observers at the invitation of the host country.

The meeting reviewed the final draft of the FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON ENERGY SECURITY IN THE PACIFIC, which was developed after extensive consultation with Pacific Island countries and territories including a meeting of Pacific energy sector stakeholders in Noumea in May 2010. The development of the Framework was coordinated by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).

The Framework presents a concise vision – *an energy secure Pacific* – and defines energy security as follows: *'Energy security exists when all people at all times have access to sufficient sustainable sources of clean and affordable energy and services to enhance their social and economic well-being'*.

In discussing the Framework, the meeting acknowledged the fundamental role of energy in countries' economies and recognised that strengthening the fragile energy sectors of Forum Island countries could help lessen economic vulnerability, improve growth prospects and underpin the delivery of essential services. Officials identified a number of actions to improve the reliability, affordability and accessibility of energy services.

The meeting:

affirmed that the principal means for achieving energy security in the Pacific will be through national energy policies and plans/roadmaps that have national high-level political leadership.

agreed that a “whole-of-sector” approach to energy planning and implementation, based on the concept of “many partners, one team, one plan” (including national governments, utilities, private sector, community and cultural leaders, regional organisations and bilateral and multinational development partners), represents the best means for Forum Island countries to achieve long-term energy security, and to promote scaled up and better coordinated financing for energy initiatives. Participants highlighted the following as key elements of a whole-of-sector approach:

- High level, whole-of-government leadership at the national level;
- Energy policies and plans integrated across relevant line departments, the private sector, utilities and other stakeholders;
- Energy plans linked to national budget processes and based on true costs (including subsidies);
- Effectiveness of national energy plans enhanced by clear, costed and time-bound implementation plans;
- Clear and transparent national regulatory frameworks in place to ensure appropriate oversight of private sector participation in energy production and delivery.

affirmed that the application of a whole-of-sector approach must be tailored to suit each country’s particular circumstances, including the range of cost-effective energy options available.

agreed that the development of the Tonga Energy Road Map is a good example of a whole-of-sector approach to robust energy planning involving development partners and represented a useful model that Forum Island countries could draw on.

noted that the effective implementation of the Tonga Energy Road Map would require continued strong national leadership as well as continued coordinated engagement by development partners. The same principle would apply to other national energy sector plans.

recognised that petroleum will continue to play a key role in meeting the energy needs of Forum Island countries, especially in the transport sector. However, renewable energy options should be pursued over the long term as part of developing a wider mix of energy sources. These options should provide sustainable economic, societal and environmental benefits; be integrated into main energy systems; and take into consideration the potential impacts on other sectors.

recognising the continued reliance on petroleum, noted the effectiveness of FSM’s approach to energy security through improved petroleum supply chain management.

agreed that greater attention and urgency should be directed to measures that improve energy efficiency, noting that efficiency gains, particularly in the transport sector, could make a major contribution to reducing Forum Island countries’ vulnerability to fluctuations in international fuel prices.

In reviewing the above areas, the meeting:

considered the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific.

welcomed the Framework's emphasis on the primacy of national energy policies and plans as the principle means to achieving energy security in the Pacific.

agreed with its focus on seven themes:

1. Leadership, governance, coordination and partnerships
2. Capacity development, planning, policy and regulatory frameworks
3. Energy production and supply
4. Energy conversion
5. End-use energy consumption
6. Energy data and information
7. Financing, monitoring and evaluation

recommended the Framework to Ministers for their consideration and endorsement.

acknowledged progress to date in developing the regional Implementation Plan for Energy Security in the Pacific, which will comprise specific activities to assist with the achievement of long-term objectives and priorities associated with each theme within the Framework. The Implementation Plan will support and augment national level activities, recognising that regional activities can only supplement or add value to national initiatives.

The meeting also:

noted the important role that development partners could play in assisting Forum Island countries to undertake energy planning and **asked** development partners to support robust planning processes at the national level.

noted that such assistance should be provided in a coordinated manner to ensure best use of available resources and alignment with overarching energy objectives.

acknowledged the lead coordinating agency role of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community in energy in the region.

thanked the Government and people of Australia for hosting the Special Forum Energy Officials Meeting and for the hospitality extended.

The meeting recommended that Forum Energy Ministers:

- **note** the progress in implementing their call to review the Pacific Islands Energy Policy (2004), and the resulting development of the 'Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific' and draft regional Implementation Plan for Energy Security in the Pacific;

- **encourage** the adoption of a whole-of-sector approach to effectively address energy challenges on the basis of “many partners, one team, one plan” as outlined in the Framework;
- **consider and endorse** the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific and commend it to Forum Leaders for their endorsement at their 2010 meeting in Port Vila , noting that similar endorsement will be sought from non-Forum Island countries and territories at the next Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting in 2011;
- **note** that the regional Implementation Plan for Energy Security in the Pacific, which will focus on a prioritised list of regional interventions, will be presented to the 2011 Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting for their consideration and approval.

Brisbane, 29 June 2010