



UNESCO INGSA Dialogue on Science Policy for the SDGs and Pacific SIDS

Apia, Samoa, 29 & 30 March 2017

APIA MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUÉ ON PACIFIC SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

We, the Ministers of Education participating at the “UNESCO INGSA Dialogue on Science Policy for the SDGs and Pacific SIDS”, representing five Pacific Island Countries,

Commit to:

Develop national and regional comprehensive Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) policies and policy roadmaps, based on existing experiences in the region, such as the “Pacific ST&I Framework and Agenda” produced by PACE-NET PLUS, as well as experiences from other SIDS regions, while taking due note of national specificities and balancing its implementation through national and regional approaches.

Ensure that policies will address areas such as enhancing STEM education, establishing science advice mechanisms, indigenous knowledge systems, and building capacity in all ST&I policy areas, among other priority areas.

Establish focal points at senior level to provide follow-up to these activities, in coordination with all other countries and partner organizations involved, and ensure reporting to upcoming regional fora.

Request UNESCO to collaborate with Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) agencies and to:

Facilitate the development of a comprehensive Roadmap for ST&I Policy and Capacities for the Pacific Island States, taking into account past work in the region, existing resources and the need to bring stakeholders together, while convening scientists, researchers and policy makers, and developing proposals to help advance progress on ST&I, such as encouraging the establishment of national and regional research councils.

Cooperate with the CROP agencies, in particular the Pacific Community (SPC), and other partner organizations, such as the International Network on Government Science Advice (INGSA), in the design and implementation of such Roadmap, ensuring all relevant regional players and partners are involved, while exploring technical and financial resources jointly and with Member States, at the regional and national levels.

Encourage all Pacific Island States to join the initiatives resulting from this Dialogue, and ensure the organization of periodical Regional Dialogue meetings to monitor accomplishments and deepen the regional ST&I policy cooperation amongst Pacific Member States, Regional bodies, and International Organizations.

Honourable Loau Solamalemalo Keneti Sio
Honourable Penisimani ‘Epenisa Fifita
Honourable Mahendra Reddy
Honourable Charmaine Scotty
Honourable Jean-Pierre Nirua

Independent State of Samoa
Kingdom of Tonga
Republic of Fiji
Republic of Nauru
Republic of Vanuatu