

**Hundred and fifty-fifth Session**

155 EX/41  
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**RELATIONS WITH THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY AND DRAFT AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN UNESCO AND THAT ORGANIZATION**

**SUMMARY**

Following the wishes expressed by the Director-General of the Pacific Community and in compliance with Article XI, paragraph 1, of the Constitution of UNESCO, the Director-General submits to the Executive Board a document concerning the establishment of formal relations with the Pacific Community and the conclusion of a draft agreement between UNESCO and that organization.

Decision required: paragraph 7.

1. The Pacific Community, formerly called the South Pacific Commission, is an intergovernmental organization comprising 27 member countries and territories in the Pacific region. One of the oldest regional organizations in the world, it celebrated its fiftieth anniversary on 6 February 1997. From the time of its inception, in 1947, it has been a non-political, technical assistance and research body, filling a consultative and advisory role in the pursuit of the social, economic and cultural development of the Pacific islands (see information note in Annex I).

2. The Pacific Community, as an International Governmental Organization maintains relations with UNESCO, and has been entrusted with conducting several activities in the Pacific within the scope of the Organization's fields of competence. This collaboration was particularly intense from 1983 to 1985. More recently, the two organizations collaborated on such projects as video training for Pacific Islanders (1993), training for television professionals in the Pacific (1995) and a workshop for women involved in fisheries within the Vaka Moana-Ocean Roads of the Pacific Programme (1996).

3. In 1996, the Pacific Community launched a Cultural Affairs Programme designed to support activities in the fields of conservation of cultural heritage, communication technologies, development of cultural industries and promotion of artistic creativity. A major thrust of this programme will be the organization of the next Pacific Arts Festival, which will be held in Noumea, New Caledonia, in the year 2000.

4. In this context, the Director-General of the Pacific Community requested the Director-General of UNESCO by letter of 14 October 1997 to establish a formal co-operation agreement. The former recalled that for a great many years, his organisation has found in UNESCO a partner concerned with the needs of the Pacific communities and expressed the wish that this long-standing collaboration be strengthened through the proposed formal co-operation agreement.

5. In compliance with this request and as a follow-up action to the 'Focus on the Pacific' initiative launched by UNESCO on 1 November 1997 to acknowledge and respond to the specific needs of the developing island states of the Pacific in its fields of competence, a draft agreement has been drawn up, to formalize and strengthen the existing ties with the Pacific Community.

6. In accordance with the provisions of Article XI, paragraph 1, of the Constitution, the Director-General is submitting this draft agreement, as contained in Annex II to this document, to the Executive Board for its consideration and approval.

7. In light of the above, the Executive Board may wish to adopt the following decision:

The Executive Board,

1. Having examined document 154 EX/41 and the annexed draft agreement between UNESCO and the Pacific Community,
2. Approves the draft agreement;
3. Authorizes the Director-General to establish official relations with the Pacific Community and to sign the Agreement on behalf of UNESCO.

## **ANNEX I**

### **Information Note**

#### **The Pacific Community**

##### **1. Headquarters**

Noumea, New Caledonia

There are also staff based in Suva, Fiji and Honiara, Solomon Islands.

##### **2. Office bearers**

Director-General: Dr Robert Dun (Australia)

Director of Programmes: Dr Jimmie Rodgers (Solomon Islands)

Director of Services: Lourdes Paneliman (Guam)

##### **3. Foundation and membership**

A regional intergovernmental organization, it was established as an advisory and consultative body on 6 February 1947 in Canberra, under the Agreement establishing the South Pacific Commission, known as the Canberra Agreement. By decision of the 37th Pacific Conference, it became the Pacific Community in February 1998. It has 27 member countries and territories: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

##### **4. Structure**

The supreme decision body is the Pacific Conference, at which all members have an equal voice and which meets annually to decide on the work programme and budget. It is assisted in its work by the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administration (CRGA), which operates as a Committee of the Whole and meets at least four months prior as well as immediately before the annual Conference to consider and recommend the budget and other administrative matters. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community is the executive arm of the Pacific Conference. The Director-General, as Chief Executive Officer, carries out directions of the Conference and is responsible for the functioning of the Secretariat.

##### **5. Aims**

To develop the technical, professional, scientific, research, planning and management capabilities for the peoples of the Pacific islands, to enable them to make informed decisions about their future development and well-being.

**6. Official languages**

French and English.

**7. Funding sources**

The regular budget is financed through annual contributions of its member countries. Extrabudgetary contributions are also provided by some member countries, other governments, various aid agencies and international organizations and other external sources.

**8. Strategic priorities for 1996 to 1999**

**Social resources development:** a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach with the following components: **community health** (environmental health, prevention of AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, public health surveillance and disease control, lifestyle diseases); **socio-economic programme** (statistics, demography/population, economics, rural development, rural technology, Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, youth and adult education); **cultural affairs** (training for cultural heritage professionals, legal protection of the intangible heritage, development of new communication technologies, sustainable development of handicrafts and cultural industries, promotion of artistic creativity, Festival of Pacific Arts); **community education services** (including the Community Education Training Centre, the Regional Media Centre and the Population, Information, Education and Communication Project, all based in Suva, Fiji).

**Land resources development** for the sustainable development and management of agricultural and forestry resources and technologies. This programme is organized into four components: general agriculture, plant protection, animal health and agricultural information.

**Marine resources development** for the management and development of coastal fisheries (capture and post-harvest sections, women's fisheries development, training, resources assessment, information) and oceanic fisheries (fisheries statistics, tuna and billfish research).

**Integrated information support:** an integrated programme comprising the production, management and dissemination of information in the Community's two official languages, and applying a broad range of communication skills and technologies.

**Pragmatic executive management** with a commitment to improve accountability, transparency of operations, administrative efficiency and programme evaluation.

**9. Relations with the United Nations system and other international organizations**

SPC maintains relations with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Social and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

It also links with, inter alia, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Commonwealth Secretariat (ComSec), the European Commission, the *Institut français de recherche scientifique pour le développement en coopération* (ORSTOM), the Pacific Islands Development Programme (PIDP), the Pacific Islands Marine Resources Information System (PIMRIS), the Pacific Sustainable Development Networking Programme (PSDNP), the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), the Pacific Forum, the South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

## ANNEX II

### Draft Agreement

between

**The United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization  
(UNESCO)**

and

**The Pacific Community**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, hereinafter referred to as 'UNESCO', and the Pacific Community,

Considering that UNESCO was created for the purpose of advancing, through co-operation between the nations of the world in the areas of education, science and culture, the objectives of international peace and the common welfare of humankind,

Considering that the Pacific Community was established as an advisory and consultative body to provide a common forum within which Pacific Islands people and their governments can express themselves on issues, needs and ideas common to the region, and to help them develop the technical, professional, scientific, research, planning and management capabilities that will enable them to make informed decisions on their future development and well-being,

Recognizing that the Pacific Community is called upon to deal, at subregional level, with problems and activities that are in harmony with activities and programmes pursued on a world scale by UNESCO,

Desirous of establishing effective relations between them for the purpose of achieving their common aims in accordance with the principles laid down by the United Nations Charter, the Constitution of UNESCO and the Agreement establishing the South Pacific Commission, subsequently renamed the Pacific Community,

Have agreed as follows:

### Article I

#### Areas of co-operation

1. The Pacific Community and UNESCO agree to co-operate with each other through their respective bodies. This co-operation shall cover relevant issues in the fields of education, natural and social sciences, protection of the environment, education, culture, communication, information technology and media, democracy, peace, youth, women, and any other matters connected with those tasks and activities of the two organizations that are in harmony.
2. The co-operation shall not in any way replace the relations existing between the individual Member States and the two organizations, nor shall it affect the nature of these relations.

## **Article II**

### **Mutual consultation**

The Pacific Community and UNESCO agree to consult each other regularly when appropriate on all matters mentioned in Article I, in order to identify the most appropriate means for ensuring optimal efficiency of their relevant activities within the framework of the present agreement.

## **Article III**

### **Reciprocal representation**

1. The Pacific Community may invite UNESCO to attend as observer meetings of the Pacific Community and of such bodies, commissions and committees as it may set up when matters of mutual interest are discussed.
2. UNESCO may invite the Pacific Community to attend as observer the General Conference, meetings of the Executive Board and all other meetings of interest to the Pacific Community convened under the auspices of UNESCO.

## **Article IV**

### **Assistance in technical research and in other relevant fields**

1. Joint requests for development assistance from two or more Member States of the Pacific Community to either institution will be the subject of consultation between the Pacific Community and UNESCO, subject to the concurrence of the Member States concerned.
2. The Pacific Community shall be entitled to request UNESCO for technical assistance on matters relating to the agreed areas of co-operation.
3. Any such request by the Pacific Community shall be examined by UNESCO which, within the framework of its approved programmes and activities, shall use its best endeavours to provide appropriate assistance in such form and on such conditions as shall be agreed between UNESCO and the Pacific Community.

## **Article V**

### **Joint activities and projects**

1. UNESCO and the Pacific Community may, by mutual agreement, carry out joint activities for the benefit of their respective Member States. To that end, they shall agree on the nature and form of such activities and on the respective commitments of each party.
2. Both organizations shall co-ordinate their activities related to the execution of joint projects with a view to achieving optimal synergy.

## **Article VI**

### **Exchange of information and documents**

Subject to such arrangements as may be necessary for the safeguarding of classified material, the Pacific Community and UNESCO agree to exchange information and documentation relevant to the agreed areas of co-operation.

## **Article VII**

### **Review and evaluation**

1. The Pacific Community and UNESCO agree to meet at least once a year, in order to prepare, review and evaluate activities and projects jointly undertaken within the framework of this Agreement.
2. UNESCO and the Pacific Community may agree on such additional measures of consultation as may be considered appropriate for strengthening their co-operation.

## **Article VIII**

### **Administrative arrangements**

The Director-General of the Pacific Community and the Director-General of UNESCO shall make administrative arrangements to ensure effective co-operation and liaison between the secretariats of the two organizations.

## **Article IX**

### **Amendments**

The present Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement between the parties.

## **Article X**

### **Entry into force**

The present Agreement shall come into force on the day it is signed by both parties.

## **Article XI**

### **Duration**

The present Agreement shall be concluded for an indefinite term. It may be denounced by any party, which is obliged to inform the other party officially at least one year prior to the denouncement.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF the duly authorized representatives have signed two copies of the Agreement in English and French, each of them being equally authentic.

For the Pacific Community

For the United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

\_\_\_\_\_

Director-General

\_\_\_\_\_

Director-General

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_