



29 November 2023

Facilitative Working Group Secretariat,

We are pleased to present this submission from the Australian South Sea Islander, Port Jackson (ASSI.PJ) Organization in response to the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-sixth session and Decision 16/CP.26 regarding the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP).

As part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the FWG and LCIPP are pivotal in involving Australian South Sea Islanders and their associated Australian First Nations and Indigenous Pacific communities in international climate change dialogues and processes. This review is a crucial step in enhancing these mechanisms' efficiency and impact.

Our suggestions for improvement are organized as follows:

1. Structural Enhancements:

- a. FWG Mandate Revision: We propose that the LCIPP be exclusively for Indigenous groups, including Australian South Sea Islanders, to safeguard indigenous rights. This structure should encourage fruitful collaborations while maintaining a balance between Indigenous groups and State Members.
- b. Duration of FWG Membership: We propose implementing staggered terms for members that would ensure ongoing expertise and institutional memory. Aligning FWG terms with other UN bodies would further facilitate the continuous development and implementation of the workplan.
- c. Annual Reporting and Review: We advocate for more comprehensive annual reviews by the FWG, including recommendations to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). This approach would more closely integrate the FWG with the larger COP processes.

2. Operational Adjustments:

- a. Support for Participation: We propose enhanced financial support necessary for Knowledge Holders and Indigenous Members to participate in both FWG and COP sessions. This support should encompass essential costs, such as visa fees and application processes, particularly for those from economically marginalized regions in the Pacific.

3. Effectiveness Initiatives:

- a. Creation of Pacific Regional FWG Bodies/Hubs: We propose the establishment of a Pacific Regional LCIPP Body/Hub essential for addressing the unique needs of Pacific Island Nations and Indigenous populations. This regional entity, supplemented by sub-regional bodies, would foster better engagement and collaboration between Party Members, Australian South Sea Islanders, and other stakeholders.

These proposals aim to strengthen the LCIPP and FWG, ensuring effective representation and involvement of Australian South Sea Islanders in UNFCCC activities.

Sincerely,

Shola Diop, Treasurer, ASSI.PJ

