



## **Agreement on Complementarity and Collaboration**

between

**World Meteorological Organization on behalf of the Systematic  
Observations Financing Facility  
(SOFF)**

and

**Weather Ready Pacific Programme  
(WRPP)**

Hereafter referred to as "the Parties"

**to achieve sustained compliance  
with the Global Basic Observing Network and to strengthen  
provision of essential weather and climate services for the safety  
and well-being of  
Pacific communities**

## Preamble

**We**, the Pacific-led Weather Ready Pacific Programme (WRP) operating under the auspices of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) establish this agreement on complementarity and collaboration to maximize and leverage our contributions as two mechanisms providing long-term support to the Pacific Island countries in the context of the Blue Pacific Strategy 2050.

**We note** that the Pacific Island countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change and exposed to a wide range of weather and climate extreme and high impact events.

**We acknowledge** the crucial role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) for the generation of weather and climate observations and the provision of forecasts and warnings that are essential for the safety and well-being of Pacific communities and the protection of property.

**We note** the decision of the World Meteorological Congress to establish the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) that defines the basic surface-based observational data that each country is mandated to generate and internationally exchange.

**We note** with urgency that today significant GBON data gaps exist in the Pacific region, that according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global GBON baseline of 2023 the region's compliance rate is 10 percent for surface land stations and 23 percent for upper air stations, and that this gap in observational data significantly limits the ability to produce timely and accurate forecasts, early warnings, and climate prediction in the region and across the globe.

**We acknowledge** that each of our organizations is working within its own mandate, capacities, and resources, guided by our respective governing bodies and established strategies and policies.

**We act** on the decisions of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting, the SPREP meeting, the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC) and the Steering Committees of SOFF and WRP. The PMC noted the complementarity, the need for close collaboration, and the importance of a coordinated approach to the implementation of SOFF and WRP, and the SOFF Steering Committee requested a corresponding agreement on complementarity and collaboration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized representation of the letters 'S' and 'H' followed by a flourish.

Secretariat is accountable to the SOFF Steering Committee, operates under its overall guidance, and is hosted by WMO.

**We further note** that United Nations organizations and Multilateral Development Banks serve as SOFF Implementing Entities and that SOFF technical assistance is provided by advanced NMHSs on a peer-to-peer basis. The Pacific islands countries are working with the NMHSs of Australia, New Zealand and UK as their peer advisors and UNEP, UNDP and World Bank as their Implementing Entities.

**We note** that the WRP is governed within the framework of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) and utilizes the existing PMC structure. The governance structure includes a Steering Committee that provides strategic direction, a Programme Management Unit that provides secretariat and programme management support, and a Liaison Platform to enhance partner collaboration. This structure ensures coordinated efforts to strengthen NMHSs across the Pacific.

### 3. Complementarity and Collaboration

#### 3.1 Supporting countries across the meteorological value chain

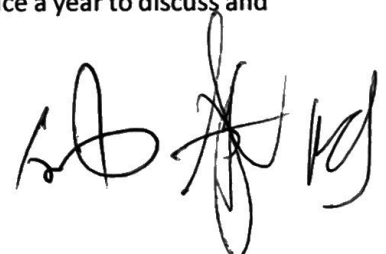
**We commit** to provide coordinated support across the meteorological value chain. An important element of the WRP is a strengthened and enhanced observational network that feeds into global forecast systems. SOFF is covering a critical part of it by supporting its Pacific islands beneficiary countries to achieve sustained GBON compliance while WRP is supporting the strengthening of the observational network beyond GBON as well as activities in the latter parts of the value chain. SOFF is investing in GBON-related infrastructure and enhancing the human and institutional capacity of the NHMS for sustained international data exchange, in coordination with the WRP.

**We commit** to putting emphasis on mobilizing additional resources to strengthen the capacity of Pacific islands NMHSs. SOFF is providing support to conduct Country Hydromet Diagnostics that assess the capacity of the NMHSs, providing an analytical basis to prioritize and target investments and optimizing the impact of partners' contributions along the meteorological value chain. SOFF is further encouraging its Implementing Entities to effectively combine SOFF resources with their own resources or leverage projects and programmes funding from other climate funds, so that Pacific Island countries can benefit from a comprehensive, integrated and coherent package of support.

**We commit** to ensure long-term and sustained support and technical assistance to the region. SOFF provides open-ended grant financial and technical assistance to beneficiary countries. WRP is planned as an on-going initiative in the region aiming at coordinating multi-hazard early warning systems in the Pacific.

#### 3.2 Promoting regional efficiencies and enhancing coordination at all levels

**We commit** to enhance collaboration and promote regional efficiencies. At fund level, the SOFF Secretariat and the WRP Management Unit will meet at least twice a year to discuss and

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and strokes, located at the bottom right of the page.

## 1. Mandates

**We note** that SOFF is a new specialized climate fund with an exclusive focus on supporting countries in achieving sustained GBON compliance. SOFF was established at the request of the World Meteorological Congress by WMO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF), administered by the MPTF Office. The MPTF Office is a United Nations mechanism for pooled funding with a portfolio of more than 250 funds amounting to USD 19 billion.

**We note** that the WRP is a Pacific-led initiative that was endorsed by Pacific Leaders and provides the platform for greater cohesion and coordination to achieve effective Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Pacific members. It aims at reducing the human and economic costs of severe weather, water and ocean events across Pacific Island communities by strengthening NMHSs and their partnerships with national disaster management organizations. The programme of investment ensures that the Pacific participates in and benefits from advances in forecast and warning systems that enable increased accuracy, geographic specificity and lead time of forecasts.

**We note** that WRP has 26 Members that benefit from its support while SOFF is supporting the 14 Pacific Small Islands Developing States of which 12 are already benefitting from SOFF Readiness support and of which 4 have SOFF investment funding approved.

**We recall** that a SOFF Pacific programming workshop was held in Fiji that brought together WMO Permanent Representatives from the Pacific islands eligible for SOFF support, SOFF operational partners, Pacific regional organizations including the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and international partners supporting the region. Following this workshop, the WMO Regional Association President jointly with the Pacific islands WMO Permanent Representatives requested a SOFF Pacific regional program.

**We acknowledge** that, the Pacific Meteorological Ministers endorsed the WRP as the vehicle for United Nations Early Warnings for All initiative and that SOFF is a foundational element and delivery of the initiative and integral part of its Executive Action Plan.

## 2. Governance

**We note** that SOFF is governed by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund policies, rules and standardized legal agreements that are applicable to all funds and that are set by the United Nations Development Group and its Fiduciary Management Oversight Group. Within this framework, SOFF has its own governance structure and operational arrangements as defined in the SOFF Operational Manual. The SOFF Steering Committee is the decision-making body of SOFF while the Advisory Board brings together relevant stakeholders across the meteorological value chain to provide recommendations to the Steering Committee. The SOFF

Three handwritten signatures in black ink, likely representing the signatories of the document. The signatures are stylized and appear to be initials or first names followed by a surname.

identify opportunities to enhance complementarity and collaboration. In addition, the SOFF Secretariat will attend PMC meetings that will regularly take stock of advancements of the SOFF-WRP partnership. At national levels, the SOFF Implementing Entities and peer advisors are encouraged to identify opportunities for enhanced coordination and to liaise with WRP, SPREP and other regional bodies and support initiatives.

**We commit** to explore opportunities for shared initiatives in the future.

### 3.3 Advocating importance of investments in strengthening Pacific islands NMHS capacity

**We commit** to jointly advocate the importance of scaled-up investments in NMHS capacity. Strengthened capacity of the Pacific islands NMHSs and regional organisations that support them is essential also from a global perspective as closing today's significant GBON weather and climate data gap in the region is required for improved forecast products across the globe. We will tap opportunities of regional and global events, including UNFCCC COPs, to showcase our partnership and advocate for additional investments in the region.

### 3.4 Monitoring and reporting on our collaboration

**We commit** to monitor and report on our collaboration, including by reporting progress in our annual reports.

## Epilogue

**We commit** not to use the other Party's name, emblem or logo without the prior written approval of that other Party.

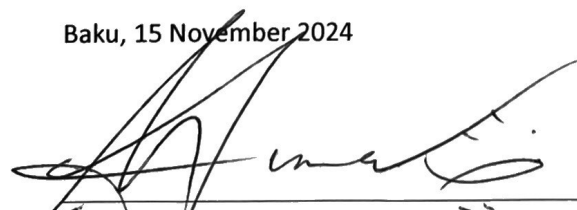
**We agree** that nothing contained in this document will constitute or be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by WMO or WRPP.

**We agree** that this agreement shall not create any enforceable rights or any binding obligations on the part of WRPP or WMO.

**We agree** that this agreement shall remain in effect for an initial period of ten (10) years and may be renewed with the mutual consent of all Parties, provided that such consent is confirmed at least six (6) months before the renewal date. Alternatively, the Parties may agree to terminate this agreement at any time.

**We agree** that any variation to this agreement must be in writing signed by all Parties.

Baku, 15 November 2024



---

Misaeli Funaki  
Director Fiji Meteorological Service  
Chair Weather Ready Pacific Programme Steering Committee

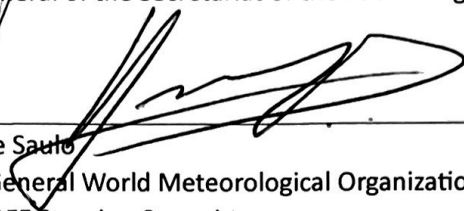




---

Mr. Sefanaia Nawadra

Director General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)



---

Prof Celeste Saulo

Secretary-General World Meteorological Organization

Co-Chair SOFF Steering Committee