

**31st SPREP MEETING: ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS' HIGH-LEVEL TALANOA  
'SPREP at 30: Sustainable, Transformative and Resilient for a Blue Pacific'  
8th September 2023**

**DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

**1. 9.00am - Call to order:** Chair of the 31<sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting, Hon. Ampelosa Manoa Tehulu

**Invite the Reverend Nu'uausala to open and lead us in devotion and prayer.**

**2. 9.05am to 9.15am - Devotion and Prayer:** Reverend Nu'uausala Siaosi Siutaia, Apia Protestant Church

**Invite the Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Minister of Natural Resources & Environment, Samoa to make his welcome address.**

**3. 9.15am to 9.30am - Welcome Address:** Hon. Toeolesulusulu Cedric Schuster, Minister of Natural Resources & Environment, Samoa

**Invite the first scene setting speaker to make their presentation. Global Scene Setting by Dechen Tsering, Regional Director and Representative of UNEP in the Asia Pacific**

**4. 9.30am to 10.00am - Setting the Scene:**

- Global Scene Setting - **Dechen Tsering**, Regional Director and Representative, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme

**Invite the Director General of SPREP, Sefanaia Nawadra to do the regional scene setting**

- Regional Scene Setting - **Sefanaia Nawadra**, Director General of SPREP

**5. 10.00am to 10.30am - Morning tea and group photo**

**6. 10.30am to 12.00pm - Panel 1: Climate Change and Biodiversity conservation**

- **PALAU – “Leadership of PSIDS across the MEAs”**  
**Honourable Gustav Aitaro** - Minister, Ministry of State

The Honourable Gustav N. Aitaro, Minister of State of the Republic of Palau, is a seasoned diplomat with a long and distinguished career in foreign relations for the Government of Palau. The Minister has extensive experience in international relations and served the Republic of Palau for more than 30 years in various positions in foreign affairs, international trade, and public administration and in various regional and international meetings and trade and investment commissions, including the United Nations General Assembly, Micronesian Islands Forum, Pacific Islands Forum, Western & Pacific Fisheries Commission, Parties to the Nauru Agreement, Palau National Commission for UNESCO.

- **WALLIS & FUTUNA – Blue Pacific Declaration: “Local commitments and actions to protect ocean and coasts”**  
**Honourable Lemec Ronny Tauhavili** - Minister for Education and the Environment

Hon. Lemec Ronny Tauhavili is the President of the commission for Education, and a member of the commission on Environment of the Assembly.

The Minister taught for 13 years, including 6 years as a primary school teacher and 7 years as a secondary school teacher including working with students with severe learning difficulties.

He has led discussions with the University of New Caledonia since 2022 to set up partnerships with research institutes including with IRD to open an office in Wallis and Futuna.

- **AUSTRALIA – “Pacific Engagement in Joint Bid for COP 31”**  
**Senator the Honourable Jenny McAllister** - Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy  
Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister is Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy. She is also a Senator for NSW.

Jenny McAllister grew up on the north coast of NSW and attended the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney.

Jenny’s professional career spans senior roles in both the public and private sectors, with a strong focus on infrastructure, environment management and climate change. Before joining the Australian Senate she held various senior roles at AECOM, a global infrastructure firm.

Climate change and environmental management remain key areas of interest for Jenny. She was co-founder of the Labor Environmental Activist Network (known as LEAN). Jenny is passionate about managing the economy to achieve social justice and social inclusion, and better outcomes for climate and sustainability. Her interests include gender equality and new opportunities for community participation in politics.

- **NEW ZEALAND – “Invasive Species and the Global Biodiversity Framework”**  
**H.E. Dr. Trevor Matheson** - New Zealand High Commissioner to Samoa

High Commissioner Matheson is a career diplomat who joined the New Zealand diplomatic service in 1986. Dr Matheson is currently New Zealand’s High Commissioner to the Independent State of Samoa and concurrently New Zealand Consul-General to American Samoa having taken up his position in March 2019. Prior to his Samoa posting he was New Zealand Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia; Ambassador to Italy and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He has been a private secretary and diplomatic adviser to various New Zealand ministers of trade, trade negotiations and state, and earlier in his career had diplomatic postings in Geneva (World Trade Organization/WTO); Canberra (Australia), and Rarotonga (Cook Islands). Dr Matheson was a member of the New Zealand negotiating team for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Uruguay Round and has been a key member of other negotiating teams including for the WTO Doha Round, expansion of Closer Economic Relations (CER) between New Zealand and Australia; and the New Zealand – GCC free trade agreement negotiations.

Ambassador Matheson is a social science graduate of the University of Waikato in New Zealand and holds a PhD in human geography from the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. His PhD thesis was on the subject of aid dependency in island microstates in the Pacific Islands, with particular focus on Niue. He is a member of the Royal Society of New Zealand and the New Zealand Geographical Society. Dr Matheson is of Cook Islands, French Polynesian and Scottish descent.

- **Respondents and Discussion (limited to Ministers and HL Representatives)**
- **Start with Video Presentation by Nauru Minister of Environment Hon Rennie Gadabu (check spelling)**
- **Open to Ministers and HL Delegates to respond**

**7. 12.00pm to 1.30pm - Lunch**

**8. 1.30pm to 3.00pm - Panel 2: Ocean governance and plastic pollution**

- **NIUE – “Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) Initiative” & Gender**  
**Honourable Mona Ainuu** - Minister of Natural Resources

Mona Ainuu is a Niuean politician and Cabinet Minister. Prior to entering politics, Ainuu was a journalist with the Broadcasting Corporation of Niue and a Public Relations and Media Officer with the Niuean government. She was also the president of the Niue Island Volleyball Association and a founding member of the Pacific Alliance of Development Journalists.

- **AUSTRALIA – “Ocean and Plastics” - INC Higher Ambition Coalition**  
**Honourable Tanya Plibersek** - Minister for the Environment and Water

Tanya entered Federal Parliament as the Member for Sydney in 1998. Between December 2007 and September 2013, she served as Minister for the Status of Women, Minister for Housing, Minister for Social Inclusion, Minister for Human Services, and Minister for Health and Medical Research. Tanya served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Labor Party from 2013 to 2019.

Tanya graduated with a Bachelor of Communications (Honours) from the University of Technology Sydney and a Master of Politics and Public Policy from Macquarie University, before entering Parliament. She is passionate about protecting and preserving Australia's natural environments for future generations.

- **FRANCE – “UNOC3 Pacific engagement opportunities”**  
**H.E. Mr. Fournier Pierre** - Special Envoy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Mr. Pierre FOURNIER is a Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor with more than 30 years of experience in the diplomatic corps, working in Eastern and Southern Asia and the Pacific region. Former Ambassador of France in Vanuatu, he is currently the Special Envoy of the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs for strengthening French Presence in the Pacific.

- **Respondents and Discussion (Limited to Ministers and HL Representatives)**
- **Video Presentation by Marshall Islands Minister of Natural Resources & Commerce, Hon. John Silk**
- **Open to Ministers and HL Delegates to respond**

**9. 3.00pm to 4.00pm - Afternoon tea and bilateral meetings**

**Handover to Secretariat to facilitate consideration of reports**

**10. 4.00pm to 4.10pm - Environment High-Level Talanoa Summary: Chair's Summary**

**11. 4.10pm to 4.20pm - Adoption of the Environment Ministers' High-Level Talanoa Communique**

**12. 4.20pm to 4.30pm - Adoption by acclamation of the 31st SPREP Meeting Outcomes**

**13. Official close of the Environment Ministers High level Talanoa and 31st SPREP Meeting: Dinner to be hosted by the Government of Samoa**

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