



PACIFIC COMMUNITY

SIXTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING

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GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON CLIMATE-RESILIENT RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS IN SIDS (G-RES) – LAUNCH OF THE PACIFIC COMPONENT

[SUBMITTED BY: UNIDO, PCREEE]

Information paper

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to:
 - seek the Energy Ministers' endorsement for the launch of the Pacific Component of the Global Programme on Climate-Resilient Renewable Energy Systems for SIDS (G-RES), which was launched at the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF) in April 2026 as a response to the current global energy crisis and is reflected in the Vienna Call to Action; and
 - invite Ministers to agree on the proposed approach for its implementation, future expansion in the Pacific region, and the promotion of SIDS-SIDS cooperation.

Background

2. At the regional level, G-RES follows up on and operationalizes key Pacific political commitments and ministerial decisions, including the:
 - a. 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent;
 - b. Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021–2030;
 - c. Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) 2017–2030, which provides the overarching regional approach to climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and resilience; and
 - d. Port Vila Call for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific, adopted by Pacific Leaders in Vanuatu in 2023.
3. Together, these frameworks call for a coherent Pacific energy approach that integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy security, and the decoupling of key island value chains such as tourism, agri-food and the blue economy from imported fossil fuels in a coordinated and integrated manner.
4. In this context, G-RES contributes directly to the implementation of the FESRIP priority areas, in particular:
 - a. Priority Area B – Energy Resilience and Security, by strengthening the climate resilience of power generation, transmission and storage infrastructure and reducing exposure to external fuel supply shocks;



- b. Priority Area C – Energy Sector Financing, by addressing investment barriers, the high cost of capital and the “climate resilience premium” through regional coordination, blended finance approaches and risk-mitigation instruments;
- c. Priority Area D – Regional Cooperation and Integration, by harmonizing technical standards, planning tools and capacity development across Pacific SIDS and promoting SIDS-SIDS knowledge exchange; and
- d. Priority Area E – Capacity Development and Enabling Environment, by supporting utilities, regulators, MSMEs, women and youth through training, certification and institutional strengthening for climate-resilient renewable energy systems.

Current Status of G-RES

5. The Global Programme on Climate-Resilient Renewable Energy Systems for Small Island Developing States (G-RES) is a multi-country initiative designed to accelerate just, inclusive and climate-resilient energy transitions across SIDS. The programme responds to the growing vulnerability of island energy systems to climate change, while supporting a rapid transition away from imported fossil fuels.
6. The G-RES programme was officially launched at the International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum (IVECF) on 10 April 2026 and forms a core element of the Vienna Call to Action on Green Industrialization, Sustainable Energy, Climate and Security, with a particular focus on the needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS.
7. The programme currently operates with an initial funding envelope of approximately USD 16 million, mobilized from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of Austria. This funding supports a global-regional component, alongside a growing portfolio of national projects in SIDS, including Papua New Guinea and Palau.
8. G-RES is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in partnership with national entities, the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC) and the Small Island Sustainable Energy and Climate Resilience Organization (SIDS DOCK).
9. The global-regional G-RES component strengthens coherence, coordination and knowledge exchange across SIDS regions, the harmonization of approaches, and the development of regional standards, tools, blended finance and risk-mitigation instruments. National-level projects are implemented in partnership with relevant national entities, ensuring alignment with country priorities, national energy and climate strategies, and local institutional capacities.
10. The Pacific Component of G-RES is supported by the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) of the Pacific Community (SPC) and other regional partners.
11. The G-RES contributes to the blue-green economic diversification aspirations of SIDS and contributes to the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), as well as SDG-7, 9 and 13.



Issues addressed by G-RES

12. Fossil Fuel Dependence and Climate Risks: Despite ongoing efforts, SIDS remain heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels, which typically account for 8–30 percent of national GDP. Energy systems and infrastructure are increasingly exposed to extreme weather events, placing both existing assets and new renewable energy investments at risk. Without a systematic focus on climate resilience, renewable energy infrastructure risks becoming stranded assets, undermining energy security and fiscal stability.
13. The G-RES Integrated Approach: G-RES addresses these challenges through a system-wide approach that simultaneously advances climate mitigation, climate adaptation, energy security and the decoupling of value chains from fossil fuels through:
 - a. Climate-proven renewable energy and storage solutions, including decentralized renewable energy integration, grid flexibilization and hardening, and resilient generation, transmission and storage infrastructure;
 - b. Resilient and intelligent energy systems, including smart grids, storage and mobility systems, digital energy management, AI driven early-warning systems and renewable output forecasting to ensure continuity of supply during climate shocks;
 - c. Energy-efficient and nature-based solutions, including climate-resilient efficiency standards, productive-use technologies, waste-to-energy, renewable ocean energy, and ecosystem-based measures to protect energy infrastructure;
 - d. Low-carbon and climate-resilient transport systems, including electric mobility, resilient shipping and ports, green-blue economic corridors, and alternative fuels and technologies such as green hydrogen;
 - e. Climate-resilient productive uses of energy for MSMEs in key island value chains such as tourism, agri-food and the blue economy, to increase productivity and decouple these sectors from imported fossil fuels;
 - f. Cleantech clusters and innovation ecosystems, including renewable energy start-ups and scale-ups, skills development and service provision, to strengthen local supply chains and sustainable industrial development; and
 - g. Blended finance and risk-mitigation instruments to address the climate resilience premium, reduce investment risks, and mobilise public and private capital at scale.

G-RES will create close links to other renewable energy initiatives, as well as the proposed Pacific Renewable Ocean Energy Readiness Programme (ROERP).



Recommendations

14. It is recommended that the Ministers:
 - a. Acknowledge the Vienna Call to Action on green industrialization, sustainable energy, climate and security and its relevance for Small Island Developing States;
 - b. Endorse the Global Programme on Climate-Resilient Renewable Energy Systems for SIDS (G-RES) and announce the launch of its Pacific Component;
 - c. Welcome the support provided by development partners contributing to the establishment and implementation of the programme, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of Austria;
 - d. Encourage additional SIDS, development partners, climate funds and private sector stakeholders to join and support the expansion of G-RES across the Pacific region; and
 - e. Request UNIDO, PCREEE and SIDS DOCK to advance implementation of the Pacific Component, with a strong emphasis on SIDS-SIDS cooperation through the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), particularly CCREEE, ECREEE, SACREEE and CEREEAC;