



REGIONAL PROCESS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

Regional Session Code and Title:

RP9 - Water Security and Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Regional Session Coordinators (Name, Position, Organization, email, mobile number):

1. Dave Hebblethwaite, Water Security and Governance Coordinator, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Email:daveh@spc.int, Mobile: +679 9983059. 2. Mary Alalo, Water Security Engagement Lead, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Email: marya@spc.int. Mobile: +679 2350385.

Regional Session Description including objectives and expected outcomes (500 words maximum):

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Oceania Sub-Region continue to endure some of the lowest levels of access to safe water and sanitation of any region in the world and remain disproportionately impacted by the water-related impacts of disasters and climate change - including floods and drought that continue to impact the sub-region in the months leading up to this Forum. Latest data gathered by Pacific Island Countries and Territories indicate that approximately half of the Pacific population lives without access to basic drinking water facilities, and more than two thirds live without access to basic sanitation. These whole-of-Pacific numbers remain relatively stagnant compared to other global regions that have seen significant improvements in access over the past decade.

While every Pacific Island Country and Territory remains active in improving the water security of their vulnerable communities, in many cases these efforts are not keeping pace with the pressures of population growth and movement, disaster setbacks and the accelerating impacts of climate change. If current trajectories persist, millions of Pacific islanders will continue to endure water insecurity for generations to come, with profound implications for public health, socio-economic development, food and energy security, the environment, and human rights. The scale of the challenge for the region as a whole requires a fundamental recalibration of government priorities and investments, along with a meaningful shift in the scale and type of support provided by development partners.

The **objectives** of the session are to: provide a space for Pacific Island Country and Territory representatives to convey stories of Pacific resilience, including local water security solutions that harness traditional knowledge and governance systems; and highlight the importance of accelerated support to empower Pacific communities to establish, operate, and maintain safe and resilient water and sanitation systems throughout all conditions.

Expected **outcomes** include: an improved understanding of the water security issues of Small Island Developing States and the role of innovative and climate-resilient solutions; and strengthened collaboration and partnerships between Pacific SIDS and development partners on water security actions.

Detailed Regional Session Plan:

ESTIMATED TIMING	ITEM DESCRIPTION / ROLE	SPEAKERS	SPEAKERS STATUS (OK OR TBC)
10 mins	Introduction of session objectives and keynote speakers.	Pacific Island Country representative	TBC
10 mins	Water security and Pacific resilience	Dave Hebblethwaite, Pacific Community (SPC)	OK



10 mins	Water Security from a Pacific water utility perspective.	Ms Misileti Masoe Satuala, Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA)	OK
10 mins	Water security and Pacific health outcomes	TBC	TBC
10 mins	Role of water resources management in Pacific SIDS (including groundwater)	World Bank Group (TBC)	TBC
10 mins	Supporting the water security of remote rural and island communities	Pacific Island Country representative	TBC
20 mins	Interactive Session on Q & A	Moderator	TBC
10 mins	Session Outcomes, Policy Recommendations and Conclusions	Pacific Island Country representative	TBC