



REGIONAL PROCESS SESSION DESCRIPTION FORM 2.

10TH WORLD WATER FORUM

This Regional Session Description Form 2 is for the specified program of the session. Please complete this form no later than 10th of March 2024.

**The Regional session description 1 (online form) is separately requested for the Regional session coordinators to deliver a concise session outline with the contact info and the logistical requests.*

Regional Session Code and Title:

RP9 - Water Security and Pacific 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.

This session will 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. The session will 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.



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 Small Island Developing States 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	The State of Water Security in Pacific Small Island States.	UNICEF Pacific	TBC
10 mins	Lessons from the Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security	Pacific Community	OK
10 mins	Water Security from a Pacific Water and Wastewater Association Lens.	Pacific Water and Wastewater Association	TBC
15 mins	Interactive Session on Q & A	Pacific Community	TBC
5 MINS	Conclusions	Pacific Island Country Representative	TBC