

STATEMENT

Call for Action for SPREP Countries on Plastic Microbeads

We, the representatives of Pacific States, meeting in Apia from 19th to 21st of September 2017 at the 28th SPREP meeting of officials, recognize that the presence of plastic microbeads in our oceans represent an issue of global concern that needs a global response.

We **recognize** that they contribute to the increasing flow of plastic into our oceans and have negative impacts on marine species and habitats, especially coral reef and associated ecosystems.

We **recall** resolution 11 on marine plastic litter and micro plastics and resolution 12 on sustainable coral reefs management by the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (May 2016); and the Recommendation to reduce plastic microbeads pollution in marine environment adopted during the 31st International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) General Meeting (November 2016).

We **also recall** the Communique of the governments of Pacific Islands countries at the 48h Pacific Islands Forum on the 8th of September 2017, especially paragraph 9.

We are **convinced** that the use of plastic microbeads could be easily avoided, as natural alternatives do exist and are easily available.

We therefore **affirm** our will to fight against this source of pollution in marine environment.

We **commit** to take measures to ban the use of plastic microbeads in our countries.

We **also commit** to advocate with other States for such bans.

We **resolve** to promote exchanges of expertise, best practices and lessons learned regarding the measures we take.

14 September 2017