

## **Eleventh Meeting of the Waigani Convention**

### **Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)**

Virtual – Apia, Samoa  
03 September 2021

#### **Introduction**

1. The Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention was held on 3 September 2021. The meeting was held virtually.
2. The 13 Parties to the Convention are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
3. Present at the Meeting were representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

#### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

4. A welcome was made from Tuvalu, the outgoing Chair of the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention. The Meeting commenced with a prayer from the Secretariat.
5. The SPREP Deputy Director General expressed gratitude to Samoa, host country of the Waigani Convention Secretariat, and also called for partners to continue working together in support of the Deputy Director General further commended all Parties for their work, noting these are challenging times with the global pandemic.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Organisation of the Meeting**

6. In accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Waigani Convention, the Meeting elected a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson by a simple majority vote.
7. The Parties nominated Australia as Chairperson and Federated States of Micronesia as Vice Chairperson
8. New Zealand thanked Tuvalu, the outgoing Chair. Tonga congratulated Ms Easter Chu Shing now in position as the Deputy Director General, and the Secretariat for hosting this meeting

9. Tuvalu the outgoing Chair, thanked all Parties for their work over the last two years and called upon all to “stay the course and make this region the best in terms of waste management.”

**The Meeting:**

- **Elected** Australia as Chairperson and Federated States of Micronesia Vice Chairperson.

**Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda**

10. The Secretariat requested an additional agenda item in Agenda item 8 with “Agenda item 8.2 Members Contribution to the Convention”.

**The Meeting:**

- **discussed** the Provisional Agenda and made one amendment, as Agenda item 8.2: and
- **adopted** the Provisional Agenda as amended.

**Agenda item 4: Presentation of Reports by the Secretariat of work undertaken since the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

11. The Secretariat presented the Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC8), the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions (SCPRC7), and the Report on Status of Actions Taken on the implementation of the 2019 – 2020 Business Plan.
12. New Zealand, supported by Australia requested an amendment to Working Paper 4.3 on the update on the review of the Waigani Convention to “The final report on the review of the Waigani Convention was completed and submitted to the Secretariat for consideration by Parties at COP11” in lieu of the line which states that the review of the Waigani Convention was completed, and a report submitted to the Secretariat for consideration by Parties at CoP 11.

**The Meeting:**

- **noted** the work undertaken since the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
- **endorsed** and **approved** the STAC-8 Report (WP 4.1) and the SCPRC-7 Report (WP 4.2); and
- **noted** the Report on Status of Actions Taken on the Implementation of the 2019-2020 Business Plan WP 4.3).

**Agenda item 5.1: National Reporting**

13. Article 7.3 of the Waigani Convention requires Parties, consistent with their national laws and regulations, to set up information, collection and dissemination mechanisms on hazardous wastes to enable the Secretariat to fulfil its obligations under Articles 9.6 and 14.
14. Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Samoa and Solomon Islands informed the Meeting that they do not have any illegal shipments to report.
15. Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue and Tonga experienced internet challenges with engaging in this agenda item.
16. Australia tabled its report for 2020 noting 27,250 tonnes of oily waste was shipped from Papua New Guinea to Australia.
17. Tuvalu reported that it had several shipments of 1,000 litres of waste oil to Fiji. Federated States of Micronesia reported that it had exported used oil to New Zealand.
18. Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu have not yet completed their reports. Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands noted the challenges experienced through lack of human, and financial, resources to support report development highlighting the need for the Secretariat to consider providing financial resources for countries to compile their national reports. Samoa indicated its report will be submitted in December.
19. The Secretariat outlined further work to support implementation of Waigani Convention, including report development, is planned through the 2022 – 2023 work programme of the Secretariat.
20. Papua New Guinea noted the reports do support the formation of national policies in response to a query from Australia seeking input from Parties if the reports would help inform development of policies.

#### **The Meeting:**

- **tabled** any Reports completed for 2019-2020;
- **shared** with the Secretariat their experience that there were no instances of illegal traffic since September 2019; and
- **committed** to submit their completed forms on the transmission of information for 2020 and for previous years, as soon as possible and in electronic form, using the reporting forms adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Second meeting.

#### **Agenda item 5.2: Competent Authorities and Focal Points**

21. The Secretariat presented to the Meeting the opportunity to update the list of Competent Authorities and Focal Points.

22. Samoa noted that its Focal Point had changed during the STAC meeting, and advised of their new Focal Point, Ms Frances Brown-Reupena, Chief Executive Officer of the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
23. Solomon Islands advised that its Focal Point remains the same with the email for the Competent Authority being [joehorokou@gmail.com](mailto:joehorokou@gmail.com)
24. Cook Islands advised that its Focal Point remains, yet it is still in the recruitment process for a Director which will replace the Competent Authority.
25. Samoa suggested to include contacts of non-parties such as American Samoa and Tokelau on the list.
26. Samoa also noted that an application was received from French Polynesia, yet it is not in the list.
27. New Zealand provided updated information for its focal point and its competent authority. Focal Point: Manager, Team Hazardous Substances and Biological Technology (Domestic and International), Ministry for the Environment, PO Box 10-362, Wellington 6143, New Zealand, +64 4 439 7400, [waigani@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:waigani@mfe.govt.nz) and [basel@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:basel@mfe.govt.nz). Competent Authority: Senior Advisor, Hazardous Substances Applications, Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63-002, Wellington 6011, New Zealand, +64 4 916 2426, [ImportExport@epa.govt.nz](mailto:ImportExport@epa.govt.nz).

#### **The Meeting:**

- **agreed** to **review** the list and inform the Secretariat of any changes in accordance with the agreed mode.

#### **Agenda item 6.1: Review of Waigani Convention**

28. The Secretariat presented to the Meeting for consideration the report of the review undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of the Waigani Convention at the national and regional levels.
29. Australia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu acknowledged the Secretariat for the review report with Australia noting the review report addresses issues raised at the last Conference of the Parties.
30. Australia agreed to work inter-sessionally to progress the work of the review through developing a plan of action through the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). This was supported by New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.
31. Kiribati sought assistance from the Secretariat on addressing the issue of insurance in terms of used oil shipments, be it national or regional assistance provided. The Secretariat clarified in response that it is exploring the available support, and will continue to do so, citing examples of shipment requests through the Moana Taka

Partnership and noting some Members are moving used oil through domestic shipping arrangements. The Secretariat further noted this is an activity under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Islands Developing States (ISLANDS) Project.

32. Samoa noted its concerns raised during the consultation process were addressed in the review report.
33. New Zealand noted the summary in WP 6.1 does not cover the recommendations regarding the strategic direction in the review report, yet this was raised in the presentation made by the Secretariat to the Meeting. New Zealand indicated the importance of addressing the Strategic Direction recommendations in the review.

#### **The Meeting:**

- **endorsed** the recommendations of the review report; and
- **agreed** to initiate intersessional work by STAC, facilitated by the Secretariat, to:
  - implement those recommendations that can be progressed on a “no regrets” basis
  - undertake further analysis for recommendations with major strategic implications, including whether to enhance Waigani Convention implementation, or suspend the Waigani Convention
  - prepare an action plan to deliver on the final recommendations, to be presented at the next STAC meeting, in February 2023

#### **Agenda Item 6.2: Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments**

34. The Secretariat informed the Meeting on the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019 and presented the recommendations of the STAC-8 on the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments.
35. Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea thanked the Secretariat for their work in tabling the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019 at the STAC 8 Meeting and developing a proposal on how the Amendments could be adopted by the Waigani Convention.
36. Australia volunteered to lead the development of a plan to address the proposed Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019 inter-sessionally, working with Parties, proposing the work is broadened to cover other amendments to the Basel Convention that are currently underway.
37. New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Samoa thanked Australia for taking the lead in the work on the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and indicated their interest in being part of this work.
38. The Secretariat clarified the requests from Members to remove plastics out of the Pacific islands and the growing movement towards a more circular economy in

response to a query from Papua New Guinea as to the volume of plastics in the Pacific and if the resources should be directed to this.

39. Kiribati and Tuvalu noted their internet challenges in being able to participate in this discussion.

**The Meeting:**

- **noted** the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019 (refer WP 6.2/Att.1); and
- **discussed** the recommendation of the Eighth Meeting of the STAC concerning the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendment.
- **agreed** for Australia to lead with New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa, work with the Secretariat and the STAC to include the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and explore approaches to adopt other amendments to Basel Convention Annexes as they occur.

**Agenda item 7: Financial Statements for 2019-2020**

40. The Secretariat tabled the audited Financial Statements for the Waigani Convention for the 2019 and 2020 financial years for review of the Parties as per Rule 9.4 of the Financial Rules of the Convention.

**The Meeting:**

- **adopted** the relevant parts of the audited Financial Statements for 2019 and 2020.

**Agenda item 8.1: Consideration and adoption of the Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre (PRC)**

41. The Secretariat presented the 2022-2023 Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre (PRC) for consideration and approval by the Meeting.

42. Papua New Guinea commended the Secretariat and requested the Secretariat amend Annex 3 to reflect the correct contacts for the Focal Points and the Competent Authorities.

**The Meeting:**

- **considered** and **approved** the draft Business Plan as recommended by the SCPRC-7 meeting.

**Agenda item 8.2: Members Contribution**

43. The Secretariat presented on the payment schedule for the Waigani Convention as at 31 July 2021.

44. Tonga queried why the costs of the Members contributions to the Waigani Convention are higher than contributions to international conventions. The

Secretariat explained that for the Waigani, it's more the economy of scale whereas the international conventions such as the Basel Convention has 187 Members allowing the cost to spread across the different Members.

45. The Secretariat clarified these are outstanding to be paid over this two-year period and New Zealand is up to date with payments, and the invoices are distributed after the Conferences of the Parties in response to a query from New Zealand if New Zealand's contributions were paid.

46. The Secretariat will follow up on contribution from Vanuatu in response to a query regarding payments already made from Vanuatu in 2020.

#### **The Meeting:**

- **noted** the Members contribution made to date
- **encouraged** parties to pay outstanding contributions.

#### **Agenda item 9: Other business**

47. The Secretariat requested a meeting with Tuvalu to discuss options to address challenges raised with exportation of used oil to Fiji.

#### **Agenda item 10: Date and Venue of the next Meeting**

48. The Twelfth Conference of the Parties will be hosted in Samoa in 2023 after the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the Noumea Convention and prior to the Thirty-First SPREP Meeting.

#### **Agenda item 11: Adoption of the Meeting Outcomes and closure of the Meeting**

49. The Meeting Outcomes Report was adopted by the Meeting.

#### **Agenda item 12: Closure of the Meeting**

50. The Meeting ended at 4.30pm Samoa time with words of appreciation from Australia as Chair of the Meeting to the Secretariat and all Parties for engaging in meaningful discussions. The Secretariat also expressed gratitude to all for their support and work to implement the Waigani Convention.

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