



SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols (Noumea Convention)

(Ninth Meeting of the Noumea Convention)

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
4 September 2008

Agenda Item 6: Items Requested at Previous Meetings

Purpose

1. To address items raised at the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Noumea Convention.

Background

2. Two substantive decisions in relation to the work of the Secretariat were made at the 8th Meeting of the Parties to the Noumea Convention.

3. The first regards draft amendments to the text of the Noumea Convention (paragraphs 47-59 of the Report of the 8th Meeting). The convening of a Working Group was suggested consisting of Cook Islands, Fiji and Marshall Islands in addition to Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States to consider the draft changes. A Working Group was not convened in that period. A Draft (in review mode) is attached as Working Paper 9NC/WP.6.1 and includes the intervention provided by France: Article 5(1)(c). The major change proposed by the Convention is the “tacit approval” procedure (Article 24 *bis*) used in some international treaties in order to keep the treaty from stagnating and to accelerate the ratification process.

4. The second regards the timing of the Noumea Convention Conference of the Parties (paragraph 86 of the Report of the Seventh Meeting). The Secretariat was requested to prepare a feasibility paper on how to improve attendance at the Noumea Convention Conference of the Parties. The request arose in the context of the 8th Conference of the Parties being inquorate and having to convene at a later date. Also of concern was the regular non-attendance of some Parties.

Recommendation

5. The Parties are invited to **consider** the following documents:
 - “Draft amendments to the Noumea Convention text” (9NC/WP.6.1) and **decide** on future steps.
 - “Feasibility paper on how to improve attendance at the Noumea Convention Conference of the Parties” (9NC/WP.6.2) and to **decide** on an appropriate option.
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