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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

## Seventh Meeting of The Waigani Convention

**Seventh 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)**

Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands  
26<sup>th</sup> September 2014

### Agenda item 4.1: STAC-4 Meeting Report

#### AGENDA ITEM 1: Official Opening

1. The Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 4) of the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention) met in Apia, Samoa on 16 June 2014.
2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Parties: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Representatives from the China Basel Convention Regional Centre were also in attendance as observers. A list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
3. The SPREP Officer-in-charge, and Director of Waste Management and Pollution Control Division, Dr. David Haynes welcomed the delegates to the STAC-4 and the ensuing SCPRC-3, and noted that their presence was a strong indication of the ongoing relevance of the Waigani Convention to the Pacific Region, which is in contrast to attendance at the 2010 and 2012 STAC meetings, which failed to achieve a quorum.
4. Dr. Haynes also reminded delegates that the STAC and the SCPRC were the mechanisms by which they could highlight their national priorities and advocate for how these could be acted on through the Convention. He further urged Parties to be pragmatic with their priorities within the management resources available.
5. A copy of the opening speech is attached as Annex 2.

#### AGENDA ITEM 2: Organisational Matters

6. The Secretariat introduced the rules of procedure for the STAC.

**(a) Rules of Procedure**

7. The Rules of Procedure for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention adopted at the First Conference of the Parties (COP1) apply *mutatis mutandis* to any subsidiary bodies to the Conference of the Parties (Rule 1) [refer to STAC4.WP.2]

**(b) Organisation of work**

8. English was the working language of the meeting and working documents were available only in English. The Secretariat tabled the agenda and reminded the meeting that the STAC is the technical advisory group that makes recommendations which are forwarded to the COP for a decision.

9. A draft summary report would be prepared by the Secretariat for the approval of the Rapporteur and subsequent endorsement by the Meeting. The Committee also approved its working hours and programme of work.

**(c) Election of Officers**

10. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Meeting to the Rules of Procedure (Rule 22.3) on the selection of the Chair and pointed to the decision of COP 1 that authorized the STAC to elect its own Chairperson, Vice Chair and Rapporteur.

11. The immediate-past Chair (Cook Islands) opened the floor for nominations and clarified that it would be preferable for a new Chair to be elected to chair the STAC.

12. In response to a request from PNG, the Secretariat explained the role of the Chair and explained that the Chair's responsibilities extend beyond the STAC meeting and continue until the next STAC is convened, including presentation of STAC recommendations to the COP. The Secretariat also urged members to be mindful of the responsibility of the Chair in ensuring the effectiveness of the STAC.

13. The representative of PNG sought guidance on the terms of reference for STAC members. The Secretariat referred the distinguished delegate to Attachment 1 of the working paper, and further clarified that committee members may be called upon to provide scientific advice and guidance as necessary between COPs and to formulate recommendations that are forwarded to the COP for a decision.

14. The representative of Tonga was duly elected Chair of the Waigani Convention STAC-4, with representative of Kiribati as Vice Chair.

15. The Chair in assuming her responsibilities thanked the outgoing Chair for his Chairmanship, and all Parties for their trust in electing her as Chair. She further sought the cooperation and partnership of all parties to ensure a smooth STAC-4 meeting, and thanked the Secretariat for their support in planning the STAC-4. She further acknowledged the presence of BCRC China.

16. The new Chair invited the Secretariat to explain the role of the Rapporteur in terms of ensuring the integrity of the written report endorsed by the STAC 4, and invited nominations for Rapporteur. The Secretariat advised that the role of the Rapporteur was to oversee the development and integrity of the meeting report.

17. The representative of Fiji was elected as Rapporteur.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: Adoption of the Agenda**

18. The representative of PNG requested that a list of workshops, trainings, and projects be included under Agenda Item 8.

19. The Secretariat clarified that this was a summary of the work completed since the last COP would be presented under Agenda Item 4, while future work for the 2014-2015 biennium would be included in Agenda Item 7.

20. The representative of FSM, seconded by the representative of Fiji, moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The agenda adopted by the Meeting is attached as Annex 3 of the report.

### **AGENDA ITEM 4: Report on Work Done**

21. The Secretariat introduced the Reports on the status of decisions taken since COP-6 (WC STAC-4 - WP.04/Att.1) and the status of actions taken to implement the 2012-2013 Business Plan (WC STAC-4 - WP.04/Att.2).

22. The Meeting was then invited to note the reports of the Secretariat and to provide feedback where necessary.

23. The representative of Fiji enquired whether the Student E-waste guide had been circulated to Members, to which the Secretariat advised that this document was available for download from the SPREP website.

24. The representative of Fiji sought clarification on the draft used oil model regulation. The Secretariat clarified that the regulation developed was a model based on the situation in Samoa, Fiji, and Vanuatu. The model regulation is essentially a template that each country could consider and adapt as needed to suit the local conditions. The model legislation and other resources are available on the Waigani webpage of the SPREP website.

25. The representative of Tonga thanked the Secretariat for their work in developing the Regional Asbestos Strategy and advised that this was being used to guide the development of their national asbestos management strategy.

26. The representative of Kiribati thanked the Secretariat for the report of work done and acknowledged the significant progress in activities reported by the Secretariat. He also sought clarification on whether requests for assistance raised during the COP and noted in the COP Minutes were sufficient for the Secretariat to act on. The Secretariat acknowledged that there was little communication between the Secretariat and the Parties on progressing the recommendations of the COP, but advised that Parties should make further contact with the Secretariat (post COP meetings) to activate any assistance.

27. The representative of Kiribati reported on their progress in developing a national implementation plan for chemicals and hazardous waste management, and sought assistance from SPREP to finalise this plan.

28. The representative of Kiribati also sought clarification on the countries involved in the asbestos project reported in the meeting papers. In response, the Secretariat introduced the US\$ 2 million asbestos component of the PacWaste project, and clarified that the project was currently in the baseline data collection phase, from which priority countries for physical interventions would be determined (by October 2014). The Secretariat further emphasised that interventions would prioritise reduction of human exposure to asbestos.

29. The representative of Fiji requested a brief summary of each project mentioned in the report in order to better understand how hazardous waste management is being addressed across the region. The Chair advised that project summaries were provided during the GEF-PAS POPs Release Reduction Project and requested the Secretariat to update and distribute these summaries. The Secretariat undertook to circulate the requested information by the end of the Meeting, and to include such information in future STAC Meeting Papers.

30. The representative of Tuvalu thanked the Cook Islands for their previous Chairmanship and welcomed the incoming Chair. She sought clarification on the process for formally requesting assistance from the Secretariat. The Secretariat advised that formal requests should be directed through the SPREP Focal Point in each country and that email communication was acceptable.

31. The representative of Fiji sought clarification on the required frequency for submitting reports to the Secretariat under the Waigani Convention. The Secretariat advised that reports should be submitted annually to ensure proper monitoring of the implementation of the Waigani Convention.

32. The representative of Kiribati sought clarification on the electronic training that was to be provided by the Secretariat. The Secretariat clarified that the Waigani Convention webpage was in the process of being updated to include online reporting following which electronic training will be delivered to all Parties.

33. The representative of Kiribati enquired as to the countries that had applied for, or accessed funding under the GEF-5 Chemicals priority. The Secretariat indicated that a number of countries had accessed this funding, in particular to update and implement their National Implementation Plans under the Stockholm Convention.

34. The representative of Kiribati advised that one of the 10 national chemicals and hazardous waste priorities identified in his country was legislation review and development, and sought assistance from SPREP on this. The Secretariat outlined the procedure for requesting assistance and advised that the Secretariat would still need to identify sources of funding to assist.

35. The Secretariat recommended that environmental legislation in Kiribati needed to be approached holistically in light of the fragmentation that resulted from a number of amendments made to the Environment Act over several years, and also in light of the development of biosecurity and biodiversity and other environment-related regulations.

36. The representative of PNG advised that assistance to implement national training had been requested from the Basel Convention Secretariat, but to date the Basel Convention Secretariat had not responded, and therefore sought further assistance from the SPREP Secretariat to implement such training. The Secretariat took note of this request and advised that it would be possible once the official request was received from PNG.

37. The representative of PNG also advised that there was an enabling Act in place in PNG, but there was need for technical assistance from SPREP to prepare regulations on hazardous substances, in particular a mechanism for registration of all radioactive materials, in light of tightening requirements by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The Secretariat in noting the request advised that transboundary movements of radioactive materials within the Pacific region should be completed under the Waigani Convention. However outside the region, IAEA requirements would apply as the Basel Convention does not regulate movement of radioactive materials.

38. The Meeting noted the reports of the Secretariat.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5.1: Cooperation with other institutions**

39. In introducing WC STAC4.WP.5.1/Att.1, the Secretariat reminded the meeting that this report was completed and presented in accordance with a decision taken by the Waigani Convention COP1 requesting the Secretariat to develop cooperative working relationships with relevant institutions on critical issues in the implementation of the Waigani Convention. The request was to ensure there was no duplication between institutions and to promote work synergies.

40. The attachment outlines the summary of cooperative efforts that currently exist between the Secretariat and relevant regional and global agencies in the area of chemicals and hazardous waste management and highlights the activities that have resulted from third cooperation.

41. The Secretariat also noted several other small relevant projects such as the SAICM projects that had been implemented in the region, but as they were not reported to the Secretariat, they have not been included in the summary document.

42. The Secretariat further noted that the SIDS platform and post SIDS meetings will facilitate collaboration as chemical and waste management have been identified as major topics for Small Island Developing States.

43. The representative of FSM sought clarification regarding statements related to ODS and asked that the wording be altered to reflect that in this context the gases to be controlled should not be identified as greenhouse gases. The representative of PNG clarified that some ODS gases were also potent greenhouse gases.

44. The representative from Kiribati noted that recent regional events such as the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional 3Rs forum in Asia had combined collaboration effectively across scientific organisations, government and business and considered that such collaboration would be invaluable to the small island states which often lack such scientific institutions.

The Chair responded that value of such working relationships had been identified by SPREP and noted that SPREP and USP were already working in partnership in Fiji. The Secretariat added that regional academic organisations are currently working with elements of the GEFPAS and PacWaste project, so they were not separately identified but will update the future documents to recognise this group.

45. The Chair introduced the BCRC China representatives who elaborated on the technical capabilities of the Center to provide expertise related to E-waste, asbestos, and other hazardous waste management.

46. The meeting duly noted and accepted the report from the Secretariat on cooperation with other organizations. This was moved by the representative from Vanuatu and seconded by the representative from Tuvalu.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5.2: Cooperation with BCRC-China**

47. The Secretariat introduced WC STAC-4 -WP.5.2/Att.1 on Cooperation with the Basel Convention Regional Centre, China (BCRC-China).

48. In presenting the paper, the Secretariat informed that cooperation with the BCRC-China had been discussed at the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention where the BCRC-China made a presentation on their Centre and the details of potential co-operative arrangements between BCRC-China and SPREP and the Pacific region.

49. During that presentation, the Secretariat advised that the BCRC China has expertise in hazardous waste management, E-waste management and technology, transboundary movement of hazardous waste, POPs inventory survey methodology and practice, BAT/BEP for dioxins reduction and control, and strategy and action planning for eliminating POPs. All these issues are of potential interest to the Waigani Convention and the Pacific Regional Centre.

50. The BCRC-China further expressed interest in supporting training, workshops and other collaborative activities carried out by SPREP in the region that are related to the implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions, and invited SPREP to contribute to its regular newsletter as well as participate in their meetings and workshops. The Centre Director invited organizations in the Pacific islands to apply for internships within the BCRC China Centre.

51. In responding to this at the COP-6, SPREP committed to providing progress reports to Parties on the development of an MOU between BCRC China and SPREP for the realization and delivery of the cooperative arrangements suggested by the BCRC China.

52. The MOU identify areas of future cooperative arrangements between the BCRC China and SPREP was signed by both Parties in July 2013 (See Attachment 1).

53. The representative from Kiribati thanked the Secretariat and BCRC China for this useful alliance, noting the potential benefits the Pacific island countries would receive through the pooling of resources and experience.

54. The representative from Kiribati further requested advice on the administrative mechanisms that would be used by SPREP and the BCRC China to select national participants for training, capacity building and internships under this MOU.

55. The Secretariat advised that the training offered to each country would depend on their individual needs, and that the administrative mechanisms for country participation is still being determined as only one training activity has been conducted under the MOU to date. The Secretariat further advised that in the future, countries would be provided with advance notice of events, and country nominations would then be further considered by the BCRC China.

56. The BCRC China Executive Director noted that while internships are not yet being offered, invitations to trainings would be offered based on countries needs and with the potential to rotate with different country participants each year to ensure regional equity.

57. The representative of Vanuatu congratulated the Secretariat and BCRC China on signing the MOU and noted the great opportunity this was for the Pacific island countries and for Vanuatu to utilize the resource available under such an agreement, especially for POPs, which Vanuatu will be pleased to attend as well as aiding in Vanuatu in develop its work and training program.

58. The representative for PNG advised that a request for assistance from the Basel Secretariat for a possible workshop on hazardous waste had been lodged with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, but this had not been answered, and requested assistance from SPREP. The Secretariat agreed to assist and also advised that a copy of any request to the Basel Convention Secretariat should also be sent to the Secretariat in future.

59. Moved by the representative from Kiribati and seconded by the representative from PNG, the meeting noted the progressive report on the cooperation with the BCRC China

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: Business Plan for the PRC 2014-2015**

60. The Secretariat introduced the Business Plan for the PRC 2014-2015 (WC STAC-4 - WP.6/Att.1).
61. The Secretariat informed the meeting that progress in implementation of the 2012-2013 Work Programme had been slow due to the inability to secure full funding for activities. However, the 2014-2015 Business Plan is fully funded, largely due to the resources secured under the GEF-PAS POPs Release Reduction Project and the European Union funded PacWaste Project.
62. The Secretariat also noted that Parties were often better placed than the Secretariat to request and secure funding for implementing national activities, and urged Parties to exploit such opportunities. The Secretariat further advised that it stood ready to assist Parties in the development of project proposals for resourcing considerations.
63. The meeting was then invited to consider and endorse the Work Program and Budget as contained in the 2014-2015 Business Plan.
64. The representative of Kiribati sought the Secretariat's views on the issue raised at COP 6 relating to the Secretariat providing support to Parties to prepare them to negotiate effectively at the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions COPs, to coordinate regional positions on priority issues, and to provide support to Parties during the COPs. He expressed the view that SPREP was best placed to coordinate a regional position on chemical and hazardous waste issues.
65. The representative of PNG acknowledged the Secretariat's previous efforts in coordinating regional positions, but highlighted that even with a regional position, each Party had the responsibility to make their own interventions, which could then be supported by other Parties according to the agreed regional position. She also supported the need for capacity building in preparing Parties for MEA meetings, which she noted to be critical. She further asked the meeting to take note of the fact that officers trained/prepared for such COPs may not necessarily be the ones that are eventually selected to attend the COPs.
66. The Secretariat advised that pre-COP preparation and COP support to Parties had been provided in the past but noted that future assistance will depend on the Secretariat securing the necessary funding; it reiterated that countries were better placed to access funding for these activities. The Secretariat also advised that the STAC could flag this as a priority to the Waigani COP-7 Meeting, but that other chemical and hazardous waste management activities would suffer as the Secretariat's resources were limited. The Secretariat agreed to consider the issue as a crucial one within the available budget and to also explore the use of electronic means to effect preparatory meetings.
67. The representative from Tonga informed the Parties of previous in-country negotiations training conducted for Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), and suggested that similar training be provided for the chemical and hazardous waste MEAs.
68. The representative of Kiribati, sought clarification on the process for determining the training priorities listed in the work program. The Secretariat advised that the training priorities were identified by countries participating in the GEF-PAS POPs Release Reduction Project.
69. The representative of PNG enquired about the absence of country contributions in the budget, highlighting from experience that Parties have contributed significant time in organising meetings and trainings. The Secretariat clarified that the budget presented reflected the funding secured by the Secretariat, and further advised that country support and in-kind financing could be reflected in future reports under Agenda Item 4 - Report of Work Done.

70. The representative of PNG, referring to an earlier intervention she had made under Agenda Item 2, requested that the Terms of Reference for the Chair and Vice-Chair be developed during the break. The Chair invited volunteers to be part of a working group to formulate the Terms of Reference, to which PNG Kiribati, Fiji, and the Cook Islands responded.

71. The representative of Kiribati requested that the record reflect the change to Kiribati's Focal Point as submitted on 10th April 2014. This was duly noted by the Secretariat.

72. The Meeting then endorsed the Business Plan for 2014-2015.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the STAC**

73. The Secretariat introduced WC STAC-4 - WP.6/Att.1 on the Evaluation of the effectiveness of the STAC, which measures the performance of the STAC against its Terms of Reference.

74. In presenting the working paper, the Secretariat advised that since 2008, a quorum was unable to be obtained for the STAC and in fact, the scheduled meeting for 2012 did not eventuate due to poor response from Parties. In an effort to resolve this issue, three options for the *Future Arrangements for the SCPRC and the STAC* were presented to the Waigani COP 6 for consideration.

75. The COP 6 **directed** the Secretariat to seek and act on advice from Parties on how best to maximise involvement in the Technical and Steering Committees associated with the Waigani Convention and Basel Regional Centre.

76. The Secretariat in making direct reference to the matrix contained in the working paper informed the meeting that apart from deliberating on the Work Programme and Budget of the Business Plan, the STAC has not performed as per its Terms of Reference. It encouraged the meeting to be critical and frank about the effectiveness of the STAC, and presented the three options to the meeting (as presented to the COP 6):

- i. that Parties reaffirm their full support for the STAC and SCPRC and ensure that all their duties and obligations under these arrangements are fully discharged in the future; or
- ii. that Parties reaffirm their support for the STAC and SCPRC, but to support organisation of business through electronic communication only. A lack of response on any issue by Parties will be regarded as acceptance of the majority view; or
- iii. to rely on the WMPC Division of SPREP to take over these roles as part of its annual work programme.

77. The meeting was then invited to *discuss* the content of the evaluation report presented; to *provide* the new direction for the STAC from among the 3 options; and to *direct* the Secretariat on what needs to be done to progress this matter.

78. Given that the last COP had previously approved the first option, PNG sought clarification on the authority or power of the STAC to reconsider a COP decision. The Secretariat advised that the STAC had the responsibility to advise on any issue, including previous decisions, that affect the implementation of the Convention.

79. The representative of PNG suggested that lack of understanding of the role of Chair may have been partly responsible for the issues raised by the Secretariat and noted that the recently developed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the STAC Chair may assist in resolving these issues.

80. The Secretariat agreed that a well-defined TOR for the Chair would be helpful in guiding the work of both the Chair and the STAC, and also reiterated that the STAC had a major active role to play in guiding the implementation of the Convention.



81. The representative of Fiji sought clarification on the financial mechanism for supporting intercessional meetings of the STAC under Option 1. The Secretariat clarified that funding for STAC meetings was available, however funding was not available for extra-ordinary meetings.

82. The representative of PNG expressed a preference for Option 1, combined with continuous communications between the Secretariat, Chair and the Parties between successive STAC meetings. The representative also highlighted the value of face-to-face meeting with colleagues that can't be replicated with electronic meetings, whilst Option 3 may result in the SPREP Secretariat being accused of working in isolation of Parties needs.

83. The representative from FSM suggested that the root causes of the issues need to be addressed in order to move forward.

84. The Secretariat explained that one such root cause was that the role of the Chair has been previously interpreted as applying to the STAC meeting only, with little contact between the Chair, Parties and the Secretariat in between successive STAC meetings, and with little input by Parties in the development of the Business Plan.

85. The Secretariat suggested that an alternative to selecting one of the three options would be to better articulate the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair to ensure the office bearers played a dynamic and ongoing role in guiding the implementation of the Waigani Convention in the region.

86. At the suggestion of PNG, the draft TOR of the STAC meeting Chair was presented by the Representative of Kiribati. The draft TOR are attached as Annex 4 of the Report.

87. The meeting adopted the Terms of Reference for the Chair, and in effect supported Option 1, with the use of electronic communications between STAC Meetings as necessary, and with ongoing support from the Secretariat. The meeting further endorsed the agreed positions of the discussion under this agenda item.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: Other Business**

88. The Secretariat introduced WC STAC-4 - WP.8 on Other Business which was structured to discuss any other business pertaining to the implementation of the Waigani Convention, such as how the Secretariat can improve its delivery of services with limited resources

89. In presenting the working paper, the Secretariat informed the meeting that despite a basic work plan and budget contained in the Business Plan, progress in implementation has been slow largely due to a number of major challenges faced by the region. These challenges are complex and immense, and often implementation of the Conventions by Parties in the region is often either non-existent or only partial.

90. The Secretariat further added that essential improvements are needed across the region in terms of human resources; improved expertise and knowledge, including legal expertise; increased financial support; increased capacity to conduct trainings ('train the trainers'); improved judicial capacity; improved awareness within relevant National authorities such as Ministries and their specialized department/agencies, customs officers, etc.); and increased political willingness from the relevant national authorities, to prioritise the Chemicals and Waste agenda, and therefore the Conventions implementation

91. In addition, a mechanism needs to be developed to sustainably co-finance the activities of the Centre including a Waigani Trust fund, a Basel Trust Fund and Basel technical Trust Fund. This will need to be formalized in project documents signed by Secretariat of the Basel Convention (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Waigani Convention (SPREP).

92. The Meeting was then invited to *consider* and *prioritise*, in addition to the foregoing agenda items, other issues such as training of key officials in the countries to properly and effectively manage and administer the implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions; Legal and Technical Assistance; Attendance at international Meetings and Fund raising. The outcomes of these would guide the Secretariat in developing and planning of its work in the coming years.

93. The representative of Tonga stated priority areas requiring further attention are water monitoring resources (coastal and landfill leachate), waste to energy initiatives and air pollution monitoring, specifically the need for equipment. In addition, technical assistance from SPREP is sought for waste to energy initiatives in terms of viability for Tonga.

94. The representative of Kiribati requested to comment on the previous agenda item (item 7 - evaluation of the effectiveness of STAC) with respect to the Terms of Reference for chair election. In a similar approach to a past COP meeting, it was suggested that the rules of procedure change to allow for a chair person to be nominated at the end of that meeting to allow for a handover between chairs.

95. The representative of Kiribati for this agenda item highlighted the following emerging issues for Kiribati:

Issue 1 - Disposal of unexploded ordinances remaining from World War II.

- The Kiribati government is currently working on a strategy
- The environment office is involved with the disposal and monitoring aspects of the strategy
- Advice from SPREP had been obtained in the past
- Seeks to put this issue forward under the Waigani Convention

Issue 2 - Radioactive Monitoring

- Need for monitoring activities based on World War II and impacts on the marine environment from the 2011 Japan tsunami and associated nuclear power plant failure.

Issue 3 - GHS - Global Harmonisation System for Classification of Chemicals

- Currently undertaking gap analysis and requests SPREP assistance to review the gap analysis and to develop national GHS strategy to address the gaps.

Issue 4 - Deep Sea Mining

- Queries how this fits into the broader work programme and WMPDC of SPREP?

96. The chair summarised the feedback relating to Agenda Item 7 and noted the country specific issues raised. The chair then proposed adopting the change to the rules of procedure based on the suggestion by Kiribati and called for a motion to vote.

97. The representative of Kiribati clarified that the feedback in relation to Agenda Item 7 was not a recommendation for change but rather for information sharing only.

98. The chair noted all other country issues and reiterated that the statement from Kiribati was for information and future consideration.

99. The representative of PNG queried whether a country had to be a party to the Minamata Convention in order to access funding for mercury-related activities.

100. The Secretariat advised that there is currently only one party to the Minamata Convention but a good number of signatories and that assistance is available for countries in developing their national mercury plans.

101. The representative of Fiji in reference to Agenda Item 7 supported the suggestion to change the ToR for the chair to be elected at the end of the meeting.

102. The Secretariat advised that this is contradiction of the current ToR and earlier discussions during the meeting, which described that the intent of the present rules of procedure is structured in a way whereby the chair person continues to have an active role after the STAC meeting and emphasised that the role of chair person is not limited to the day of the meeting.

103. The representative of Papua New Guinea expressed concerns with the idea of electing a chair person at the end of the meeting as there is a risk that the elected person may not be nominated by his/her government to attend the next STAC meeting. The recommendation was to keep the current establishment of the Chair under the ToR.

104. The Chair reminded the committee that the initial suggestion was for information only and for future consideration and requested that the focus shift to consider issues as per country needs.

105. The representative of Tuvalu queried the waste to energy project in Tonga and if this was in relation to plastics and a new initiative.

106. The representative from Tonga advised the waste to energy project, while new to the Pacific was not new globally and projects exists in the USA and Japan, however noted that Palau has recently implemented a relevant project.

107. The representative from Tuvalu highlighted there was a lack of disposal space and requested assistance from the Secretariat for similar waste to energy projects to be implemented in Tuvalu.

108. The Secretariat in advising that help was available through request from the countries, reiterated that countries have the capacity to seek their own funding and SPREP can assist with this process.

109. The representative from Kiribati discussed the prioritisation of training needs and sought an update from the secretariat on the allocation of funding and resources for chemicals and hazardous waste under the 6th Global Environment Facility (GEF 6).

110. The Secretariat advised that countries have previously identified biodiversity and climate change as priorities and not chemicals but further advised that a total of US\$554 million allocated globally for the following areas including:

- a. POPs
- b. Mercury
- c. SAICM
- d. ODS

111. The chair requested all countries to collate their priorities to reflect the work required over the next 5 years and provide to the Secretariat at the end of the meeting. The Chair further advised that if not provided, then there would be an assumption that the priorities the Secretariat formulates will be accepted to reflect the country priorities.

112. Moved by the representative of PNG and seconded by the representative of Vanuatu, the meeting endorsed the agreed positions taken under this agenda item.

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

113. The Meeting agreed to hold the next meeting of the STAC (STAC 5) in Apia, Samoa on a date to be confirmed.

**AGENDA ITEM 10**

114. The representative of PNG, seconded by the representative of Tuvalu moved for the record of the meeting to be adopted. The Meeting adopted the record of the meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 12: Closure of Meeting**

115. In closing, the Chair congratulated the participants and Secretariat on a successful Meeting and thanked everyone for their constructive comments and input into the Meeting. She also thanked the representatives of the China BCRC for their participation in the Meeting. The Chair also requested the ongoing support of members in her role as Chair to ensure the effective functioning of the STAC.

## ANNEX 1

### List of participants

Country/Parties	Details of nominee(s)
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## ANNEX 2

### Official opening of the:

**Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 4) of the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Islands Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention); and the**

**Third Meeting of the Steering Committee (SCPRC 3) of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region integrated within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme**

### **SPEECH FOR OFFICER-IN-CHARGE DR. DAVID HAYNES**

Distinguish delegates from the Parties to the Waigani Convention, the Director of the Basel Convention Regional Centre, Beijing, Professor Li, and his colleague, Ms Zhao, fellow SPREP Officers, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a privilege to welcome you to the SPREP Headquarters to participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Waigani Convention and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre.

In our region, waste volumes are rising in association with increasing economic growth.

The toxicity of this waste is also increasing as we leave traditional lives and materials behind. Waste is an ongoing problem that must be managed, now, and into the future.

Your participation in hazardous waste management and at the meetings over the next 2 days encourages us that the Waigani (and Basel) Conventions have ongoing relevance for the Region. This is in contrast to attendance at the last two STAC meetings organised in 2010 and 2012, which unfortunately, did not have a member quorum.

SPREP and its Members have long held the vision that the Pacific should be a region where human health and the environment are not threatened by hazardous and toxic waste and chemicals.

As you are well aware, the Waigani Convention was put in place for the Pacific to:

- ensure that disposal of hazardous waste is completed in an environmentally sound manner and as close to source as possible; and
- ensure that any hazardous waste exported from the region is disposed of safely and responsibly.

This is **your** Convention, distinguished delegates, and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and the Centre Steering Committees are the mechanisms by which you can elaborate on your national priorities, and advocate for how these could be acted on through the Convention. I encourage you to take time to engage in discussion around the issues that are before you in these meetings. Be analytical and strategic in your interventions on how your nation wants to see the Convention implemented, but above all, be pragmatic with your nominations of priorities within the management resources available.

During the last Waigani COP, Parties felt that there was a need to re-energise the Convention in light of changes in key government personnel, which may have resulted in a loss of institutional memory connected with management of the Conventions.



These meetings can be used to commence that process - take time to discuss and explore ways in which we can collectively work together to re-energise the Conventions and to make sure that the implementation of the Waigani Convention is coordinated with other relevant waste-related activities coordinated at both regional and national levels.

I thank you once again for your commitment and effort and wish you all a successful and productive meeting.

Thank you

ANNEX 3



**STAC-4 Meeting**  
**16<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, SPREP HQ, Apia, Samoa**



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Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 4) of the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Islands Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and the Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)

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**Provisional Agenda**  
**STAC 4**

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

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

- 2.1 Rules of Procedure
- 2.2 Organisation of Work
- 2.3 Election of Officers

**Agenda Item 3:** Adoption of Agenda

**Agenda Item 4:** Reports on Work done

**Agenda Item 5.1:** Cooperation with other institutions

**Agenda Item 5.2:** Cooperation with BCRC-China

**Agenda Item 6:** Business Plan for the PRC 2014-2015

**Agenda Item 7:** Evaluation of the effectiveness of the STAC

**Agenda Item 8:** Other Business

**Agenda Item 9:** Date and venue of the next Meeting

**Agenda Item 10:** Adoption of the Meeting record

**Agenda Item 11:** Closure of the Meeting

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**ANNEX 4: Draft TOR for the Chair of the STAC**

1. Chair the STAC meeting.
2. Oversee the overall operation of the STAC under its TOR between STAC Meetings. The Chairperson to be assisted by the Vice Chair in the discharge of these duties.
3. In collaboration with the Secretariat, coordinate and oversee all Convention related communications between STAC Members.
4. Represent the STAC and present its recommendation(s) to the Waigani COP.