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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
 26th September 2014

Agenda item 6: Timing of STAC-5, SCPRC-4 and COP-8

Purpose

1. To seek approval from the COP to convene the Waigani Convention STAC-5, SCPRC-4 and Waigani Convention COP-8 meetings in 2015 to align them with the timing of the Basel Convention COP meetings.

Background

2. The Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention in its first meeting in 2002, determined that the Meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall take place on a biennial basis. This decision has been subsequently followed since 2002. However, the timing of the Waigani Convention COP does not fall in the same year as that of the Basel Convention COP which has created administrative difficulties between the two Conventions including timely approval of Centre Business Plans.
3. In 2004, the Waigani Convention COP endorsed the decision of STAC1 for the establishment of a joint Waigani/Basel Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the Pacific region, integrated within SPREP, and noted the conclusion of an MOU between the Secretariat to the Waigani and Basel Conventions on the operation of the Centre. Under that MOU, the Business Plan for the PRC is to have the same timeline as that of the Business Plan of the Basel Convention Centre.
4. In one of its decisions under the agenda item on the *evaluation of the effectiveness of the Steering Committee* (SCPRC Agenda item 7), the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre agreed to recommend to the Waigani Convention COP-7 that the SCPRC-4, STAC-5 and COP-8 meetings be held 12 months earlier in 2015, (i.e. not in 2016), to align the decision making process of the two Conventions and to enable timely development and approval of the 2016-2017 Pacific Regional Centre Business Plan.
5. In addition, due consideration was given to financial implications of such a decision in which it was noted that there would be minimal cost implications as these meeting were part of the Secretariat's annual work program and budget.

6. The meeting in making the decision, agreed that if the Waigani Convention COP-7 in September 2014 agreed to the recommendation on changing the timelines of the meetings, then the STAC and SCPRC meetings would have to occur before both the Basel and Waigani Convention COP meetings in 2015. This is because as per the understanding in the agreement establishing the PRC, the Steering Committee endorsed Business Plan for the PRC must be submitted to the COP meetings of both Conventions for approval. The Basel Convention COP is scheduled to be held in Geneva from the 4-15 of May 2015.

7. This means that the STAC-5 and SCPRC-4 meetings will have to take place in early to mid-March 2015 to allow for the timely transmission of the approved meeting reports, including the draft 2016-2017 Business Plan to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention for inclusion in the agenda of COP-12 in May 2015.

Recommendation

8. The Meeting is therefore invited to:

- **endorse** the recommendation of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre to hold COP 8 in 2015 and biennially thereafter;
 - **direct** the Secretariat to commence preparations for the convening of the STAC-5 and SCPRC-4 to be held no later than the middle of March 2015; and
 - **encourage** members to respond promptly to the preparations of the STAC-5 and SCPRC-4 meetings.
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