

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/7; CONV 1/5/1
CONV 2/18, AP 6/5/9

TO: SPREP Focal Points
Minamata Convention Focal Points
Waigani Convention Focal Points
INC Focal Points
GEF ISLANDS Focal Points

DATE: 7 August 2023

CIRCULAR: 23/67

SUBJECT: **Invitation for nominations for sponsorship to attend the following events:**

- 1. Pacific Preparatory meeting for the 5th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (MC COP-5) on Mercury;**
- 2. Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention;**
- 3. GEF ISLANDS Pacific Project Consultation Meeting; and**
- 4. The Pacific Preparatory meeting for the 3rd session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC-3).**

Dear Focal Points,

It is my honour to invite your country to attend the above meetings that will be held at the West Plaza Hotel at Lebuu Street, Koror in Palau from 12 to 20 October 2023 in reference to the Circular 23/57 and Circular 23/65. The Secretariat acknowledges the support of the Government of Palau for hosting the series of meetings and the financial support from Global Environment Facility (GEF), UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Government of Australia. The events are planned to be hybrid, to be delivered in person and virtually.

The objectives of the back-to-back meetings are as follows:

1. 12 October 2023: The Pacific sub-regional preparatory meeting relating to the 5th Meeting of the COP to the Minamata Convention on Mercury for the Pacific Parties to the Minamata Convention to prepare for the COP-5 in Geneva from 30 October to 3 November 2023. The main objective of the meeting is to discuss matters relating to the agenda and work program of COP-5 and prepare Pacific Parties for their active participation at the COP.
2. 13 October 2023: The Extraordinary Meeting of the COP to the Waigani Convention to deliberate on the proposal to amend the Waigani Convention to facilitate the adoption of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019. This meeting aims to deliberate on the proposal to amend the Waigani Convention to adopt the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019 and to create a mechanism for the adoption of future amendments to the Basel Convention.
3. 16 – 17 October 2023: The ISLANDS Pacific Project Consultation Meeting aims to re-design the Project. The outcomes of this meeting will assist UNEP and the Secretariat in framing what the project will look like from 2024 to 2027. The agenda will be provided in due course.

4. 18 – 20 October 2023: The Pacific preparatory meeting for the 3rd session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC-3) on plastic pollution to further discuss the Pacific SIDS (PSIDS) positions and strategies for the INC-3. The main objective of this meeting is to seek endorsement of Pacific positions for the INC-3 negotiations, enhanced PSIDS coordination as well as commitment to AOSIS and Asia Pacific processes, and preparation of PSIDS delegates through the distribution of available resources.


The Secretariat is pleased to inform you that with funding support from the GEF, UNEP and the Government of Australia, we will be able to sponsor one delegate to the events from the following countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Subject to availability of funding, representation can be increased to two participants from each country with the priority given to the first nominee. Refer to the draft programme in annex 2.

Unfortunately, the funding for in person attendance does not extend to the territories of American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna, therefore participation in this workshop will be at your own cost unless joining virtually.

All travel arrangements will follow the SPREP travel policy, which includes an economy return airfare using the most direct and economical route. Also note that travel insurance is the responsibility of the traveler.

We look forward to your attendance to the series of meeting outlined above and would appreciate if the attached nomination form (refer annex 1) could be completed and returned by Friday 8 September 2023, to confirm attendance, and enable the Secretariat to commence preparations for your travel. Should you require any further clarity or information, please contact Mr Anthony Talouli, Director Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme at anthonyt@sprep.org and copy Mr Joshua Sam, Hazardous Waste Management Adviser at joshuas@sprep.org and Ms. Renee Kamu ISLANDS Pacific Child Project, Finance & Administration Officer at reneek@sprep.org.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony Talouli
Officer-In-Charge

Encl.
Circular Annex 1– Nomination Form
Circular Annex 2 – Events draft agenda