

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 6/5/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
Focal Points Waste Management
& Pollution Control

DATE: 8 March 2024

CIRCULAR: 24/13

SUBJECT: **Notification of Upcoming Key Events on Hazardous Wastes and Chemicals Management**

Dear Focal Points,

We are pleased to bring to your attention two pivotal upcoming gatherings focused on the management of hazardous wastes and chemicals. These forums play an instrumental role in bolstering our shared commitment towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, thereby mitigating pollution across the Pacific region.

- 1. Third Session of the ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group on the Science Policy Panel (SPP OEWG 3):** Scheduled from 17 - 21 June 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland. This session, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), is dedicated to advancing the formation of a Science Policy Panel that will significantly contribute to the prudent management of chemicals, waste, and the prevention of pollution. Building on the momentum of OEWG 1 and 2 convened in 2022 and 2023, respectively, this gathering will also feature informal, regional, and stakeholder consultations on 16 June 2024.
- 2. Fourteenth Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (Basel OEWG 14):** This meeting is set to take place from 25 to 28 June 2024 at the Geneva International Conference Centre, Switzerland. As a subsidiary body of the Basel Convention, the OEWG assists in developing and continuously reviewing the implementation of the Convention's work plan and specific operational policies. Preparatory sessions, including regional and Bureau meetings, are scheduled for 24 June 2024, with the provisional agenda available on the Convention's website.

Preparation and Participation: We wish to inform you that UNEP has already dispatched invitations to these events directly to the Foreign Affairs Focal Points, as per their usual protocol. It is imperative for SPREP Focal Points to communicate with your Foreign Affairs counterparts to ensure these invitations reach in good time so you can prepare accordingly.

To enhance our engagement and impact at these events, SPREP will be hosting virtual briefings for our members as follows:

- **Briefing for SPP OEWG 3:** On 22 May 2024.
- **Briefing for Basel OEWG 14:** On 29 May 2024.

These sessions are designed to equip our representatives with the necessary insights and strategies to effectively advocate for the Pacific region's interests in hazardous waste and chemical management. Further details, including the agenda, will be disseminated in due course.

We encourage SPREP Focal Points for Waste Management and Pollution Control to:

- Kindly ensure these important dates are entered into your calendars, including the dates of the preparatory briefings.
- Should you have not received the invitation or pertinent communications from UNEP, we urge you to contact us for support and additional information.
- We advise timely registration for these events, adhering to the specified deadlines: 31 March 2024 for SPP OEWG 3, and as promptly as possible for Basel OEWG 14.
- Given the limited availability of travel support, we recommend applying as guided should financial assistance be necessary for participation.

SPREP remains dedicated to supporting all focal points and delegates, ensuring that the perspectives of the Pacific region are effectively represented and advocated for at these international forums. Your proactive participation and thorough preparation for these meetings are of great importance.

Should you require further assistance or have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Mr Joshua Sam via joshuas@sprep.org.

Yours sincerely,



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Director General

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