



Eleventh Meeting of The Noumea Convention

Eleventh 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)

Noumea, New Caledonia
30 August 2012

Agenda Item 8.2: Regional Port Waste Reception Facilities

Purpose

1. To seek advice and endorsement for developing a Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan and encourage members to become a party to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Convention and its Attachments.

Background

2. MARPOL places an obligation on all parties to provide adequate ship's waste reception facilities for ships calling at their ports. For some parties meeting this obligation is a challenging issue to the extent of preventing some countries becoming a party to the convention.

3. A review of PICTs ship's waste reception facilities was approved by the 13th SPREP Meeting 2002. The review was carried out in two levels – regional and national, to determine and assess PICTs capability to meet MARPOL requirements for provision of ship's waste reception facilities to handle garbage, waste oil, sewage and hazardous waste.

4. In July 2003 SPREP presented a paper at the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee 49th session (MEPC 49) with a recommendation for regional port waste facilities as a solution to enable Pacific island countries to meet their MARPOL obligations and encourage more Pacific island countries to become a party.

5. MEPC 49 agreed that regional arrangements is an acceptable way to satisfy the MARPOL obligations to provide adequate reception facilities for ships and that this approach could have the potential to resolve obstacles for many countries to become party to the MARPOL. Also, that it's application had potential beyond Pacific island countries.

6. However in order to institutionalize and apply regional arrangements for providing reception facilities, appropriate amendments needed to be made to relevant MARPOL Annexes.

MARPOL Amendments

7. In March 2012, with a significant contribution from IMO member states in particular Australia, United States, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu, the MEPC at its 63rd session approved the necessary amendments to the MARPOL Convention Annexes I, II, IV, V and VI. The amendments states that regional arrangements for port reception facilities shall be limited to Small Island Developing States when such arrangements are the only practical means to satisfy MARPOL obligations to provide reception facilities because of their unique circumstance. The amendments also provide for IMO to be consulted in establishing such regional arrangements.

8. It is hoped that these approvals by IMO to institutionalize the regional arrangement will enable more PICs to sign up to the MARPOL Convention and its Annexes. Attachment 1 contains details of Pacific island country parties to MARPOL and other IMO conventions.

Guidelines for development of Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan endorsed at MEPC 63rd Session

9. The Guidelines for the development of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan were also adopted at the IMO MEPC 63. The Secretariat seeks the Meetings guidance and endorsement of its intention to develop a Regional Ship's Waste Reception Facilities Plan aligned with the IMO Guidelines. The development of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan will enable member countries to meet MARPOL obligations to provide adequate '*ships waste reception facilities*'.

Recommendations

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **Note** the amendments to MARPOL and Annexes I, II, IV, V and VI on regional arrangements;
- **Direct** the Secretariat to develop a Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan for the SPREP region based on the IMO Guidelines;
- **Call** on members to provide assistance where possible; and
- **Encourage** members to sign up to the MARPOL Convention and its Annexes within two years after IMO's adoption of a SPREP Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan.

Attachment 1: Pacific island country parties to MARPOL and other IMO conventions

Attachment 2: Guidelines for Development of Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan