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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 5: Effectiveness of STAC and SCPRC

#### Purpose

1. To present for consideration by the Meeting an Evaluation Report on the performance of the Waigani Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC).
2. To seek the COP meeting's guidance on the new direction in which the STAC and the SCPRC are to perform and manage the affairs of the implementation of the Waigani Convention as per its TOR.

#### Background:

3. The Conference of the Parties at its Sixth Meeting in one of its decisions under the agenda item on "*Future Arrangements for the SCPRC and the STAC*", directed the Secretariat to seek and act on advice from Member countries on how best to maximise involvement in the Technical and Steering Committees associated with the Waigani Convention and Pacific Regional Centre for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions.
4. To initiate the process of seeking and acting on the advice of the Members, the Secretariat prepared and presented the working paper on the evaluation of how the STAC and the SCPRC has performed over the years (See WC COP-7/WP.5.1) to the STAC-4 and SCPRC-3 for discussion and a decision. The performance evaluation document was compiled on the basis of how the STAC and the SCPRC, as subsidiary bodies to the Waigani Convention COP, have performed against their own Terms of References since their establishment.

5. Both the STAC-4 and SCPRC-3 acknowledged that both Committees have not performed as fully as expected and discussed ways in which to improve their performance. In its discussion on the matter, both Committees saw the role of the Chairpersons to the two Committees as being critical to their success. Consequently, the Committees agreeing to draft a Terms of Reference for the Chairman of both Committees to assist them in overseeing of the implementation of the Business Plan and other related issues. The role of Chair includes the following:

- Chair the STAC/SCPRC meeting.
- Oversee the overall operation of the STAC/SCPRC under its TOR in the intervening period between STAC Meetings. The Chairperson is to be assisted by the Vice Chair in the discharge of these duties.
- In collaboration with the Secretariat, coordinate and oversee all Convention related communications between STAC Members.
- Represent the STAC/SCPRC and present its decisions/recommendations to the Waigani COP.

6. The meeting also discussed the issued pertaining to the representation on the two Committees which are regarded as technical committees and thus should be made up of appropriately and technically skilled experts in the area of hazardous substances and waste management.

#### **Recommendation**

7. The Meeting is therefore invited to:

- **discuss** the content of the evaluation report presented;
  - **provide** direction under which the STAC and the SCPRC is to perform in the future to manage the affairs of the implementation of the Waigani Convention as per its TOR; and
  - **direct** the Secretariat on any further actions required to progress this matter.
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