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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

## Thirteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Thirteenth 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)

Apia, Samoa  
17 September 2015

### **Agenda Item 7.3: A Regional Reception Facilities Plan for the Small Island Development States in the Pacific Region**

#### **Purpose**

1. To update Parties on the Regional Reception Facilities Plan for the Small Island Development States in the Pacific Region.

#### **Background**

2. IMO has recognized the unique challenges that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) experience in providing adequate reception facilities for ships waste and, in 2000, adopted IMO Resolution MEPC.83(44) Guidelines for Ensuring the Adequacy of Port Waste Reception Facilities.

3. Subsequently, MEPC 63 in 2012 adopted amendments to MARPOL to allow SIDS to satisfy ships' waste reception facilities regulations through regional arrangements when, because of those States' unique circumstances, such arrangements are the only practical means to satisfy these requirements.

4. In 2012 at the 11th Conference of the Parties for the Noumea Convention, held in Noumea, New Caledonia, the Parties noted the amendments to MARPOL and its Annexes on regional arrangements for reception facilities and directed the Secretariat to develop a Regional Port Waste Facilities Plan (RRFP) for the SPREP region based on the IMO Guidelines and for members to provide assistance where possible in its development.

5. A RRFP was drafted taking into account the IMO RRFP Guidelines and was endorsed by the Noumea Convention Conference of Parties in September 2014.

### **RRFP taking effect on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

6. In accordance with the IMO RRFP Guidelines Part 2, the RRFP was submitted to MEPC 68 for review and comment and was sponsored by Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Samoa and the Secretariat.

7. The IMO MEPC68 formally endorsed the RRFP which will formally take effect from May 2016 i.e. 12 months after endorsement by the MEPC68.

### **RRFP Review**

8. It is important to emphasise that the RRFP is a living document, with a built-in review period of two years, to allow the plan to be adapted to changes in shipping patterns, waste infrastructure and the results of planned further gap analyses in additional ports.

9. Further gap analyses of ports are planned for Guam, CNMI, and the Marshall Islands.

### **Recommendation**

10. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** of the endorsed Regional Reception Facilities Plan for the Pacific Region which will come into effect from 1st May 2016;
- **note** that the RRFP is a living document and will be reviewed in two years for COP14; and
- **note** the planned gap analyses in additional ports.