



PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org



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

Eighth Meeting of The Waigani Convention

Eighth 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)

Apia, Samoa
18th September 2015

Agenda item 4.1: STAC-5 Meeting Report

Agenda item 1: Official Opening

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 5), of the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention), met in Apia, Samoa on 31st March 2015.
2. The Meeting was attended by the representatives of the following Parties: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. Representatives from the Republic of Marshall Islands and Nauru were also in attendance as Observers. A list of participants is attached as Annex 1.
3. The Acting SPREP Director General, Mr. Kosi Latu in welcoming the delegates to the STAC-5 meeting and the ensuing SCPRC-4 meeting advised that these meetings came at a critical time when the Secretariat and the region were continuing efforts to address the critically important issues of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes within our region. He added that in addition to the existing Conventions, the global community had added another Convention for the management of mercury, namely the Minamata Convention and pointed out that these conventions have their own obligations that, as State Parties they will need to meet. He also noted that these obligations are stretching already very limited resources.
4. He went on to remind the meeting that this meeting was taking place only a year after the last STAC was held and this was due to the decision taken by the Waigani Convention COP-7 to align the Waigani and Basel Convention meetings. He added that Parties participation at the meeting was a sign that the Waigani Convention had ongoing relevance for the Region.
5. He encouraged the Parties who are the ultimate owners of the Convention to be active in the progressing of the Convention and advised that the STAC and the SCPRC were the mechanisms by which they could elaborate on national priorities, and to advocate for how these could be acted on through the Convention.

6. He reminded the meeting of the Parties' of the need to re-energise the Convention in light of changes in key government personnel, which may have resulted in a loss of institutional memory connected with management of the Convention. He added that in the last COP meeting in Majuro in September 2014, a decision was made to make funds available to assist Parties in meeting some of their pressing obligations such as National Reporting and Awareness Raising activities and informed the meeting that this assistance opportunity had not been made use of. He encouraged the Parties to use these meetings to commence this process.

7. In closing, Mr. Latu reminded the Parties of their contributions to the Convention and added that as the workload is increasing, more important decisions needed to be made by Parties and actioned by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). It is these valuable contributions that enable these critical meetings to happen.

8. A copy of the opening speech is attached as Annex 2.

Agenda item 2: Organisational Matters

9. The Secretariat introduced the rules of procedure for the STAC.

(a) Rules of Procedure

10. The Rules of Procedure for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention adopted at the First Conference of the Parties (COP1) apply *mutatis mutandis* to any subsidiary bodies to the Conference of the Parties (Rule 1) [refer to STAC4.WP.2]

(b) Organisation of work

11. English is the working language of the meeting and working documents were available only in English. The Secretariat tabled the agenda and reminded the meeting that the STAC is the subsidiary technical advisory group to the Waigani Convention COP that makes recommendations which are forwarded to the COP for a decision.

12. The Secretariat advised that a draft summary report would be prepared by the Secretariat for the approval of the Rapporteur and subsequent endorsement by the Meeting. The Committee also approved its working hours and programme of work.

(c) Election of Officers

13. The Secretariat drew the attention of the Meeting to the Rules of Procedure (Rule 22.3) on the selection of the Chair and pointed to the decision of COP 1 that authorized the STAC to elect its own Chairperson, Vice Chair and Rapporteur.

14. The immediate-past Chair (Tonga) opened the floor for nominations and clarified that it would be preferable for a new Chair to be elected for the STAC.

15. The representative of FSM, seconded by the representative of Samoa, nominated PNG as the next Chair.

16. The representative of Fiji reminded the Chair and delegates that the Chair and Vice Chair had to serve for a period of two years, based on previous COP decisions. The representative of Fiji further proposed that, as the current Chair and Vice Chair had only occupied the positions for less than a one year period, the meeting should allow the current Chair and Deputy Chair to continue in these roles until the next STAC meeting.

17. The Secretariat confirmed that the general practice observed in the past was to have meetings 2 years apart, but added that this STAC meeting was occurring this year due to the decision taken at the last COP meeting to ensure the Waigani and Basel Conventions' meetings occurred in the same year.

18. The meeting agreed to continue with the current Chair and Deputy Chair until the next STAC meeting in 2017.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

19. The Secretariat in introducing the provisional meeting agenda, informed the meeting that the agenda presented issues that had been highlighted as requiring noting and discussion by this meeting. The meeting was informed that Parties were invited through the SPREP Circular 03/15 to provide any items that they wished to be included in the agenda for the meeting but none were received.

20. The Chair sought direction from the meeting on the working hours for the meeting noting the delayed start. The two options put forward by the Chair to the meeting were: 1) to go through all the agenda items today; or 2) to stop at an agreed time at the end of the day and to continue the meeting the next day.

21. The representatives of Kiribati and Cook Islands advised that due to the late start of the meeting, they proposed to continue with the meeting until all the substantive agenda items were completed and allow the rapporteur team to complete the meeting report overnight for adoption the next day.

22. The Secretariat explained that the meeting report would only highlight the main issues and not be a verbatim presentation of all aspects of the meeting discussion.

23. The representative of Cook Islands noted their interest in the Agenda Item 10 concerning the update from the China BCRC.

24. The Meeting adopted the Agenda.

Agenda item 4: Report on work done since COP-7

25. In introducing the paper on Reports on the status of decisions taken since COP-7 (WC STAC-5 - WP.04) the Secretariat advised the meeting that, as decided in the COP-7 meeting, Parties were asked to submit requests for assistance under the Convention. However to date, no requests for assistance had been received. The Secretariat added that in the last year, a MOU between SPREP and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention was signed to allow SPREP to continue playing the role of the Regional Centre for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions. Also highlighted was the internship program between the BCRC-China and SPREP that commenced this year with two (2) undergraduate students from the Tsinghua University based at SPREP. The Secretariat advised that it was working with the BCRC-China to facilitate Pacific islands regional interaction and internships at the BCRC-China Tsinghua University.

26. The representative of Fiji requested clarification on its request for assistance to the Secretariat in 2011 which was not reflected in the current report and sought clarification on the process for requesting assistance. The Secretariat explained that the request was prior to the period for this report but encouraged Fiji to submit a new request. On the procedure of submitting a request, the Secretariat advised that it would be in the form of an official request from the Focal Point for Waigani Convention in their countries.

27. The Meeting noted the report.

Agenda item 5: GEF-PAS Project

28. The Secretariat introduced the background on the GEF-PAS uPOPs project (WC STAC-5 - WP.05). In its presentation, the Secretariat advised that the project was being co-implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) with components of it co-financed by the French Development Agency (AFD).

29. The Project commenced in June 2013, for a five year term, to assist 14 Pacific Island Countries in improving waste management, the principal source of unintentionally produced POPs (dioxins and furans) emissions in the Pacific region, and therefore help address the obligations of Stockholm Convention Parties to reduce, minimize and where feasible, eliminate dioxins and furans generation.

30. The Secretariat then introduced the seven components of the project together with the project activities and the budget associated with it.

31. The Chair addressed the meeting and commended the work and technical support that had been provided by the Secretariat in assisting the PICs in addressing hazardous waste and chemical management, especially the training undertaken through the Fiji National University. The Chair further added that countries have not responded to requests for information on a timely basis to allow for assistance to be provided under this project.

32. The representative of PNG noted the recent changes in their Departmental status and that more efforts to regulate POPs imported into PNG is required. He noted the relevance of the need for Component 3, especially in-house training on inventory and management since PNG did not have an inventory and requested for technical support for customs and environment staff to close the gaps and complete an inventory of chemicals in the country.

33. The representative of FSM thanked the Secretariat and noted that FSM was regularly communicating with the GEF-PAS Project Coordinator on awareness and other programs. For future consideration, the representative of FSM noted that FSM has 4 States and thus have 5 different governments and therefore, FSM needs assistance for all 4 States.

34. The Secretariat in noting the request explained that SPREP generally communicated with the SPREP national focal point who would be the conduit to the different States.

35. The representative of Tonga commended that the vocational training that was initially funded by AFD and thanked the GEF-PAS project in continuing it and expressed support for the project.

36. The representative of Fiji inquired if assistance on export of obsolete chemicals is included in the current GEF-PAS or PACWASTE project.

37. The Secretariat noted that the chemical training on inventory and laboratory management can address the issue. The shipment of obsolete chemicals could be picked up on the next phase of the project since the current project did not have a removal and destruction component. It further added that the development of chemical management guidelines would assist countries on how to manage the life cycle of chemicals and recommended that countries adopt the guidelines when developed.

38. The representative of Samoa informed the meeting of their education and awareness programmes that had been rolled out to schools and communities which were modelled on the Fiji model. He advised that based on a request by the Secretariat, Samoa had submitted a proposal and enquired when funding would be approved for their proposal.

39. The Secretariat advised that its Communication Unit was currently reviewing all the proposals, after which a Letter of Agreement (LoA) will be drafted between the Party and the Secretariat. It further advised that funds should be dispersed in 2015.

40. The representative of Solomon Islands enquired about the possibility of developing a national and regional uPOPs prevention and management strategy and further enquired whether chemicals can be handled in country rather than exported.

41. The Secretariat in responding advised that some chemicals could be treated locally while others could not, and that these issues will be covered in the Chemical Management and Waigani Training components of the project.

42. The Meeting then noted the project brief as presented by the Secretariat but encouraged the Parties to provide feedback on their specific national priorities with respect to the GEF-PAS uPOPs project to the Secretariat.

Agenda item 6: PacWaste Project

43. The Secretariat introduced a description of the PacWaste project (WC STAC-5 - WP.06). In its presentation, the Secretariat advised that the project was funded by the European Union (8M Euros) and commenced in 2013. It has a 4 year life span and was administered by SPREP in 14 Pacific Island countries plus Timor Leste. The project targeted improved management of three hazardous wastes, namely asbestos, healthcare waste and E-waste and also has an atoll solid waste management pilot in the Marshall Islands (RMI).

44. The Secretariat then introduced the four main components of the project and provided a brief update on where the project was with respect to each of these components. It advised that the regional baseline surveys had been completed for all 3 priority waste areas and for the atoll waste management project. The results of this work will guide future areas of intervention, 2015-2017.

45. The representative of FSM requested clarification on whether a country not identified to be part of a component of the project could still receive assistance under the project, making reference to her country situation in the E-waste management component.

46. The Secretariat advised that assistance under PacWaste was available through the PacWaste regional recycling network and through twinning projects. These interventions relied largely on the transfer of knowledge and experience in best practice management of E-waste recycling to improve practices and increase national capacity.

47. The meeting was also reminded of the opportunity to use the EDF11 funding and the Regional Waste Management Strategy (RS16) review processes as mechanisms to prioritise national waste and pollution management issues for future assistance and funding support.

Agenda item 7: Revision of the Waigani Convention

48. The Secretariat introduced a paper for consideration by the Meeting to review and update the Waigani Convention (STAC-5 – WP.07). In its presentation, the Secretariat informed the meeting that the Waigani Convention was adopted on the 16 September 1995 at Waigani, Papua New Guinea and entered into force on the 21 October 2001.

49. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) is the Secretariat and the Secretary General for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) is the depository for the Convention.

50. The Secretariat further informed the meeting that since its entry into force, the Convention has not had any significant or substantial amendments or improvement made to it to improve its implementation. The Secretariat made a comparison with the Basel Convention, the global equivalent to the Waigani Convention, and stated that it had a very active Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) (the equivalent to the STAC) that had many meetings that deal with the various aspects of the Convention to help with improving its implementation.

51. The Meeting was then invited to discuss how the revision of the Convention could be progressed through the working of the STAC, in particular on how it could organize itself to address the various aspects of the Waigani Convention and where necessary, make recommendations to the COP to amend or improve them to help improve the implementation of the Convention in the region and at the national level

52. The representative of PNG enquired on the movement of waste to Asia and Europe which was beyond the Convention's jurisdiction. Additionally, the delegate sought clarification on whether the Convention covered assistance on establishing permitting systems for waste shipment to other countries.

53. The Secretariat advised that this was an issue faced in other countries who are non-members of the Basel Convention. Using Fiji as an example, it advised that if a shipment from a Basel Convention Party from outside the region was to transit through Fiji – which was not a party of the Basel Convention, then a bilateral agreement had to be put in place to facilitate that passage. The Secretariat advised that the issue on environmental permits were a national one as the Basel and Waigani Conventions only covered trans-boundary movement of waste from one jurisdiction to another.

54. The Secretariat further advised that an issue of concern was compliance, with Australia being the only country reporting on this compliance.

55. The Chair enquired on whether radioactive waste should still be included as a definition considering that the current parties are not directly involved in this.

56. The Secretariat in response, clarified that the Convention was there to protect countries from the trans-boundary movement of radioactive waste from outside the region. The Chair added that member countries had every right not to allow such shipment, which would then mean a re-routing of the shipment.

57. The representative of FSM shared that the Waigani Convention was now in its 15th year since the signing, and called for the consideration of Waigani officers to be placed in each country to assist with monitoring purposes.

58. The Secretariat in response, advised that each country had Waigani Convention Focal Points and Competent Authorities, who were the key personnel to raise issues concerning elements of the convention, which the Secretariat will then work from, thus reiterating the need for improved Convention reporting.

59. The Chair noted that the Basel Convention had established specific open ended working groups on finance and hazardous waste to assist with implementation at national level. The Chair requested to consider this under the Waigani Convention.

60. The Secretariat clarified the STAC plays a very similar role to the Open-Ended Working Groups that are established under the Basel Convention and was a forum to raise and address issues relating to implementation aspects of the Convention. It however reminded the meeting that the STAC since its establishment had not played this role effectively in working towards improving the implementation of the Convention.

61. The Chair requested to have this discussed further under Agenda 11, to which members agreed.

Agenda item 8: Guidelines on Pacific specific hazardous waste issues

62. The Secretariat introduced paper (STAC-5 – WP.08). seeking guidance from the meeting on developing guidelines on Pacific regional specific hazardous waste In its presentation, the Secretariat noted that hazardous waste is defined under Article 2 of the Waigani Convention as:

- (a) Wastes that belong to any category contained in Annex I of this Convention, unless they do not possess any of the characteristics contained in Annex II of this Convention; and
- (b) Wastes that are not covered under sub-paragraph (a) above, but which are defined as, or are considered to be, hazardous wastes by the national legislation of the exporting, importing or transit Party to, from or through which such wastes are to be sent.

63. The Secretariat advised that while these definitions covered a great variety of hazardous wastes, the reality was that many of these substances are absent from the region and as such, the focus on developing national and regional plans to address hazardous waste issues tend to concentrate on the wastes that are clearly an issue at the national and regional level.

64. The representative of Fiji noted interest towards development of guidelines on disposal of hazardous wastes.

65. The Secretariat clarified that the Basel Convention had technical guidelines that clearly defined each type of hazardous waste. The role of SPREP was to develop guidelines and manuals for country or region specific hazardous waste issues and how to deal with these issues, with the Basel Convention as reference. The Secretariat provided examples of country specific challenges with ULABS, used oil and mercury management.

66. The representative of FSM queried on the possibility of importing batteries with no mercury.

67. The Secretariat responded that while there are alternatives to batteries with mercury, they still have heavy metals that still needed to be managed in an environmentally sound manner, at the end of their life. It further advised that if there was a specific need from countries, these needed to be conveyed to the Secretariat, including needs and priorities.

68. The representative of FSM further noted disposal issues of hazardous chemicals faced in the Pacific.

69. The Secretariat recommended that since this issue has been raised by two countries (Fiji and FSM), there would now seem to be a need to progress on developing disposal guidelines of hazardous chemicals.

70. The representative of Solomon Islands sought assistance to the Secretariat in making decisions for used oil disposal.

71. The Secretariat noted that there was currently a guideline on used oil management being developed through the GEFPAS project, involving storage, handling and disposal. It encouraged the Parties to become involved in consultations under the various projects and noted the recommendations of the STAC fed into the Waigani Convention so Parties needed to work on fulfilling their obligations.

72. The representative of Cook Islands recommended the development of the guidelines for specific hazardous waste types in the Pacific Islands to better manage the hazardous waste issues faced in the region.

73. The meeting recognised the need for the guidelines as discussed, and directed the Secretariat to develop the guidelines with assistance from the Parties.

Agenda item 9: National priorities for hazardous waste management

74. The Secretariat introduced a paper seeking the meeting's approval for Parties to submit to the Secretariat their respective national priorities for hazardous waste management (STAC-5 – WP.09).

75. In its presentation, the Secretariat noted that hazardous waste management differed from country to country, and this was largely determined by the size of its economy and complexity of its industrial base. The Secretariat noted all countries generate hazardous waste as part of their development processes and these require appropriate management.

76. The Secretariat advised that Parties should clearly identify national priorities to assist in developing an overview of the status of hazardous waste and chemical management and pollution control issues.

77. The meeting agreed that Parties needed time to compile their respective hazardous waste and chemical management priorities and submit them to the Secretariat by the 30th April so they could be included in the development of the Regional Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy.

Agenda item 10: Cooperation with other institutions

78. In introducing STAC-5.WP.10 on cooperation with other institutions, the Secretariat reminded the meeting that this report was completed and presented in accordance with a decision taken by the Waigani Convention COP1 requesting the Secretariat to develop cooperative working relationships with relevant

institutions on critical issues in the implementation of the Waigani Convention. The request was to ensure there was no duplication between institutions and to promote work synergies.

79. The Secretariat highlighted that a major development in this cooperation with institutions was the establishment of a working relationship with the interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention which resulted in the holding of the first mercury-related Pacific sub-regional meeting here at SPREP in January 2015.

80. The Secretariat further updated the STAC on the ICWMT held at BCRC-China and advised that SPREP was attempting to get all countries to attend over time. It informed the meeting that in addition to the Secretariat attending, representatives from Cook Islands, FSM and PNG had taken part in this important and very relevant international conference. It further outlined that even though the economy of scale was very different, it was an opportunity for Parties in our region to make new contacts and networks that could result in assistance to their countries.

81. The presented attachment outlined the summary of cooperative efforts that currently exist between the Secretariat and relevant regional and global agencies in the area of chemicals and hazardous waste management and highlights the activities that have resulted from third cooperation.

82. The representative of PNG enquired if these institutions had work on plastic bags as his country had a legislation on the restriction and control of plastic bags.

83. The Secretariat advised that while the issue of plastics bags was not covered by the institutions that it worked with, there were examples within the regions where countries had successfully replaced hard plastics with biodegradable plastic bags and noted that national legislation was required to support the implementation.

84. The Chair again thanked the Secretariat for the two week regional vocational waste management training course that was being run through the Fiji National University with assistance from the Griffiths University and encouraged Parties to make use of it.

85. The meeting then noted the report as presented by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 11: Improving the function of the STAC

86. The Secretariat introduced a paper seeking the meeting's approval to change the structure of the STAC meeting in an attempt to improve its function (STAC-5.WP.11).

87. In introducing the paper, the Secretariat reminded the meeting that the STAC was a subsidiary body of the Waigani Convention that was established by the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention at its first meeting in 2001. Its role is to assist the work of the Secretariat in pursuing the implementation of the Convention, specifically by:

- (a) examining the information provided by the Parties on the measures adopted to implement the Convention.
- (b) working with the Secretariat to develop plans, programs and measures related to the technical and scientific aspects of the Convention.

- (c) providing guidelines and standards for the environmental sound management of hazardous wastes.
- (d) assisting in creating coordination between the Waigani and the other regional and global Conventions.

88. The Secretariat further reminded the meeting that at its sixth meeting in 2012, the Conference of the Parties in one of its decisions under the agenda item on "*Future Arrangements for the SCPRC and the STAC*", directed SPREP 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 Basel Regional Centre

89. The meeting was further reminded that as a result of that directive, a working paper on an evaluation of how the STAC has performed was presented last year to this Committee. This outlined how STAC, as a subsidiary body to the Waigani Convention COP, had performed against its own Terms of Reference.

90. The meeting then recalled that in its attempt to help improve the effectiveness of the STAC took the decision to endorse a well-defined TOR for the Chair that would help in guiding the work of both the Chair and the STAC. The meeting also noted that the STAC still had a major active role to play in guiding the implementation of the Convention.

91. The meeting was reminded further that as advised earlier, the STAC is to the Waigani Convention COP as what the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) is to the Basel Convention COP is and should be dealing with its business in much the same way as the OEWG.

92. The Secretariat then drew the meeting's attention to an example of how the Basel Convention OEWG operated as appended in Attachment 1.

93. The Meeting was then invited to deliberate on how the work of the STAC could be further improved in informing the Waigani Convention COP on the specific Scientific and Technical aspects of the implementation of the Convention

94. The representative from PNG thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and sought clarification on the reporting arrangements of the OEWG to the STAC.

95. The Secretariat clarified the distinction between OEWG and STAC and emphasised the technical roles of both committees to their respective COPs. However, currently the reports submitted by STAC to the Waigani Convention COP was not technical in nature and this needed to change if the implementation of the Waigani Convention was going to be improved in the long run.

96. The representative of FSM suggested the possible formation of national OEWGs that are guided by the Secretariat on their Terms of Reference and Convention Articles to focus on. The OEWG will report to the Secretariat to establish a monitoring mechanism.

97. The Secretariat welcomed this suggestion and offered to assist countries establish national OEWG.

98. The Chair elaborated on the need to improve ways on how STAC operates to make it more effective.

99. The Meeting directed the Secretariat to develop the improved mode of operations for future STAC Meetings.

Agenda item 12: Business Plan for the PRC 2016-2017

100. The Secretariat introduced the Business Plan for the PRC 2014-2015 (WC STAC-5 – WP.12).

101. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the implementation of activities under the Waigani Convention for the last 4 years has been driven by a work program that has been developed by the Secretariat with very little (if any) assistance from the Parties. The Convention's work plan is essentially the work plan of the Waste Management and Pollution Control Division of Secretariat, which is discussed and agreed by Members at the annual SPREP meeting.

102. The Secretariat further added that linked to this Work Program is a budget that has been secured by the Secretariat for the activities that have been included in the Work Program. The meeting was further informed that the budget for the 2016-2017 Business Plan is USD\$3,926,814 of which 98% was secured funding with the remaining 2% under negotiations with a number of potential donors.

103. The Secretariat also noted that Parties were often better placed than the Secretariat to request and secure funding for implementing national activities, and urged Parties to exploit such opportunities. The Secretariat further advised that it stood ready to assist Parties in the development of project proposals for resourcing considerations.

104. The meeting considered and endorsed the Work Program and Budget as contained in the 2016-2017 Business Plan.

Agenda item 13: Logo of the Waigani Convention

105. The Secretariat introduced the paper seeking the meeting's approval on the development of a logo for the Waigani Convention (WC STAC-5 – WP.13).

106. The Secretariat informed the meeting since its entry into force in 2001, the Waigani Convention has existed without a logo to identify it. The Waigani Convention has been largely signified by the logo of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)

107. The Secretariat further advised the meeting that the agenda item sought guidance on the development of a logo for the Waigani Convention. The design of the logo should be accompanied by what the symbols on the logo means, if an agreement was reached to proceed with the proposal.

108. The Chair advised the meeting to note that the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam Conventions used first initials in the logo (BRS), and to consider this for the development of the logo for the Waigani Convention. The Chair then asked for further comments and with none coming, moved to agree to the logo development as proposed.

109. The Secretariat sought inputs from members on the way forward to this such as a regional competition.

110. The representative of Fiji enquired whether there was a budget for this, to which the Secretariat advised that there was no budget in place. The representative of Niue enquired whether countries would need to contribute to this regional competition, as well as provisions of incentives given the importance the logo would have in representing the Waigani Convention. The Secretariat in response stated that with approval for the development of the logo, the Secretariat could work toward putting forward such requests to donors.

111. The representative of Niue further enquired as to who would give the final approval of this logo. Similarly the representative of Fiji enquired whether this would be decided at the COP, and then moved for the Secretariat to work on the development of the logo.

112. The Secretariat advised that considering that the competition would be via the web, there was no money involved in the design, until the final stages of approval to be put forward to COP.

113. The representative of PNG requested that the logo competition could align with a National or World Waste Day.

114. The representative of Solomon Islands moved that all members are given an opportunity to contribute to logo development.

115. The representative of Samoa proposed that member countries produce their own versions of logo and submit them to the Secretariat.

116. The Chair moved for the Secretariat to work on development of the logo.

117. The Secretariat agreed to develop, and undertake the screening and finalization of the logo, based upon designs received from member countries from a competition and inform the Parties accordingly.

Agenda item 14: Other Business

118. The Secretariat introduced WC STAC-5 - WP.14 on Other Business which was structured to discuss any other business pertaining to the implementation of the Waigani Convention, such as how the Secretariat can improve its delivery of services with limited resources

119. In presenting the working paper, the Secretariat informed the meeting that despite a basic work plan and budget contained in the Business Plan, progress in implementation has been slow largely due to a number of major challenges faced by the region. These challenges are complex and immense, and often implementation of the Conventions by Parties, is as a consequence, limited.

120. The Secretariat further added that essential improvements are needed across the region in terms of human resources; improved expertise and knowledge, including legal expertise; increased financial support; increased capacity to conduct trainings ('train the trainers'); improved judicial capacity; improved awareness within relevant National authorities such as Ministries and their specialized department/agencies, customs officers, etc.); and increased political willingness from the relevant national authorities, to prioritise the improved management of chemicals and waste, and therefore the Convention's implementation

121. In addition, a mechanism needs to be developed to sustainably co-finance the activities of the Centre including, but not limited to a Waigani Trust fund, a Basel Trust Fund and Basel Technical Trust Fund. This will need to be formalized in project documents signed by Secretariat of the Basel Convention (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the Waigani Convention (SPREP).

122. The Meeting was then invited to consider and prioritise, in addition to the foregoing agenda items, other issues such as training of key officials in the countries to properly and effectively manage and administer the implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions; Legal and Technical Assistance; Attendance at International Meetings and fund raising. The outcomes of these would guide the Secretariat in development and planning of its work on behalf of Members in the coming years.

123. The representative of PNG enquired whether the opportunities for sponsoring of inter-country training visits would be considered a priority.

124. The Secretariat highlighted the potential for twinning under the PacWaste programme in healthcare waste, asbestos and E-waste management to achieve this outcome as well as under the J-PRISM project.

125. The Chair highlighted that attendance at international meetings should be also considered an important opportunity for Pacific island countries to have their voices heard as well as presenting the Pacific regional issues on the international stage. She however stressed the importance of timely response and submission of meeting invitation responses.

126. The Secretariat's assistance to Pacific delegates at the May 2015 super COP was also welcomed by the Chair. The Secretariat advised that it was not able to act as a regional Stockholm Convention Centre as SPREP is not a research agency.

127. The Secretariat encouraged the meeting to acknowledge the good working relationship with the China SCRC/BCRC and should seek to strengthen that relationship.

Agenda item 15: Date and venue for the next meeting

128. The Chair invited Parties to propose the venue and the date for the next STAC meeting.

129. The representative of FSM, seconded by the representative of Samoa proposed Tonga to be the next venue and suggested it be held in March in 2017.

130. The Secretariat advised that the actual date cannot be confirmed until the dates of the next BRS Conventions COPs are determined in their meetings in May this year in Geneva.

131. The representative of Cook Islands suggested that once the dates for the next BRS Conventions COP is determined, the Secretariat should advise the Parties of the actual dates of the next STAC meeting.

132. The Chair supported the last suggestion and advised the Secretariat to confirm the actual date based on the availability of the budget and the outcome of the BRS Conventions.

133. The Meeting agreed to hold the sixth meeting of the STAC (STAC 6) in Tonga and the actual dates to be advised by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 16: Adoption of meeting record

134. The representative of Fiji in her capacity of Rapporteur presented the adoption of the meeting record to delegates for consideration of adoption

135. The representative from PNG commented on paragraph 26 in Agenda Item 4 which referred to Fiji's request for assistance to the Secretariat in 2011. This was clarified by the representative of Fiji with no change being made to the meeting record.

136. The representative from Fiji commented that paragraph 77 in Agenda Item 9 required countries to submit their priorities by 9 April 2015 when discussions had mentioned 30 April 2015 to give countries a longer period to deliberate on this before submitting the information.

137. The representative from the Solomon's Island queried if this date should be completed earlier to ensure the information would be included within RS16.

138. The Chair responded that the later date was agreed in the meeting to permit further time is really for the countries to fully consider what their national priorities are and the information has a much broader use than RS16.

139. The secretariat clarified that it was acceptable for this information to be provided by 30 April as there are separate processes for collecting information for RS16. But that countries are welcome to submit the information at an earlier time.

140. The Chair moved to change the dates from 9 April to 30 April in the meeting record which was seconded by the representative from Fiji and the change recorded.

141. The Chair called for the term 'develop' in paragraph 79 in Agenda Item 10 to be changed to 'development' with the change being recorded.

142. The representative from PNG asked for a modification to paragraph 82 in Agenda 10 to include 'restriction and control' instead of banning. The meeting record was changed to include this.

143. The Chair thanked the representative of Fiji for presenting the draft and asked for consideration of draft and recommendation of acceptance in COP 7.

144. With no further comments the Chair requested for the meeting record to be adopted, which was seconded by the representative of Fiji.

Agenda item 17: Closure of meeting

145. In closing, the Chair congratulated the participants and Secretariat on a successful Meeting and thanked everyone for their constructive comments and input into the Meeting.

146. The chair encouraged the representatives of Nauru and Marshall Islands as observers to make interventions and advised that she looked forward to hosting Parties to the next STAC 6 in Tonga in 2017.

147. The Secretariat in closing thanked the Chair and Parties for a successful meeting and encouraged members to focus on forward planning at the PRC.

Annex 1: Participants' list

Country	Name and details of participants
Cook Islands	<p>Mr. Vavia Tangatataia Manager - Advisory & Compliance Division National Environment Service (Tu'anga Taporoporo) PO Box 371, Rarotonga COOK ISLANDS T: (682) 21256 M: (682) 55500 F: (682) 22256 E: vavia.tangatatai@cookislands.gov.ck</p>
Federated States of Micronesia	<p>Ms. Pattie Pedrus Sustainable Development Planner Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) Palikir, Pohnpei FSM 96941 FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA P: (691) 320 8814/8815 M: (691) 320 2289 F: (691) 320 8536 E: pattiwarm@gmail.com</p>
Fiji	<p>Ms. Laisani Lewanavanua Senior Environment Officer Waste Management and Pollution Control Unit Department of Environment PO Box 2109 Suva, FIJI ISLANDS T: (679) 311699 M: (679) 8640152 F: (679) 3312879 E: laisani.lewanavanua@govnet.gov.fj</p>
Kiribati	<p>Mr. Taulehia Pulefou Senior Environment Officer Environment and Conservation Division Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development PO Box 234, Beikenibeu Tarawa KIRIBATI P: (686) 284 25/280 00 F: (686) 283 34 E: taulehiap@environment.gov.ki</p>
Niue	<p>Ms. Trinya Luina Enamoe Vilila Waste Management Officer Department of Environment Ministry of Natural Resources Fonuakula, Alofi NIUE ISLAND P: (683) 4021 E: luina.vilila@mail.gov.nu</p>
Papua New Guinea	<p>Mr. Brendan Balthazaar Trawen Senior Scientific Officer Environment Permit, Regulatory Services, Environment Protection Wing Department of Environment & Conservation PO Box 6601, Boroko, National Capital District PAPUA NEW GUINEA P: (675) 301 4543 F: (675) 320 0182 E: btrawen@dec.gov.pg</p>

Samoa	<p>Mr. Lucie Isaia Senior Officer Chemicals & Hazardous Waste Management Divisions Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Private Bag Apia SAMOA T: +685 27200 F: +685 23 176 E: lucie.isaia@mnre.gov.ws</p> <p>Mr. Seumanu Mikaele Teofilo Senior Landfill Officer Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Apia SAMOA P: (685) 222 67/222 81/672 00 F: (685) 23176 E: mikaeleteofilo@gmail.com</p>
Solomon Islands	<p>Mr. Joe Horokou Director - Environment and Conservation Division Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology PO Box 21 Honiara SOLOMON ISLANDS P: (677) 230 31/230 32 F: (677) 28054 E: horokoujoe@gmail.com</p>
Tonga	<p>Ms. Mafile'o Masi Senior Environmentalist Head of Waste Management and Pollution Control Section Ministry of Lands, Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources PO Box 5, Vuna Road Nuku'alofa TONGA T: (676) 25050 F: (676) 23216 E: mafileo.masi@gmail.com</p>
Tuvalu	<p>Ms. Tavau Vaaia Simeona Information and Knowledge Management Officer Department of Environment Vaiaku, Funafuti TUVALU P: (688) 20179 E: tavau.simeona@giz.de; tvaiaa@gov.tv</p>

Observers:

Nauru	<p>Mr. Creiden Paul Fritz Director Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment NAURU P: M: F: E: creiden.fritz@gmail.com</p>
-------	---

Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)	<p>Ms. Morina Mook Chief of Waste and Pollutants Republic of Marshall Islands Environment Protection Authority PO Box 1322 Majuro, MH 96960 REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS P: (692) 625 3035/5203 F: (692) 625 5202 E: mokey15@gmail.com; morinamook@rmiepa.com</p>
------------------------------------	--

Secretariat:

<p>Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP)</p> <p>Address: PO Box 240 Apia Samoa P: +685 21929 Fax: +685 20231</p>	<p>Mr. Kosi Latu Acting Director General E: kosil@sprep.org</p> <p>Dr. David Haynes Director – Waste Management and Pollution Control E: davidh@sprep.org</p> <p>Dr. Frank Griffin Hazardous Waste Management Adviser E: frankg@sprep.org</p> <p>Mr. Anthony Talouli Pollution Control Adviser E: anthonyt@sprep.org</p> <p>Ms. Ma Bella Gunito Director – Waste Management and Pollution Control E: davidh@sprep.org</p> <p>Mr. Scott Willson Marine Pollution Officer E: scottw@sprep.org</p> <p>Ms. Kelsey Richardson Marine Pollution Assistant/Intern E: kelseyr@sprep.org</p> <p>Ms. Lusiana Ralogaivau GEF-PAS uPOPs Project Coordinator E: lusianar@sprep.org</p> <p>Mr. Stewart Williams PacWaste Project Manager E: stewartw@sprep.org</p> <p>Mr. Clark Peteru Environmental Legal Adviser E: clarkp@sprep.org</p> <p>Ms. Qiyang Kuang BCRC-China student/intern E: kuangqiyang@gmail.com</p> <p>Ms. Wang Chang BCRC-China student/intern E: wangchang2015@gmail.com</p> <p>Mrs. Pulemalie Habiri Divisional Assistant E: pulemalieh@gmail.com</p>
---	---

Annex 2: Opening speech from the Acting Director General

Madame Chair
Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the SPREP Headquarters and to this Fifth Meeting of the Waigani Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Meeting and the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Convention. I have been advised that the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee for the GEF-PAS uPOPs project that was to be held later this week has been deferred to a later date but we will use Wednesday's opening to discuss relevant issues relating to other waste management priorities that currently exist in your countries and for the region.

These meetings comes at an important stage in the Secretariat's, and the region's continuing effort to address the critically important issue of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes within our region. As you would all be aware, in addition to the existing Conventions, the global community has decided to add another Convention to this list, namely the Minamata Convention on Mercury. These conventions have their own obligations that we, as Parties will need to meet and these obligations are stretching our very limited resources.

In spite of this, a good number of our countries have made and continue to make great progress in putting in place systems that would help manage these wastes in an environmentally sound manner, but we all have a long way to go in terms of making these systems perform efficiently.

Many of you will recall that at its seventh meeting in Majuro last year, the Conference of the Parties took the decision to align the Waigani and Basel Convention meetings ,so pursuant to that decision, the Secretariat has now organized these meetings. We are excited that your governments have all made the decision to release you from your busy schedules to participate at these important meetings – a sign that the Waigani Convention is important to your governments. It also encourages us that the Waigani (and Basel) Conventions have ongoing relevance for the Region.

SPREP and its Members have long held the vision that the Pacific should be a region where human health and the environment are not threatened by hazardous and toxic waste and chemicals.

You as parties and the ultimate owners of this convention are the drivers of its implementation at your respective countries – it is your convention and it can only progress as far as you want it to. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee and the Centre Steering Committees are the mechanisms by which you can elaborate on your national priorities, and advocate for how these could be acted on through the Convention. The Secretariat needs to be guided in its work by you and stands ready to assist in progressing the issues you need assistance on. I encourage you to present and discuss your national priorities and request that they are address through assistance provided by the Secretariat.

I encourage you to take time to engage in discussion around the issues that are before you in these meetings. Be analytical and strategic in your interventions on how your nation wants to see the Convention implemented, but above all, be pragmatic with your nominations of priorities within the management resources available.

During the last couple of Waigani Convention COP meeting, Parties felt that there was a need to re-energise the Convention in light of changes in key government personnel, which may have resulted in a loss of institutional memory connected with management of the Conventions. In the last meeting in Majuro, a decision was made to make funds available to assist you all in meeting some of your pressing obligations such as National Reporting and Awareness Raising activities. It has been six months since that

meeting and we are still waiting for requests to come in. You the parties need to take the first step in asking for assistance.

These meetings can be used to commence that process – take time to discuss and explore ways in which we can collectively work together to re-energise the Conventions and to make sure that the implementation of the Waigani Convention is coordinated with other relevant waste-related activities coordinated at both regional and national levels.

Madame Chair, distinguished representatives, we have a lot of important work for our region ahead of us and I wish you success in your deliberations and pledge you the full and active support of the Secretariat in facilitating and carrying out our duties.

Finally, I would ask that you spare a thought regarding your contributions to the Convention. As the workload is increasing, more important decisions need to be made by Parties and actioned by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). It is your valuable contributions that enable these critical meetings to happen.

Thank you and God bless.