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*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  
 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### Agenda item 5: Effectiveness of STAC and SCPRC

#### Purpose:

1. 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, in order to improve its effectiveness.

#### Background:

2. The Conference of the Parties at its Sixth Meeting under Agenda Item 8 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.

An evaluation report was consequently prepared and discussed at the STAC-4 and SCPRC-3 meetings which acknowledged that both Committees have not performed as fully as expected and discussed ways in which to improve their performance. A number of suggestions were agreed to at both the STAC-4 and SCPRC-3 meetings and these were forwarded to the Seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention. The COPs in its decision on Agenda Item 5 on the Effectiveness of STAC and SCPRC: **noted** the value of the content of the *Evaluation Report presented by the Chairperson of the STAC and the Secretariat* without providing guidance or direction on what the STAC or the SCPRC should be doing.

3. At the STAC-5 meeting under Agenda Item 11 on Improving the Function of the STAC, discussions highlighted that STAC was established 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; and

- (d) assisting in creating coordination between the Waigani and the other regional and global Conventions.

4. During the discussions, the similarities between the STAC of the Waigani Convention and the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention were highlighted and that the STAC should be performing its functions in much the same way as the OEWG. It was noted that these two committees have very similar mandates and roles in how they should be feeding technical and scientific reports and information to their respective COPs. An example of how the OEWG does its work is contained in Annex 1 of this working paper.

5. The STAC-5 Meeting then directed the Secretariat to develop the improved mode of operations for future STAC Meetings.

6. The Secretariat has studied the manner in which the OEWG operates and proposes to the COP-8 meeting that the WC STAC operates in a similar manner to the BC OEWG while focusing on issues pertaining to the Waigani Convention area. In this regard, the STAC should strengthen and focus its work on dealing with the Pacific-specific matters on:

- a. Strategic issues;
- b. Scientific and technical matters;
- c. Legal, governance and enforcement matters;
- d. International cooperation and coordination; and
- e. Programme of work and budget

7. The STAC does not have to duplicate the work of the OEWG but can use the work of the OEWG as a guide with a focus on matters specific to our region. This will, in time, improve the effectiveness of the STAC and the SCPRC and provide quality information to the COP to discuss and make decisions on.

### **Recommendation**

8. The Meeting is invited to:
- **discuss** the role of the STAC and SCPRC;
  - **provide** direction under which the STAC and the SCPRC is to perform in the future in managing the implementation of the Waigani Convention as per its TOR; and
  - **direct** the Secretariat on any further actions required to progress this matter.

## Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2014–2015

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Priority</i>
<b>I. Strategic issues</b>			
A. Strategic framework	Consider the baseline report submitted by the Secretariat	BC-11/2	High
B. Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes	Prepare a road map for action and review the progress that parties have made in the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration	Annex IV to the report of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties Paragraph 109 of the report of the eighth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group	High
C. Developing guidelines for environmentally sound management	Consider the report on activities and work programme of the expert working group on the framework for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes	BC-11/1	High
D. Options for operations of the Open-ended Working Group	Consider the document prepared by the Secretariat analysing possible options for future institutional arrangements including their financial implications and prepare a report including recommendations on possible options for future institutional arrangements, including draft terms of reference as appropriate, for submission to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties	BC-11/19	High
<b>II. Scientific and technical matters</b>			
<b>A. Technical guidelines</b>	<p>1. (a) Update the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and prepare or update specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C to the Stockholm Convention by decisions SC-4/10–SC-4/18, SC-5/3 and SC-6/13 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation for the chemicals necessary to ensure that when disposed of they do not exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D of the Stockholm Convention;</li> <li>• Determination of which disposal methods constitute environmentally sound disposal as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;</li> <li>• Establishment, as appropriate, of the concentration levels of the chemicals in order to define for them low persistent organic pollutant content as referred to in paragraph 1(d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention.</li> </ul> <p>1. (b) Review waste-related aspects of the draft guidance document for the inventory of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention (2012), the draft guidance for the inventory of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) listed under the Stockholm Convention (2012), the draft guidance on best</p>	BC-11/3	High

<sup>1</sup> Where applicable, the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties will be added at the eleventh meeting of the Conference.

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Priority</i>
	available techniques and best environmental practices for the use of PFOS and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention (2012) and the draft guidance on the best available techniques and best environmental practices for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing PBDEs, listed under the Stockholm Convention (2012)		
	2. Update the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury	BC-11/5	High
	3. Further develop the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention	BC-11/4	High
B. National reporting	Review and revise the draft reporting format submitted by the small intersessional working group on national reporting	BC-11/7	High
C. Amendments to the annexes to the Basel Convention	1. Consider and review any applications for changes and any corrections to the list of wastes in Annexes VIII and IX to the Convention	VIII/15	High
	2. Consider the amendment of the entries in Annex VIII to the Basel Convention for polychlorinated dibenzo-furans and polychlorinated dibenzo-dioxins (entry A4110), DDT and other relevant persistent organic pollutants to include concentration levels for those chemicals, after the development of an appropriate framework for establishing de minimis concentrations	BC-11/3	Medium
	3. Consider the draft entry B3025 (composite packaging waste)	BC-11/6	High
D. Classification and hazard characterization of wastes	Provide guidance on the identification of wastes in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System and related matters	BC-10/10	Medium
<b>III. Legal, governance and enforcement matters</b>			
A. Consultation with the Committee for Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Convention	Consult with the Committee on the following activities of the Committee's 2014-2015 work programme: (a) Developing guidance on the development of inventories (b) Developing guidance on the take-back provision (c) Updating the guide to the control system (d) Reviewing and updating the manual for the implementation of the Basel Convention to ensure consistency between the manual and the guide to the control system and, as far as possible, to avoid duplication between the two documents	BC-11/8	High
B. Providing further legal clarity (CLI)	1. Finalize the glossary of terms and related explanations and prepare a draft decision, including on paragraph 16 (c) and 17 of decision BC-11/1, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting  2. Consider the report of the small intersessional working group on options for further steps towards the consistent interpretation of terminology, including possible voluntary and legally binding options	BC-11/1	High

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Priority</i>
<b>IV. International cooperation and coordination</b>			
A. Basel Convention Partnership Programme	Consider the report of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, including its recommendations, and based on these and the outcome of discussions to submit recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting for its consideration and possible adoption	BC-11/15	High
B. Environmentally sound dismantling of ships	Consider the report of the Secretariat on the programmes for sustainable ship recycling and on developments in relation to the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships	BC-11/16	Medium
C. Other international cooperation and coordination	Provide guidance, as appropriate, to the Secretariat on means of enhancing cooperation and coordination with international and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements in areas of relevance to the Convention	BC-10/15	Medium
<b>V. Programme of work and budget</b>			
A. Financing and budget for the biennium 2014-2015	Consider the reports by the Secretariat on all sources of income received, including the reserve and fund balances and interest, together with actual, provisional and projected expenditures and commitments, and by the Executive Secretary on all expenditures against the agreed budget lines	BC-11/26	Medium

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