Ninth 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 15th September 2017

Introduction

- 1. The Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention was held on 15 September, 2017 in Apia, Samoa.
- 2. The 13 Parties to the Convention are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- 3. Present at the Meeting were representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu. A full list of participants can be found in Annex I.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of Meeting

- 4. The Meeting commenced with a prayer by the representative of Tonga.
- 5. New Zealand, Chair of the Meeting noted the role of the Waigani Convention, a regional Agreement in line with the Basel Convention.
- 6. Director General of SPREP, welcomed delegates to the Meeting noting the great achievement in progressing this far. It has been 15 years since the entry into force of the Waigani Convention with the inaugural COP1 Meeting held in Republic of Marshall Islands in 2002.
- 7. The Director General in his opening address noted while much work and significant progress has been made, there is still much to be done in terms of effectiveness of the Convention, especially at the national level. While there are success stories to showcase, the region as a whole is still dealing with a substantial of legacy waste on top of new waste generated within our region.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of the Meeting

8. In accordance with Rule 19 of the Rules of Procedure of the Waigani Convention, the Meeting elected a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and a

- Rapporteur by a simple majority vote. The rapporteuring function has traditionally been provided by the Secretariat.
- 9. The Meeting elected Cook Islands was elected as Chairperson, Federated States of Micronesia as Vice-Chairperson and Tuvalu as Rapporteur to oversee the proceedings of the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. All officers were elected unopposed.
- 10. The incoming Chair thanked Tonga and the Meeting for their support.
- 11. The Meeting:
 - elected Cook Islands as Chairperson, Federated States of Micronesia as Vice Chairperson, Tuvalu as Rapporteur to oversee the proceedings of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda

- 12. The Agenda presented before the Meeting is structured to provide the opportunity for the parties to receive information pertaining to the updates and strategic action issues as well as the opportunity to inform the meeting of their achievements and challenges under the Convention. This will allow these to be captured and addressed in the coming biennium.
- 13. The Meeting:
 - discussed the Provisional Agenda and make any amendments, where necessary; and
 - > adopted the Provisional Agenda (Anne II)

Agenda item 4: Presentation of Reports by the Secretariat of work undertaken since COP7

Agenda item 4.1: STAC-6 Report

- 14. The Secretariat tabled the report of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Waigani Convention (STAC 6) held in February in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in 2017.
- 15. The Meeting:
 - adopted the draft report of the sixth Waigani Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-6) meeting report.

Agenda item 4.2: SCPRC-5 Report

- 16. The Secretariat presented the tabled draft report of the Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Pacific Regional Centre for the joint implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions (SCPRC-5). The Meeting was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in February, 2017.
- 17. The Secretariat referred the Meeting to the SCRPC-5 Report as outlined in the attachment where the SCRPC-5 Meeting Chaired by Fiji was attended by sub-regional representatives from Australia, Polynesia represented by Samoa, Micronesia represented by Federated States of Micronesia, Melanesia by Vanuatu and New Zealand's position was filled by Niue.

18. The Meeting:

adopted the draft report of the fifth meeting of the Steering Committee for the Pacific Regional Centre for the joint implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions (SCPRC-5).

Agenda item 4.3: Project Related Activities

- 19. The Secretariat presented a report for consideration by the Meeting, on the work undertaken in the implementation of the Waigani Convention since COP-8, noting the change in format of the submitted report.
- 20. At the Eighth Meeting held in Apia, Samoa in 2015 a work plan was adopted for the biennial 2016 2017 period outlining a number of activities, the report presented by the Secretariat provided an updated on activities implemented jointly by Parties and the Secretariat over this time.

21. The Meeting:

- discussed and provided feedback, where necessary, to the Reports on the work undertaken in the implementation of the Waigani Convention since COP 8: and
- > adopted the report.

Agenda item 5.1: Strategic Framework

22. The Secretariat proposed to develop a ten-year strategic framework to guide and direct the development of future work programmes for the Waigani Convention and the Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre. The proposed framework will develop a long term work program that aligns to the Cleaner Pacific Waste Management Strategy 2025, and includes midterm

- and final evaluations, and indicators developed by the Secretariat based on information from Parties.
- 23. Federated States of Micronesia thanked the Secretariat for promoting the Waigani Convention but sought clarification on why it was limited to the South Pacific in the Convention name.
- 24. The Secretariat clarified that there is a process which needs to be taken to change the Convention name and proposed that it be done in the next Conference of Parties. Federated States of Micronesia agreed to the recommendation.
- 25. Australia queried on how the development of the Strategic Framework links to the evaluation and vice versa and, with the other regional frameworks of SPREP.
- 26. The Secretariat responded that the Strategic Framework needs to be considered in the review of the Convention and aligned with the Cleaner Pacific 2025. The Deputy Director General emphasised the advantage of having a Strategic Framework to the Convention on the basis of some of the funding to be sought.
- 27. New Zealand supports having a longer term Strategic Framework but suggested that it should not be finalised before completion of the evaluation of the Convention.

- discussed and provided feedback, to the proposal for the development of a Strategic Framework; and
- > directed the Secretariat on how this matter is to be implemented in the upcoming biennium (2018-2019).

Agenda item 5.2(i): Technical guidelines on Pacific specific hazardous waste issues

- 29. The Secretariat sought guidance from the Meeting on developing guidelines on Pacific regional specific hazardous and what Pacific specific hazardous waste issues the region and Secretariat should be concentrating on.
- 30. The Secretariat stated that there are generic guidelines that do not include the Pacific region specific issues.
- 31. Australia suggested that as much as possible to make use of generic guidelines available through the Basel and other Conventions.

- 32. Australia and Tonga, recalled the STAC Meeting decision for Parties to provide their hazardous waste issue priorities to the Secretariat and requested an update from the Secretariat. The Secretariat responded that it has yet to receive any Party reports. The Chair urged Parties to provide the Secretariat with hazardous waste issue priorities and for the Secretariat to follow up.
- 33. The Chair recalled from the Noumea Convention COP14 held on the 14th September 2017 discussions spanning the issue of radio-active material transportation through the region which could be included in the guidelines.

- discussed the issue of Pacific specific hazardous waste management issues; and.
- provided guidance and direction the Secretariat on developing guidelines on dealing with these Pacific specific hazardous waste management issues

Agenda item 5.2(ii): Classification and hazard characteristics

- 35. The Secretariat sought guidance from the Meeting on developing a regional program to harmonise the classification and hazard characteristics as prescribed under Annex I and II of the Waigani Convention, with the globally harmonised system in the management of chemicals and hazard materials, noting confusion is caused by the different classification systems now in place.
- 36. Australia noted they have a list of wastes covered under the Basel Convention proposed to be included in the harmonised system which can be shared, as the Secretariat explained it has a list of waste provided but not a list from any of the countries in regards to the Basel Convention. This list can be found at Annex III.
- 37. Samoa advised that they had raised concerns on harmonisation between waste and chemical conventions and national legislation at the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) triple Conference of Parties held in Geneva in April 2017.
- 38. Samoa advised this is an important common issues for Pacific islands for materials such as used or second hand imported electronic goods and the need for classification for hazardous waste in national harmonisation system to enable compliance monitoring and tracking of imports and export

- 39. The Chair requested from the Secretariat if it was possible to obtain the required information on hazardous waste lists from the national reports that have been submitted with the Secretariat advising this can be used but only three country reports have been provided.
- 40. The Secretariat also additionally advised that the country reports do not capture all chemicals and hazardous wastes being imported and exported in Pacific island countries and is therefore incomplete but agreed to use the information provided.
- 41. Tonga advised that information on chemicals and hazardous wastes for a list for harmonisation has already been provided to the Secretariat through a number of meetings and training and requested this information be used in place of countries having to duplicate efforts again in providing this information in an additional formal list.
- 42. Tonga further advised that these events with the Secretariat have highlighted common hazardous waste issues with E-waste, used oil and car batteries across Pacific island countries as well as possibly some country/territory specific matters with radioactive wastes such as in French Polynesia.
- 43. The Secretariat thanked the representative from Tonga for the valuable recommendations, recognising that reporting is an issue that can place a significant burden on countries with a resulting focus on the reporting instead of the work and this approach will help the Secretariat better assist counties through adopting a more pro-active approach.

- discussed the issue of Pacific specific hazardous waste management issues; and.
- provided guidance and direction the Secretariat on working with the parties on identifying the specific hazardous wastes to be submitted for inclusion in the globally harmonised system.

Agenda item 5.2(iii): National Reporting

45. Article 7.3 of the Waigani Convention requires Parties, consistent with their national laws and regulations, to set up information, collection and dissemination mechanisms on hazardous wastes to enable the Secretariat to fulfil its obligations under articles 9.6 and 14. Reports are required to be completed and templates have been made available. The forms can be downloaded at: http://www.sprep.org/legal/regional.htm.

- 46. A National Report was received and tabled from Cook Islands for the period 2012 2016, the Chair noted they were pleased to be able to table their first report and are streamlining internal processes to ensure regular reporting in future.
- 47. Samoa reported submission of 2015 report and 2016 report is still being prepared
- 48. Federated States of Micronesia reported receipt of an unsigned hard copy and promised to formalise the submission to the Secretariat soon.
- 49. Australia noted the submission of their final 2015 and 2016 reports will be at the end of September and an interim report was submitted. Australia further noted that the 2017 report will be submitted after January 2018.
- 50. Tuvalu reported the recent change in the focal point to the Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu and acknowledged non-submission due to this recent transition. Tuvalu requested assistance from the Secretariat so it can submit timely reports.
- 51. The Chair thanked Parties that submitted their report and encouraged other countries to submit timely reports and emphasised the importance of the reports to achieve country aspirations.

- > tabled any Reports they may have completed for 2016-2017;
- > **shared** with the Secretariat and other Parties their experience on any instances of illegal traffic since September 2015; and
- urged parties that had not yet done so to transmit to the Secretariat their completed forms on the transmission of information for 2015 and for previous years, as soon as possible and in electronic form, using the reporting forms adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting.

Agenda item 5.3(i): Committee administering the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance

- 53. The Secretariat sought approval from the Meeting for the establishment of a committee to administer the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance of the Waigani Convention, helping to improve the value of the convention at the national level.
- 54. The Secretariat outlined that the Convention is administered by the STAC and the COP Meetings.

- 55. Samoa, Australia, and Cook Islands sought further clarification on what would comprise such a committee, what role it would play and how it would be resourced.
- 56. Australia further noted similar compliance committees in other Conventions such as the Rotterdam Convention which are very well set up and resourced. Australia requested further information before agreeing to the establishment of a compliance committee including what and how it would function.
- 57. The Secretariat clarified the committee would be a voluntary, consisting of peers to play a compliance supervisory role. The committee would also maintain low costs by holding meetings back to back with other organised regional events.
- 58. The Secretariat was requested to provide further work on this and present at the next COP for consideration.
- 59. The Meeting:
 - **discussed** the proposal for the establishment of the committee;
 - further discussed the possible manner in which the committee would operate and how it will report to the COP on its work; and
 - directed the Secretariat to provide more information to the next COP for consideration.

Agenda item 5.3(ii): National legislation, notification, enforcement of the convention and efforts to combat illegal trafficking

- 60. The Meeting was invited to present activities undertaken by Parties to meet their obligations under the various articles of the conventions pertaining to national legislation (Article 3), notification (Article 6), enforcement of the convention (Article 10) and efforts to combat illegal trafficking (Article 9) during 2016 2017.
- 61. Samoa noted even with national legislation in place waste and non-waste classification as well as electronic notifications pose great challenges, requesting capacity building support from the Secretariat to address their challenges. Samoa has developed regulations on the importation of waste and now face challenges of how to identify and track imported electronics to monitor the life cycle of the products.
- 62. Federated States of Micronesia requested clarification on a comprehensive review of national legislations, notification and enforcement processes.

- 63. The Secretariat clarified no comprehensive review has been carried out on national legal frameworks in response to a query from Federated States of Micronesia. The Secretariat also proposed possible training in Samoa to help address their challenges, inclusive of support to enhance inter-agency cooperation.
- 64. American Samoa thanked the Chair for the opportunity to comment as an observer on the notification component of the Waigani Convention. American Samoa enquired if the convention had a process that allowed for non-parties like American Samoa to participate in the implementation of the Convention, especially in allow ships to transit through their ports. American Samoa further enquired if the process can be explored for the notification process to allow for timely response and if an electronic notification process could be considered.
- 65. The Secretariat responded that this was not a unique case as countries that are only party to the Waigani Convention have also received notification requests from Basel only parties, for the ship to transit through their ports. It further advised that the authority on consenting lied with the country or territory. In the case of the French Territories, the authority to consent lies with the Territories. The situation with American Samoan is different because the United States is not a party to the Basel Convention so they will need to use their established approval system to provide the consent.
- 66. The Chair noted the good discussion in this agenda item.
- 67. The Meeting:
 - tabled any national legislation developed or revised, notification received or sent and enforcement of the convention during 2016-2017;
 - > **shared** with the Secretariat and other Parties their experience on any instances of illegal traffic since September 2015; and
 - discussed options on how the gaps that currently exist in their national systems can be addressed during 2018-2019

Agenda item 5.4: Technical Assistance

68. The Meeting was invited to approve the development of a program that will provide convention specific technical assistance to build the capacity of the developing country parties. This program will help developing country parties to perform the required functions to effectively implement the convention at the national level.

- 69. The Secretariat highlighted the need for a Technical Assistance for the Basel and Waigani Conventions to be structured around the needs of the Parties. It noted the existing relevant components as opportunities for technical assistance such as:
 - a) capacity building on obligation requirements through the AFD, GEFPAS and PacWaste projects as well as J-PRISM project.
 - b) work of the Pacific Regional Centre through training on technology transfer funded by Basel and Waigani Conventions and
 - c) group of Universities available to provide technical assistance aligned with the project. It further noted that the three components can be addressed through the Centre.
- 70. The Chair noted Tonga's earlier comment on the Secretariat being more proactive.
- 71. Samoa recognised the role of regional and sub-regional centres in capacity building especially on exploring options for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) to address end-of-life of products in the region. Samoa also suggested that the Technical Assistance programme reflects synergies with existing regional mechanisms.
- 72. Australia commented on the need to consider the funding mechanisms of the Convention in developing the specific details of the Technical Assistance programme.
- 73. In response, the Secretariat noted that there is a dedicated paper on financial resourcing. It further noted that the current technical assistance provided is not programmatic or coordinated, and the proposed Technical Assistance Programme will be able to track what is needed and provided. Further direction from this meeting will allow the Secretariat to progress.
- 74. Federated States of Micronesia supported Australia's comment on the need for identifying financing requirements before developing the programme and identify gaps on capacity needs.
- 75. The Chair agreed to discuss the Agenda Item on financing scheme first before developing the programme.
- 76. The Meeting:
 - discussed the issue of convention specific needs assessment and committed to submitting the requested information to the Secretariat by the 31st December 2017; and
 - approved the development of a convention specific technical assistance program

Agenda item 5.5: International cooperation, coordination and partnership

- 77. The Secretariat tabled a report of the current international cooperation, coordination and partnerships of the Waigani Convention and sought guidance and direction from the Meeting on how to improve these relationships.
- 78. The Secretariat also outlined four international partnerships through the BRS Conventions, and the Minamata Convention. As well as its relationship with the Ocean Customs Organisation, Tsinghua University the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China.

79. The Meeting:

> **noted** the report of the Secretariat.

Agenda item 5.6: Financial Resources

- 80. The Secretariat informed the Meeting of the current financial resources mobilised to support the work of the Convention, and sought guidance from the Meeting on how financial resources may be mobilised in future.
- 81. The Chair requested that this agenda item be parked and take up during the discussions under Agenda Item 7.

Agenda item 5.7: Operations and work program for the STAC for 2018 - 2019

- 82. The Secretariat sought approval from the Meeting to trial the operations and work programme for the STAC in the coming biennium in the same format as that of the Open-ended working group (OEWG) of the Basel Convention. Similarities between the mandates and roles of the STAC and the OEWG were raised during the STAC-5 Meeting.
- 83. Australia expressed support for the trial programme but this needs to be subject to the proposed evaluation of the Convention.
- 84. Samoa thanked the Secretariat for the work programme but proposed to include marine plastics as discussed in the last STAC meeting.
- 85. The Secretariat noted that marine pollution is already captured in the other programmed work of the Secretariat but agreed to incorporate this in the Waigani work programme to be aligned with the work of the Noumea Convention. In response to the financial implications of the work programme, the Secretariat assured that there is already dedicated funding for the activities except for legislation.

- 86. Samoa further commented on the need to address overall marine pollution from both shipping and land-based sources.
- 87. The Chair noted that this has been discussed in the Noumea Convention and proposed greater collaboration between the two conventions.
- 88. The Meeting:
 - discussed and approved the proposal to trial the operations and work program for the STAC in the coming biennium in the same format as the OEWG for the Basel Convention;
 - directed the Secretariat to prepare future operations and work program for the STAC in this format and based on the priorities of the parties to the convention; and
 - directed the Secretariat to coordinate its efforts under the Convention with those under the Noumea Convention

Agenda item 6: Competent Authorities and Focal Points

- 89. The Secretariat requested the Parties update, where necessary, the list of Competent Authorities and Focal Points provided to the Meeting. A table of names currently used by the Secretariat was shared with Parties.
- 90. The Chair noted updated information on the relevant Cook Islands Authorities and Focal Points will be provided to the Secretariat.
- 91. The Meeting:
 - > reviewed the list and, if there are changes, to informed the Secretariat in accordance with the agreed mode.

Agenda item 7: Evaluation of the Waigani Convention

- 92. The Secretariat requested the Meeting approve a proposal to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of how the Waigani Convention is being implemented at all levels, whether its objectives are being met by the actions of the parties, the effectiveness of the Secretariat and to provide recommendations on how these can be improved.
- 93. New Zealand and Australia support in principle an evaluation of the Convention with considerations for financial resourcing. New Zealand requested for parties to be provided with a better understanding of the evaluation process. New Zealand suggested for the evaluation to focus on practical actions for improvement, issues around finance resourcing, priorities

- of parties as informed in previous Conference of Parties and national reporting to capture what countries are facing in terms of implementation challenges.
- 94. The Secretariat agreed to the suggestion of Australia highlighting that the rationale of the evaluation is to check if current priorities are still relevant. The Deputy Director General proposed drafting of a Terms of Reference looking at objectives and approaches which can be considered for the next COP and noted that financing is only available from members' fees but suggested collaborating with the Noumea Convention may improve financial status.
- 95. Australia suggested to take the Friends of Chair (FOC) approach in drafting the TOR to gather more input before presentation to the STAC. The Secretariat supports this approach to seek broader inputs from parties and requested for volunteers to assist in the drafting of the TOR. The Chair formally requested for volunteers and Australia, Samoa, and Cook Islands agreed to take part in the process with New Zealand reserving its decision later. The Secretariat is directed to follow up the request with further notification.

- discussed the proposal for a comprehensive evaluation of the Waigani Convention to be undertaken, including what the expected outcomes of these evaluation are;
- > **explored** ways in which the evaluation is to be undertaken, including how it will be funded; and
- directed the Secretariat to form a Friends of the Chair group to progress the Terms of Reference for tabling at the next STAC Meeting.

Agenda item 8: Financial statements for 2016 and 2017

- 97. The Secretariat presented the following reports:
 - Director General's statement 2015
 - Auditors report 2015
 - Income and Expenditure 2016 2017

98. The Meeting:

➤ adopted the relevant parts of the audited Financial Statements for 2016 and 2017.

Agenda item 9.1: Waigani Convention biennium budget for 2018-2019

- 99. The Secretariat presented the budget to support the 2018-2019 Work Programme for the Waigani Convention for consideration and approval by the Meeting. It was developed in addition to the Pacific Regional Centre Business Plan and presented to the 6th meeting of the Waigani Convention Scientific, Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-6) for review, and was approved by the STAC-6 Meeting.
- 100. Federated States of Micronesia sought further clarification on the funds for technical assistance.
- 101. The Secretariat clarified, in response to queries from Federated States of Micronesia, that US 40,000 per year for 2018 and 2019 is allocated to technical assistance for countries from programmatic funding for SPREP, and not from Member contributions, the allowance of US 40,000 has been the same amount allocated for the past six years.
- 102. Samoa suggested aligning the work plan with that of the Noumea Convention so it helps to span cross cutting work addressing marine pollution and other similar issues for which the Secretariat responded that all work encompassing this area is covered by the Noumea Convention.

103.The Meeting:

considered and approved the draft budget as recommended by the STAC-6 meeting

Agenda item 9.2: Status of contributions to the Convention

- 104. The Secretariat tabled the report on the status of party contributions to the Waigani Convention up to 16 August 2017.
- 105. Australia requested correction on their balance of contribution affirming that it has already paid for 2017 to 2018 and noted that a receipt is held.

106.The Meeting:

- > **noted** the status of the contributions; and
- encouraged the parties with outstanding contributions to work with the Secretariat on ways to make payment of these contributions

Agenda item 10.1: Consideration and adoption of the Work Programme for the Waigani Convention

- 107. The Secretariat presented the 2018-2019 Work Programme for the Waigani Convention for consideration and approval by the Meeting, this was developed in addition to the PRC Business Plan and presented to the 6th meeting of the Waigani Convention Scientific, Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-6) for review and was approved by the STAC-6 meeting.
- 108. Australia queried on how the work programme relates to the Cleaner Pacific 2025 and how it relates to the strategic framework.
- 109. The Secretariat responded that the work programme is developed under the framework of the Cleaner Pacific 2025 framework.

110.The Meeting:

considered and approved the draft work programme as recommended by the STAC-6 meeting.

Agenda item 10.2: Consideration and adoption of the Business Plan for the PRC

111. The Secretariat presented the 2018-2019 Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre for consideration and approval by the Meeting. It was developed and presented to the 5th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre (SCPRC-5) for review, and was approved by the SCPRC-5.

112.The Meeting:

considered and approved the draft work programme as recommended by the SCPRC-5 meeting.

Agenda item 11: Other Business

- 113. Tuvalu indicated the need for a formal mechanism for the Waigani Convention to be recognised by the Basel Convention, highlighting the barrier for non-parties to export recyclables such as lead acid batteries to Basel Parties. Tuvalau explained this formal recognition would assist Waigani Parties.
- 114. Federated States of Micronesia supported Tuvalu, briefly sharing an experience stemming from an outdated contact list for the Basel Convention.

- 115. The Secretariat advised there are several options for Tuvalu, one being to become a Party to the Basel Convention, the other being for the Waigani Convention Parties to make a formal request to the Basel Convention in line with official channels and procedures, noting the urgency of this second option in order to meet the next Basel Convention COP.
- 116. Australia sought clarification of what criteria will be needed for the latter option for which the Secretariat explained these may be minor due to the similarities between the two Conventions.
- 117.In relation to the call from Federated States of Micronesia, the Secretariat suggested to follow through with online sources to direct contact points as the contact list of the Basel Convention, while made available on their website, is the duty of the Parties to keep updated.
- 118. Tuvalu confirmed it will explore the option of becoming a Party to the Basel Convention before proceeding with the second option.
- 119. Also raised under this agenda item by the Chair was the introduction of a Paper on Asbestos to be presented to the Twenty-Eighth SPREP Meeting by Cook Islands, noting copies of this paper are being made available on the SPREP website.

Agenda Item 12: Date and venue of the next Meeting

120. The Tenth Conference of the Parties will be held in Apia, Samoa in 2019

Agenda Item 13: Adoption of the Meeting Records

121. The Meeting record was duly noted. Proposed by Australia, seconded by Federated States of Micronesia.

Agenda Item 14: Closure of the Meeting

122.The Meeting closed at 4.31pm
