

## **Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 6) 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).**

### **Introduction**

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 6) 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) was held on 20-21 February, 2017 in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.
2. Present at the Meeting were representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Republic of the Marshall Islands was present as an Observer. A full list of participants can be found in [Annex 1](#).

### **Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

3. The Meeting commenced at 9.15am with a welcome from Mr Siosua Latu, Principal Assistant Secretary of Tonga's Department of Environment, and an opening prayer by the representative of Cook Islands.
4. The Acting Chief Executive Officer of Tonga's Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication (MEIDECC), Ms Lupe Matoto, welcomed all delegates to the Meeting and thanked them for their attendance. A full copy of the Welcoming Address can be found in [Annex 2](#).
5. Acting Director of the Environmental Monitoring and Governance Division of SPREP, Mr Clark Peteru, delivered Opening Remarks, noting the large amount of work taking place in the area of hazardous waste in the Pacific islands region. A full copy of the Opening Remarks can be found in [Annex 3](#).
6. The opening concluded at 9.25am with a prayer from the representative of Fiji.

### **Agenda Item 2: Organisation of the Meeting**

7. The outgoing Chairperson, from Tonga, welcomed delegates to the Meeting, noting that a quorum had been reached.
8. In accordance with Rule 22.3 of the Rules of Procedures the Meeting elected a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Rapporteur by a simple majority vote.
9. The Meeting elected Papua New Guinea as Chairperson, Australia as Vice Chairperson and Solomon Islands as Rapporteur to oversee the proceedings of the STAC 6 Waigani Convention. The Chairperson was elected by six votes, the Vice Chairperson was elected unanimously and the Rapporteur was elected by six votes.

10. The outgoing Chairperson thanked the Parties for having entrusted Tonga with the role of Chairperson before inviting Mr Veari Kula, representing Papua New Guinea, to commence official duties.
11. The Secretariat thanked Tonga for its excellent work as Chairperson, noting the strong level of support and engagement over the previous three years. The Secretariat also emphasised the prime importance of country participation in driving the priorities of the STAC and taking advantage of resources available through the Pacific Regional Centre.
12. The incoming Chairperson thanked delegates for electing Papua New Guinea to the position, congratulated the incoming Vice Chairperson and Rapporteur and thanked the outgoing Chairperson for their guidance.
13. The Meeting:
  - **elected** Papua New Guinea as Chairperson, Australia as Vice Chairperson and Solomon Islands as Rapporteur to oversee the proceedings of the STAC 6 of the Waigani Convention.

### **Agenda Item 3: Adoption of Agenda**

14. The Chairperson enquired as to whether any Parties had additional issues to add to the provisional Agenda.
15. Australia requested whether any information was available on cooperation with the European Union funded and Pacific Community (SPC) executed INTEGRE project. The Secretariat explained that a questionnaire had been sent out by an EU consultant and completed but the outcomes of the questionnaire were as yet unknown.
16. Cook Islands enquired whether updates on the PacWaste and Pacific POPs Release Reduction projects would be covered in the Meeting. The Secretariat explained that an update on the Pacific POPs Release Reduction project would be covered in the forthcoming Steering Committee Meeting and that the PacWaste project elements would be covered in the overall report presented in Agenda Item 4.
17. The Secretariat then explained that in previous meetings, discussions were focused on what the Secretariat had done by way of an update and where necessary, discussion papers on strategic issues. It did not provide a structure that parties were able to provide updates on what they had done or what they were having difficulties with in terms of implementing the Waigani Convention at the national level. It further explained that the current Agenda was designed to allow the parties to provide their updates and their challenges and allow the Secretariat to work towards addressing these issues.
18. The Meeting:
  - **adopted** the Agenda which is attached as Annex 4.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Matters relating to work programme of STAC-5**

19. The Secretariat presented its report on work undertaken in the implementation of the Waigani Convention since COP 8 in September, 2015 and invited comments and feedback from the Meeting.
20. Australia enquired about the case of illegal trafficking described in the report. The Secretariat explained that the incident was not deliberate, but that paperwork had not been completed for a shipment of Used Lead Acid Batteries.
21. With regard to the upcoming overhaul of the SPREP website and the BRC webpage, Fiji enquired whether reports would have to be delayed until the new website was set up. The Secretariat explained that reports need to be submitted within 12 months of the activity period, regardless of the status of the website.
22. With regard to insurance options for Waigani movements, Australia enquired whether countries have access to guidelines for appropriate insurance options. The Secretariat explained that this is what the activity aims to achieve, but that issues related to confidentiality have, to date, hampered the Secretariat's efforts to compile and distribute this information.
23. In response to a question from the Secretariat, Australia explained that it is in the process of developing guidelines for insurance of hazardous shipments, and noted that insurance needs to cover cleanup costs in the event of a worst case scenario. Following a request from Tuvalu, Australia agreed to share these guidelines with other Parties to the Convention once finalised.
24. Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati stressed the value of being provided with information about insurance options, including minimum cover required, as the information is otherwise not readily available. Tonga agreed and emphasised the importance of countries having a formal policy in place with regard to insurance.
25. Tuvalu enquired as to whether the Secretariat could assist in helping countries to develop such a policy. The Secretariat suggested that Tuvalu might wish to identify this as a national priority so that the possibility of providing assistance in this area could be explored.
26. The Meeting noted that Australia is moving towards an online application system for Waigani notification forms.
27. The Secretariat noted requests from Tuvalu and Kiribati for support with reporting.
28. Vanuatu observed that a great deal of work still needs to be done before it can properly start implementing the Convention. The Secretariat suggested that Vanuatu prioritise the training and support required and provide this information to the Secretariat for consideration.
29. Fiji thanked the Secretariat for Waigani Convention Training provided in 2015 and noted that Fiji's report for 2003-2015 had been submitted to the Secretariat for feedback.

30. Following a question from Federated States of Micronesia about the process for requesting technical assistance, the Secretariat clarified that such requests must be made formally in a paper format.
31. In response to Tonga's observation about the high cost of exporting used oil to Fiji compared to Asia, the Secretariat noted that the Convention does advise that waste should be treated as close to the source as possible but that financial implications are a difficult barrier to overcome. Australia noted that it has enacted regulations which allow the Competent Authority the discretion to refuse the export of waste if it can be disposed of in Australia in an environmentally sound manner.
32. The Secretariat noted a request from Tuvalu for asbestos training, similar to that which was conducted by the PacWaste project in Nauru.
33. Tuvalu, Federated States of Micronesia and Fiji noted that value of the recent in-country Chemical Management Training programmes run by USP as part of the Pacific POPs Release Reduction project. It was further noted that participants from the training conducted in Tuvalu and Kiribati had not yet received their certificates.
34. Tonga noted the current training on asbestos being conducted in-country and commended the Secretariat for facilitating regional and national training in hazardous waste management practices.
35. Fiji requested assistance from the Secretariat for safely handling and removing asbestos, support in finalizing its Draft National Chemical Management Plan, and assistance with finalising its draft used oil regulations. Tuvalu, Niue and Kiribati also requested support in developing its Draft National Chemical Management Plan.
36. Federated States of Micronesia informed the Meeting of the difficulties it has recently had with identifying Competent Authorities in Korea and communicating with them. The Secretariat explained that Korea has a complex system as its different regions all have different Competent Authorities.
37. Australia advised the Meeting that it has developed a list of all Competent Authorities that it deals with – including those in Korea – and that it would be happy to share this information with the Secretariat to disseminate to Parties. Australia further advised that one way of eliciting a response is through direct contact with the Korean recycler to make direct contact with the relevant Competent Authority.
38. With regard to the healthcare waste component of the PacWaste project, Tuvalu, Cook Islands and Federated States of Micronesia observed errors in the activities listed in the documentation provided.
39. The Secretariat suggested that Federated States of Micronesia and Tonga discuss specific queries with regard to the healthcare waste incinerators with the PacWaste Project Manager.
40. With regard to defining whether a waste is hazardous, Australia advised the Meeting that it is developing guidelines on these definitions and agreed to share these with the Secretariat for onward dissemination to Parties on finalisation.

41. Federated States of Micronesia noted its compelling interest in receiving assistance in the area of E-waste, Waigani Convention implementation and broadening its National Waste Management Strategy to incorporate hazardous waste and waste water. Federated States of Micronesia advised the Secretariat that formal proposals for technical assistance in these areas would be forthcoming.
42. Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu requested assistance from the Secretariat with the development of a Pollution Act and relevant legislation that allows Parties to meet their obligations under the Waigani Convention.
43. Tuvalu further requested support from the Secretariat for national training on hazardous waste and the Waigani Convention and support for seeking funding opportunities and how to access them. Niue and Tonga also requested assistance in this area.
44. Solomon Islands additionally requested assistance with Waigani Convention training and securing funding to help implement its NIP.
45. The Meeting:
  - **endorsed** the report and recommended it be submitted for formal adoption to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 5: Work Programme for 2018-2019**

46. The Secretariat presented its draft work programme and budget to the Meeting, noting that requests for assistance made during Agenda Item 4 would be reflected in a revised work programme.
47. The Secretariat further noted that the 2018-2019 Work Plan for the Waigani Convention will be part of the joint implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions and will also form the basis for the Business Plan for the Pacific Regional Centre which administers the implementation of the activities contained in the Plan.
48. The Secretariat advised that the budget for the 2018-2019 work programme is USD 3,520,000 of which 25% is secured funding with the remaining 75% being negotiated with a number of potential donors.
49. In response to a query from Australia about the nature of the proposed expert working group, the Secretariat explained that the group would work on adapting known approaches to environmentally sound management to the Pacific context. The Secretariat explained that Terms of Reference were yet to be developed but that they would be circulated to Parties in draft format once devised.
50. With regard to waste streams identified for the development of Pacific-regional technical guidelines, Kiribati and Federated States of Micronesia suggested the inclusion of bulky waste (end of life vehicles). Australia queried whether bulky waste was considered a hazardous waste type and the Secretariat clarified that, technically, it was not.
51. Federated States of Micronesia suggested the inclusion of Used Lead Acid Batteries.

52. In response to a question from Tuvalu, the Secretariat confirmed that PCBs would be covered under the category of used oil. Papua New Guinea then noted that, given that it was not included in the POPs in PICs project, PNG might require special attention in this regard.
53. In response to a question from the Solomon Islands, the Secretariat confirmed that chemical stockpiles in schools and hospitals were covered under the category of obsolete chemicals and pesticides.
54. Cook Islands suggested that Parties consult nationally before identifying priorities. Australia further suggested that Parties rank the waste streams to provide an overarching view of priorities across the region. Kiribati suggested that priorities should be separated to sub-regions, as atoll countries, for example, have quite different needs to other countries. Australia suggested that the Secretariat provide a summary paper outlining progress to date on all the waste stream types to assist countries in the prioritisation process. Vanuatu expressed the view that completing the work on the waste streams covered by PacWaste should be a priority.
55. Tuvalu noted that the regional assessment of asbestos undertaken by PacWaste did not extend to the outer islands of Tuvalu and requested that the asbestos programme of work is extended to include the outer islands. Tonga added that the asbestos work undertaken in Tonga by PacWaste was thorough and had attracted a great deal of positive media attention.
56. In response to a question from Australia, the Secretariat explained that the training of Customs Officers focuses on the role that customs agents play in the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and the second stage focuses on how to recognise hazardous waste types.
57. The Meeting:
  - **noted** the draft work programme of the STAC for 2018–2019;
  - **invited** Parties to submit comments to the Secretariat on the draft work programme by 31 March 2017;
  - **requested** the Secretariat to revise the draft work programme, in consultation with the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, the representatives of Australia, New Zealand and a sub-regional representative from Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia; and
  - **requested** the Chairperson to present the work programme of the STAC for 2018–2019 for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

#### Agenda Item 6: National Priorities for hazardous waste management

58. The Meeting:
  - **agreed** that country input into the establishment of hazardous waste management priorities is crucial to the formulation of the regional work programme;
  - **directed** the Secretariat to distribute a questionnaire on national hazardous waste priorities to Parties; and

- **agreed** that the questionnaire would be returned to the Secretariat by 31 March, 2017.

#### Agenda Item 7: Effectiveness of the STAC

59. The Chairperson sought the Meeting's guidance to discuss the role of the STAC, provide direction as to how it should perform in the future and advise the Secretariat of further actions required to improve its effectiveness.
60. The Meeting engaged in lengthy discussion about the effectiveness and role of the STAC. In the course of discussions, the Meeting agreed that the STAC has not performed as it should and cited lack of progress in the implementation of the Convention, weak institutional and legal arrangements at the national level, human capacity and varying levels of commitment to the Convention as key challenges. The Meeting also noted that insufficient resources have been a contributing factor.
61. The Meeting came up with a number of suggestions to address these challenges. Suggestions included: a more active role to be played by the Chairperson; the introduction of a quarterly meeting between Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Secretariat to discuss updates on the implementation of the work programme; distribution of Terms of Reference for the OEWG for the Basel Convention so that areas of improvement could be properly identified; and attendance from Parties at the OEWG.
62. The Meeting agreed that the role of the STAC is to advise on scientific and technical matters and that the Members of the STAC need to build their own capacity as experts.
63. During discussions, Republic of the Marshall Islands informed the Meeting that it is in the process of becoming Party to the Waigani Convention.
64. The Meeting:
  - **congratulated** the Republic of the Marshall Islands on its plans to become a Party to the Waigani Convention;
  - **agreed** that the Waigani Convention is an important mechanism for the Pacific islands region and that efforts should be made to ensure its effectiveness and ongoing value;
  - **acknowledged** that the STAC needs help with effectiveness, direction and internal capacity;
  - **expressed** its commitment to prioritising the implementation of the Waigani Convention at the national level;
  - **agreed** to trial quarterly reporting meetings between the STAC Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the Secretariat with minutes to be forwarded to all STAC Members;
  - **agreed** on the need to build the capacity of STAC Members;
  - **agreed** on the importance of STAC Members attending regional and international meetings of relevance, such as the OEWG;
  - **agreed** on the importance of guidance being provided to STAC Members by the Secretariat; and
  - **directed** the Secretariat to investigate capacity building opportunities at Tsinghua University.

## Agenda Item 8: Other Matters

### Agenda Item 8.1: Upcoming amendments proposed to the Rotterdam Convention

65. The Secretariat informed Parties to the Waigani Convention of proposed amendments to Articles 16 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and encouraged discussion on the possibility of a Pacific regional position on these amendments.
66. Cook Islands noted the difficulties experienced in having Paraquat included on Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention and expressed support for the development of a Pacific region position on the proposed amendments.
67. Tonga, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Samoa also agreed that the Secretariat should move forward on developing such a position.
68. Australia noted its strong support for the listing of Chrysotile on Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention and advised the Meeting that its position on the proposed amendments are still to be developed.
69. The Meeting:
  - **noted** the information provided by SPREP on proposed amendments to Articles 16 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention;
  - **directed** the Secretariat to work with Pacific island Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, on taking a regional position on the proposed amendments; and
  - **requested** the Secretariat to keep STAC Meeting members informed of any further developments in this area.

### Agenda Item 8.2: Secretariat support to Pacific island Parties to the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions

70. Noting the large number of SPREP staff attending other COPs, Tonga requested strong attendance from the Waste Management and Pollution Control division at the upcoming Triple COP in Geneva.
71. Tonga specifically noted the need for communications support to Pacific island countries and the importance of the SPREP Director General attending and making an intervention during the High Level Segment as an Observer.
72. The Secretariat confirmed that the Hazardous Waste Adviser and the PacWaste Communications Officer would be in attendance.
73. The Secretariat encouraged Members to attend the COP if possible and advised the Meeting of resources available from SPREP to assist in MEA negotiations.
74. The Secretariat suggested a pre-COP meeting during the STAC Meeting and this suggestion was supported by all Parties.
75. All Parties requested regional or national training on MEAs from the Secretariat and this request was noted.

### Agenda Item 8.3: Update on Logo for the Waigani Convention



76. Tonga requested an update from the Secretariat on the development of a logo for the Waigani Convention.
77. The Secretariat advised that the work is in progress and that countries would be informed by Circular over the coming months as to the next steps in logo development.

#### Agenda Item 8.4: Changes to hazardous waste legislation in Australia

78. Australia advised the Meeting that it has fairly recently introduced reforms to its hazardous waste legislation which includes permit fee increases. Australia noted that this may impact Pacific island countries exporting hazardous waste to Australia.
79. Australia further noted that there are mechanisms to reduce fees and that countries may wish to consult with Australia to find out more.

#### Agenda Item 9: Date and venue of the STAC-7

80. The Meeting:
  - **agreed** the next meeting would take place in Samoa at a date to be determined according to the scheduling of the Basel Convention COP.

#### Agenda Item 13: Adoption of the Meeting Record

81. The Meeting:
  - **adopted** the draft report of the STAC-6 meeting; and
  - **recommended** the report be forwarded to Waigani COP 9 for formal endorsement.

#### Agenda Item 14: Closing of Meeting

82. The Meeting was closed at 12.30pm on 21 February, 2017.

#### Word of thanks:

SPREP, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Waigani Convention and the Republic of the Marshall Islands thanks the ACP MEAs project, a partnership project between EU-UNEP, for supporting the participation of RMI at this meeting. The outcome, as noted above is RMI's stated intention to become a party to the convention.



## Annex 1:

## Participants List:

COUNTRY	NAME OF DELEGATE	ADDRESS
Australia	Khokan Bagchi Assistant Director E: <a href="mailto:khokan.bagchi@environment.gov.au">khokan.bagchi@environment.gov.au</a>	Hazardous Waste Section, Chemicals and Waste Branch, Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy GPO Box 787, Canberra, ACT, 2601 Australia T: +61 2 6275 9367 F: +61 2 6274 1164
Cook Islands	Joseph Brider Director E: <a href="mailto:joseph.brider@cookislands.gov.ck">joseph.brider@cookislands.gov.ck</a>  Vavia Tangatataia Manager – Compliance Division E: <a href="mailto:vavia.tangatataia@cookislands.gov.ck">vavia.tangatataia@cookislands.gov.ck</a>	Cook Islands National Environment Services PO Box 371, Avarua Rarotonga Cook Islands T: (682) 21256 M: (682) 55500
FSM	Patricia Pedrus Sustainable Development Planner E: <a href="mailto:pattiwarm@gmail.com">pattiwarm@gmail.com</a>	FSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) PO Box 69, Palikir Pohnpei FM 96941 Federated States of Micronesia T: (691) 3208814 or 3208815 F: (691) 3208536 M: (691) 9269012
Fiji	Laisani Lewanavanua Senior Environment Officer E: <a href="mailto:laisani.lewanavanua@environment.gov.fj">laisani.lewanavanua@environment.gov.fj</a>	Department of Environment Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment Suva Fiji P: (679) 3311699 F: (679) 331 2871
Kiribati	Teema Biko Senior Environment Officer E: <a href="mailto:taulehiap@environment.gov.ki">taulehiap@environment.gov.ki</a>	Environment and Conservation Division Ministry of Environment, Land and Agriculture Development (ECD-MELAD) Bikenibeu, Tarawa Kiribati T: (686) 28000 or 28425 F: (686) 28334
Niue	Haden Talagi Senior Environment Officer E: <a href="mailto:haden.talagi@mail.gov.nu">haden.talagi@mail.gov.nu</a>	Department of Environment PO Box 80 Alofi Niue T: (683) 4021
Papua New Guinea	Veari Kula Manager – Infrastructure, Utilities and Conventions E: <a href="mailto:vkula@dec.gov.pg">vkula@dec.gov.pg</a> or <a href="mailto:veari.kula@gmail.com">veari.kula@gmail.com</a>	Conservation and Environment Protection Agency (CEPA) PO Box 6601, Boroko, NCD Papua New Guinea T: (675) 3014500 F: (675) 3250182 M: (675) 73607069

Samoa	Lucie Isaia Senior Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Management Officer E: <a href="mailto:lucie.isaia@mnre.gov.ws">lucie.isaia@mnre.gov.ws</a>	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Division of Environment and Conservation Level 3 – TATTE Building, Apia, Samoa T: (685) 67200 F: (685) 23176 M: (685) 7735829
Solomon Islands	Ms. Rosemary Apa Chief Environment Officer E: <a href="mailto:rosemaryapa@gmail.com">rosemaryapa@gmail.com</a>	Environment and Conservation Division Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology Vavaea Ridge, PO Box 21, Honiara Solomon Islands T: (677) 23036 F: (677) 28054 M: (677) 7473213
Tonga	Mafileo Masi Chief Environmentalist/Head of Waste Management and Pollution Control E: <a href="mailto:mafileo.masi@gmail.com">mafileo.masi@gmail.com</a>	Department of Environment Ministry of Meteorology, Information, Energy, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communication (MEIDECC) PO Box 917, Vuna Road Nuku'Alofa Tonga T: (676) 25050 F: (676) 25051 M: (676) 7717182
Tuvalu	Ms. Susana Minute Telakau Director of Solid Waste Agency of Tuvalu (SWAT) E: <a href="mailto:susey84@gmail.com">susey84@gmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:stelakau@gov.tv">stelakau@gov.tv</a>	Ministry of Home Affairs Government Building, Private Mailbag Vaiaiku, Funafuti Tuvalu T: (688) 20164 M: (688) 900341
Vanuatu	Roselyn Bue Senior Chemicals and Ozone Officer E: <a href="mailto:rbue@vanuatu.gov.vu">rbue@vanuatu.gov.vu</a>	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (PMB 9063, Port Vila Vanuatu T: (678) 25302 M: (678) 5905041
SPREP Secretariat	Roger Cornforth Deputy Director <a href="mailto:rogerc@sprep.org">rogerc@sprep.org</a>  Frank Griffin Hazardous Waste Adviser <a href="mailto:frankg@sprep.org">frankg@sprep.org</a>  Stewart Williams PacWaste Project Manager <a href="mailto:stewartw@sprep.org">stewartw@sprep.org</a>  Anthony Talouli Pollution Control Adviser <a href="mailto:anthonyt@sprep.org">anthonyt@sprep.org</a>  Amber Carvan Communications Officer <a href="mailto:amperc@sprep.org">amperc@sprep.org</a>  Ms Faailo Maiuu Project Assistant <a href="mailto:faailom@sprep.org">faailom@sprep.org</a>	Senior Management Team  Waste Management and Pollution Control Division PO Box 240 Apia Samoa T: +685 21929 F: +685 20231

<b>Observers:</b>		
Marshall Islands	Jessica Zebedee National Ozone Officer/POPs Officer E: <a href="mailto:jeimack.4@gmail.com">jeimack.4@gmail.com</a>	Waste and Pollutants Division RMI Environment Protection Agency Lagoon Road Majuro MH 96960 Marshall Islands T: (692) 6253035 F: (692) 6255202 M: (692) 4564700
Palau	Lynna E. Thomas Compliance Specialist E: <a href="mailto:lynna.thomas7@gmail.com">lynna.thomas7@gmail.com</a> and <a href="mailto:eqpb@palaunet.com">eqpb@palaunet.com</a>	Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board P.O. Box 8086 Bureau of Public Works Bldg. Koror, Republic of Palau 96940 T: +(680) 488-1639/3600 F: +(680) 488-2963

### **Annex 3:**

#### **Opening Remarks by Clark Peteru, SPREP**

Thank you Mr. Latu,

CEO for MEIDECC, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you Paula for your warm words of welcome to Nukualofa. Everything has been wonderful so far, even the weather. I wish to say a few words on behalf of myself and more importantly my colleague Frank Griffin who has done a great job in organising this week's sequence of meetings.

Our last STAC and SC meetings were held at the end of March 2015 in Apia and the Waigani Convention COP-8 met later in September. That marked the transition of our Waigani COP meetings to an odd-numbered year. Previously it had been held on even-numbered years, 2014 being the last.

This change was needed in order to put our work programme in step with that of the Basel Convention, which also meets biennially on odd-numbered years, in fact Basel Convention COP 13 meets in a couple of months' time. The Waigani Convention work programme is the same as that of the Waigani-Basel regional centre and is a blend of regionally (Waigani) and globally (Basel) identified areas of activity. Resources in implementing either Convention are scarce but linking in to what other countries are doing increases efficiencies of effort as well as funding opportunities.

For similar reasons we continue our strong relationship with the School of Environment of Tsinghua University which hosts the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for the Asia and Pacific Region in China (BCRC-SCRC China).

But there are other global initiatives which add to our responsibilities such as the Minamata Convention as regards mercury and EDF 11 funds which target specific waste streams. Currently EDF 10 funds for PacWaste is targeting asbestos, healthcare waste and e-waste. We'll hear more about these over the next 2 days and on Wednesday we will have the opportunity to discuss the GEF uPOPs project. Hazardous waste generation as a result of cyclones or other natural hazards has also received a lot of discussion in recent years and we can expect clean-ups to be a regular part of our work.

Despite the economic down-turn Pacific island countries' imports continue to climb precipitously: vehicles, construction materials, white ware and other consumer goods. Recording, planning and regulation-making are tools that need to be made effective so we can manage potential problems.

The point is that recognition is growing that we need to do more in dealing with existing hazardous waste and this is translating to more funding opportunities. This is certainly encouraging as funding is probably the biggest barrier to our work. SPREP can help in accessing such funds.

The responsibility for keeping our countries safe from harmful wastes is ours. The next few days will allow you the regulators and ourselves, your Secretariat, to engage with each other and share views on how we can achieve this. Best wishes in our deliberations this week.

**Annex 4:**

**Adopted Agenda  
STAC 6**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - a. Rules of Procedure;
  - b. Election of Officers.
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Matters related to the work programme of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee for 2016–2017:
  - A. Maintenance of the Centre and staff training activities:**
    - i. Website updates. SPREP will update the website Notification and Movement Forms as well as the annual reporting forms so that PICs can complete them on line.
    - ii. Insurance Options for Waigani Movements. SPREP to develop a list of potential insurance brokers for the transportation of E-waste as well as other forms of hazardous wastes.
  - B. Activities for the implementation of the Strategic Framework and other COP-11 decisions**
    - i. Attendance to COPs. Recognising the need to have a voice in the conventions, PICs will address this issue. Most PICs are eligible for funding from the Secretariats to attend convention COPs. This is essential that PICs are attending the COPs to adequately ensure that PICs issues are adequately addressed.
    - ii. Technical Assistance. Noting the assistance available to PICs by the Secretariats, PICs will address this issue and make a conscious effort to request for technical assistance from SPREP and UNEP.
    - iii. National Development Plans. Recognising the available bilateral funding opportunities directed at country priorities, PICs will ensure the inclusion of hazardous chemicals and waste in their National Development Plans.
    - iv. Funding on-ground improvements.
      - a. *Project: Improving management of used lubricants and oils*  
Countries: Region wide  
Time frame: 2 years (2016-2017)
      - b. *Project: Improved of asbestos in the Pacific*  
Countries: Region wide  
Time frame: 24 months (2016-2017)

- c. Project: Management of non-POPs wastes including laboratory chemicals and healthcare waste (expired pharmaceuticals)*

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 5 years (2013-2017)

- d. Project: Training of focal points, competent authorities and relevant staff and other stakeholders on various aspects of the implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions*

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 2 years (2016-2017)

- e. Project: Management of medical wastes in the Pacific*

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 3 years (2013-2016)

- f. Project: Management of mercury and mercury-containing equipment*

Countries: Region wide

Time frame: 2 years (2016-2017)

#### **C. Synergies activities (optional)**

- i. Funding Opportunities. Noting the various funding opportunities available for PICs for implementation of these conventions, PICs will address this issue. The potential funding opportunities are: GEF Stockholm (\$400K), NIP Updates (\$250K), GEF 6 Chemical and Waste window (recommend proposals less than \$1M), and bilateral funding opportunities. The Secretariats will assist wherever possible with country proposals upon request.

#### **D. Other capacity building activities (optional)**

- i. Capacity Building – Train the trainer. Noting one of the objective of the training workshop – “*To improve knowledge of International and Regional conventions dealing with hazardous chemicals and wastes and their impact on pollution minimization and management*” PICs will address capacity building at the national level through train-the-trainer program with technical assistance from the Secretariats.
- ii. Legislation Development. Recognising that most PICs do not have appropriate legislation that addresses hazardous chemicals and waste, PICs request SPREP & UNEP to assist them in domesticating Tonga and Samoa legislations. This will ensure adequate border control through the customs authority and port state control mechanisms. None of the PICs currently have this PSC and border control mechanism in place.

#### **E. Financial information**

- i. Main sources of funding
  - a. European Union (Confirmed)
  - b. Global Environment Facility (Confirmed)
  - c. FAO (Confirmed)
  - d. UNEP (Confirmed)
  - e. Australian Government (Unconfirmed)
- ii. B – Key partners and stakeholders

- a. FAO
  - b. UNEP
  - c. Parties in the region
  - d. Secretariat of the Basel Convention
  - e. Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention
  - f. Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention
  - g. Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention
  - h. Regional training institutions such as the University of the South Pacific and Fiji National University
5. Work programme of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee for 2018–2019.
  - i. *Draft work program:*
    1. Strategic issues:
      - a. Strategic framework;
      - b. Development of environmentally sound management;
      - c. Financial Mechanism;
    - b. Scientific and technical matters:
      - a. Pacific-regional specific Technical guidelines
        - i. Review/update and development of Pacific-specific technical guidelines for managing specific waste streams in the region
      - b. National Hazardous Waste Management Plans as part of the National Development Plans
      - c. National Reporting
    - c. Legal, governance and enforcement matters:
      - a. Establishment of Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance
      - b. Establishing national definitions of hazardous waste
      - c. Customs offices upskilled in the Waigani Convention procedure and requirements
    - d. Regional and International cooperation and coordination:
      - a. Cooperation with BCRC-China
      - b. Cooperation between the Waigani Convention and the Oceania Customs Organization;
  - ii. *Financial Matters*
6. National Priorities
7. Effectiveness of the STAC
8. Other matters.
9. Date and venue of the next Meeting
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.