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

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

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

Purpose

1. To seek guidance from the Meeting on developing guidelines on Pacific regional specific hazardous waste.

Background:

2. 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.
3. While these definitions try to cover a great variety of hazardous wastes, the reality is 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.
4. This paper is purposely presented to seek the guidance and direction of the Meeting on what Pacific specific hazardous waste issues the region and the Secretariat should be concentrating on and working to develop guidelines to help parties deal with them at the national and regional levels.

Recommendation

5. **The Meeting is invited:**
 - to **discuss** the issue of Pacific specific hazardous waste management issues; and
 - to **guide** and **direct** the Secretariat on developing guidelines on dealing with these Pacific specific hazardous waste management issues