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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(ii): Classification and hazard characteristics

Purpose

1. To seek guidance from the Meeting on developing a regional program to harmonize the classification and hazard characteristics as prescribed under Annex I and II of the Waigani Convention with the globally harmonized system in the management of chemicals and hazard materials.

Background:

2. Hazardous wastes are categorized using a number of methods within the Waigani Convention. Within Annex I. they are categorized using "Waste Streams" (Y1–Y18, Y46–Y47), or as "Wastes having as constituents" (Y19–Y45). In addition to this, they are categorized using "hazardous characteristics" (H1–H13).
3. These categorizations are also quite different from the ones that are used by the border control officers (Customs) so when it comes to completing the Notification and Movement Forms for the Convention, it sometime can become a confusing and frustrating exercise.
4. At the global level, this issue is also recognized. At its 13th Conference of the Parties, the Basel Convention parties on the review of cooperation with the World Customs Organization and its Harmonized System Committee, requested their Secretariat to pursue its cooperation with the secretariat of the Organization and the Organization's Harmonized System Committee, Harmonized System Review Subcommittee and Scientific Subcommittee.
5. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited parties to submit to the Secretariat lists of wastes covered under the Basel Convention for consideration by the Harmonized System Committee and requested the Secretariat to continue to move forward, under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group, with the issue of identifying the wastes covered by the Basel Convention in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. The Secretariat was also requested to report regularly to the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties on progress.
6. In much the same way, this paper is purposely presented to seek the guidance and direction of the Meeting on what Pacific specific hazardous waste can also be used to be included in the global harmonized system.

Recommendation

7. The Meeting is invited:

- to **discuss** the issue of Pacific specific hazardous waste management issues; and.
- to **guide** and **direct** the Secretariat on working with the parties on identifying the specific hazardous wastes to be submitted for inclusion in the globally harmonized system.