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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 5.4: Technical Assistance

Purpose:

1. To seek the approval of the meeting to develop a convention specific technical assistance program to assist the developing country parties in building their capabilities in performing the required functions to effectively implement the convention at the national level.

Background:

2. The paper outlines the convention-specific information pertaining to technical assistance and capacity-building activities, as these are critical in fulfilling the individual objectives of the convention. The paper reiterates the mandate for technical assistance and capacity-building under the conventions, as well as requests for capacity needs of the parties to be submitted to the Secretariat for using in the development of a regional capacity building program, specifically for the Waigani Convention.
3. Article 14.1(h) and (i) highlight the functions of the Secretariat including receiving and conveying information from and to parties on sources of technical assistance and training, available technical and scientific know-how, sources of advice and expertise and availability of resources, with a view to assisting them, upon request, in such areas as the handling of the notification system of the Convention; the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes; environmentally sound technologies relating to hazardous wastes and other wastes, such as low- and non-waste technology; the assessment of disposal capabilities and sites; the monitoring of hazardous wastes and other wastes; and emergency responses.
4. In order for the convention to progress effectively in the development of technical assistance program, the developing country parties need to take a stocktake of their needs at the national level and submit these to the Secretariat to compile into a program. It is proposed that the convention specific needs have to be captured against each of the party obligations of the convention so that the capacity building program can be targeted and measured over time.

5. The obligations that have been outlined under the conventions include the following:
Each party should:
- i) put in place a definition of all wastes that are to be subjected to this Convention [Art. 3.1]
 - ii) ban the import of hazardous and radioactive wastes into their borders; [Art. 4.1(a)]
 - iii) ban the export of hazardous and radioactive wastes into their borders; [Art. 4.1(b)]
 - iv) cooperate to ensure that no illegal import of hazardous wastes and radioactive wastes from a non-Party [Art. 4.2(b)]
 - v) ban the dumping of hazardous wastes and radioactive wastes at sea [Art. 4.3(a)]
 - vi) minimise the production of hazardous wastes [Art. 4.4(a)]
 - vii) all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes generated within the Convention Area are carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Convention; [Art. 4.4(b)]
 - viii) make available of adequate treatment and disposal facilities for the ESM of hazardous wastes within areas under its jurisdiction [Art. 4.4(c)]
 - ix) cooperate for the safe disposal of hazardous wastes if these facilities do not exist – as provided for under Article 10 of this Convention [Art. 4.4(c)]
 - x) develop a national hazardous wastes management strategy [Art. 4.4(e)]
 - xi) prohibit within the area under its jurisdiction hazardous wastes from being exported to or imported from non-Parties within the Convention Area [Art. 4.4(f)]
 - xii) prohibit vessels flying its flag or aircraft registered in its territory from carrying out activities in contravention of this Convention [Art. 4.4(g)]
 - xiii) consider to implement the IAEA Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Wastes [Art. 4.5(a)]
 - xiv) participate in relevant international fora to find an appropriate global solution to the problems associated with the international trade of domestically prohibited goods [Art. 4.6(a)]
6. Developed country Parties and others with the capacity to do so are also invited to provide information to the Secretariat on the technical assistance and on technology that they have available to be transferred to developing-country Parties.

Recommendation:

7. The Meeting is invited to:
- **discuss** the issue of convention specific needs assessment and **commit** to submitting the requested information to the Secretariat by the 31st December 2017; and
 - **approve** the development of a convention specific technical assistance program
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