



## **Seventeenth meeting of the Noumea Convention**

Seventeenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention)

Apia, Samoa  
31 August 2023

### **Agenda Item 4.2: Report on the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping (1990)**

#### **Purpose of paper**

1. To provide an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat in support of the Noumea Convention Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping, 1990 ("Dumping Protocol"), from July 2021 to June 2023.

#### **Background:**

2. In accordance with Rule 12(ii), the items mentioned in Article 16 of the Dumping Protocol are to be considered by the Conference of the Parties. The following activities and measures were undertaken by the Secretariat to support the implementation of the Dumping Protocol.

#### **Request for Technical Advice on disposal at sea**

3. The Secretariat in the reporting period July 2021 to June 2023 provided technical assistance upon request to Cook Islands and Nauru regarding the disposal at sea option for asbestos containing materials (ACM). The Secretariat sought advice from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as the Secretariat of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter 1972 ("London Dumping Convention") and the Protocol to the London Dumping Convention (LC/LP), who recommended that the disposal of ACM at sea is permissible under the LC/LP and that the Waste Assessment Guidelines for Bulky Waste under the Convention should be used for this purpose.

4. Led by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat has also participated in the discussions with Japan and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to raise and address issues and concerns regarding the discharge of Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water from the Japan Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. To this end the Secretariat in collaboration with the PIFS supported Parties to the 44<sup>th</sup> Consultation Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the London Protocol in October 2022 (LC-44, LC-17) as well as to the 46<sup>th</sup> Scientific Group of the London Convention (LC-SG 46) through an information paper on the Pacific assessment and concerns with respect to the plans to discharge nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean (refer to WP4.2.1) and a summary of the discussions at LC-SG 46 can be found in WP4.2.2 and WP4.2.3 (para 10.1 to 10.10).

### **Recommendations**

5. The Parties are invited to:
  - 1) **Note** the Report on the Dumping Protocol for the period July 2021 to June 2023.

---

29 August, 2023