

Twelfth 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)

1st September 2023, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 7.1: Proposed amendment to the Waigani Convention

Purpose of paper

1. To present the report of the Working Group established to undertake inter-sessional work on amending the Waigani Convention to adopt the 2019 Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendment and a mechanism for adopting future amendments to the Basel Convention

Background

2. The eighth meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) in 2019 recommended the Secretariat develop a proposal to adopt the Basel Convention plastics amendments in the Waigani Convention, to be presented to WC COP – 11.
3. Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Samoa agreed to be part of a Working Group that was established by Parties at WC COP-11 to include the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and explore approaches to adopt other amendments to Basel Convention Annexes as they occur.
4. The Working Group undertook their mandated task as outlined in a Terms of Reference endorsed by an adhoc meeting of the STAC in May 2022.
5. The Working Group successfully completed its work and presented its report to STAC 9 for endorsement to WC COP-12. A copy of their report is attached as 12WC/WP7.1/Annex 1.
6. The proposal to amend the Waigani Convention did not meet Article 16 and 18 requirements on the communication of the text of proposed amendments by the Secretariat to the Parties so it will not be tabled at COP-12
7. An extra ordinary COP has been called for the tabling and adoption of the proposed amendments on 13 October 2023 as provided for by the Rules of Procedure for Meeting and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Waigani Convention.
8. The proposed text of the amendment has been communicated to Parties and the Waigani Convention Depositary via SPREP Circular Number 23/28 on 13 February 2023.

Recommendation:

9. The Parties are invited to:
 - **endorse** the report of the Working Group established to develop a proposal to amend the Waigani Convention in order to adopt the 2019 Plastic Waste Amendments of the Basel Convention