



Thirteenth Meeting of the Waigani Convention Sheraton Aggie Grey's Hotel & Bungalows 5 September 2025

Thirteenth 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)

Agenda Item 4.1: Report on the Progress of the Waigani Amendments

Purpose of paper:

1. To notify and update Parties on the progress of the process towards bringing the Waigani amendments in effect.

Background:

2. The Waigani Convention which governs the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes in the Pacific region, was amended by Parties in 2023 at the First Extraordinary Meeting in Palau. The amendments introduce an automatic adoption mechanism, allowing future Basel Convention amendments to be integrated into the Waigani Convention without requiring separate ratifications by Parties.

Progress of Amendments

3. In pursuant to Article 16 (1) of the Waigani Convention, the proposed amendments shall be communicated to the Depository for its information 6 months prior to the Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Once the proposed amendments have been agreed upon, they shall be submitted by the Depository to all Parties for ratification, approval and acceptance in accordance with Article 16(3). Instruments of ratification, acceptance and approval of amendments shall be deposited with the Depository.
4. The Distribution of the Report of the First Extraordinary Meeting and the circular on the adoption of the Waigani Convention amendments were circulated to Parties and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFs) as the Depository on 7 November 2023.
5. Upon following up with the Depository, further direction was provided in relation to the Waigani amendments whereby a stand-alone draft amendment should be submitted in addition to the consolidated version of the amendment incorporated into the Convention.
6. The Secretariat is therefore preparing a standalone amending instrument to the Waigani Convention. As next steps, once the standalone draft amendments are finalised, the Secretariat will share with Parties for comments and feedback before it is deposited to the Depository. As per process under the Convention, the Depository will have to circulate the agreed amendments to Parties for their ratification, approval and acceptance. Following the Parties consideration, Parties can deposit their ratification, approval or acceptance instruments to the Depository.

Recommendations:

7. The Parties are invited:
 - 1) **Note** the status of the 2023 amendments to the Waigani Convention and the steps taken to bring them into force.