



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 7.3 : Workplan for the Implementation of the Waigani Review Recommendations

Purpose of paper:

1. To endorse and approve the Waigani Convention Review Recommendations Workplan

Background:

2. At its Tenth meeting in 2019, the Conference of the Parties directed the Secretariat to undertake an evaluation of the Waigani Convention as it was not satisfied with the initial evaluation in 2017.
3. The Eleventh Meeting in 2021 accepted the Review Report and agreed that the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) initiate inter-sessional work, facilitated by the Secretariat to:
 - a) implement those recommendations that can be progressed;
 - b) undertake further analysis for recommendations with major strategic implications including whether to enhance the Waigani Convention implementations or suspend the Waigani Convention;
 - c) prepare an action plan to deliver on the final recommendations, to be presented at the next STAC meeting in 2023.
4. The Ninth STAC meeting held in February 2023 deliberated on the draft workplan that was prepared by the Secretariat as directed by COP-11.
5. At COP12, Friends of the Chair convened and drafted a decision text that was adopted by the Parties. The Meeting:
 - a) recommended the Secretariat to delete completed items from the Workplan;
 - b) recommended the STAC to undertake discussions on the recommendations of the Review of the Waigani Convention and for STAC to add additional items resulting from that discussion to the workplan as required; and
 - c) endorsed the Workplan for implementation by the Secretariat, Parties and other subsidiary bodies established by the Convention.

6. At the Tenth STAC Meeting from 13 to 14 March 2025, in Rarotonga Cook Islands, the Parties reviewed and finalised the Workplan with the recommendation to circulate the Workplan for further comments and feedback to be submitted to the Secretariat by the 30 May 2025. At the deadline, only Australia submitted a review on the Workplan. The Secretariat held a virtual meeting with Australia to discuss its comments which were mainly around streamlining the Workplan and clustering activities to avoid duplication of efforts and help support effective implementation. Activities were therefore not altered in substance but more in structural and language for clarity.

Recommendations:

7. The Parties are invited to:
 - 1) **Endorse** and **approve** the Workplan for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Review of the Waigani Convention.
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