

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 4.2: Activities undertaken by the Secretariat on work undertaken from July 2023 to June 2025 in relation to the Waigani Convention

Introduction

1. In accordance with Rule 10 (1c) of the Waigani Convention Rules of the Procedure the provisional agenda of each Ordinary Meeting shall include a report by the Secretariat on the work undertaken or achieved as part of the work programme since the last Ordinary Meeting.
2. The activities under the Waigani Convention are undertaken by the Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme.
3. Some of the key regional policies and strategies that guide the work

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee:

4. The Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention at its first meeting (COP1) decided to establish a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to meet as necessary subject to available of resources, to fulfill its tasks as mandated by the COP.
5. At its second meeting (COP2), the Conference considered and approved the Terms of Reference for the STAC. The Committee has met ten times since its establishment in 2002; the first meeting in 2004 and the tenth meeting in March 2025.
6. The Tenth (10th) STAC meeting was held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands from the 13-14 March 2025. The meeting report is enclosed under Agenda Item 7.1.

Pacific Preparatory Meeting for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Conference of the Parties Meeting

7. From the 11 to 12 March 2025 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, the Secretariat in its capacity as the Pacific Regional Centre for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions, coordinated and facilitated a Regional Preparatory Meeting to prepare countries for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions Conference of the Parties (COP) Meeting. The preparatory meeting covered a range of key agenda items for the COP, including synergies across the BRS and aligning these to regional and national priorities. It provided an opportunity to review key agenda items of the COP, consolidate regional positions to ensure more coordinated and effective engagement in the negotiations. The final day sessions included a practical negotiation mock exercise which helped delegates build confidence, strengthen negotiation skills and apply tailored strategies in real negotiations settings.

The 17th COP to the Basel Convention, 12th COP to the Rotterdam Convention and the 12th COP to the Stockholm Convention

8. The Secretariat continued to support Parties and countries at the BRS COP in Geneva, Switzerland from the 28 April to 5 May 2025. Technical and policy advisory support was provided to Tuvalu in its role as the Chair for the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (Pacific SIDs). Notably, this was the first BRS COP in which the Pacific coordinated as Pacific SIDs group whereas in previous meetings, they participated solely as part of the Asia Pacific Group. This marked a significant step towards strengthening our Pacific regional cooperation, commitment and advocacy in global chemicals and waste governance.
9. A report and outcomes statement on the BRS COP is attached under Annex 1.

In implementing the obligations under the Waigani Convention, the Secretariat carried out the following activities:

10. Provided assistance to Tonga, Samoa and Solomon Islands in 2023, to support the management of its hazardous legal wastes (healthcare wastes, e-wastes, used oil, asbestos, liquid chemicals).
11. The Secretariat further supported Niue, Tonga, Nauru and Kiribati to remediate or appropriately manage contaminated sites for asbestos removal under the PacWaste Plus Project.
12. In terms of improving waste management practices, the Secretariat assisted Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Palau, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga to strengthen national, regional and international mechanism for hazardous wastes. In this regard, Parties were guided to develop waste management strategies, policies, legislation or regulation to improve waste management outcomes and to operationalise these relevant national plans.
13. In May 2024, assistance was provided to Kiribati for the commissioning of an incinerator for the disposal of medical waste at the Ronton Hospital, Kirimati through the PacWastePlus Project funded by the Pacific-European Union. This support also provided training sessions for staff equipping them with both theoretical and practical understanding on the operation of the incineration plant.
14. In June 2024, the Secretariat through the PacWastePlus Project conducted a second pilot Healthcare Waste Management Training for Trainers in collaboration with the Papua New Guinea National Capital District Provincial Health Authority. The training was attended by participants who were in the health sector who highlighted the importance of addressing poorly handled healthcare waste in Papua New Guinea.
15. From 2024 to 2025, the Secretariat continued to work with countries in minimising the adverse impacts of chemicals and all wastes on human health and on the environmentally sound management of wastes. This covered hazardous wastes, legacy wastes (healthcare wastes), used oil, asbestos, liquid chemicals. Activities were carried out to ensure these are appropriately safeguarded, recovered for processing or sent to final disposal.

16. In January 2025, a healthcare waste management training began in the region. The training comprised a series of training modules on good practices in healthcare waste management covering all aspects of waste management activities from identification and classification of wastes to considerations guiding their safe disposal using both non-incineration and incineration strategies. These trainings followed a “train the trainer” style delivery of applied learning, utilising a combination of power point presentations, discussions and a ward walk-through to observe the waste system. Parties targeted in these trainings include the Federated State of Micronesia, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. It intends to train up to 260 health care workers.
17. In May 2025, an inaugural Circularity, Innovation, Recovery, Culture, Learning and Environment (CIRCLE) Expo was held in Apia, Samoa. It was a multidisciplinary event to address multiple waste management issues such as recyclable materials, organic materials, asbestos management, healthcare waste management, e-waste management, used oil management, bulky waste and disaster waste. The CIRCLE Expo was funded by the European-Union PacWastePlus Project.

Recommendations:

18. The Parties are invited:

- 1) **Note** the work undertaken since the 12th Conference of the Parties; and
 - 2) **Endorse** the Pacific SIDs Report from the 17th Conference of the Parties Meeting to the Basel Convention, 12th Conference of the Parties Meeting to the Rotterdam Convention and 12th Conference of the Parties Meeting to the Stockholm Convention.
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