



Sixteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Sixteenth 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)

Virtual – Apia, Samoa
02 September 2021

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF WORK PERFORMED IN THE PERIOD JULY 2019
– JUNE 2021 IN RELATION TO THE NOUMEA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS**

Introduction

1. The Noumea Convention, negotiated under the framework of the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was adopted in 1986. The Convention and its two related Protocols - Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping and the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region - entered into force on 22 August 1990.
2. The 12 Parties to the Convention are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and United States.

Opening of the Meeting

3. Contracting Parties to the Noumea Convention met for their Sixteenth Ordinary Meeting on 2 September 2021 Samoa time via virtual platform.
4. Present at the virtual Meeting were representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Republic of the Marshall Islands, , New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and United States. A full list of participants is contained in Annex I.
5. The Meeting commenced with an opening prayer from the Secretariat.
6. Papua New Guinea, Chair of the Fifteenth COP Meeting presented an opening address.
7. The Director General of SPREP reflected upon the role of the Convention in addressing growing environmental challenges and stressing the relevance of the Noumea Convention in helping to meet these, thanking all Parties for their engagement in the Meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of the Meeting

8. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Noumea Convention, a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson were elected from the representatives by a simple majority vote. The official languages for the Convention are English and French and the sessions are to be held in plenary.
9. The Parties elected Samoa as Chairperson and Nauru as Vice Chairperson.

The Meeting:

- **Elected** Samoa as Chairperson and Nauru as Vice Chairperson

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting:

- **Adopted** the Provisional Agenda including the amendment proposed and agreed to by the Parties.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Secretariat

10. In accordance with Rule 12(vi) of the Rules of Procedure of the Noumea Convention, the Secretariat presented a Report on work undertaken from July 2019 to July 2021 in fulfillment of the provisions of the Noumea Convention.

The Meeting:

- **Adopted** the Report of the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 5: National Reports on the implementation of obligations under the Noumea Convention

11. Country reports on national implementation of obligations by Parties to the Noumea Convention became standard agenda items at the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Noumea Convention in 1998.
12. The opportunity was provided for Parties to report on the national implementation of their obligations under the Noumea Convention for the reporting period from July 2019 to June 2021.
13. Reports were received from Australia, France and New Zealand.

The Meeting:

- **Tabled** their respective reports on the national implementation of their obligations under the Convention for the reporting period July 2019 to June 2021.

Agenda Item 6: Financial Statements for 2019/2020

14. Regulation 28 of the Financial Regulations for the Noumea Convention require that the Director General circulate the full report of the Auditors, including comments on the financial operations of the Convention and accounts, together with such remarks as the Director General may wish to offer to Parties, prior to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The Meeting:

- **Adopted** the Financial Reports and Statements for 2019 and 2020.

Agenda Item 7.1: Review of the Noumea Convention

15. The progress of the review of the Noumea Convention and its Related Protocols was presented to the Meeting.

The Meeting:

- **Noted** the status and progress of the review of the Noumea Convention;
- **Collaborated and supported** the Secretariat by providing comments to the Consultant undertaking the review and,
- **Agreed** to discuss inter-sessionally the findings and recommendations of the review prior to its formal consideration at COP17.

Agenda Item 7.2: ACP MEA Phase III Programme Update

16. The Meeting was informed on the ACP MEAs Phase III Programme and its contribution towards strengthening the management and implementation of the Noumea Convention.

The Meeting:

- **Welcomed** the assistance provided under the ACPMEA Phase III Programme to support the Noumea Convention and note the update on the ACP MEA Phase III Programme; and
- **Collaborated** closely with the Secretariat to implement Activities that support the Noumea Convention.

Agenda Item 7.3: Regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics

17. The Secretariat provided an update on the progress of work, and sought advice and guidance on the development of a regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics and its inclusion in the Secretariat's work plan for 2022-2023

The Meeting:

- **Noted** the status and progress of work on the development of the new regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics,
- **Agreed** to include the development of the new draft regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics in the Secretariat's workplan for 2022-2023; and
- **Agreed** to assist and support the process for developing the regional framework.

Agenda Item 7.4: Pacific Declaration on Plastics

18. The Secretariat presented on the development of a Pacific Declaration on Plastics.

The Meeting:

- **Noted and discussed** the Pacific Declaration on Plastics with the hope to finalise and table for voluntary endorsement at the Environment Ministers' Meeting High Level Talanoa

Agenda Item 8: Consideration and adoption of the Core Budget 2022-2023

The Meeting:

- **Considered and approved** the core budget and contributions for the biennium 2022-2023; and
- **Committed** to urgent clearance of outstanding contributions.

Agenda Item 9

19. No discussion or outcomes required.

Agenda Item 10

20. No discussion or outcomes required

Agenda Item 11: Date and venue of the next Meeting

The Meeting:

- **Endorsed** 2023, prior to the Thirty-first SPREP Meeting as the date of the next meeting and the venue as Samoa

Agenda Item 12: Adoption of the Meeting Record

The Meeting:

- **Adopted** the Outcomes Report of the Sixteenth 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) Meeting.

Agenda Item 13: Closure of the Meeting

21. The Sixteenth 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) Meeting closed with a prayer from the Secretariat at 4.40pm, Samoa time.

Agenda Item 13: Closure of the Meeting

22. The Sixteenth 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) Meeting closed with a prayer from the Secretariat at 4.40pm, Samoa time.