

CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV 1/3/12 **To:** Parties to the Noumea Convention
DATE: 29 September 2021 **Cc:** SPREP National Focal Points
CIRCULAR: 21/121

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NOUMEA CONVENTION ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Parties to the Noumea Convention,

May I take this opportunity to convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Parties of the Noumea Convention for your invaluable contributions and interventions during the Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties held on 2 September 2021. Despite the challenges associated with virtual platforms and connections, we were encouraged by the Parties' clarity of views and guidance.

We acknowledge with appreciation the leadership, guidance and support by Papua New Guinea during their tenure as Chair of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Parties for the last biennium, despite the unprecedented challenges presented by the global pandemic. We further acknowledge and congratulate Samoa's election as Chair of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties for the next biennium. We look forward to working with Samoa and the Parties in the next two years to deliver the recent meeting outcomes.

May I also take this opportunity to thank our Parties for the support and cooperation provided to Mr. David Sheppard in the current review of the Noumea Convention. The Secretariat will schedule an intersessional meeting date for Parties to discuss the findings of the review of the Noumea Convention.

The recent virtual meeting of the Parties is unique given the current circumstances however, there were notable achievements and highlights from Parties as well as a deep sense of commitment to pursue the work and activities to meet Parties' obligations under the Noumea Convention. Some of the key outcomes of the Meeting are as follows:

- (i) The Parties noted the progress on the review of the Noumea Convention and agreed to collaborate and support the review through meetings with the consultant engaged by the Secretariat. Further, Parties agreed to meet intersessionally to discuss the findings of the review.
- (ii) The Parties welcomed the assistance provided under the ACP MEA Phase 3 Programme and noted the update to support the Noumea Convention. Further, Parties agreed to collaborate closely with the Secretariat to implement activities that support the Noumea Convention.
- (iii) On the regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics, the Parties noted the status and progress of the work to develop a new regional framework. Further, the Parties 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. Parties also agreed to support the process for the development of the regional framework.



- (iv) The Parties considered the working paper on Pacific Declaration of Plastics presented by the Secretariat despite its late addition to the Provisional Agenda and agreed to by the Parties. As such, the Parties noted and discussed the Pacific Declaration on Plastics with the hope to finalise and table for voluntary endorsement at the SPREP Ministers' High-Level Talanoa.

Those are some of the key outcomes from the recent Meeting of the Parties. We will share the draft meeting record for your comments in due course.

Please contact our Secretariat Mr. Jope Davetanivalu, Acting Director of the Environment Monitoring and Governance Programme on joped@sprep.org or Ms. Anastacia Amoa-Stowers, ACPMEA3 Programme Coordinator on anastacias@sprep.org, for any queries.

We look forward to your support to the review work undertaken by Mr. Sheppard.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kosi Latu".

Kosi Latu
Director General

KL/JD/rmg