

Twelfth 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)

1st September 2023, Apia, Samoa

Agenda item 4: Presentation of reports by the Secretariat of work undertaken since COP-11

Purpose of paper

1. To present for noting by the Meeting the Report of work undertaken by the Secretariat since the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 2021 as reflected in:
 - (i) the Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-9) (12WC/WP4/Annex 1);
 - (ii) the Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Center for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions (SCPRC-8) (12WC/WP4/Annex 2); and
 - (iii) The Report on Status of Actions Taken on the Implementation of the 2022-2023 Business Plan (12WC/WP4/Annex 3).

Background

The Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-9)

2. The Conference of 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 resources, to fulfil its tasks as mandated by the COP.
3. At its second meeting (COP2), the Conference considered and approved the Terms of Reference for the STAC.
4. The committee has since met eight times since its establishment in 2002 – the first meeting in 2004 and the ninth meeting in February 2023.

Eighth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Center (SCPRC-8)

5. The Pacific Regional Centre was established by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2003 between the Secretariats of the Waigani and Basel Conventions on behalf of their respective Parties.

6. Article VII of the MOU provided for the establishment of a Steering Committee to advise on the development and implementation of the activities of the Centre and to enhance national support to its work form countries served by the Centre.
7. The SCPRC has met seven times since its establishment in 2006 – the first meeting of the SCPRC was held in 2008 and the eighth in 2023. All SCPRC meetings have been held in person except for the seventh meeting which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Report on Status of Actions taken on the Implementation of the 2022-2023 Business Plan

8. In accordance with the MOU that established the Pacific Regional Centre (PRC), the Secretariat is required to prepare a Business Plan and report on its implementation to the COP.
9. Due to the close interlinkages between the Basel and Waigani conventions, the Business Plan of the PRC is embedded into the Hazardous Waste Management Programme (HWMP) of the Secretariat.
10. The report presented here therefore captures the progress of the Secretariat's work under its HWMP and supporting projects.

Recommendation

11. The Parties are invited to:
 - **note** the work undertaken since the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - **endorse** and **approve** the STAC-9 Report and the SCPRC-8 Report; and
 - **note** the Report on Status of Actions Taken on the Implementation of the 2022-2023 Business Plan (12/WC/Annex 3.1 and 12/WC/Annex 3.2).

13 March 2023