



# SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

---

## Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group of the Waigani Convention on the Adoption of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019

---

### Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Adoption of the Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments of 2019 to the Waigani Convention was established by the Eleventh Meeting of Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention in September 2021.
2. The First Meeting Meeting of the Working Group was held virtually on 14 April 2022.
3. Present at the Meeting were representatives of the Working Group from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The meeting commenced at 2.00pm with Australia, the Chairperson calling the meeting to order.
5. No apologies were received.
6. Opening remarks were made by the Secretariat who welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Working Group.

### Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

7. The Meeting agreed that the agenda of the meeting would be as circulated by the Secretariat.

### Agenda Item 3: Update on progress of work

8. The meeting noted verbal update provided by the Secretariat on preliminary work that it had undertaken with members of the Working Group to develop its draft Terms of Reference (TOR).
9. The Chairperson then informed the meeting that it would deliberate on the draft TOR in its first session.

### Agenda Item 4: Finalization of Draft TOR for Working Group

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa T +685 21929 F +685 20231 [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org) [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)

A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.



# SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

10. The Chairperson of the Working Group proceeded to summarize all parts of the TOR and invited the meeting to consider each part and provide their input for finalization of the draft. The deliberations of the meeting on the relevant parts of TOR are as follows:

#### **4.1 Responsibilities of Working Group**

- 10.1 Australia sought clarification from the Secretariat on the type of report and frequency of reporting that was expected of the Working Group for the purpose in updating the STAC and Secretariat on its progress.
- 10.2 The Secretariat informed the meeting that the report would be a narrative report in a style and structure consistent with reports of the Waigani Convention. One report per STAC meeting would be necessary to cover progress of work in between the STAC meetings.

#### **4.2 Responsibilities of Working Group members**

- 10.3 Samoa sought further clarification on part F of the TOR which states the WG is to draft two (2) papers on the proposed amendments to the Waigani Convention.
- 10.4 Australia and the Secretariat confirmed that Decision 6.2 of the Waigani Convention COP 11 agreed for the Working Group to prepare an amendment each for the adoption of 2019 Basel Convention Plastic Waste Amendments and a mechanism for the adoption of future amendments to the Basel Convention as they occur.
- 10.5 The Secretariat confirmed to the meeting, in response to a query by Australia if the amendments would be drafted by the Working Group, that it will support the Working Group to draft the amendments.
- 10.6 Samoa wanted to seek clarification on the reporting requirements of the Working Group. The report of the Working Group would be presented to the STAC by the Chairperson, through ad-hoc meetings that are to be facilitated by the Secretariat.

#### **4.3 Responsibilities of the Secretariat**

- 10.7 Papua New Guinea proposed, and the Secretariat agreed to facilitate all necessary consultation of Working Group with Parties of the Waigani Convention.

#### **4.4 Responsibilities of STAC**

- 10.8 The Chairperson clarified that the addition of Part 6 of the TOR on the responsibilities of the STAC was made by New Zealand during the Working Groups.
  - 10.9 Australia requested the Secretariat to confirm what was meant by the term “final report” in the TOR. The Secretariat confirmed it would be a narrative report covering all the work of the Working Group including as suggested by Australia, combining update reports for STAC with this final report.
  - 10.10 The Chairperson asked if Pacific Island countries would have access to technical assistance from the STAC to understand their responsibilities under the plastic waste amendments, and to implement the amendments if they are accepted in the Waigani Convention. The Secretariat confirmed that STAC can provide that support to Parties as it is within its role to do so.
11. With no further comments, the Chairperson confirmed making changes to the relevant parts of the draft TOR as discussed during the meeting and proceeded to  
[PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa](mailto:sprep@sprep.org) T +685 21929 F +685 20231 [sprep@sprep.org](mailto:sprep@sprep.org) [www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)



# SPREP

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional  
Environment Programme

finalize it by listing the names and official designations of Members of the Working Group. Members agreed to accept and confirm all changes.

## 5 Next steps

11. The Chairperson then invited the Secretariat to advise the meeting on the next steps to be taken for the Working Group to commence its work. The Secretariat advised that the TOR needed to be approved by Parties through the STAC so it would consult the Chairperson of the STAC to convene an ad-hoc meeting.
12. Members of the Working Group expressed their desire to commence work as soon as possible and requested the Secretariat to consider convening the ad-hoc STAC meeting by the end of April.

## Agenda 6 Closure of the meeting

13. The Meeting ended at 4.10pm Samoa time with words of appreciation from Australia as Chair of the Working Group meeting to the Secretariat and all members for engaging in meaningful discussions. The Secretariat also expressed gratitude to all for their support and work to implement Decision 6.2 of COP 11.