

CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV_2/18 Plastic Convention **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points
DATE: 17 June 2022
CIRCULAR: 22/51

SUBJECT: Invitation to attend the *Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)*

Dear Members,

The Fifth Session of the UN Environment Assembly agreed to a resolution “*End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument*” and the formation of an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to negotiate a new binding global agreement covering the whole life cycle of plastics. The process started with the Open-Ended Working Group held on the 30 May to 1 June 2022 to prepare for the first INC scheduled to be held in November 2022 in Uruguay.

As you may recall, the UNEA 5.2 resolution is in line with the [Pacific Regional Declaration on the Prevention of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution and its Impacts](#) expressing Pacific leaders’ grave concern about the environmental, social, cultural, economic, human rights, human health and, food security impacts of plastics pollution at each stage of its life cycle.

To assist Member Governments prepare for the first INC, the Secretariat with funding support from the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, will hold the ***Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)*** on the 16-18 August 2022 in Suva, Fiji. Given that not all national borders may be fully opened, the workshop is therefore planned to be a hybrid workshop to be delivered in person and virtually.

The aim of the workshop is to provide Member Governments with the assistance they may need in negotiating a global agreement to address plastic pollution covering the whole life cycle of plastics.

The Draft Provisional Agenda of the Pacific Regional Preparatory Workshop for the INC is outlined below:

Day 1 – 16 August 2022 (09:00 – 16:30hrs)
Session 1: Welcome and Opening
Session 2: Regional updates
Session 3: Draft Agreement key themes
Day 2 – 17 August 2022 (09:00 – 16:30hrs)
Session 4 – Road to Uruguay – key themes part 1
Session 5 - Road to Uruguay – key themes part 2
Session 6 - Road to Uruguay – key themes part 3
Day 3 – 18 August 2022 (09:00 – 16:30hrs)
Session 7 – High level segment – dialogue with partners
Session 8 – Presenting Meeting outcomes
Session 9 – Closing

The Secretariat is pleased to invite nominations of officials to attend the workshop preferably those who are familiar with the plastics pollution and intergovernmental negotiating committee process. One representative will be sponsored to attend in person, to the preparatory workshop from the following countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niue, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Unfortunately, the funding for in person attendance does not extend to the territories of American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna, therefore participation in this workshop will be at your own cost unless joining virtually.

To assist with travel arrangements and meeting logistics, kindly complete the attached registration form (Annex 1) and submit to the Secretariat at your earliest convenience but no later than COB Friday 8, July 2022.

For further information please contact Ms. Davina Tiitii, Waste Management and Pollution Control Programme on davinat@sprep.org

Yours sincerely,



Easter Chu Shing
Acting Director General

Att.

ECS/AT/db