SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org

The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

CIRCULAR

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DATE: 5 August 2015
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TO: SPREP National Focal Points Contracting Parties to the Waigani Convention: Australia, Cook Islands, FSM, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

SUBJECT: Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention (COP-8), Apia, Samoa, 18th September, 2015.

Dear Members,

I am pleased to advise that the 8th 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)* will be held in Apia, Samoa on the 18th September 2014, prior to the 26th SPREP meeting.

The provisional agenda for the Meeting is attached but all supporting documentation can be downloaded from our website www.sprep.org in the next two weeks.

I would appreciate if the Secretariat could be advised no later than the 28th August 2015 of the name of the *designated, suitable representative and accompanying experts or advisers* nominated to attend the forthcoming Meeting. The Parties to the Waigani Convention are: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Funding is available to support the attendance of one representative from each of the following Countries – *Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue and Tuvalu*.

Representatives of parties to the Basel Convention (the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau) as well as other Countries are also invited to attend the meeting as observers.

I would also like to remind Parties regarding the requirement for preparation and submission of National Reports to the Conference of the Parties. The reporting format can be downloaded along with other information on the Waigani Convention on the SPREP website: http://www.sprep.org/legal/regional.htm.

Finally, I would like to remind all Waigani Convention Parties that the COP is the decision making organ of the Convention and it is very important to make every effort to attend these meetings. You will all recall that in the last two COP meetings in Noumea and Majuro, the meetings did not have quorums hence we had to work an extra day to complete the business of the meetings. Consequently, I would encourage all Parties to attend the September 18th meeting so we can complete the substantive discussions on the scheduled day.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat for any further information regarding the COP-8.

Yours Sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Acting Director General

Att.

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