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PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

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

CIRCULAR

FILE: CONV 1/5/1; CONV 2/7/1

DATE: 21 November 2016

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TO: SPREP National Focal Points
Waigani and Basel Convention Competent Authorities & Focal Points

SUBJECT: **6th Meeting of the Waigani Convention Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-6), the 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions (SCPRC-5), and 4th GEF-PAS uPOPs Project Steering Committee meetings – 20th – 23rd February 2017**

Dear Sirs/ Mesdames:

As agreed to in the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Waigani Convention held in Apia in September in 2015, I am pleased to advise that the *6th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC-6) of the Waigani Convention and the 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the joint implementation of the Waigani and Basel Conventions (SCPRC-5)* will be held at the Tanoa International Dateline Hotel from the 20th–22nd February 2017 in Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga. In addition to these meetings, the 4th Meeting of the GEF-PAS uPOPs project Steering Committee will be held following their conclusion on 23rd February 2017.

The provisional agenda for the meetings are attached while the supporting working document will be forwarded in due course.

I would like to invite nominations from all Parties and appreciate if the name(s) of the *designated, suitable representative and alternative and accompanying experts and advisers* could be sent to the Secretariat by the 13th January 2017. Please be advised that funding is available to support the attendance of one representative from each of the Countries (excluding Australia and New Zealand) who are Parties to the Waigani Convention.

The Parties to the Waigani Convention are: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

This invitation is also extended to the non-Waigani Convention parties in the region, namely Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau to attend and participate in the three meetings on a self-funding basis as funding is limited for these meetings.

I thank you kindly for your consideration and encourage participation at the STAC-6, SCPRC-5 and the 4th GEF-PAS uPOPs project Steering Committee Meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Clark Peteru
Officer-in-Charge

CP/FG