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PROTECT PACIFIC WHALES – OCEAN VOYAGERS

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

CIRCULAR

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DATE: 4 August 2017

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TO: SPREP National Focal Points
CROP Agencies
SPREP Partner Organisations

SUBJECT: **Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Waigani Convention (COP-9), Apia, Samoa, 15th September, 2017**

Dear Members,

I am pleased to advise that the 9th 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 15th September 2017, prior to the 28th 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 couple of weeks.

I would appreciate if the Secretariat could be advised no later than the 25th August 2017 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, New Zealand, Niue, 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*.

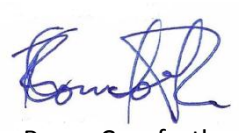
Representatives of parties to the Basel Convention (the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Palau) as well as other Countries are also invited to attend the meeting as observers.

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 is attached for ease of reference. This can also be downloaded along with other information on the Waigani Convention on the SPREP website: http://www.sprep.org/legal/regional.htm or you can contact Dr. Frank Griffin at frankg@sprep.org and Mr. Clark Peteru at clarkp@sprep.org for copies of the reporting template.

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 the last COP in Apia, Samoa in 2015 did have a quorum but the two COP previous meetings held in Noumea and Majuro in 2011 and 2013 respectively 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 15th 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-9.

Yours Sincerely,



Roger Cornforth
Acting Director General

RC/FG/ae

