



Sixteenth meeting of the Noumea Convention

Sixteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the convention for the protection of the natural resources and environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols (Noumea Convention)

Virtual - Apia, Samoa
02 September 2021

Agenda Item 7.4: Pacific Declaration on Plastics.

Purpose of paper

1. To inform the Parties on the development of a Pacific Declaration on Plastics.

Background

2. The work to draft elements for a new protocol on marine litter and microplastics under the Noumea Convention as outlined in the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan 2018-2025 work plan activity 1.1 and 1.2, is being considered by the Noumea Convention COP16 (Refer WP7.3). This work which will take some time, will help to inform the regional position at the global level discussions.
3. In response to the immediate and on-going regional and global discussions about the disproportionate impact of plastics and increasing inflows of plastics into the region, there is a growing call from Pacific islands countries and territories for a regional position on plastic pollution that supports a legally binding global plastics treaty. SPREP and Partners, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) and Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL), have been working to support countries to draft this regional plastics Declaration.
4. The proposed draft Pacific Declaration on Plastics supports a global plastics pollution treaty. This draft has been developed in consultation with Pacific island countries from the Oct 2020 Zero Draft consultation and follow-up consultations with EIA, CIEL and SPREP on June 9, 2021 at the 'Virtual Dialogue on the Emerging Global Framework on Plastics and Plastic Pollution'. The Secretariat is currently in discussion with Members with the hope to finalise and table the Regional Declaration on Plastics for endorsement at the Environment Ministers' Meeting High Level Talanoa on the 10th September ahead of UNEA 5.2 in February 2022. The revised draft incorporates feedback from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. The United States also provided comments as well.

Recommendation

5. The Parties are invited to:

- 1) **Note and discuss** the Pacific Declaration on Plastics with the hope to finalise and table for endorsement at the Environment Ministers' Meeting High Level Talanoa.

Attachment 1: Revised draft Pacific Declaration on Plastics – includes input and comments from Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Attachment 2: Comments from the United States of America.

1 September, 2021