



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

REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF WORK PERFORMED IN THE PERIOD JULY 2019 – JUNE 2021 IN RELATION TO THE NOUMEA CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

Introduction

1. The Noumea Convention, negotiated under the framework of the Regional Seas Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was adopted in 1986. The Convention and its two related Protocols - Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the South Pacific Region by Dumping and the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Pollution Emergencies in the South Pacific Region - entered into force on 22 August 1990.
2. The 12 Parties to the Convention are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and United States.

Opening of the Meeting

3. Contracting Parties to the Noumea Convention met for their Sixteenth Ordinary Meeting on 2 September 2021 Samoa time via virtual platform.
4. Present at the virtual Meeting were representatives from Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, Republic of the Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and United States. A full list of participants is contained in Annex I.
5. The Meeting commenced with an opening prayer from the Secretariat.
6. Papua New Guinea, Chair of the Fifteenth COP Meeting presented an opening address.
7. The Director General of SPREP reflected upon the role of the Convention in addressing growing environmental challenges and stressing the relevance of the Noumea Convention in helping to meet these, thanking all Parties for their engagement in the Meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Organisation of the Meeting

The Meeting:

- **Elected** Samoa as Chairperson and Nauru as Vice Chairperson.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

The Meeting:

- **Adopted** the Provisional Agenda including the amendment proposed and agreed to by the Parties.

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Secretariat

The Meeting:

- **Adopted** the Report of the Secretariat.

Agenda Item 5: National Reports on the implementation of obligations under the Noumea Convention

The Meeting:

- **Tabled** their respective reports on the national implementation of their obligations under the Convention for the reporting period July 2019 to June 2021.

Agenda Item 6: Financial Statements for 2019/2020

The Meeting:

- **Adopted** the Financial Reports and Statements for 2019 and 2020.

Agenda Item 7.1: Review of the Noumea Convention

The Meeting:

- **Noted** the status and progress of the review of the Noumea Convention;
- **Agreed** to collaborate and support the Secretariat by providing comments to the Consultant undertaking the review
- **Agreed** to discuss inter-sessionally the findings and recommendations of the review prior to its formal consideration at COP17.
- **Tasked** the Secretariat to propose a suitable date for Parties to meet inter-sessionally to discuss the findings of the review.

Agenda Item 7.2: ACP MEA Phase III Programme Update

The Meeting:

- **Welcomed** the assistance provided under the ACPMEA Phase III Programme to support the Noumea Convention and note the update on the ACP MEA Phase III Programme; and
- **Agreed** to collaborate closely with the Secretariat to implement Activities that support the Noumea Convention.

Agenda Item 7.3: Regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics

The Meeting:

- **Noted** the status and progress of work on the development of the new regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics,
- **Agreed** to include the development of the new draft regional framework to address marine litter and microplastics in the Secretariat's workplan for 2022-2023; and
- **Agreed** to assist and support the process for developing the regional framework.

Agenda Item 7.4: Pacific Declaration on Plastics

The Meeting:

- **Noted and discussed** the Pacific Declaration on Plastics with the hope to finalise and table for voluntary endorsement at the Environment Ministers' Meeting High Level Talanoa

Agenda Item 8: Consideration and adoption of the Core Budget 2022-2023

The Meeting:

- **Considered and approved** the core budget and contributions for the biennium 2022-2023; and
- **Committed** to urgent clearance of outstanding contributions.

Agenda Item 9: Items proposed by Parties

8. No discussion or outcomes required.

Agenda Item 10: Other Business

9. No discussion or outcomes required

Agenda Item 11: Date and venue of the next Meeting

The Meeting:

- **Endorsed** the 17th COP to be held in 2023 in Samoa prior to the Thirty-first SPREP Meeting

Agenda Item 12: Adoption of the Meeting Record

The Meeting:

- **Adopted** the Outcomes Report of the 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) Meeting.

Agenda Item 13: Closure of the Meeting

10. The 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) Meeting closed with a prayer from the Secretariat at 4.40pm, Samoa time.