

CC-15/7: Submission regarding Cook Islands

The Committee,

Recalling the submission by the Secretariat to the Committee regarding Cook Islands concerning possible difficulties faced by this Party to comply with its reporting obligation under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention (CHW/CC/9c/2019/4),

Recalling also decisions CC-14/19 and CC-14/19/Add.1,

Without prejudice to future decisions by the Committee related to this or other specific submissions,

1. *Expresses* its appreciation for the cooperation of Cook Islands during the fifteenth meeting of the Committee;
2. *Welcomes* the participation by Cook Islands in training activities on national reporting in advance of the fifteenth meeting of the Committee and *encourages* Cook Islands to participate in training activities on national reporting in advance of the sixteenth meeting of the Committee;
3. *Notes* that Cook Islands remains in the situation of not having transmitted a national report as required under Article 13 paragraph 3 of the Basel Convention;
4. *Welcomes* the willingness of Cook Islands to transmit its national report for 2021 by the end of 2022, and its national report for 2022 by the end of 2023;
5. *Welcomes* also the renewed willingness of Cook Islands to elaborate and transmit to the Secretariat a voluntary compliance action plan to assist in resolving the matter of concern and *invites* transmission thereof by 15 February 2023;
6. *Welcomes* further the renewed willingness of Cook Islands to consider submitting a project proposal to the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, as a way to improve its implementation of the Basel Convention;
7. *Encourages* Cook Islands to ensure that its national authorities engaged in the sustainable development cooperation framework processes are informed of its difficulties in complying with its reporting obligation under the Convention with a view to ensuring that its needs, as communicated to the Committee, are integrated therein;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat to communicate this decision to Cook Islands, to the Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific region and to the United Nations Resident Coordinator;
9. *Requests* also the Secretariat to continue its communications with and support to Cook Islands and to report to the Committee as appropriate;
10. *Decides* to keep the matter relevant to the submission CHW/CC/9c/2019/4 under review.