

OEWG-VI/2: Review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordination centres

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recognizing the role of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in the implementation of the Basel Convention and its Strategic Plan,

Acknowledging with gratitude the work done by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to date in implementing the Basel Convention, its Strategic Plan and the related chemicals conventions,

Noting that the review decided upon by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting will be conducted with the objective of enhancing and strengthening the combined effectiveness and capacity of the centres and the Secretariat,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex I to the present decision, which must include:

(a) An assessment of the achievements made and obstacles faced by regional and coordinating centres in fulfilling their functions, as contained in appendices I and II of decision VI/3, which are reproduced in annex II to the present decision;

(b) Recommendations with a focus on the long-term sustainability of the centres, in particular in relation to governance, institutional arrangements, operating budgets, regional involvement and project resource mobilization;

(c) Recommendations on the development of a financial strategy to be approved by the Parties to move the centres toward financial sustainability;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to publish the report mentioned in paragraph 1 above on its website by 15 December 2007 for the consideration of the Parties, Signatories and the regional and coordinating centres;

3. *Invites* the Parties, Signatories and regional and coordinating centres to submit comments on the report by 31 January 2008;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit the report, including the comments submitted by the Parties, Signatories and regional and coordinating centres, and a draft decision on the issue to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting for its consideration.

Annex I to decision OEWG-VI/2

Terms of reference for the report on the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

1. The report should cover all regional and coordinating centres and incorporate self-assessments by the centres on the basis of a format to be provided by the Secretariat.

2. The report should:

(a) Assess the achievements made and obstacles faced by regional and coordinating centres in fulfilling their functions, as set out in appendices I and II of decision VI/3;

(b) Assess the extent to which the activities and achievements of the centres are having a positive impact on implementation of the Convention at national and regional levels;

(c) Make recommendations with a view to developing a set of indicators to measure performance and impediments in relation to functions and impacts;

(d) Assess the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the different governance, institutional and financial models used in various centres and, in particular, the extent to which these models have contributed to regional involvement and financial and institutional sustainability;

- (e) Assess the level of support of host countries, countries served by the centres and other countries, including the provision of infrastructure, technology and personnel;
- (f) Report on personnel matters, such as staff training in administration and accountancy, the number of full-time and part-time positions and consultants, the continuity of employment, and the Basel Convention secretariat staff resources dedicated to the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;
- (g) Assess activities relevant to cooperation and coordination, taking into account the work of the ad hoc joint working group on cooperation and coordination among the Stockholm, Rotterdam, and Basel Conventions;
- (h) Assess and comment on the current and potential activities and roles of centres in facilitating implementation of other international chemicals conventions and processes within their mandates (including the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management);
- (i) Assess possibilities for and obstacles to expanding the functions of the centres to promote the integration of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in relevant mechanisms for international and regional cooperation, as well as the development of strategies that involve public-private partnerships;
- (j) Assess the financial and institutional support that would be required in the short, medium and long term for centres to function optimally.

Annex II to decision OEWG-VI/2

Appendices I and II to decision VI/3 on the establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention regional centres for training and technology transfer

Appendix I: Core functions of the Basel Convention regional centres

The role of the Centres is to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within their own region, through capacity-building for environmentally sound management, to achieve the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention.

The description of the core functions of the Centres is as follows:

1. Training;
2. Technology transfer;
3. Information;
4. Consulting;
5. Awareness-raising.

The explanations of the core functions of the Centres are as follows:

- (a) Developing and conducting training programmes, workshops, seminars and associated projects in the field of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, transfer of environmentally sound technology and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes, with specific emphasis on training of trainers and the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Convention and its instruments;
- (b) Identifying, developing and strengthening mechanisms for the transfer of technology in the field of environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or their minimization in the region;
- (c) Gathering, assessing and disseminating information in the field of hazardous wastes and other wastes to Parties of the region and to the secretariat;
- (d) Collecting information on new or proven environmentally sound technologies and know-how relating to environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes and disseminating these to Parties of the region at their request;

(e) Establishing and maintaining regular exchange of information relevant to the provisions of the Basel Convention, and networking at the national and regional levels;

(f) Organizing meetings, symposiums and missions in the field, useful for carrying out these objectives in the region;

(g) Providing assistance and advice to the Parties and non-parties of the region at their request, on matters relevant to the environmentally sound management or minimization of hazardous wastes, the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and other related matters;

(h) Promoting public awareness;

(i) Encouraging the best approaches, practices and methodologies for environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes, for example, through case studies and pilot projects;

(j) Cooperating with the United Nations and its bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme and the specialized agencies, and with other relevant intergovernmental organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations, and, where appropriate, with any other institution, in order to coordinate activities and develop and implement joint projects related to the provisions of the Basel Convention and develop synergies where appropriate with other multilateral environmental agreements;

(k) Developing, within the general financial strategy approved by the Parties, the Centres' own strategy for financial sustainability;

(l) Cooperating in mobilization of human, financial and material means in order to meet the urgent needs at the request of the Party(ies) of the region faced with incidents or accidents which cannot be solved with the means of the individual Party(ies) concerned;

(m) Performing any other functions assigned to it by the decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention or by Parties of the region consistent with such decisions.

Appendix II: Roles and functions of the coordinating centres of the Basel Convention in addition to the core functions

1. Ensuring interaction, including exchange of information, between the secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Regional Centres, among the subregional centres, Parties and other related institutions;

2. Conveying regional consultation to identify priorities and formulate strategies;

3. Supporting and coordinating common tasks of the subregional centres in the field of policies, information, communication, technical and financial assessment;

4. Defining and executing programmes of regional scope in coordination with the subregional centres;

5. Identifying, promoting and strengthening the synergies and mechanisms of cooperation among the subregional centres and other stakeholders in environmentally sound management and the minimization of generation of hazardous waste and technology transfer in and outside the region;

6. Keeping a compilation system for information and making such information accessible to stakeholders.