

Decision I/19

**TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND  
MANAGEMENT OF WASTES SUBJECT TO THE BASEL CONVENTION**

The Conference,

Recalling Article 4 of the Basel Convention and Resolution 8 of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Basel Convention,

Taking note of the terms of reference of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee of the Conference established under Decision I/2,

Having considered document UNEP/CHW.1/20 on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes subject to the Convention,

1. Decides to accept the draft technical guidelines contained in document UNEP/CHW.1/20 as provisional technical guidelines forming the basis for the production of a formal document;
2. Invites all States and interested organizations to provide written comments on the provisional technical guidelines to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention with a view to their revision and distribution to States and interested organizations as soon as possible or, if necessary, consideration by the Technical Working Group;
3. Further invites all States and interested organizations to give particular attention in their comments to the subject areas listed in the annex to this decision;
4. Decides to extend the mandate of the Technical Working Group to review the revised provisional technical guidelines and to prepare technical guidelines for other priority operations and waste streams subject to the Basel Convention and submit the results of its work to the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee;

5. Requests the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee to consider and submit the technical guidelines developed in paragraph 4 of this decision to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties for adoption;
6. Invites States and interested organizations to cooperate in the preparation of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 4 above;
7. Also invites all States and interested organizations to use the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 1 above as appropriate and report on their use to the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee;
8. Requests the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and pending availability of funds, to facilitate the preparation and use of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraphs 1 and 4 respectively.

Annex to Decision I/19

(a) Comments on the provisional Framework Document

1. Further consultation required on the future relevant priorities to be taken into account for the different waste management options and activities.
2. Future technical guidelines should address economic aspects of different proposed disposal and recovery operations as well as preventive measures.

(b) Comments on the provisional Technical Guidelines

The following issues were identified by several States and interest groups as deserving particular attention in comments to be provided on the provisional technical guidelines.

1. A regulatory and enforcement infrastructure is essential to ensure observance of the guidelines.
2. The vital role of the development and adoption of clean technologies must not be underplayed or downvalued. Guidelines should emphasize the importance of technology and environmental audits, rapid implementation of new approaches, substitution of technologies and raw materials, product life cycle analyses etc.
3. Waste management facilities of all sorts should be in the hands of technically competent, trained persons.
4. The principles set out in the draft guidelines provide a preliminary indication of available approaches to the management of waste. Options identified for waste streams require further consideration as to their long term suitability for environmentally sound management. For example, the appropriateness of options D3 and D5 for organic solvents, and the allowable level of PCB in waste oils.
5. Guidelines must never be regarded as providing a "once-and-for-all" indication of appropriate action and will require regular update in line

with developing circumstances. Neither should they be regarded as prescriptive or a clear recommendation to use an option in all cases. They provide background information for guidance in decision making.

6. Transfer of technology, so as to make available the benefits of developments, must be encouraged.
7. Waste management activities of all types should be critically assessed as to their effectiveness and value by consideration of matters such as the input/output mass balance and the receiving environmental media.
8. In any consideration of technical guidelines notice must be taken of available capacity and the capability to deal effectively with waste within the areas of each competent authority.