

OEWG-IV/15: Resource mobilization

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recalling paragraph 140 of the report of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties,¹

Noting with gratitude the valuable work on preparation of the guidance note on resource mobilization generously funded by the Government of Denmark as a contribution towards the elaboration of a sustainable resource mobilization strategy,

Welcoming the information paper prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Expanded Bureau on a resource mobilization strategy for the Basel Convention, entitled “Mobilizing resources for a cleaner future”,

Recalling decision VII/38 on international cooperation, including cooperation with the World Trade Organization and the Global Environment Facility, and paragraph 141 of the report of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and welcoming the work being undertaken by the Secretariat on assisting developing country Parties to develop proposals on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing, or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants,

Recognizing that resource mobilization is primarily the responsibility of Parties,

Also recognizing that effective implementation of the Basel Convention Strategic Plan requires an equitable global partnership through the creation of new levels of cooperation among States, key sectors of societies and people,

Welcoming the acceptance, for the first time, by all Parties to the Convention at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, of a commitment to contribute to the Basel Convention Trust Fund and that this commitment will be accompanied by an effort of the developed countries to increase substantially their voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund,

Recognizing that effective implementation of the Basel Convention Strategic Plan and building the capacity of developing countries and countries with economies in transition require effective resource mobilization,

Acknowledging that a cleaner future and the environmentally sound management of wastes are recognized as an important component of improving human health and the environment and that they are therefore strongly linked to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

1. *Commends* the guidance note and associated fact sheets on possible funding sources for the environmentally sound management of wastes funded by the Government of Denmark for active use by Parties with a view to strengthening their capacity for the implementation of the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the recruitment of a resource mobilization and partnership officer thanks to voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and calls upon the Parties and others in a position to do so to support activities in this field, and, in this context, stresses the role of the Secretariat in attracting further voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and urges the Secretariat to mount a fundraising campaign for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and to report on the activities of the resource mobilization officer to the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Agrees* that effective resource mobilization requires:

(a) Raising the awareness of Parties concerning the need to work effectively with international and bilateral aid agencies;

(b) Improved receptivity within multilateral and bilateral financial aid institutions to proposals that address directly and indirectly the environmentally sound management of wastes;

(c) Improvements in strategic coordination and cooperation between related multilateral environmental agreements at the international and national levels to maximize co-benefits and efficiencies in the implementation of these agreements;

4. *Urges* all Parties:

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- (a) To explore the scope for increasing international cooperation in the environmentally sound management of wastes;
- (b) To explore the scope for increasing domestic investment in the environmentally sound management of wastes, including through innovative sources of financing such as partnerships and the involvement of the private sector;
- (c) To improve awareness within multilateral and bilateral financial aid institutions about the interdependencies between the environmentally sound management of wastes and other priority global sustainable development objectives such as poverty reduction, human health protection, fresh water conservation, sustainable production and consumption and other multilateral environmental agreements;
- (d) To examine their country assistance strategies, sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies (where such strategies exist) with the objective of ensuring that the environmentally sound management of wastes is a clearly articulated priority in those strategies;
- (e) To work, with the support of the Secretariat where necessary, to develop specific proposals for consideration by donor countries and aid institutions based on their national priorities;
- (f) Actively to seek opportunities to improve coordination of multilateral environmental agreement-related implementation activities at the national level, including in the development of proposals and implementation of projects;

5. *Invites* international financial institutions and bilateral donors to give greater consideration to the environmentally sound management of wastes in programming support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the Millennium Development Goals and World Summit on Sustainable Development targets;

6. *Highlights* the possibility for the Basel Convention regional centres to present projects for the implementation of their business plans, which were submitted to the Conference of the Parties, directly to donor agencies and invites the Basel Convention regional centres to increase their contacts with donor agencies in this regard and to prioritize the projects in their business plans in accordance with the Basel Convention Strategic Plan;

7. *Stresses* that the Secretariat has a facilitating role in resource mobilization, including by promoting direct links between Parties in need of assistance and donor countries and aid institutions;

8. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to facilitate resource mobilization by:

- (a) Disseminating national experiences and best practices in mobilizing domestic and international resources for the environmentally sound management of wastes;
- (b) Raising awareness of Parties about the steps that they can take at the national level to finance the environmentally sound management of wastes from national resources and through innovative mechanisms involving the private sector;
- (c) Assisting Parties in improving awareness within multilateral and bilateral financial aid institutions about the interdependencies between the environmentally sound management of wastes and other priority global sustainable development objectives;
- (d) Assisting interested Parties with the development of proposals to be submitted to donor countries and aid institutions and documenting and sharing this accumulated experience with the Parties;
- (e) Enhancing cooperation and coordination with the secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and other mechanisms to maximize opportunities for the joint development of proposals and implementation of projects;
- (f) Continuing the implementation of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme with a view to strengthening and sustaining the programme based on voluntary contributions;

9. *Encourages* closer cooperation between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to ensuring that priority waste issues under the

Basel Convention are discussed and taken into account in project cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and donors, including in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building;

10. *Further requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting on results achieved to date in the implementation of the present decision, and to make recommendations for further action, including in relation to the initiative on a strategic approach to international chemicals management.

Annex II

Views expressed by Parties in the contact group on ship scrapping

A. Egypt

1. In the context of the efforts being exerted by both the Secretariat and the Parties to the Convention with a view to rendering effective the measures to control the illegal traffic in hazardous waste, in its anxiety to comply with the Basel Convention and also other environmental conventions which regulate such control operations and prohibit illegal transits through the Suez Canal and stressing the importance – of which you are all aware – of the Suez Canal as an international navigation route falling under Egyptian sovereignty, the Egyptian delegation would like to bring to the attention of all Parties, relevant bodies and organizations the requirements that were laid down by Egypt to control any illegal traffic of hazardous wastes through the Suez Canal, and which were posted on the internet in March 2005.
2. These requirements apply to ships destined for dismantling or recycling (whether hazards were removed from them or not).
3. Accordingly, prior notification procedures should be implemented when such ships transit through the Suez Canal. Failing compliance with those requirements, Egypt – as a Party to the Convention – shall consider such crossing an illegal one in line with the Basel Convention provisions.

B. India

4. India wishes to state that Parties and other stakeholders, while communicating views under paragraph 2 (e) of decision OEWG-IV/5 with respect to “any other relevant views”, may communicate views on the responsibility and/or role of flag States and/or shipowner States in enabling the environmentally sound management of ship scrapping, particularly with respect to decontamination of ships before these are handed over to the recycling facilities. In the view of the Government of India, the decontamination of ships by shipowners is important in ensuring the environmentally sound management of ship scrapping. This is in line with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, referring to such issues as decontamination. Any arrangement for ensuring the environmentally sound management of ship scrapping would as an essential component of the strategy require prior decontamination of ships by the shipowners before these are handed over to the recycling States.

C. Turkey

5. The Turkish Government attaches importance to the fulfilment of obligations under the Basel Convention, in particular, the obligations of prior informed consent, by Parties exporting ships to be dismantled.

D. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on behalf of the European Union

1. Decision OEWG-IV/5 on the environmentally sound management of ship dismantling:

6. With regard to decision OEWG-IV/5 on the environmentally sound management of ship dismantling, the European Union wishes to state that it believes the references to “other stakeholders” in paragraphs 2, 5 and 7 of that decision should be taken as applying in particular to recycling facility operators.

2. Decision OEWG-IV/6 on the abandonment of ships on land or in ports

7. With regard to decision OEWG-IV/6 on the abandonment of ships, the European Union wishes to state that the questions repeated below and forming questions 3–5 in the European Union’s proposal tabled in the contact group should be borne in mind for possible future adoption in respect of work carried out on the issue of abandonment of ships at the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group:

“ 3. Please provide comments, proposals or suggestions on mechanisms to address the issue of abandoned ships. Such proposals or suggestions might concern:

“(a) Existing mechanisms that could be rendered applicable to ships that are abandoned on land or in ports and the means by which this could be achieved;

“(b) Mechanisms that could be developed to address the possible risk to human health and the environment caused by ships that are abandoned on land or in ports (e.g., an international legal regime establishing liability, an international mechanism for financing the removal of abandoned ships and measures to restore the environment, a mechanism at the regional or domestic level);

“4. The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention 1972) regulates the dumping of, inter alia, vessels and the 1996 Protocol also includes any abandonment or toppling at the site of platforms or other man-made structures at sea, for the sole purpose of their deliberate disposal. The Protocol is not yet in force and internal waters are excluded. Parties can choose to apply the provisions of the Protocol with regard to dumping or incineration to their internal waters if they wish under article 7.2 (so-called ‘opting in’):

“(a) Are you a party to the London Convention or the London Protocol? If so, have you made the decision to opt in such that the Protocol could be applicable to your internal waters?

“(b) Would you consider opting in to the London Protocol a sufficient means to address potential outcomes regarding abandonment of ships?

“(c) How might you deal with those ships not covered by the Protocol, i.e., existing abandoned ships?

“5. Please provide comments on the possible linkages, if any, that could be made between the issue of abandoned ships in ports or on land and:

“(a) The relevant instruments or declarations of the International Labour Organization, and other entities concerning the abandonment of seafarers;

“(b) Any other relevant international legal instrument.”