

BC-13/19: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism;
2. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretariat in revising the draft joint clearing-house mechanism strategy¹ and in preparing a draft workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2018–2019;²
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To start the work to implement the strategy of the joint clearing-house mechanism³ in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
 - (b) To implement the activities of the workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To ensure that activities undertaken in the development of the clearing-house mechanism are cost-effective, proportionate and balanced and in line with the capacity and resources of the Secretariat;
 - (b) To prioritize recurring activities, in particular in respect of maintenance;
 - (c) To implement activities in-house whenever possible and to resort to the use of consultants only in justifiable cases;
 - (d) To link with other relevant existing mechanisms and sources of information without having to redo the content already contained in them;
 - (e) Where possible, to participate in meetings through electronic means and to use translations already available in the six official United Nations languages;
5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination activities with existing partners in the area of information exchange, to explore possible cooperative activities with new partners as appropriate and to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication with existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
6. *Invites* Parties and others to participate, as appropriate, in the development of the strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan in accordance with the present decision;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments with regard to matters such as the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/48-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/39-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/43.

³ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.