



BASEL CONVENTION

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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention  
on the Control of Transboundary Movements  
of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal  
Sixteenth meeting  
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023**

## **Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal on the work of its sixteenth meeting**

### **Introduction**

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the eleventh meeting of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (hereinafter, “the 2023 meetings”) were held in Geneva from 1 to 12 May 2023. In decisions BC-15/29, RC-10/18 and SC-10/25, on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the conferences of the Parties decided that the meetings would include joint sessions on joint issues and would not feature a high-level segment.

2. Accordingly, and as described in greater detail below under “Organization of work”, the 2023 meetings featured joint sessions to address cross-cutting issues of concern to at least two of the three conventions and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the three conferences of the Parties, as well as the opening and organization of the meetings.

### **I. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)**

3. Abiola Olanipekun, Chief, Science and Technical Assistance Branch, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed participants to the 2023 meetings.

4. The meetings began with a Swiss cultural musical performance.

#### **A. Opening remarks**

5. Opening remarks were delivered by Katrin Schneeberger, State Secretary, Federal Office for the Environment, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Switzerland; Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Christine Fuell, Executive Secretary ad interim of the Rotterdam Convention; and Reginald Hernaus, President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, speaking on behalf of the three presidents of the conferences of the Parties.

6. In her remarks, Ms. Schneeberger welcomed participants to Geneva and, highlighting that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were a crucial part of the global framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, said that participants at the present meetings would have

several opportunities to take significant steps in strengthening that sound management. One such opportunity was by listing new chemicals in the annexes to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, following the recommendations of the respective scientific committees, to pave the way for the elimination of, or improved management of, hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment. Other opportunities included updating the electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) technical guidelines under the Basel Convention to reflect the e-waste amendment, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fifteenth meeting, thereby supporting national authorities in addressing the global e-waste challenge and directing e-waste to state-of-the-art recovery; launching work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure under the Basel Convention in order to benefit both companies and authorities; and adopting plastic waste guidelines, in order to improve the management of plastic waste. A further opportunity was by adopting the proposed amendments and additional annex to the Rotterdam Convention to create a tool to support countries in managing shipments of hazardous chemicals, thereby retaining the aim of sharing responsibility for the sound management of chemicals. It was important to recall that the Rotterdam Convention did not ban the manufacture, trade or use of chemicals but rather provided information about the hazards of listed chemicals to assist countries in deciding whether they could manage the risks associated with international trade in those chemicals. In conclusion, she highlighted the fact that multilateral efforts, based on collective expertise, were vital in addressing the global challenges faced in protecting human health and the environment.

7. Ms. Mrema, in her remarks, noted that the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste was rapidly worsening and that, although the climate and nature elements of the crisis were firmly in the public eye, the pollution and waste element currently lacked the same level of attention and action. UNEP had highlighted in *Global Chemicals Outlook II: From Legacies to Innovative Solutions – Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* that the size of the global chemical industry was projected to double between 2017 and 2030.

Furthermore, over 2,000 new chemicals were currently being released every year, most of which had not been assessed for their effect on human health. In addition, over 2 billion tonnes of waste were currently being produced globally every year, mainly in major cities, and that waste led to significant damage to the natural environment, including through the production of greenhouse gases and, subsequently, climate change. The improper production of chemicals and management of waste, as well as pollution, contributed to major threats to human health, so it was important to adopt a One Health approach. More action was therefore also needed to ensure the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and waste, in particular through strengthened regulations for international trade and the elimination of the most hazardous chemicals, and it was vital to minimize waste generation and promote a life cycle approach to waste management. Participants at the present meetings had the opportunity to take decisions that would further develop and strengthen the three conventions. Actions to promote the effective implementation of the conventions included the adoption of technical guidelines on plastic waste under the Basel Convention and meeting the deadlines under the Stockholm Convention for the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). In closing, she noted that 2023 would be a crucial year for the chemicals agenda, as the global community awaited the outcomes of the negotiations on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, with a new framework due to be adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session, thereby enhancing engagement with key economic sectors to strengthen circular approaches and life cycle thinking, and facilitating cooperation with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other thematic areas. UNEP would continue to support and work closely with the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their Secretariat.

8. Mr. Payet, in his remarks, welcomed participants to the 2023 meetings held under the theme “Accelerating action: targets for the sound management of chemicals and wastes”. He noted that much had been achieved in the most recent intersessional period and that the decisions taken at the present meetings would both directly and indirectly address the triple planetary crisis and should be aimed at providing solutions that would contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals for a healthier, cleaner and better planet for all. At the high-level segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, which had been held in connection with the international meeting entitled “Stockholm +50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, ministers had highlighted the fact that international cooperation was a precondition as well as a means for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste and had called on all the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to set more ambitious targets and goals for tackling pollution. As the three conventions worked in an integrated manner, their cooperation and coordination with other international processes within the chemicals and waste cluster remained important. Recalling that the PCB deadlines under the Stockholm Convention were fast approaching and that Parties would require funding, technical support and government cooperation to meet the

related targets, he thanked partners, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union and the Governments of France, Germany and Norway, for the support that they had already provided, and encouraged others to provide support in the form of much-needed resources to rid the planet of PCB once and for all. Thanking Parties for their contributions to the general trust funds, in particular those Parties that had paid their outstanding contributions, he invited Parties still in arrears to explore possible solutions with the Secretariat. He also thanked donors to the voluntary trust funds of the conventions, namely Belgium, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the French Global Environment Facility and the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund, for their generous contributions during the biennium 2022–2023. In particular, he expressed his thanks to Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their generous support in funding participants from eligible Parties to attend the present meetings.

9. Ms. Fuell also expressed thanks to all the donors to the voluntary trust fund and the Government of Switzerland for its warm welcome and support for the present meetings. She noted that the sound management of chemicals and waste was a major cornerstone of the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that significant efforts were still required to reach the deadline for the Goals that was now only seven years away. The Goals were intrinsic to the overall mission and strategic framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which acted as the custodian for 21 of the indicators of those Goals, as well as contributing significantly to Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production. In addition to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework listed its own 4 goals for 2050 and 23 global targets for urgent action to be completed by 2030. Actions to reach those targets needed to be implemented consistently and in harmony with other relevant international obligations. Target 7 called, among other things, for the reduction by at least half of the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals. FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNEP were currently drafting an action plan on highly hazardous pesticides to be submitted to the International Conference for Chemicals Management at its fifth session for its consideration. At the present meetings, the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention were due to consider the inclusion of 7 chemicals and pesticides in Annex III to the Convention. The listing of the chemicals would not jeopardize food security, as listed chemicals and pesticides could still be used but in an environmentally sound manner based on informed decision-making in order to reduce their risk to human health and the environment. In that regard, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention had continued and accelerated its technical assistance programme with a focus on less hazardous alternatives, the collection of evidence for pesticide poisoning, and the implementation of major obligations under the Convention. FAO, as one of the hosting organizations, continued to provide significant support for such activities, not least by its continuous financial support of the Convention. In closing, she said that FAO and UNEP remained firmly committed to serving their members and the Parties to achieve the objectives of the conventions related to chemicals and waste.

10. Mr. Hernaus, in his remarks, also highlighted the fact that only seven years remained before the deadline for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that the urgent need to address the triple planetary crisis had been highlighted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session, in 2022. Given that the three elements of the planetary crisis were interconnected, it was vital to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to addressing them and, at all costs, to avoid any solutions to one element that could have a detrimental effect on one or both of the other elements. The theme of the 2023 meetings was pertinent to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it was now necessary to accelerate action in order to meet the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, which was key to sustaining the livelihoods of current and future generations of humankind. The Parties to the three conventions should therefore work together to improve resource efficiency, reduce waste and pollution, and shape a new, circular economy. The three conventions also needed to work closely with other conventions and programmes with which they shared common objectives, for example, in relation to target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to address both the triple planetary crisis and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through cooperation and coordination among themselves and also in conjunction with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

## **B. Formal opening**

11. The sixteenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 11 a.m. on 1 May 2023 by Reginald Hernaus (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention; Ana Berejiani (Georgia), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively.

## **C. Regional statements**

12. Representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries made general statements on issues to be discussed during the meetings and two Parties exercised their right of reply.

## **II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)**

13. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the following agenda for its sixteenth meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Organization of work;
  - (c) Report on the credentials of representatives to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
  - (a) Strategic issues:
    - (i) Strategic framework;
    - (ii) Improving the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure;
    - (iii) Development of guidelines for environmentally sound management;
  - (b) Scientific and technical matters:
    - (i) Technical guidelines;
    - (ii) Classification and hazard characterization of wastes;
    - (iii) National reporting;
    - (iv) Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents;
    - (v) Further consideration of plastic waste;
    - (vi) Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX on e-waste;
    - (vii) Waste containing nanomaterials;
  - (c) Legal, compliance and governance matters:
    - (i) Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance;
    - (ii) Providing further legal clarity;
    - (iii) National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic;
    - (iv) Proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention;
  - (d) Technical assistance;
  - (e) Basel Convention Partnership Programme;

- (f) Financial resources;
- (g) Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2024-2025.
- 5. International cooperation and coordination:
  - (a) Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
  - (b) Cooperation and coordination with other organizations.
- 6. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:
  - (a) Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange;
  - (b) Mainstreaming gender;
  - (c) Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
  - (d) From science to action.
- 7. Programme of work and budget.
- 8. Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.
- 9. Venue and dates of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 10. Other matters.
- 11. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
- 12. Closure of the meeting.
- 14. In adopting its agenda, the Conference of the Parties agreed to consider under item 10, other matters, the admission of observers.

### III. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)

#### A. Attendance

15. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 168 Parties: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

16. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of 8 Parties that did not submit valid credentials: Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Iraq, Libya, Rwanda, Sudan, Ukraine. With regard to Myanmar, the Bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials of the representatives.

17. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following non-Party State: United States of America.
18. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNEP/Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Health Organization.
19. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: African Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Scientific and Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, World Customs Organization, World Trade Organization.
20. The following Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres were represented as observers: Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and the Caribbean Region (BCCC-Uruguay)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Uruguay), Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region (BCCC-Africa), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Arab States (BCRC-Egypt), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC-China)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-China), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for CIS Countries (BCRC-Russian Federation), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for French-speaking Countries in Africa (BCRC-Senegal)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Senegal), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Indonesia), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region (BCRC-Caribbean), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the English-speaking African countries (BCRC-South Africa)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-South Africa), Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the South American Region (BCRC-Argentina), Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region integrated within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Spain).
21. Non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/66–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/45–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/62).

## **B. Election of officers**

22. Introducing document UNEP/CHW.16/2 on the election of officers and drawing attention to document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/4–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/4–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/4, containing the overview table of elections, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention would need to elect, from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting, a president and nine vice-presidents, including one vice-president to act as rapporteur, to serve from the closure of its sixteenth meeting to the closure of its seventeenth meeting, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting. Given the past practice of regional rotation for the election of officers, the next president would be expected to be elected from among the Eastern European States and the rapporteur from among the Western European and other States.
23. The Conference of the Parties was also expected to elect five officers, including two co-chairs and one rapporteur, to serve as the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for the biennium 2024-2025, as well 10 members of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.16/13) and 5 members of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) (UNEP/CHW.16/19).

24. To facilitate the election of officers and members of subsidiary bodies, on 19 December 2022, the Secretariat had sent a letter to all the Parties to the Basel Convention regarding the elections to take place during the present meeting. In the letter, the Secretariat had invited Parties to communicate the nomination of candidates by 1 March 2023 and reminded them of decision BC-13/20 on mainstreaming gender. Parties had also been reminded of the financial rules of the Basel Convention with respect to the restrictions on eligibility for representatives of Parties, other than least developed countries or small island developing States or Parties that had agreed on and were respecting a schedule of payments, whose contributions had been in arrears for two or more years. A list of Parties to the Basel Convention whose contributions were in arrears as at 28 April 2023 was available on the intranet.

25. In line with the mandates entrusted to them by the Conference of Parties at its fifteenth meeting, the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, had facilitated the process for nominating candidates for the elections to take place during the current meetings, including by identifying regional election focal points and facilitating consultations during the regional preparatory meetings. Each region was expected to transmit to the Secretariat through its regional focal point the candidates for election no later than 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 May 2023.

26. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, the following members of the Bureau elected at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention served during the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President: Reginald Hernaus (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

Vice-Presidents: Mohamed Karim Ouamane (Algeria)

Artak Khachatryan (Armenia)

Lana Barbour (Australia)

Mohamed Aman (Bahrain)

Ángela Patricia Rivera Galvis (Colombia)

Joseph Cantamanto Edmund (Ghana)

Rosa Vivien Ratnawati (Indonesia)

María Eugenia Gonzalez Anaya (Mexico)

Magda Gosk (Poland)

27. Ms. Gonzalez Anaya served as Rapporteur.

28. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Bureau of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention whose terms would commence upon the closure of the current meeting and terminate upon the closure of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President: Magda Gosk (Poland)

Vice-Presidents: Artak Khachatryan (Armenia)

Anthony Mai (Belize)

Ángela Patricia Rivera Galvis (Colombia)

Katja Maria Larsen (Denmark)

Abbas Torabi (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Leonard Leswam Tampushi (Kenya)

Ole Thomas Thommesen (Norway)

Nawaf Essam Bilasi (Saudi Arabia)

Sheikh Ahmed Tunis (Sierra Leone)

29. Mr. Thommesen (Norway) was elected to also serve as Rapporteur.

30. The Conference of the Parties agreed to entrust the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, with facilitating during the intersessional period preceding the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the process for nominating candidates for election. The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions also agreed to the same arrangement with a view to ensuring

consistency in approaches and, ultimately, to facilitating decision-making on elections during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2025.

### **C. Organization of work**

31. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 32 to 35 below are replicated in section III.C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section III.C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

32. The three conferences of the Parties agreed to organize their work during the meetings in accordance with the scenario note set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/1–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/1 and the schedule of work for that segment set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/2–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/2. The schedule and conduct of the meetings would be adjusted by the bureaux each day, as necessary, in the light of the progress of the meetings.

33. In accordance with the agreed arrangements, and as described in the scenario note, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would meet for 11 days of joint and Convention-specific plenary sessions from 1 to 12 May 2023, conducted in the six official languages of the United Nations. During the joint sessions, the conferences of the Parties would discuss the agreed cross-cutting issues affecting at least two of the three conventions. The conferences of the Parties also agreed that the presidents of the three conferences would take it in turn to preside over joint sessions and that each, when so presiding, would act on behalf of all three. All decisions would be adopted pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2024–2025 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

34. In carrying out their work at the current meetings, the conferences of the Parties had before them working and information documents pertaining to the items on the respective agendas for the meetings. Lists of those documents for each meeting, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, are set out in documents UNEP/CHW.16/INF/61, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/43 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/5.

35. The conferences of the Parties agreed to work in plenary session and to establish joint or convention-specific contact or other groups as they considered necessary. The Parties agreed that the current meetings would be paperless; documents would accordingly be distributed in electronic form only.

### **D. Report on the credentials of representatives to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

36. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 37 to 41 below are replicated in section III.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section III.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

37. Introducing the item, the President recalled that, in advance of the current meetings, the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had agreed to take the same common approach to their consideration of credentials for the current meetings as had been taken during the 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties. Pursuant to that approach each Bureau would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies thereof, on the understanding that, in the case of the latter, originals would be submitted as soon as possible. This had been conveyed to all the Parties in advance of the meetings.

38. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the documents relevant to the item and noted that rule 18 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, rule 19 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and rule 19 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention provided that the credentials of representatives of Parties and the names of alternate representatives



and advisers must be submitted to the Secretariat (and in the case of the Basel Convention, the Executive Secretary of the meeting) if possible no later than 24 hours after the opening of the meeting. Credentials must be issued either by a Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Representatives of Parties could participate provisionally in the meeting pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties on their credentials. Each Conference of the Parties was expected to adopt the report on the credentials of representatives to its meeting prior to the closure of that meeting.

39. As at the beginning of the meetings, there were 190 Parties to the Basel Convention, 165 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 186 Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

40. The President stressed the importance of following correct procedures. To that end, she invited Parties to make their best effort to submit their credentials in accordance with the rules of procedure. The Secretariat would collect and verify the credentials and report to the bureaux. Each Bureau would monitor progress on the submission of credentials on a daily basis, prepare its report based on the credentials submitted to the Secretariat at the latest by 1 p.m. on Thursday, 4 May, and present its report to the conferences of the Parties on Friday, 5 May, for their consideration and possible adoption. She added that the conferences of the Parties would consider the possible adoption of updated reports on credentials on Thursday, 11 May.

41. She reminded Parties to the Basel Convention that, under rule 5.3 (e) (ii) of the financial rules, any Party whose contributions had been in arrears for four or more years was not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Conference of the Parties unless the Conference decided otherwise. Updated information on arrears was available on the intranet website for the 2023 meetings.

42. On 5 May 2023, the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at 1 p.m. on 4 May 2023, indicating that the Bureau had further examined the credentials of the representatives of the 175 Parties to the Basel Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that the credentials of 158 representatives had been issued by a Head of State or Government or a minister for foreign affairs and were therefore in good order. The credentials of 140 of those 158 representatives were originals, while 18 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

43. It was also reported that the Bureau had agreed to defer consideration of credentials transmitted by one Party, Myanmar, and that the following 16 Parties had not yet submitted credentials for their representatives: Bahamas, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Eswatini, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia.

44. Subsequent to the deadline of 1 p.m. on 4 May 2023, three Parties had submitted credentials that were found to be in good order by the Bureau, namely Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zambia. The Bureau invited the Conference of the Parties to also accept the credentials of the representatives of those Parties, which the Conference of the Parties duly did.

45. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials.

46. On 11 May 2023, the report on credentials was updated based on additional credentials received and considered to be in good order by the Bureau. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the report on credentials adopted on 5 May 2023 would be updated to reflect the fact that five Parties, namely the Bahamas, Eswatini, Sao Tome and Principe, Vanuatu and Yemen, had submitted credentials that had been found to be in good order by the Bureau.

## **IV. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention (agenda item 4)**

### **A. Strategic issues**

#### **1. Strategic framework**

47. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/6. Pursuant to part I of decision BC-15/3 on the strategic framework, the small intersessional working group had met and, at the online part of its meeting, had considered a draft report of findings and recommendations, developed by Canada as the lead country, to improve the strategic framework for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2012–2021. At a second – face-to-face – part of the meeting, it had considered feedback by the Open-ended Working

Group at its thirteenth meeting, and had finalized the recommendations for submission to the Conference of the Parties at the present meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/5).

48. Sophie Bernier (Canada) presented the work of the small intersessional working group on behalf of the lead country and the chair of the intersessional working group, Zaghoul Samhan (State of Palestine). She said that the findings and recommendations developed by the group built upon the final evaluation of the strategic framework for the period 2012–2021 presented to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. The recommendations covered some overarching issues, such as the timing of a new strategic framework; ensuring the availability of verifiable baseline data; and defining measurable outcomes and process indicators. Several elements clearly required enhancement in a future framework, for example ensuring that data could be generated throughout the evaluation period; identifying data sources for the baseline and final evaluations at the time the indicators were developed; and selecting appropriate indicators. In addition, for each of the goals, objectives and indicators of the 2012–2021 framework, the report contained findings and recommendations on whether those should be included in a future framework, modified or removed. The group's proposal was that a revised framework should consist of three main goals, related to transboundary movement, to environmentally sound management and to several obligations under the Convention, such as the enactment of national legislation, the development of national definitions of hazardous wastes and reporting. The third goal would be new and overarching in nature. There was also a chapter in the report on means of implementation, including information on ensuring that a future framework informed the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the programme of work, and that the financial and technological means needed to support Parties' implementation of the Convention were available.

49. The representative of Canada introduced a draft decision set out in a conference room paper submitted by Canada and the United Kingdom, proposing a way forward with regard to the development of a new strategic framework.

50. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the lead country, the Secretariat and the small intersessional working group for their work. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also thanked the proponents of the draft decision, expressing their agreement with both the recommendations of the small intersessional working group and the proposed way forward in the draft decision.

51. Several representatives stressed the importance of a strategic framework in providing a common vision, goals and objectives and the crucial nature of clear indicators for measuring progress in the implementation of the framework. Several of them also supported the recommendation to align the calendar of the new next strategic framework with the cycles of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Some proposed that the framework cover a six-year period. Other suggestions related to the new framework included greater synergy with efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; greater institutional strengthening, including the creation and/or strengthening of laboratories to improve analytical capacity, the strengthening of customs and the transfer of technology to reduce the generation and danger of hazardous waste; a special programme on cooperation with the World Customs Organization; making 2025 the baseline year of the new strategic framework; and confirmation of the mandate of the small intersessional working group in terms of further work.

52. Some representatives proposed that the deadline in the draft decision for the nomination of additional experts as members of the working group be postponed by two months, from 31 July to 30 September 2023.

53. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision proposed by Canada and the United Kingdom, as orally amended.

54. Decision BC-16/1, on the strategic framework, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

## **2. Improving the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure**

55. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/4. She recalled that, in part II of decision BC-15/3 on the strategic framework, the Conference of the Parties had decided to initiate work to improve the functioning of the procedure and invited Parties and observers to submit information to the Secretariat on challenges they faced when implementing the procedure, as well as on best practices, possible approaches, initiatives, and views to improve its functioning. The Secretariat was also requested to prepare a

compilation of comments received and a synthesis for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group.

56. During its thirteenth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group had considered the matter and agreed to recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting establish a small intersessional working group, open to all Parties and inviting balanced representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations, to identify challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure under the Basel Convention and best practices, possible approaches and initiatives to improve its functioning, taking into account a compilation and synthesis of information received from Parties and observers prepared by the Secretariat, discussion during the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, and ongoing work on electronic approaches to notification and movement documents, as well as to develop recommendations on improving the functioning of the procedure.

57. In the ensuing discussion, representatives underscored the importance of an effective prior informed consent procedure and supported the recommendation of the Open-Ended Working Group that a small intersessional working group be established and tasked with identifying challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure under the Basel Convention and best practices, possible approaches and initiatives to improve its functioning. The representative of the European Union announced that her delegation had submitted a conference room paper setting out a draft decision supporting the recommendation of the Open-Ended Working Group.

58. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, identified problems with the current operation of the prior informed consent procedure. These included the absence of a unified and robust electronic platform for notifications; significant delays in receiving acknowledgements and decisions from the Parties regarding whether they consented or not to a transboundary movement of waste; challenges in communicating with Parties which had not provided updated contact information for their competent authorities; lack of harmonization between some documents; imprecise or missing definitions for some key terms; difficulty accessing databases for identifying, recording and tracking transboundary waste movements; the absence of effective mechanisms for monitoring that allowed follow-up regarding the final disposal of waste exports; insufficient information and other issues when transboundary movements involved States of transit; issuance of export permits with time limits that were too short; lack of automatic alignment of transit consents with the consent dates of the States of import; insufficient cooperation and coordination among relevant stakeholders; lack of legal clarity regarding some issues and definitions pertinent to cross-border and transit waste movements; inadequate monitoring and prevention of illegal traffic; situations in which one of the Parties involved classified the waste involved as non-hazardous; the absence of official responses to a request or sufficient explanation when a request was denied; insufficiently harmonized custom codes; and the absence of unified templates for aspects of the information exchange required under the procedure.

59. Considerable support was expressed for the development of a robust, unified, transparent, efficient, practical and effective electronic platform for the prior informed consent procedure. Several representatives stressed the importance of ensuring that any new element of the procedure did not conflict with other trade regimes but instead took advantage of opportunities for effective synergies with other aspects of the Basel Convention and other international agreements or initiatives. While supporting the need for a unified, convention-wide approach, several representatives also outlined activities undertaken in their countries to address specific problems with the current operation of the prior informed consent procedure.

60. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for increased technical assistance, capacity-building, and sharing of best practices to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in addressing the challenges they continued to endure in using the prior informed consent procedure and so that they could fully participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, foreseen improvements to the system. Several representatives of small island developing States highlighted the unique challenges they faced and called for technical assistance and capacity-building for their competent authorities to address issues relevant to their special circumstances.

61. One representative noted the significant challenges faced by his Party from the unwanted import of plastic waste and e-waste due to the non-implementation of the prior informed consent procedure by other Parties. Another noted that work under the Basel Convention to improve the prior informed consent procedure could be informed by and help improve processes in related regional agreements such as the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous

Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention). One representative reminded Parties to cease exporting any waste listed under Basel Convention without explicit prior informed consent from the State of import.

62. One representative noted that the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, adopted at the ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in 2013, called for all signatories to develop a single window technological system through which participants in foreign trade would be able to forward documents or data required by their Government. Given that transboundary waste movements occurred within the scope of international trade, developing and using an electronic approach for the prior informed consent procedure under the Basel Convention could use the single window system of each country and benefit from all the advances already achieved by countries, such as the identification of operators, prior control by customs authorities, and the creation of electronic processes for all documentation. He suggested that the Secretariat consult with WTO so that the further development of an electronic approach for the prior informed consent procedure under the Basel Convention could benefit from lessons learned in that regime and operate in harmony with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

63. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention established a contact group on strategic matters to be chaired by Ann de Jonghe (Belgium) and Yaser Abu Shanab (State of Palestine). The group was mandated to prepare a draft decision on the way forward to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure, using as a basis for its discussions the recommendation of the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting set out in the annex to document UNEP/CHW.16/20/Add.1 and taking into account the discussion in plenary as well as the relevant conference room paper.

64. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision submitted by the contact group on strategic matters.

65. Decision BC-16/2, on work to improve the prior informed consent procedure, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

### **3. Development of guidelines for environmentally sound management**

66. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/5. She recalled that, in decision BC-15/5, the Conference of the Parties had invited Parties and others to provide the Secretariat with information on the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in particular, activities, initiatives and case studies that might promote implementation and complement the toolkit on environmentally sound management. The Secretariat had not received any information in response to that invitation nor to the invitation for comments on good practices and examples with regard to waste prevention and minimization. A dedicated workstream on prevention and minimization did exist under the Partnership on Plastic Waste. The Secretariat had also been requested, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to promote and disseminate the toolkit on environmentally sound management. In response, an enhanced toolkit had been made available on the website of the Convention, training on which was embedded in the training and capacity-building activities under the Convention.

67. All the representatives who spoke welcomed the work of the Secretariat in developing and updating guidelines for environmentally sound management. One expressed commitment to providing information in accordance with decision BC-15/5 and called on Parties and others to do so as well. Another representative reported on activities in her country to create a comprehensive system for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste.

68. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and invited Parties and others to continue to provide information to the Secretariat in accordance with decision BC-15/5.

## B. Scientific and technical matters

### 1. Technical guidelines

#### (a) Technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes<sup>1</sup>

69. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, following the adoption of decision BC-15/6, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, the Secretariat, with the support of the small intersessional working group and consultants, had led the work to update the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds. The small intersessional working group had held an online consultation on 16 September 2022 and a meeting to work on the technical guidelines from 14 to 17 November 2022. At its thirteenth meeting, in February 2023, the Open-ended Working Group had considered the two draft documents and had agreed that the Secretariat, with the help of a consultant, would revise them following that meeting, taking into account the discussion that had taken place, and prepare two revised documents for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. The revised updated draft general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.1 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/7) and the revised updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, and PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS-related compounds (UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.2 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/8) were before the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the present meeting. The note by the Secretariat on technical guidelines (UNEP/CHW.16/6) set out proposed action.

70. During the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed for the work undertaken by the small intersessional working group in preparing and updating the draft technical guidelines.

71. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the importance of agreeing on a value for low-persistent-organic-pollutant content, preferably at the present meeting. One of them recalled that there was still no agreed value for low-persistent-organic-pollutant content in relation to decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins, and that there were still multiple values for the other polybrominated diphenyl ethers, hexabromocyclododecane, polychlorinated dioxins and furans. According to another representative, over time, more and more persistent organic pollutants would be listed under the Stockholm Convention, and it was a major challenge for countries to identify waste flows and low-persistent-organic-pollutant content in relation to each substance. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for establishing a single low-persistent-organic-pollutant content value for each persistent organic pollutant, given that the level of danger posed by each substance was different.

72. One representative stated the intention of his Party to propose a lower persistent-organic-pollutant-content value for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF. Another representative cautioned, that, although low limits were helpful, excessively strict limits would place an additional burden on the national processes for dealing with the substances concerned.

73. Several representatives stressed the importance of decisions regarding low persistent organic pollutant content values being made on the basis of sound scientific information, with one suggesting that the guidelines indicated the scientific justification of the presented values and their compliance with existing standards. Another representative noted ongoing research in some countries and suggested that values should be discussed at a later stage when more scientific data were available.

74. Another representative said that it was crucial that Parties had sufficient information on the persistent organic pollutant content of every substance that they dealt with. In the event of

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<sup>1</sup> The sub-item was taken up during a joint session of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions. The discussion relevant to the Stockholm Convention under this sub-item is set out in section V.C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

cross-border movement, it was important to ensure that the importing country had complete information about the substance that it was receiving.

75. One representative said that the setting of lower-limit values for persistent organic pollutant content was crucial to help developing countries overcome the challenges they faced, such as the circulation of materials rich in persistent organic pollutants in products and waste, the exposure of vulnerable populations to persistent organic pollutants, the illegal dumping of hazardous waste and the management of near-end-of-life products. A number of representatives expressed the view that the lower-limit values should be kept at a level that would enable countries that had differing levels of development to implement the guidelines.

76. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored the importance of Parties having adequate resources, training, capacity-building and technical assistance to enable them to implement the guidelines correctly, particularly in the analysis and characterization of types of waste, the development of inventories, the conduct of demonstration projects for the correct treatment and disposal of waste, the management of international trade and combating illegal trade. One of them, referring to the Stockholm Convention, said that, owing to the short intersessional period between the present meeting and the previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, no capacity-building or training activities to support Parties in meeting their obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention had been undertaken. It was to be hoped that, subject to the availability of resources, capacity-building and training activities would be undertaken in the two years before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

77. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, spoke in favour of pursuing the discussion in a contact group. Some representatives supported the establishment of an intersessional working group mandated to develop the guidelines further.

78. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention established a contact group on technical matters, to be co-chaired by Magda Gosk (Poland) and Patrick McKell (United Kingdom). The contact group would consider the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants. The contact group was mandated to prepare revised versions of the technical guidelines, basing its work on the revised products of the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/7 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/8), as well as a draft decision based on the proposed draft decision set out in paragraph 15 of document UNEP/CHW.16/6, and taking into account the discussion in plenary.

79. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision submitted by the contact group on technical matters, in which they adopted the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds.

80. Decision BC-16/3, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

**(b) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes**

81. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to section III, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, of the note by the Secretariat on technical guidelines (UNEP/CHW.16/6). She recalled that, pursuant to decision BC-15/10, China, Japan and the United Kingdom had continued to lead the work on updating the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes in consultation with the small intersessional working group on plastic wastes. The version of the draft updated technical guidelines prepared by the co-leads, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.3; a revision of that text prepared by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting, in February 2023, was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/11; and a further revision undertaken by the small intersessional working group at an online meeting in March 2023 was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/11/Rev.1. A draft decision for the consideration of the Parties was set out in paragraph 35 of document UNEP/CHW.16/6.

82. The representatives of China, Japan and the United Kingdom, as co-leads of the work on the technical guidelines, urged Parties to engage collaboratively to finalize the work on updating the current guidelines, which had been in place for over 20 years, in order to adopt them at the present meeting.

83. In the ensuing discussion, many of those who spoke commended the co-leads and the small intersessional working group for their work thus far in updating the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes. A number of representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that it was important to integrate the concerns of all the Parties and resolve remaining differences in order to hasten finalization of the work. One representative welcomed the proposal for the inclusion of additional experts to support the work of the small intersessional working group and called for greater participation of experts from Africa.

84. One representative said that the guidelines should avoid the creation of new terms and concepts, taking into account the possible overlap with other existing manuals and guidelines, and should provide guidance rather than any interpretation of the scope of the Convention. Of particular importance in that regard was clear differentiation between hazardous and non-hazardous plastic wastes, which was essential to determining the correct disposal methods. One representative said that the guidelines, when completed, would assist countries in improving their national regulatory frameworks on plastic wastes and carrying out inventories.

85. A number of representatives said that the management of plastic wastes should adopt a life cycle approach, taking account of the whole chain of plastic production, use and disposal. One representative said that there had been a significant improvement in the section of the guidelines on waste prevention and minimization.

86. One representative expressed concern at the inclusion of chemical recycling as an option for the environmentally sound management of plastics, which could have negative impacts on human health and the environment in developing countries, specifically in Africa. Another representative said that the guidelines should contain the provision that the information obtained from surveillance was used to verify compliance with regulations related to reducing plastic pollution and should specify who would deal with waste leaks.

87. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to request the contact group on technical matters to prepare a revised version of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, based on the version set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/11/Rev.1, as well as a draft decision based on the text set out in paragraph 35 of document UNEP/CHW.16/6, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

88. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties considered conference room papers submitted by the contact group on technical matters containing, respectively, a draft decision and related draft technical guidelines.

89. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision submitted by the contact group on technical matters, in which they adopted the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes.

90. Decision BC-16/4, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

**(c) Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention**

91. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to section II, on technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention, of the note by the Secretariat on technical guidelines (UNEP/CHW.16/6). She recalled that by decision BC-14/5 the Conference of the Parties had adopted, on an interim basis, a revised version of the technical guidelines on e-waste and acknowledged the need to look further into paragraph 32 (a) and (b) of the guidelines to advance the work towards their finalization. By decision BC-15/7, the Conference of the Parties had extended the mandate of the expert working group established by decision BC-13/5 to further update the technical guidelines. The outcome of the intersessional work by the expert working group was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/10 and a draft decision on the matter was set out in paragraph 23 of document UNEP/CHW.16/6.

92. During the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed the view that the revised guidelines were ready for adoption and

suggested that the draft decision be amended accordingly. Some others, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that a lack of clarity remained in the distinction between waste and non-waste materials that would hamper the application of the guidelines and required additional discussion in a contact group.

93. One representative said that it was important not to include scrap in the amendment to the guidelines because it could be recycled, contributing to circularity in some countries. Another requested enhanced capacity-building and technical transfer to assist developing countries in managing e-waste.

94. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to request the contact group on technical matters to prepare a revised version of the technical guidelines based on document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/10, as well as a draft decision using the text set out in paragraph 23 of document UNEP/CHW.16/6 as the starting point for its deliberations, and taking into account the discussion in plenary.

95. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties considered conference room papers submitted by the contact group on technical matters containing, respectively, a draft decision and related draft technical guidelines.

96. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision submitted by the contact group on technical matters, in which they adopted the general technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention.

97. Decision BC-16/5, on technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

**(d) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and on other waste batteries**

98. The President introduced the sub-item, the documentation for which included notes by the Secretariat on technical guidelines (UNEP/CHW.16/6), technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/12), technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste batteries other than waste lead-acid batteries (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/13), and outcomes of and follow-up to the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (UNEP/CHW.16/20/Add.1).

99. The Conference of the Parties agreed to request the contact group on technical matters to prepare a revised version of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries based on document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/12, and a revised version of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste batteries other than waste lead-acid batteries based on document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/13, with a proposal for the table of contents of the technical guidelines on other waste batteries, as well as a draft decision using the text set out in paragraph 46 of document UNEP/CHW.16/6 as the starting point for its deliberations.

100. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties considered a conference room paper submitted by the contact group on technical matters containing a draft decision and draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste batteries other than waste lead-acid batteries.

101. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision submitted by the contact group on technical matters.

102. Decision BC-16/6, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and on other waste batteries, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

**(e) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres**

103. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section V of document UNEP/CHW.16/6, on technical guidelines. She recalled that, pursuant to decision BC-15/15 on developing guidelines for environmentally sound management, the small intersessional working group had initiated its work by inviting comments from members on the scope of the work (UNEP/CHW.16/6/INF/14). The Open-ended Working Group had considered the



comments at its thirteenth meeting and had invited Parties and others to submit further comments on the scope of the work to update the technical guidelines.

104. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work done by the small intersessional working group and the Secretariat with a view to updating the technical guidelines. Some representatives noted the comments and observations by the group, Parties and others with regard to the aspects to be reviewed and expressed general agreement with them as a basis for future work.

105. Several representatives said that the updating of the guidelines was necessary given the developments since their approval in 2011, including in terms of the technologies used for the disposal of waste tyres, the scientific knowledge about the pollution caused by tyres; the leakages of microplastics; and the new diseases related to mosquitoes, such as Zika and Chikungunya. One representative, however, emphasized the need to retain some of the original assumptions in the guidelines, such as the provisions related to the management of used tyres; the control of cross-border movements in order to avoid the spread of vectors of disease; and the focus on minimizing tyre waste generation by sending tyres for retreading. Several representatives thus supported the extension of the group's mandate to continue the work.

106. One representative said that he saw a tangential link with other guidelines related to the spread of materials such as microplastics and stressed the importance of clarifying the level of priority that should be given to the work on each set of guidelines within the small intersessional working group. He was also of the view that the mandate of the group should clearly specify which aspects of the guidelines needed to be reviewed and updated. For example, as entry B3140 of Annex IX to the Convention, waste tyres were not considered to be hazardous according to the definition in Article 1. The guidelines should thus provide guidance on the cases in which waste tyres should be subject to the prior informed consent procedure, i.e., when they contained a constituent listed in Annex I or exhibited hazardous characteristics as listed in Annex III to the Convention. Another representative said that, since 1998, his country had implemented its policy to control the generation and disposal of used and waste tyres, and it could contribute information on best available techniques and best environmental practices for their management.

107. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed that the deadline in the draft decision in paragraph 53 of document UNEP/CHW.16/6, for Parties and others to nominate additional experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations, be postponed by a month, from 31 August to 30 September 2023. Another representative called in particular for the inclusion of additional experts from the Africa region in the small intersessional working group.

108. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in paragraph 53 of document UNEP/CHW.16/6, as orally amended.

109. Decision BC-16/7, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

**(f) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of rubber wastes**

110. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section VI of document UNEP/CHW.16/6. She recalled that, at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had invited Parties and observers to submit comments on whether technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of rubber wastes, waste parings and scraps of rubber should be developed. The Open-ended Working Group had considered those comments at its thirteenth meeting and had invited Parties and others to submit further comments on whether such technical guidelines should be developed.

111. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives said that it was not necessary to draft technical guidelines at present, either owing to a lack of environmental justification or because of the heavy workload in the subsequent biennium; or doing so was not a priority. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, acknowledged the heavy workload, but nevertheless supported the development of new technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of rubber wastes, waste parings and scraps of rubber, at a time acceptable to the Parties. The reasons cited included the fact that such guidelines could address leakages from those wastes to the environment, such as from artificial grass turf, thereby complementing the technical guidelines on used and waste pneumatic tyres, and that pollution from rubber wastes could have effects similar to those resulting from plastic waste. Some representatives stressed the need for a clearer definition of rubber waste before the task could get under way.

112. Another representative was of the view that the development of the technical guidelines should be postponed until after the finalization of the legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

113. The Conference of the Parties agreed to discuss whether to develop technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of rubber wastes, waste parings and scraps of rubber and whether to include the issue in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2024–2025 at its seventeenth meeting, and to invite Parties and others to provide further views on the matter by 1 March 2024.

**(g) Technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8)**

114. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section VII of document UNEP/CHW.16/6. She recalled that, at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had agreed not to include consideration of whether to update the technical guidelines on physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) adopted in decision BC-V/26 in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023, but to reconsider the issue at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

115. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the technical guidelines on the physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) of hazardous waste should not be updated at present, although some of them were of the view that it was important to do so eventually, because they were already nine years old. They cited as their reasons for not undertaking the work immediately the current heavy workload under the Convention, and upcoming changes that would have an impact on the updating process. The representative speaking on behalf of the group of countries proposed the discussion of whether to include the matter in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group be held at a future meeting, such as the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

116. The Conference of the Parties agreed to continue its consideration of whether to update the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) at its seventeenth meeting.

**2. Classification and hazard characterization of wastes**

117. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/7, including the draft decision set out therein. She reported on the Secretariat's continued cooperation with the World Customs Organization to facilitate the inclusion in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of types of waste controlled under the Basel Convention. In response to decision BC-14/9, in which the Parties had requested the Secretariat to submit to the World Customs Organization a proposal for amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to allow the identification of 10 types of waste, the Secretariat had submitted proposals for amendments to the Harmonized System with respect to waste oils containing PCB at a concentration level of 50 mg/kg or more, for plastic waste, and for waste pneumatic tyres. Progress in the submission of proposals to the World Customs Organization for amendments to the Harmonized System and on the review of such proposals was summarized in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/15. The Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting had received an update on the work and made recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, which were reflected in the draft decision.

118. All the representatives who took the floor, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the cooperative work of the Secretariat with the Harmonized System Committee and the relevant subcommittees of the World Customs Organization in order to facilitate the inclusion of wastes covered by the Basel Convention in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System and supported its continuation. One representative noted that plastic waste and e-wastes should be prioritized in the process. Some other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed amendments to the draft decision.

119. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/7, as orally amended.

120. Decision BC-16/8, on cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

### 3. National reporting

121. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/8, including the draft decision set out therein. She reported that the Secretariat continued to develop the electronic reporting system of the Convention and that many Parties had successfully used the system to submit their national reports for 2021. In response to decision BC-15/13, in early 2023 the Secretariat had also begun pilot testing of practical guidance on developing inventories of plastic waste, obsolete pesticides and pesticide container waste, and waste batteries containing lithium.

122. In the ensuing discussion, broad support was expressed for accurate and timely national reporting and for Parties to fulfil their reporting obligations under the Basel Convention. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also welcomed the work undertaken by the Secretariat to develop the electronic reporting system, to support Parties and regional centres, or to engage efforts aimed at improving national reporting as outlined in the proposed draft decision.

123. Many representatives expressed support for the provision of adequate financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, pilot projects, workshops, and appropriate technology transfer to assist developing-country Parties to conduct inventories, gather and analyse data, and use the electronic reporting system. In that regard, several representatives expressed appreciation to the Secretariat and donor countries for the support provided to the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to conduct workshops and other programmes from which their countries and countries in the region had benefited.

124. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/8.

125. Decision BC-16/9, on national reporting, is set out in the annex to the present report.

### 4. Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents

126. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat (f) outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/9, including the draft decision set out therein. She recalled that the small intersessional working group decision established in decision BC-15/14 to look further into electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents had held two online consultations, on 22 September 2022 and 8 February 2023. At its thirteenth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group had invited comments on the report and the comments received were available on the Convention website.

127. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives expressed support for the decision as drafted, with one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposing that the decision also invite Parties to consider serving as lead countries to advance the work and prepare the report on further recommendations on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents. One representative underlined the need for technical assistance activities and awareness-raising events to help Parties advance the work on electronic approaches to notification and movement documents.

128. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work of the small intersessional working group. Several representatives noted various advantages of an electronic system, such as improved overall efficiency, including effective and timely reporting by Parties, better traceability of information, improved information exchange between transit countries and countries of origin and destination, the ease of the transition to a digitized system for Parties already submitting by email, the elimination of documentation-based paper waste, and the development of a future-proof system. One representative said that the system would be especially useful in the light of the challenges faced in applying the latest amendments to the Basel Convention regarding plastic and electrical and electronic equipment waste, and another representative noted that the electronic system could also be beneficial for other United Nations processes related to plastics. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the importance of considering the link between the work on electronic approaches and the continuing work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure.

129. One representative said that any electronic system should, to the extent possible, be flexible enough to work with any national systems already established by Parties. Another representative said that his Party would welcome the opportunity to share information and experience in developing its own national system. One representative underscored the need, when designing an electronic system, of considering issues such as information security, restrictions on information under national legislation, the need to be able to include national waste classification as reference information and to

issue notifications in a language accepted by the importing country. Another representative said that information in the system should be available in all six of the official languages of the United Nations and yet another noted that, although any system should be as compatible as possible with existing national systems, it was important to bear in mind that full compatibility was probably not possible.

130. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/9, as orally amended.

131. Decision BC-16/10, on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, is set out in the annex to the present report.

## **5. Further consideration of plastic waste**

132. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/10, including the draft decision set out therein. She also drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/18, on further activities that could be conducted under the Convention. The document contained an updated version of a draft document originally considered by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and subsequently updated to reflect comments received from Parties and others.

133. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the information and the prospect of further work on plastic pollution under the Convention. Several, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, indicated that they wished to propose changes to the text of the draft decision.

134. With respect to possible future activities to be conducted under the Convention, many of those who spoke expressed support for the list of activities proposed by the Secretariat, with several identifying support for Parties in quantifying or estimating the quantities of plastic waste generated, managed, exported and imported, recycled and disposed of, and the quantities of plastic leaking into the environment, as being particularly important.

135. A number of representatives said that there should be greater focus on minimizing disposal, such as through developing technologies to process plastics, and called for capacity-building and knowledge-sharing among Parties to that end, as well as technical and financial assistance. One representative requested institutional-strengthening for customs officials to control the illegal import of plastic waste. Another representative called for greater attention to be paid to the environmentally sound management of plastic waste.

136. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that future activities should include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the plastic waste amendments. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported by a second representative, proposed that certain preparatory activities be initiated at the present meeting, such as the collection of information on how the global plastic waste trade had changed, potential challenges in the implementation of the plastic waste amendments and the extent to which the entries on plastic waste had contributed to addressing plastic pollution.

137. Many of those who spoke noted that it would be essential, in planning future activities, to avoid duplication with activities already under way under the Convention and under other international processes, in particular the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

138. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, indicated their willingness to continue discussing the possible future activities in a contact group.

139. A number of representatives took the opportunity to describe measures at the national level in their countries to stem plastic pollution.

140. The Conference of the Parties agreed to request the contact group on technical matters to prepare a revised draft decision based on the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/10 and taking into account the discussion in plenary and the information contained in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/18.

141. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a draft decision submitted by the contact group on technical matters.

142. Decision BC-16/11, on further consideration of plastic waste, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

## 6. Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX on e-waste

143. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Open-ended Working Group, at its thirteenth meeting, to consider the need to update existing guidance, technical guidelines and fact sheets to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the e-waste amendments. The assessment of the existing guidance and the types of adjustments to be made, and draft recommendations, as prepared by the Secretariat, were set out in annexes I and II, respectively, to document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/19.

144. A number of representatives thanked the Secretariat for the work carried out to identify the documents that required updating in the light of the amendments and one representative thanked the Open-ended Working Group for its consideration of the documents.

145. Several representatives expressed support for the recommendations as drafted, with one representative noting that the recommendations were fully in line with the activities required to generate knowledge and sufficient technical capacity to address the challenges faced by Parties and other stakeholders in implementing the amendments that would come into force in 2025. The same representative requested that additional workshops be held to provide training on the amendments. Another representative said that his country was currently revising national legislation and developing an inventory of e-waste.

146. One representative expressed concern regarding the limited time available before the amendments came into force to gain the required understanding of the definition and classification of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. He noted that Parties with limited capacity to manage prior informed consent procedures would face increased costs; delays in moving waste, in particular non-hazardous waste electrical and electronic equipment, to environmentally sound waste management facilities; an increased likelihood of the mismanagement of waste electrical and electronic equipment; obstacles to the movement of valuable metals and commodities for their recovery; and obstacles to the implementation of a circular economy. One representative requested more detailed scope and definitions that would clarify the distinction between e-waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, while another noted that the national conditions of Parties in relation to implementing the amendments at the national level should be fully taken into account when updating the relevant documents.

147. One representative thanked the Secretariat for having identified existing guidance, technical guidelines and fact sheets which required updating and agreed with the recommendations in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/19, with the exception of two of the guidance documents identified for updating by PACE II, for which the expert working group on the e-waste technical guidelines was deemed more appropriate for the task, and noted that any revision of the guidance allocated to PACE II should be limited to updates related to the e-waste amendments. Another representative stated that the same restriction should apply to all the documents identified in the draft recommendations and yet another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed general support for targeted editorial updates on the e-waste amendments only. One representative requested an opportunity to discuss the allocation of the responsibility for updating the documents as, for example, the guidance document on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones should be assigned to the expert working group on the e-waste technical guidelines rather than to PACE II, as well as the addition of deadlines for completing the update of documents identified in the draft recommendations. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested that the Secretariat provide more detailed information on the extent of possible changes required for the documents identified in the draft recommendations. Further discussion was required as to whether it would be better to delay updates to documents that required more extensive revision, in particular in older documents where updates on other issues might also be necessary, such as the guidance document on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones. Another representative noted that the current work was closely linked with that associated with the amendment to Annex IV to the Convention and encouraged all Parties to adopt a proactive approach to the revision of guidelines on e-waste.

148. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that the current workload of the groups was significant and proposed that the Secretariat prepare draft updated documents, where the required changes to those documents were purely editorial or minor, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting, and proposed that the Open-ended Working Group be mandated by the Conference of the Parties to agree on updates to the relevant documents on behalf of the Conference of the Parties.

149. As there was general agreement on the need to update guidance documents, technical guidelines and fact sheets identified in the recommendations listed in annex II to document

UNEP/CHW.16/INF/19 but some diverging views on how to update documents developed by the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the e-waste amendments, and the responsibilities for carrying out those updates, the Conference of the Parties decided to request the Secretariat, in consultation with the Parties that had commented on the matter, to prepare a draft decision based on the recommendations listed in the annex, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

150. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat which reflected discussions in plenary as well as further consultations with Parties that had intervened in the plenary session.

151. Decision BC-16/12, on updating existing guidance, technical guidelines and fact sheets in order to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the e-waste amendments, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

## **7. Waste containing nanomaterials**

152. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/12, including the draft decision set out therein. She informed the Parties that new information on activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials had been received pursuant to decision BC-15/16 and posted on the Convention website.

153. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Secretariat for preparing the document and indicated their support for the draft decision.

154. The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) provided a brief description of the information contained in the document submitted by UNITAR in response to decision BC-15/16, and indicated the institute's willingness to cooperate in the implementation of the proposed action described in document UNEP/CHW.16/12. The Conference of the Parties noted the submission by UNITAR with appreciation.

155. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/12.

156. Decision BC-16/13, on waste containing nanomaterials, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

## **C. Legal, compliance and governance matters**

### **1. Compliance**

157. Parts of the discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 158 to 163 and 167 to 170 and 172 below are replicated in section V.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section V.J of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

#### **(a) Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance**

158. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant documents, noting that sections A, B and C of part II of document UNEP/CHW.16/13 provided information on the activities carried out by the Committee during the biennium 2022–2023, and that due to the short intersessional period, the Committee had needed to prioritize certain activities within its work programme. The draft decision set out in part III of the document included recommendations the Committee had developed under its specific submissions mandate and its general review mandate, as well as a proposed work programme for the biennium 2024–2025, which built on its work programme for the previous biennium. To facilitate consideration by the Conference of the Parties, the new activities had been indicated in tracked changes. Comments received from Parties on the proposed work programme for the biennium 2024–2025 were available on the website of the Basel Convention. Section II.D of document UNEP/CHW.16/13 and the draft decision also pertained to the needed election of ten new members of the Committee. The annex to document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/22 provided a list of members of the Committee since its establishment.

159. Drawing attention to five additional documents, she noted that document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/20 set out information on the activities of Committee to improve timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/21 set out information on the activities of the Committee to improve implementation and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention on preventing and combating illegal traffic. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/23 set out information on the activities of the Committee to improve implementation and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Basel Convention on national legislation. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/24 set out information on the activities of the Committee to enhance coordination with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/25 set out information on the activities of the Committee to improve the implementation of and compliance with Article 5 of the Convention. The work of the Committee in those areas had benefited from financial support provided by the Governments of Japan, Norway and Switzerland.

160. In his report, Florisvindo Furtado (Cabo Verde), Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention, highlighted activities undertaken by the Committee since the conclusion of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. In accordance with its mandate to review general issues of compliance, the Implementation and Compliance Committee had worked towards improving national reporting by undertaking a draft classification of Parties' individual compliance with national reporting for the years 2018 and 2019 against the three targets set by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fifteenth meeting. Among the preliminary outcomes were that 20 per cent of the 2018 reports and 25 per cent of the 2019 reports were both complete and on time, against the set target of 25 per cent, representing the first time that Parties had reached a reporting target set by the Conference of the Parties.

161. The Committee had also prioritized work to prevent and combat illegal traffic. In that regard the Committee had developed a report scoping the extent of illegal traffic on the basis of information provided by Parties in table 9 of their 2018 and 2019 national reports. Among the Committee's recommendations was that the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its sixteenth meeting consider revising table 9.

162. A third area of focus had been improving implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention on national legislation. A total of 49 Parties had completed a self-review of their legislation relevant to implementing the Convention, using a specific checklist to guide responses. Following an initial synthesis of the self-reviews, the Committee was recommending that the Conference of the Parties amend the checklist in order to gather improved information.

163. Other activities prioritized by the Committee during the short intersessional period pertained to enhancing coordination with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention and improving the implementation of and compliance with Article 5 of the Convention on the designation of country contacts. The Committee was also pleased to report that the matter of concern regarding Liberia's difficulties with the transmission of national reports had been resolved.

164. Subsequently during a Basel Convention-specific session, the Conference of the Parties entrusted the contact group on legal matters established under the sub-item on providing further legal clarity to consider sections I to III of the draft decision set out in paragraph 36 of document UNEP/CHW.16/13 and the proposed work programme of the Committee for the biennium 2024–2025 set out in the annex thereto, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

165. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision submitted by the contact group on legal and compliance matters.

166. Decision BC-16/14, on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

## **(b) Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention**

167. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14, including on the activities of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the conclusions and recommendations of the Compliance Committee at its first meeting, a draft programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025 and a proposed draft decision. To facilitate consideration by the Conference of the Parties, the new activities in the draft programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025 had been indicated in tracked changes in the annex to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14. The work of the

Committee had benefitted from financial support provided by the Governments of Germany and Switzerland. Section II.D of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14 and the proposed draft decision also pertained to the election of eight new members of the Committee. The annex to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/16 set out a list of members of the Committee and identified those whose terms would expire at the closure of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

168. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez, Chair of the Compliance Committee, reported on the first meeting of the Committee and subsequent work, noting that the Committee had initiated work under its specific submissions mandate, both from a substantive and from a procedural perspective, with members very conscious of their role to assist Parties within the scope of the Committee's mandate. He invited Parties that might find themselves unable to comply with certain obligations under the Convention to consider making a submission to the Committee so that potential avenues to provide assistance could be explored.

169. He added that although the intersessional period had been notably short, financial support provided by the Governments of Germany and Switzerland had enabled the Committee to begin work on a compilation of options for information exchange and a review of laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures to implement the Convention, among other activities. The Committee had also taken advantage of the opportunity to hold a joint session with the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee on issues of common interest. A fruitful exchange of views had ensued between the two Committees, and members of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee members had expressed an interest in exploring lessons from the implementation and compliance bodies associated with other multilateral environmental agreements.

170. The documents before the Conference of the Parties included a draft programme of work for the upcoming biennium, which built on work initiated during the current biennium. There were also recommendations to the Conference of the Parties that the Committee members believed would strengthen their future work. In closing, he invited representatives to engage in bilateral discussion with Committee members at the present meeting to share information about the work and activities of the Committee.

171. The discussion under the sub-item was held in a Convention-specific session and can be found in section V.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25).

### **(c) Compliance under the Stockholm Convention**

172. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the issue of compliance had been considered at all ten of the previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and that, at the ninth meeting, given the continued lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties had decided to defer further consideration of the issue to its eleventh meeting. She drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/21, which set out in its annex two draft texts on compliance from annexes to compliance-related decisions adopted at the seventh and sixth meetings, and noted that, should the Conference of the Parties adopt the procedures and mechanisms on compliance at the present meeting, it might need to elect the members of the compliance committee at that same meeting.

173. The discussion under the sub-item was held in a Convention-specific session and can be found in section V.J of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

## **2. Providing further legal clarity**

174. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to a note by the Secretariat on providing further legal clarity (UNEP/CHW.16/14), which set out information on the work undertaken by the expert working group on the review of the annexes pursuant to decision BC-15/19 on providing further legal clarity and part IV of decision BC-14/13 on further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention; a note by the Secretariat on outcomes of and follow-up to the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (UNEP/CHW.16/20/Add.1), the annex to which contained a decision on providing further legal clarity recommending action for consideration by the Conference of the Parties; and the report of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/11), paragraphs 79 to 82 of which provided information on the substantive discussion that had taken place during that meeting, as summarized to plenary by the co-chairs of the contact group on legal matters. In addition, document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/26 set out the proposals by the European Union to amend Annex IV and certain entries in Annexes II and IX to the Basel Convention, and the recommendations and



findings of the expert working group regarding the review of Annex IV; and document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/27 set out draft recommendations by the expert working group pertaining to Annexes I and III. A draft decision for the consideration of the Parties was set out in paragraph 12 of document UNEP/CHW.16/14.

175. Perine Kasonde (Zambia), co-chair of the contact group on legal matters established by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting, speaking also on behalf of her fellow co-chair, Magda Gosk (Poland), provided a summary of the outcomes of the work of the expert working group on the review of the annexes, as discussed by the contact group on legal matters at the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The summary was set out in paragraphs 79 to 82 of the report of that meeting (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/11).

176. In the ensuing discussion, there was agreement that the annexes under discussion were in need of updating, given the advances in knowledge that had occurred since their formulation. One representative expressed the view that more time was required to achieve consensus on how they should be updated, and said that the focus of discussion at the present meeting should be on exchanging information on the issue in order to assist the expert working group in formulating clear recommendations on amendments to the annexes. Some representatives said that it was important to ensure linkage between the proposals put forward by the European Union and the review of the expert working group.

177. The representative of the European Union said that amendment of Annex IV would help to achieve further legal clarity in the implementation of the Convention. The European Union was aware of the work needed to clarify many aspects of the issue, and stood ready to present the main aims and expected benefits of its proposals and engage in discussion on the best way forward on the matter.

178. Regarding Annex IV, one representative said that further discussion was needed on disposal operations listed in section A of the annex and the options for inclusion of new operations, adding that the circumstances of developing countries should be taken into consideration in building their capacity and resources to meet new obligations arising from potential amendments to the annexes. Another representative expressed concern over the proposed addition of the R20 operation on preparing for reuse to section B of Annex IV, as that expansion of the scope of wastes covered by the Convention would create unintended barriers to repair, refurbishment and reuse of products and undermine circular economy objectives. Another representative said that it was important that any amendments demonstrate environmental gain in identifying operations for the environmentally sound management of wastes and for their notification before a transboundary movement. Another representative expressed concern that edits to some definitions in the European Union proposal had unintentionally introduced ambiguity or confusion. Another representative said that it was important to retain well-defined concepts such as “recovery and recycling operations” and “final disposal operations”, since those terminologies had long been employed in national regulations and legislative measures.

179. Regarding amendments to Annexes I and III, some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that more technical work was needed following the present meeting to further develop the recommendations of the expert working group. One representative said that it would be beneficial to undertake further work on the identification and categorization of hazardous waste to enable greater precision and clarity in placing wastes in the categories listed in Annex I. The review of Annex I should be carried out with due consideration of Annexes II, VIII and IX to ensure that all the annexes to the Convention functioned in a harmonious and complementary manner.

180. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties established a contact group on legal matters, to be co-chaired by Florisvindo Furtado (Cabo Verde) and Katrin Kaar (Estonia). The contact group was mandated to prepare a revised draft decision based on the recommendation of the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting set out in the annex to document UNEP/CHW.16/20/Add.1, and to advance the work on the European Union’s amendment proposal and the recommendations and findings of the expert working group regarding the review of Annex IV set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/26 and the draft recommendations and findings of the expert working group regarding the review of Annexes I and III set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/27, taking into account the discussion in plenary, in particular the point that discussion on the review of Annexes I and III should be limited.

181. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group on legal and compliance matters.

182. Decision BC-16/15, on providing further legal clarity, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

### 3. National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic

183. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/15, including the draft decision set out therein. Since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat had continued to maintain the collection of texts of national legislation and other measures transmitted by Parties; the collection and publication of notifications of national definitions of hazardous wastes and import/export notifications and prohibitions; cooperation with enforcement organizations and networks and organizations of enforcement training activities; and had continued the provision of advice and assistance on matters pertaining to the implementation and enforcement of the Convention; and the provision of assistance to Parties upon request in their identification of cases of illegal traffic.

184. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives welcomed the ongoing work on those matters undertaken by the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance with the Basel Convention and by the Secretariat.

185. Several representatives also highlighted the measures undertaken or under way at the national level in their Parties, such as the enactment and enforcement of national legislation, including definitions of hazardous waste or the implementation of the polluter pays principle; the production of guidelines; the development of a system for managing hazardous waste and approval of inventories; the development of a national plan; the setting up of a technical committee; and the introduction of a ban on single-use plastics. Nevertheless, challenges continued to be faced in relation to enforcement efforts, controlling transboundary movements and detecting hazardous waste at entry points; a lack of equipment; inadequate storage areas, holding bays and port reception facilities; limited manpower; the costly nature of systematic monitoring and checks; inadequate infrastructure for the disposal of hazardous waste; and a need to ensure that penalties for illegal trafficking were included in legislation.

186. Several representatives therefore said that they required additional capacity-building, training, equipment and financial assistance for the effective enforcement of Basel Convention control measures, with one highlighting, in particular, the importance of information exchange on best practices and enhanced cooperation with the regional centres.

187. One representative cited a recent increase in such traffic, which he understood showed that decision BC-3/1, on the amendment to the Basel Convention, known as the “Ban Amendment”, was not being successfully implemented. Another representative spoke of cases of illegal dumping of hazardous and toxic waste on his Party’s territory by another Party. He welcomed measures to deter the practice and urged Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. Exercising his Party’s right of reply, the representative of the other Party denied that such dumping was taking place and said that the two Parties should discuss the matter bilaterally.

188. Several representatives took the floor to support the proposed draft decision, with one highlighting the need for deeper analysis of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous waste to identify efficient ways of preventing and combating the problem.

189. One representative encouraged Parties to update the information held by the Secretariat on the contact details of their competent authorities for the notification of the prior informed consent procedure so the process could be expedited.

190. The representative of the Basel Convention/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology in Panama (BCRC/SCRC-Panama) said that, at the end of March, together with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the South American Region (BCRC-Argentina) in Argentina, the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, it had launched a regional training initiative for the prevention and prosecution of the illegal traffic and trade of chemicals and hazardous waste in Latin America and the Caribbean.

191. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/15.

192. Decision BC-16/16, on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

#### 4. Proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention

193. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/16, including the proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention. She recalled that, at its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had decided to defer consideration of the proposal to the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties. She also noted that, in part II of decision BC-15/3 on the strategic framework, the Conference of the Parties had decided to initiate work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure.

194. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the Russian Federation provided further information on the Party's current thinking about its proposal. The Russian Federation aimed to instigate the creation of a mechanism that removed any legal gaps in the prior informed consent procedure, especially in the light of new global challenges in waste management relating to waste electrical and electronic equipment and plastics. The representative reminded the Parties that the proposed amendment of paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention aimed to establish a 30-day deadline for the State of import to send, on receipt of a notification of a proposed transboundary movement, a written response to the notifier. The representative explained that his Party had given further thought to the matter since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and that, bearing in mind the need to take into account the technical capacities of Parties to comply with the deadline, it proposed that, in the event no reply was received within the 30-day deadline, this would be considered to be a refusal of the proposed movement. Given the comprehensive work being undertaken to improve the prior informed consent procedure, she proposed that the Russian Federation undertake further work in the intersessional period and submit, as appropriate, an updated proposal to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

195. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Russian Federation for its proposal.

196. All the representatives who spoke agreed that the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure needed to be improved. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said they did not support the proposal. Several other representatives supported establishing a deadline for a response in paragraph 2 of Article 6, but said that 30 days was too short a period. Such a short deadline did not reflect how the process worked in practice and would create an additional technical burden for developing countries, in particular in cases where transit States were also involved, including in terms of ensuring that verification and due diligence processes had been carried out. One representative suggested a deadline of two to three months. Numerous other challenges with the prior informed consent procedure had also been enumerated during the discussion under agenda item 4 (a) (ii), on improving the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure. Another representative stressed the importance of providing technical support to Parties to ensure the smooth implementation of the prior informed consent procedure.

197. While some representatives were in favour of further discussions in a contact group, several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, considered the proposed process under agenda item 4 (a) (ii) to establish a small intersessional working group to look at ways of improving the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure to be the best approach for addressing Parties' concerns. Some representatives said that a decision should be reached on that process before any decision on amendment of the Convention was made. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was not proportionate to change the wording of the Convention in order to improve the PIC procedure and that the proposed changes would not address the root causes of the delays in response by importing countries. They did not therefore support the establishment of a contact group to further discuss the proposal.

198. Several representatives made suggestions on the way forward. One said that if a definitive time frame were to be included in the Convention, Parties should be asked to provide feedback on their experiences so that a more representative and practical time frame could be chosen. Another representative urged Parties to send updated information to the Secretariat about the designated competent authorities so that information reached the right person.

199. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed that consideration of the proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention would be included in the provisional agenda of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## D. Technical assistance

200. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 201 to 217 below are replicated in section V.E of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section V.F of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

201. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that, in discussing the matter of technical assistance to Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Parties would also consider the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions.

202. On the issue of technical assistance in general, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/17–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/15 on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. More detail about the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the biennium 2022–2023 was provided in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/25.

203. The representative of the Secretariat thanked the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, and the European Union and FAO for their voluntary contributions for the financing of technical assistance. She also thanked GEF and 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 for their support during the period 2022–2023.

204. On the topic of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, the representative of the Secretariat introduced documents UNEP/CHW.16/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/16, outlining the activities undertaken by the regional centres, the Secretariat and others in response to the requests made by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, in their decisions on regional centres. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/27 provided further information pertaining to the activities of the centres.

205. As outlined in document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/16, the Secretariat had received a nomination from the Latin American and the Caribbean States for the Basel Convention regional centre for the Caribbean located in Trinidad and Tobago also to serve as a Stockholm Convention regional centre. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, had verified that the nominated centre met the criteria as stipulated in the terms of reference for the selection of regional centres under the Stockholm Convention.

206. A draft performance evaluation report of all 14 regional centres of the Basel Convention and 16 regional centres of the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/26) had been prepared on the basis of the criteria and methodology adopted by both conferences of the Parties.

207. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underlined the importance of technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer. Several thanked the Secretariat for the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the biennium 2022–2023. The continued monitoring and evaluation of the projects undertaken was important to enable the further assessment of the impact of implementation of the plan.

208. Many representatives expressed their gratitude to the Secretariat, donors and the regional centres for the technical assistance and other support they had received. Such support included involvement in the GEF project for the development and implementation of a sustainable management mechanism for persistent organic pollutants in one region and the GEF project on implementing sustainable low- and non-chemical development in small island developing States, known as the “ISLANDS” project; online and face-to-face workshops and seminars on the implementation of the conventions; support for the revision and updating of national implementation plans; the development of policies, strategies and legislation; efforts to deal with waste electrical and electronic equipment; the destruction of PCB; the establishment or equipping of laboratories; the conduct of a study for the establishment of a national health–environment observatory; and the improvement of data collection and reporting.

209. Despite the work that had been undertaken, several representatives considered that developing countries and countries with economies in transition were still ill-equipped to deal with the challenges that they faced, including emerging issues and new obligations stemming from the listing of new chemicals. As well as the support related to the newly listed persistent organic pollutants, additional technical assistance was required in relation to a number of issues, including e-wastes; plastic wastes; the management of hazardous pesticides and the disposal of obsolete pesticides and pesticide containers; the management and elimination of stocks of persistent organic pollutants; PCB; contaminated oil; used tyres and batteries; illegal dumping; illegal trade and trafficking; the development of inventories; the development of laboratory and analysis capacities, including regional accreditation; the training of customs officials; and the management of fly ash and slurry.

210. A number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, stressed the important role played by the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in providing developing countries and those with economies in transition with technical assistance and capacity-building. Some of them noted specifically the evaluation reports prepared by the Secretariat and welcomed the good work carried out by many of the centres. One representative said that the recommendations of the draft evaluation report should be acted on in earnest.

211. Many representatives acknowledged the excellent support provided by the Basel Convention regional centre for the Caribbean and endorsed the proposal to invite the centre also to function as a regional centre for the Stockholm Convention. One of them also encouraged Parties to support Stockholm Convention regional centres seeking to become Basel Convention regional centres.

212. One representative said that less technical assistance was provided under the Rotterdam Convention than for the other two conventions. Another representative, recalling that some Parties were not eligible for certain types of support, urged the Secretariat to make sure that there was enough technical assistance available for their needs. A third representative stressed the importance of the technical assistance plan reflecting the needs of Parties and thus encouraged Parties to submit their technical assistance and technology transfer needs through the online questionnaire, encouraging the regional centres to use the information in developing their plans.

213. A representative of a donor country outlined the support provided by that donor, through its contribution to GEF and through its membership of the Executive Board of the Special Programme. She highlighted some of the innovative activities undertaken.

214. A representative of an observer organization outlined the technical assistance work that his organization had undertaken in support of the implementation of Rotterdam Convention, including workshops and webinars on risk evaluation, the reporting of problems related to severely hazardous pesticide formulations, gender and pesticides, import responses, trade aspects and hazardous child labour in agriculture with pesticide exposure.

215. In relation to the taking of decision on the matter of technical assistance, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed the view that an omnibus decision should be adopted by each Conference of the Parties in order to give a proper overview of the various interrelated matters and enable each Conference of the Parties to focus on relevant priorities.

216. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested the addition of “small island States” to the mention of “developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition” in paragraph 2 of the draft decision in section III of document UNEP/CHW.16/17–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/15, in view of their special characteristics and circumstances without reference to their level of development.

217. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions established a joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources, to be co-chaired by Toks Akinseye (United Kingdom) and David Kapindula (Zambia). The contact group was mandated to prepare draft decisions on technical assistance for each of the conventions based on the draft text set out in documents UNEP/CHW.16/17–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/15, taking into account the discussion in plenary; and draft decisions on the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions using the draft decisions in documents UNEP/CHW.16/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/16 as starting points and taking into account the discussion in plenary. The draft decision for the agenda item would be in omnibus form, with a section I on technical assistance (for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) and a section II on regional centres (for the Basel and Stockholm conventions).

218. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources.

219. Decision BC-16/17, on technical assistance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

220. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a decision on technical assistance, part II of which relates to regional centres and is substantially identical to part II of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decision SC-11/13, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

## **E. Basel Convention Partnership Programme**

### **1. Partnership for Action on Challenges Relating to E-waste (PACE II)**

221. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section II.A of document UNEP/CHW.16/19, and part I of the draft decision set out in the same document. She recalled that, in section I of decision BC-15/22, the Conference of the Parties had requested the working group of the Partnership to implement the activities in the programme of work for the biennium 2022–2023. That included the development of a draft programme of work of the working group of PACE II for the biennium 2024–2025, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/19/Add.1, and the development of general guidance on environmentally sound repair and refurbishment of used and waste equipment and on environmentally sound management of waste on each of the new e-waste streams added to the scope of the partnership.

222. Leila Devia (Argentina), co-chair of PACE II, gave a report on the progress of the partnership. The enlarged scope of the partnership included television screens, audio and video equipment, refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment, in addition to used and waste mobile phones and computing equipment. In consequence, membership of the partnership working group had increased substantially. Activities had included dissemination of guidance documents, organizing workshops and webinars in all United Nations regions, awareness-raising activities, educational initiatives and implementation of pilot projects. The proposed programme of work of the partnership for the biennium 2024–2025, similarly to the previous biennium, included dissemination activities, pilot projects, the development of guidance documents on the environmentally sound management of the new e-waste categories, and the preparation of a draft programme of work for the biennium 2025–2026.

223. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, acknowledged the value of the partnership and expressed their appreciation for the activities conducted under the partnership. The extension of the scope of the partnership was welcomed, as was the development of the draft guidance documents on the environmentally sound refurbishment and repair of used and waste equipment and on the environmentally sound management of waste equipment added to the scope of PACE II, by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. One representative highlighted the role of the Basel Convention regional centres in supporting related activities. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed an addition to the draft decision of a new paragraph requesting the working group of the partnership to prepare draft guidance documents for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting. The Conference of the Parties adopted part I of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/19, as orally amended.

224. Part I, on the Partnership for Action on Challenges related to E-waste, of decision BC-16/18, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

### **2. Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)**

225. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section II.B of document UNEP/CHW.16/19, and part II of the draft decision set out in the same document. She recalled that, in section II of decision BC-15/22, the Conference of the Parties had encouraged the members of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) to continue collaborating on relevant activities; and that in decision BC-15/17, the Conference of the Parties had amended the terms of reference of ENFORCE and made a number of requests for action by the network's members and the Secretariat.

226. Katherine Olley (United Kingdom), chair of ENFORCE, gave a statement on progress in the work of the network. During the seventh meeting of ENFORCE, held in Paris on 26 and 27 January

2023, members had discussed organizational matters, presented the latest trends on illegal traffic of hazardous wastes, exchanged information on and identified opportunities for cooperation with regard to the network-related activities of members, and agreed to a road map of activities to be undertaken by the members and observers of ENFORCE with a view to making it more action oriented for the period 2023–2025. Members had also discussed the amended terms of reference and requests made in decision BC-15/17, including the creation of a network of expertise on the enforcement of the Convention. She also provided information on cooperation between ENFORCE and the Partnership on Plastic Waste, and on the membership of the network.

227. The representative of the World Customs Organization said that the Organization was a member of ENFORCE and, as such, the Organization informed the network regarding customs enforcement efforts related to waste and the protection of the environment. In the framework of the Basel Convention, customs authorities played a crucial role in facilitating legal trade and detecting illegal trade in waste. Joint customs operations also provided opportunities for awareness-raising and capacity-building. Since 2009, the World Customs Organization enforcement operations, code-named DEMETER, had been striving to enforce requirements pertaining to waste under the Basel Convention, and the number of seizures had significantly increased. The DEMETER operation had been supported by various partners, including the secretariat of the Basel Convention. The 2022 operation – DEMETER VIII – had included 90 customs administrations which had reported 126 waste seizures within a 30-day operation. The Organization had been refining its instruments and tools to improve its enforcement capabilities, including the Harmonized System nomenclature for the classification of goods, and had been carrying out capacity-building activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention Secretariat. The World Customs Organization reiterated its readiness to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in preventing and combating illegal traffic in waste, promoting communication and coordination between the relevant customs authorities and enforcement entities, and disseminating guidance and training tools.

228. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the regional centre for the Party designated representative from the Eastern European States would be communicated to the Secretariat following the closure of the present meeting.

229. The Conference of the Parties adopted part II of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/19.

230. Part II, on the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic, of decision BC-16/18, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

### **3. Household Waste Partnership**

231. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section II.C of document UNEP/CHW.16/19, and part III of the draft decision set out in the same document. He recalled that, in part III of decision BC-15/22, the Conference of the Parties had initiated a further round of commenting on the draft overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste. The Secretariat and the working group of the Household Waste Partnership had subsequently developed a revised version of the guidance document, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/19/Add.2. Comments had been invited on the revised version and the comments received had been made available on the website of the Convention.

232. Gabriela Medina (Uruguay), co-chair of the Household Waste Partnership working group, reported on the implementation of the workplan of the working group for the biennium 2022–2023. The development of the draft overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste had been a multi-stakeholder effort, and the version before the Parties at the present meeting represented a significant revision. Reference had been made in the document to existing tools and guidance to remove duplication, and additional case studies had been added. An electronic tool had been developed in support of the guidance and would be updated and released following its adoption. The Household Waste Partnership working group had held an informal consultation on 30 January 2023 and was ready to move forward with awareness-raising activities and cooperation with other entities, should its mandate be renewed by the Conference of the Parties. The activities discussed by the working group included the development of an awareness-raising toolkit on the environmentally sound management of household waste, additional pilot projects, and collaboration with other entities, such as the Zero Waste Cities initiative.

233. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support and appreciation for the work undertaken on the environmentally sound management of household waste. Several representatives noted that household

waste presented unique management challenges, given the high volume and variety of the waste generated; the guidance would thus be of significant help to Parties in their management of household waste.

234. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while the guidance had undergone significant revision and improvement, it was still in need of further work. One representative suggested the revision of the draft decision to invite further comments and to request the working group to prepare a revised draft for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting. Another representative suggested the issuance of the guidance as an interim document while further work was being undertaken by the working group to improve its content.

235. The Conference of the Parties agreed to request the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of part III of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/19, in consultation with the Parties that had commented on the matter, for further consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the present meeting.

236. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted part III of the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat.

237. Part III, on the Household Waste Partnership, of decision BC-16/18, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

#### **4. Partnership on Plastic Waste**

238. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section II.D of document UNEP/CHW.16/19, and part IV of the draft decision set out in the same document. She recalled that in section IV of decision BC-15/22 the Conference of the Parties had requested the Partnership on Plastic Waste to continue to implement its workplan for the biennium 2020–2021 during the biennium 2022–2023. The working group of the Partnership on Plastic Waste had held its third meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in November 2022, back to back with the first session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. At that meeting, the working group had developed a draft workplan for the biennium 2024–2025, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/19/Add.3.

239. Ross Bartley (Bureau of International Recycling), co-chair of the Partnership on Plastic Waste, gave a report on progress in the implementation of the workplan of the partnership. At its third meeting, the working group had considered progress made in the implementation of the project group workplans and the pilot project programme, as well as proposed activities under the workplan of the Partnership on Plastic Waste for the biennium 2024–2025. At its third meeting, participants had also approved a report on best practices and lessons learned on the measures taken by key stakeholders to prevent and reduce single-use plastic waste and packaging waste, and a compilation of national and international specifications related to the Basel Convention plastic waste amendments. The Partnership on Plastic Waste was keeping the intergovernmental negotiating committee informed of its activities and products. Under the pilot project programme, a second round of projects would be in progress in early 2024, supporting partners in, among other things, developing strategies, policies and legislation, and piloting new technologies for the prevention, minimization and environmentally sound management of plastic waste. Regarding cooperation with other partners, the Partnership on Plastic Waste would be hosting a series of forums on extended producer responsibility in the period following the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee that would take place in May 2023.

240. The Conference of the Parties expressed appreciation for the commitment to the work of the Basel Convention and the Partnership on Plastic Waste of Mr. Bartley, who would be retiring in the near future.

241. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed appreciation for the work of the Partnership on Plastic Waste, in particular the activities that had been implemented under its workplan, which had contributed significantly to combating plastic waste at the national and regional levels. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern at the high workload for the biennium 2024–2025, and sought clarification regarding which outputs in the workplan for the biennium 2022–2023 would be finalized by the end of 2023, and what arrangements might be made to carry any uncompleted outputs over into the workplan for the biennium 2024–2025.



242. The representative of the Secretariat responded that discussions had taken place on which activities should be prioritized for the biennium 2024–2025, and the work would continue in line with that prioritization. The working group would endeavour, however, to implement the entirety of its workplan, subject to the availability of resources. Regarding activities under the workplan for the biennium 2022–2023, efforts had been made to ensure that any follow-up work needed was reflected in the workplan for the following biennium, as discussed by the working group at its third meeting.

243. The Conference of the Parties adopted part IV of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/19.

244. Part IV, on the Partnership on Plastic Waste, of decision BC-16/18, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

## 5. Subscription fees

245. The Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions informed the Conference of the Parties that certain developments internal to the United Nations had implications for the way the Secretariat exercised its functions to operationalize the financial arrangements set out in the respective terms of reference of PACE II, the Household Waste Partnership, and the Partnership on Plastic Waste. He recalled that those terms of reference, which had been adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decisions BC-13/14, BC-15/22 and BC-14/13, respectively, each included a section entitled “Financial arrangements”, which provided for annual subscriptions by members of the working groups that were categorized as business or industry, non-governmental organizations or academia. While the Secretariat had initiated the process to implement that aspect of the financial arrangements of the partnerships, changes in the way the United Nations was required to manage financial resources entailed a significant increase in time dedicated by staff. Based on the Secretariat’s calculations, the maximum estimated annual income of subscriptions paid by eligible members of the three partnerships would amount to \$97,000, while a conservative estimate of the staff costs required to initiate the collection of the subscription fees would amount to \$81,000. At the time of the preparation of the budget fact sheets for the activities in the programme of work for 2024–2025, the Secretariat staff costs associated with managing the annual subscriptions of eligible members to the relevant partnerships had not been identified.

246. The Conference of the Parties agreed to refer further discussion of the matter to the contact group on programmes of work and budgets.

247. Subsequently, the co-chair of the contact group said that the group had heard additional information, provided by the Secretariat, on the estimate annual subscription fees to be collected from PACE II, the Household Waste Partnership and the Partnership on Plastic Waste and the staff costs associated with the management of those annual fees. It had concluded that the matter of subscription fees had political implications and that it should therefore be discussed by the Parties in plenary. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that those countries could agree to the abolition of the system of subscription fees for the partnerships in question if the cost of collection and administration of the fees outweighed the value of the fees themselves. She proposed that the terms of reference of the three partnerships be amended accordingly.

248. The Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision on the amendment of the terms of reference of PACE II, the Household Waste Partnership and the Partnership on Plastic Waste to abolish the fee subscription system for those partnerships, for consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

249. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a decision on subscription fees for the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

250. Part V, on subscription fees, of decision BC-16/18, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

## F. Financial resources<sup>2</sup>

251. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of

<sup>2</sup> The sub-item was taken up during a joint session of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The discussion on the Global Environment Facility relevant to the Stockholm Convention under this sub-item is contained in section V.G.1 of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 252 to 256 below are replicated in section V.F of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section V.G of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

252. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that, in line with decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22, the Secretariat had continued to take the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste as a reference in its mandated activities and its support for the Parties to the three conventions. The Secretariat had also continued to participate in the internal task team of 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 and had attended the meetings of the Executive Board of the Special Programme as an observer. He drew attention to a report submitted by UNEP on the implementation of the Special Programme, which was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/35–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/35.

253. The representative of UNEP provided an update on the activities under the Special Programme, as more fully described in the UNEP report. She informed the Parties that the seventh round of funding was currently open, with a closing date of 11 August 2023, and that the secretariat of the Special Programme would be holding drop-in clinics in the margins of the present meeting on how to apply for funding under the Programme. She also drew attention to a recent decision by the Executive Board of the Special Programme to revise the application packages for the seventh round, in particular related to eligibility for funding. In that regard, the application package now referred to the *World Economic Situation and Prospects* report, whose annex contained lists of developing economies, economies in transition, least developed countries and small island developing States. At the same time, the package emphasized that some of the donors to the Special Programme had a strict policy of only funding applicants that met the eligibility requirements for the Development Assistance Committee list of official development assistance recipients at the time of application, a limitation that could affect the funds available for countries not on that list.

254. Following the presentation, several representatives voiced their appreciation for the Special Programme, with some describing how their country had benefited from the programme. One representative noted that some countries, including his, had faced difficulties in accessing programme funds and would appreciate more information on the eligibility criteria.

255. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while the countries of her region had hoped that the establishment of the Special Programme would bring about significant resources for effective implementation, considerable challenges remained with respect to the lack of funding provided to some countries, even though those countries had submitted their applications to the Programme.

256. The representative of Ghana introduced a conference room paper submitted by his country on behalf of the group of African States, on a framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy. The countries of the region wished to capitalize on the Secretariat's assessment of the relevance for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions of existing guidelines developed by the United Nations system on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/37) through the development of the road map for mobilizing funding from non-State actors, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in fulfilling their obligations under the conventions.

257. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and the representative of UNEP and agreed to refer the conference room paper submitted by Ghana on behalf of the group of African States to the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources for further consideration.

258. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a draft decision submitted by the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial matters.

259. Decision BC-16/19, on a framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

260. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on a framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-11/7 and SC-11/5, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the

Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

## **G. Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2024–2025**

261. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said that the draft work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2024–2025 was set out in the annex to the draft decision in paragraph 5 of document UNEP/CHW.16/20. It had been prepared on the basis of progress in the work carried out intersessionally since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It was expected that the draft work programme would be revised further to take into account the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at the present meeting.

262. As no Party had offered to host the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, the meeting was scheduled to be held at the International Conference Centre Geneva, in the week commencing 24 June 2024.

263. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed support for the draft work programme, while another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and expressing support for the work programme in general, said that she would submit suggestions to the Secretariat regarding the priority level of activities therein.

264. The Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft work programme set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/20, taking into account the discussion in plenary and any further developments during the present meeting.

265. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat following consultations with the regional groups.

266. Decision BC-16/20, on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2024–2025, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

267. The Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2024–2025:

Co-Chairs:	Lendita Dika (North Macedonia) (Legal)
	Judith Torres (Uruguay) (Technical)
Vice-Chairs:	Stéphane Bernaudon (France) (Legal)
	Nancy Allimadi (Uganda) (Technical)
Rapporteur:	Mohamed Aman (Bahrain)

## **V. International cooperation and coordination (agenda item 5)**

268. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 269 to 274 and 277 to 298 below are replicated in section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

### **A. Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury**

269. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/21–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/22, presenting the activities undertaken in response to the decisions on cooperation adopted in 2022 by the conferences of the Parties to the four conventions. Cooperation between the two secretariats had continued on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical and technical assistance issues. The secretariats had also implemented the sharing and the purchase of relevant services from one another, on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of each respective convention for the biennium 2022–2023. Further information on that cooperation was set out in joint document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/40.

270. The Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, Monika Stankiewicz, delivered a statement on cooperation between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention. She said that cooperation between the two secretariats had flourished on a broad array of programmatic issues, such as mercury wastes and their environmentally sound management, the provision of technical assistance and financial resources, compliance, legal issues and effectiveness evaluation, and administrative issues, as well as outreach and awareness-raising efforts and knowledge and information management. Important areas of collaboration were or had been mercury waste, in particular efforts to establish thresholds for mercury waste; the identification of funding needs in a successful GEF replenishment, which had resulted in increased funding for both Minamata and Stockholm conventions; the opening up of training events for chairs of bodies and negotiators under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to the chairs of bodies and negotiators under the Minamata Convention. Looking to the future, she said the mandates of the four conventions converged in the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 5/7, on the sound management of chemicals and waste, and 5/8, on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution and in their contributions to the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and efforts to ensure stronger linkages with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

271. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Secretariat was extremely important and beneficial to all involved. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the report on cooperation. The representative speaking on behalf of the group of countries also thanked the Secretariat for the outline of future activities, considering that the planned activities would provide for the effective implementation of the relevant elements of the programme of work. She nevertheless encouraged the conduct of further activities in the area of outreach and communication, knowledge management and trade control.

272. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their appreciation of the shared services arrangement and the purchase of services on a cost recovery basis in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium, while some highlighted the value of the cooperation with the Basel Convention for the setting of mercury thresholds. One representative said that it was important to harmonize the definitions of “mercury wastes” in Article 11 of the Minamata Convention and “hazardous waste” in Article 1 of the Basel Convention to enable Parties to comply with their obligations under both conventions. He expressed the hope that, in the meantime, the Secretariat would continue to track the consequences of the differences in definition for the implementation of the Basel Convention.

273. One representative expressed the view that there was a need to crystallize the means of cooperation between the two secretariats, advocating a systematic, effective and transparent tool that addressed the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. One representative thanked the Government of Japan for assistance to his country in addressing mercury emissions from open burning, stressing the need for enhanced cooperation to address the problem of mercury and unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, while another representative highlighted the need for assistance to Africa in dealing with mercury contamination in mining sites.

274. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decisions set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/21–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/22.

275. Decision BC-16/21, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

276. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-11/8 and SC-11/20, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

## **B. Cooperation and coordination with other organizations**

277. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information set out document UNEP/CHW.16/22/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/17/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/23/Rev.1, presenting the activities undertaken in response to the requests set out

in 2022 decisions on international cooperation and coordination and the related information documents, and a draft decision on the matter.

278. She highlighted three major developments that had occurred after the issuance of the note by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations that the conferences of the Parties might wish to consider. First, following the approval by FAO for the Rotterdam Convention to become a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the two executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had received a letter, dated 18 April 2023, from the Director-General of WHO stating that all nine executive heads of the current participating organizations of the IOMC had confirmed their agreement to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions becoming a single participating organization of IOMC through their joint Secretariat. In the light of those letters, the proposed draft decision would need to be revised.

279. Second, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 77/161 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the resolution, the General Assembly, had, among other things, decided to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually; and had requested that the Secretary-General set up an advisory board of eminent persons, for a period of three years, to promote local and national zero-waste initiatives.

280. Third, the President of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on behalf of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, had requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly of a supplementary item, on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements, which mirrored in some respects the agenda items of the present meetings on international cooperation and coordination.

281. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their appreciation for the large number of cooperation and coordination activities carried out with other international organizations and processes. One representative, noting the importance of such efforts as a move away from a silo approach while respecting the mandate of individual agreements, requested that the Secretariat organize webinars to communicate objectively the results of such cooperative activities.

282. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noting that pollution and waste was the least visible element of the triple planetary crisis, said that cooperation and coordination activities with other international organizations and processes were vital in helping to raise awareness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The representative of the European Union introduced a conference room paper setting out proposed additions to the draft decision regarding suggestions for increasing the visibility and raising the profile of the three conventions.

283. One representative highlighted the success of the training programmes run by the Secretariat for potential chairs of, and negotiators at, meetings under the three conventions and noted that recent workshops had also included participants from the Minamata Convention; the Montreal Protocol; the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. He expressed his thanks to donors, in particular Germany and Switzerland, for contributions that had made the programmes possible. Many representatives supported the proposal of that representative to add a paragraph to the draft decision to welcome cooperation on such training and to request the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue implementing such training.

284. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed, in particular, the cooperation with the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Several representatives drew attention to the report prepared by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for the negotiating committee that contained information on several essential elements that could be replicated in the instrument, such as technical assistance and compliance mechanisms. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted the need to promote complementarity and avoid duplication of work or governance structures with the new legally binding instrument, while another said that it was important for the Secretariat to be proactive in relation to the process of the development of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

285. One representative said that the creation of a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution envisaged under Environment

Assembly resolution 5/8 would ensure the flow of information between the various conventions under the framework of the international chemicals and waste agenda. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underlined the need for the Secretariat to continue participating in the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution in order to promote complementarity and avoid duplication of work or governance structures.

286. The coordination of customs codes carried out with the World Customs Organization was identified by some representatives as having been a particularly beneficial area of cooperation, as harmonized codes would greatly improve cross-border control traceability and allow for improved inventories. Other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed, in particular, the invitation for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to become members of IOMC.

287. Some representatives noted the need to adopt a human rights approach and a gender perspective in the work with other international organizations, and for cooperation with human rights rapporteurs.

288. Regarding the focus for future cooperation activities, several representatives noted the importance of strengthened synergy with the Strategic Approach and the Montreal Protocol. One representative said that exchanging experiences in relation to illicit substances with the Montreal Protocol would be particularly beneficial, while others identified the importance of the proposed framework under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 that was due to be adopted in September 2023. One representative encouraged closer cooperation between the conventions and the International Atomic Energy Agency, noting the value of the latter's technical cooperation programme to developing countries in relation to chemicals and waste in particular. Other representatives encouraged direct cooperation with WHO, in particular in the light of the One Health approach and the worryingly high number of deaths caused each year by chemicals. One representative drew attention to the General Assembly resolution on zero-waste initiatives and asked for the support of all Parties and the Secretariat in implementing the initiative, in particular in the light of the strong links with Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 12.

289. Some representatives encouraged closer coordination with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A representative of Jordan introduced a conference room paper proposing additional paragraphs for the draft decision regarding closer coordination on issues of common interest, subject to the availability of resources. Another representative noted that waste management was a vast domain and coordination between the conventions would be particularly beneficial for developing countries. Some representatives did not, however, support the proposal, noting a risk of duplication of effort between the Basel Convention and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the importance of keeping the processes separate to allow them to maintain specialization, efficiency, clarity and flexibility.

290. On the topic of waste management, some representatives requested capacity-building support from the Secretariat for developing countries regarding the traceability of waste and the management of end-of-life-cycle products, in particular those sent to them from the global North. Some representatives noted that the illegal dumping of waste remained a significant issue in Africa, and, in that regard, some representatives requested strengthened cooperation with the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa. One representative noted that, in particular for countries in Africa, discussion of chemicals should always include discussion of waste, as the two areas were inextricably linked.

291. Following the discussion, a number of observer organizations made statements.

292. The representative of UNEP presented the report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the conferences of the Parties on programmatic cooperation (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/38–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/43). She drew attention to the collaboration between the conventions and UNEP at the programmatic level, particularly in relation to DDT, PCB and the persistent organic pollutants global monitoring programme (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/14); in terms of UNEP support for the execution of GEF-funded projects; through information sharing, for example through the Green Customs Initiative and the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) hosted by UNEP; during other international processes on chemicals and waste management, such as the preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which was expected to adopt a new framework for the sound management of

chemicals and waste (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/35); implementation of the outcomes of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including the establishment of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution; during preparations for the sixth session of the Environmental Assembly where an additional item on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements had been added to the provisional agenda; and in relation to the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, in support of which UNEP and the Secretariat had produced a publication entitled “Chemicals in Plastics – A Technical Report” (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/60–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/44–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/61). She also highlighted the collaboration within the joint task force on programmatic cooperation between the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Strategic Approach, which had proposed new initiatives to strengthen cooperation to improve the delivery of the respective programmes of work and to enhance efficiencies.

293. The representative of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management presented an update on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/44). Two sessions of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process had already taken place and a third was due to be held on the two days preceding the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which was to be held from 25 to 29 September 2023. The fifth session of the Conference was expected to lead to a new enabling global framework for chemicals and waste, supported by a high-level declaration. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions community had actively participated in the discussions on the new framework, which aimed to enhance engagement with key economic and industry sectors that used chemicals and introduce circular and life cycle approaches and other benefits valuable to chemical-related multilateral environmental agreements.

294. The representative of FAO said that cooperation and coordination was key in achieving FAO objectives. The part of the Rotterdam Secretariat that was hosted by FAO cooperated with all the entities within the organization’s headquarters and its field offices, which had enabled the leveraging of resources, increased the impact of activities and enhanced the coherence of the implementation of both the FAO Strategic Framework and the Rotterdam Convention. The Secretariat had cooperated closely with the FAO pest and pesticide management team, including in the development, with WHO, of a global action plan on highly hazardous pesticides and the facilitation of training activities on the FAO pesticide registration toolkit. The Secretariat had also continued to support technical assistance and training activities such as the FAO-led activities related to biodiversity and chemicals management under the third phase of the programme on strengthening environmental governance and supporting multilateral environmental agreements in the Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific regions. The Secretariat had also participated as an observer in the FAO task force on the reduction of plastic use in agriculture.

295. The representative of the World Trade Organization (WTO) outlined the increasing emphasis that the organization was now placing on the environment and sustainable development. Since 2021, it had developed new initiatives, including a dialogue on plastic pollution, which was exploring how enhanced trade cooperation at WTO could help in supporting deliberations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, while avoiding duplication. The representative of WTO thanked the Secretariat for its systematic sharing of technical information with the organization.

296. The representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) welcomed the continuation of cooperation with the Secretariat. It applauded the study on interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity produced by the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. IUCN supported efforts to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in numerous ways, including by providing its legal and economic expertise and producing tools such as the IUCN Red List and the Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions.

297. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on joint issues, to be co-chaired by Ole Thomas Thommesen (Norway) and Jeanelle Kelly (Saint Kitts and Nevis). The group was mandated to prepare a revised draft decision on international cooperation and coordination on the basis of a revised text to be prepared by the Secretariat that would reflect the latest developments related to IOMC, as well as other recent developments highlighted by the Secretariat, and taking into account the proposals by the European Union and Jordan set out in

conference room papers and the proposal made during the discussion, and the discussion in plenary. Further mandates on joint issues might be added to the contact group as needed.

298. Later in the meeting, the co-chairs reported that the contact group had completed its consideration of the matter and prepared a draft decision on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations. One representative requested that further time be provided for deliberations on the matter. The President noted that, as reported by the co-chairs, the group had completed its mandate and agreed by consensus on the draft decision. He explained that the Conference of the Parties would consider adopting the draft decision later during the meeting, at which time there would be an opportunity for Parties to discuss it further.

299. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations submitted by the joint contact group on joint issues.

300. Decision BC-16/21, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

301. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-11/9 and SC-11/21, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

## **VI. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 6)**

302. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 303 to 305, 308 to 317, 318 to 326 and 330 to 333 below are replicated in section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

### **A. Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange**

303. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the conferences of the Parties had welcomed the proposed joint clearing-house mechanism strategy at their meetings in 2017 and, in 2022, had requested the Secretariat to continue the work to implement the strategy and the activities of the workplan for the biennium 2022–2023. He drew attention to the information set out in documents UNEP/CHW.16/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/24 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/46.

304. A number of representatives, each speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work of the Secretariat to enhance information exchange, given its importance for awareness-raising, decision-making and the implementation of the conventions. They looked forward to the continuation of such efforts, including through the workplan. The representative of one of the groups expressed appreciation of the aims in the draft decision of ensuring complementarity and avoiding the duplication of activities, tools and mechanisms, including those of the Minamata Convention and focusing on the maintenance of existing systems. Another said that her group would like an assessment of the clearing house mechanism to be undertaken with a view to assessing its effectiveness since its inception.

305. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in paragraph 10 of document UNEP/CHW.16/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/24.

306. Decision BC-16/23, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

307. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions



RC-11/10 and SC-11/22, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

## **B. Mainstreaming gender**

308. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at their meetings in 2022, the conferences of the Parties had taken note of the updated Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and had requested the Secretariat to report on its implementation to the conferences of the Parties at their subsequent meetings. The relevant report was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/24–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/25. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/INF/25–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/47 provided further details on gender-related activities implemented by the Secretariat.

309. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries stressed the importance of gender mainstreaming, given that the pollution crisis did not affect the entire population in the same way. Several of them mentioned groups that had specific needs with regard to the effects of pollution. One representative underscored the need to involve those groups in decision-making processes that dealt with their plights, because, as well as being vulnerable, they could also be effective agents of change.

310. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the updated Gender Action Plan, further work by the Secretariat and the proposed action. One representative expressed the hope that the next iteration of the Gender Action Plan would use more inclusive language, while another representative advocated the use of scientific studies on the impact of chemical products and hazardous wastes on people with physical, mental, intellectual and sensory disabilities to feed into further updates of the Gender Action Plan.

311. One representative proposed that the reference, in the updated Gender Action Plan, to improving Secretariat knowledge and practices on non-binary inclusion be removed, as he did not consider it relevant to the issue of gender.

312. Some representatives outlined the work that had been done in their countries at the national level, including awareness-raising on gender-related issues and risks related to chemicals and waste, the enactment of relevant national legislation; and a project on strengthening institutional capacity for the coordination of chemicals- and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements and mainstreaming gender.

313. Several representatives spoke of the importance of ensuring the collection of appropriate data, highlighting the importance of data being reliable; gender-sensitive; and disaggregated, to enable the identification of gaps in gender equality and to support the development of public policies and strategies to address them.

314. Some representatives emphasized the importance of taking not only a gender-based approach to dealing with chemicals and waste, but also a wider human rights approach, promoting the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for present and future generations.

315. Subsequently, the Executive Secretary reported that, following consultations with interested Parties, the term “non-binary” as used in the information document providing details on gender-related activities implemented and planned by the Secretariat would be replaced with the phrase “women and girls in all their diversity.” This phrase had become standard in a number of United Nations forums and had been used in relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

316. Following the explanation, the representative of Jordan stated that his delegation did not object to the information reported on in the relevant documents but requested that it be noted in the report that his delegation respected the relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on those matters. The representatives of Indonesia, Iraq, the Maldives, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia aligned themselves with the statement.

317. The conferences of the Parties took note of the update provided by the Secretariat and requested that the Secretariat report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2025.

## C. Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

318. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, at their tenth meetings, had requested the Secretariat to review the cooperative arrangements with international organizations or entities with a mandate to prevent and combat illegal trade in hazardous chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to make recommendations on strengthening such arrangements. The resulting report, including a draft decision, was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/60 and offered three options for the Parties' consideration.

319. The representative of Chile introduced a conference room paper proposing that the Secretariat be requested to design a feasible work plan for synergy in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, for adoption by the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings; to generate a specific cooperation mechanism to support the design of the tariff codes needed to identify products containing substances listed under the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and hazardous wastes according to the classifications in the Basel Convention; to promote opportunities to strengthen cooperation aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes through the support and with the guidance of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and the FAO regional offices under the Rotterdam Convention; and, if necessary, to establish an intersessional working group to develop a work plan and compile the necessary background information for the intersessional period.

320. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the Secretariat's report and compilation of best practices and thanked the Secretariat for the activities undertaken to assist Parties in combating illegal trade in hazardous waste and chemicals. A number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of a group of countries, voiced support for the draft decision, and several welcomed the submission by Chile.

321. Many representatives, some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed their strong desire to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes. A number said they were in favour of strengthened cooperation, and one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the option of extending the scope of ENFORCE to also cover efforts aimed at preventing and combating the illegal trade in hazardous chemicals covered by the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Other measures proposed to combat illegal traffic and trade included the provision of technical assistance, in particular to strengthen the capacity of customs and other enforcement agencies; enhanced and adequately funded tools and mechanisms developed by regional centres; stronger consequences for traffickers; and enhanced cooperation and coordination with the Bamako Convention.

322. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that developing countries were often the victims of illegal traffic on their territories. Some observed that trade required an importer and an exporter, the latter often being the more powerful and better resourced of the two, and said that the onus should be on the exporting country to ensure that hazardous wastes and chemicals were not being exported. One representative suggested that countries that attempted to export hazardous waste or chemicals illegally be identified to help other countries be better prepared.

323. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that the toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management would soon include a tool on illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, to assist Parties in establishing national legislation and infrastructure to strengthen the fight against illegal trade. She drew attention to the work undertaken by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to fight illegal trade in pesticides, in particular the Network on Illegal Trade of Pesticides (ONIP), and urged the Parties to implement the OECD Council recommendation on countering the illegal trade of pesticides and to use the OECD best practice guidance to identify the illegal trade of pesticides.

324. The conferences of the Parties agreed to refer the matter to the joint contact group on joint issues. The group was mandated to prepare draft decisions based on the proposed action set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/25–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/26, taking into account the conference room paper submitted by Chile and the discussion in plenary.

325. A representative of FAO informed the Parties that the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management was developing a guidance note on addressing the illegal trade in pesticides, which would reference available international guidance and provide practical instructions on addressing the illegal trade in pesticides and was expected to be published in 2024.

326. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), noting that illegal trafficking in hazardous waste and other wastes remained a lucrative, low-risk crime in many countries owing to weak penalties and inadequate enforcement, informed the Parties that in 2020, the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had urged States parties to treat environmental crimes such as waste trafficking as a serious offence and had called on UNODC to provide technical support to States. In response, UNODC had created a legislative guide to international trafficking for national lawmakers featuring model provisions and best practices. The Office was also involved in various projects to address waste trafficking, including the Unwaste project, with UNEP and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Container Control Programme, with the World Customs Organization, and the Global Maritime Crime Programme. To coordinate its efforts with other initiatives aimed at preventing waste trafficking, UNODC had joined the ENFORCE network in 2022.

327. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes submitted by the joint contact group on joint issues.

328. Decision BC-16/24, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

329. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-11/11 and SC-11/23, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

#### **D. From science to action**

330. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the information in documents UNEP/CHW.16/26–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/27 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/49.

331. In the ensuing discussion, considering science-based action to be crucial in the implementation of the conventions, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Secretariat for its work to date and expressed support for its ongoing efforts to strengthen the use of scientific knowledge in decision-making and subsequent action. Several representatives spoke of their support for the continued cooperation with the United Nations Environment Assembly in the context of its resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries expressly supported the adoption of the draft decision.

332. One representative said that it was essential that the road map take into account the political and social circumstances of each country and show flexibility regarding the submission of data. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries stressed the need to build capacities at the national level. Among the areas of focus mentioned were laboratory analysis capacity; the ability to conduct enhanced research in order to obtain good data; and the provision of greater support for Africa and for regional centres. Some representatives thanked the Secretariat, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the South American Region and donors for the workshop on “From science to action” held in April 2023.

333. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in paragraph 10 of document UNEP/CHW.16/26–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/27.

334. Decision BC-16/25, entitled “From science to action”, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

335. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions entitled “From science to action” that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-11/12 and SC-11/24, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the

report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

## VII. Programme of work and budget (agenda item 7)

336. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 337 to 350 below are replicated in section VIII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section VIII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

337. Introducing the item, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions recalled that in decisions BC-15/30, RC-10/19 and SC-10/26, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had requested the executive secretaries to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2024–2025 two alternative funding scenarios: one that was based on the executive secretaries' assessments of the required changes in the operational budgets, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2022–2023 level in nominal terms; and one that maintained the operational budget at the 2022–2023 level in nominal terms.

338. Explanations of the two scenarios were presented in document UNEP/CHW.16/27–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/28. The first scenario represented a continuation of the programmes of work approved for the current biennium and included a budget increase of approximately 5 per cent across the three conventions. Under the second, a zero nominal growth scenario, it would be necessary to reduce activities funded from the general trust fund. Following numerous budget negotiation cycles during which the budgets approved for programme activities had steadily declined in real terms, it had become increasingly unrealistic to prepare a viable scenario of zero nominal growth without such reductions.

339. He said that he was pleased to report that many donors had come forward to support voluntarily funded activities in the programmes of work, especially for activities related to plastic and marine litter, as well as the travel of funded participants. He thanked the Governments of Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States as well as the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund for their generous contributions in the biennium 2022–2023. He also thanked the Governments of Germany and Switzerland for their contributions to the regional preparatory meetings and the Governments of China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their generous contributions to support the participation of approximately 350 delegates from eligible Parties attending the present meetings.

340. Regrettably, both the number of Parties in arrears and the overall amount of arrears had increased during the biennium 2022–2023. The Secretariat had continued its efforts to work with Parties and relevant national authorities to find solutions and settle all outstanding arrears.

341. Information on the allocation and utilization of the contribution provided in the biennium 2022–2023 by FAO was contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/31. Since the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention in 2004, FAO had supported the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat located at FAO headquarters in Rome with more than \$18.2 million, including direct financial support of \$1.5 million per biennium. Information on activities to be implemented, funded or co-funded in the biennium 2024–2025 using FAO contributions was set out in annex IV to the proposed operational budgets in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/45–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/50.

342. In conclusion, he noted that a detailed presentation on the budget and financial matters would be provided at the start of the deliberations of the contact group, if one was established to consider these issues further.

343. The representative of the Secretariat presented additional information and outlined the relevant documentation. As in previous bienniums, the budget proposals had been developed jointly for the three conventions and presented in a single, harmonized document to facilitate the consideration of joint or complementary activities.

344. During the ensuing discussion, a number of Parties, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for an increased budget for the biennium 2024–2025, noting

that this would ensure no reduction in the Secretariat's activities in support of the conventions. The budgets and programmes of work for the biennium 2024–2025 should enable all elements of the conventions, including all their subsidiary bodies, to operate effectively.

345. Several other representatives expressed support for a zero growth scenario for the budget, citing the continued economic challenges facing many Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and noting that the budgets and programmes of work should reflect the special situation of developing countries. One representative said his Government understood that some Parties faced economic challenges and thus potential savings in the operation of the conventions should be pursued while also not cutting activities and programmes important to their implementation and effectiveness.

346. Several representatives expressed the view that the participation of the members of bureaux from developing countries should be funded in addition to the usual total number of representatives funded from that country. One expressed support for including in the core budget the activities of the Secretariat related to providing technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly those relevant to plastics and hazardous waste.

347. A number of representatives expressed support for efforts to address the problem of arrears, with one noting that failing to do so would negatively impact the budget and could lead to Parties that met their funding obligations contributing more in the future. One representative underscored the importance of seeking additional cost savings and operational advantages from synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other relevant agreements and institutions.

348. Speaking on behalf of a group of countries, one representative expressed support for increasing the number of meeting days for the Chemical Review Committee, in order to address the backlog in reviewing notifications of final regulatory actions, and for retaining translation expenses in the core budget. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, questioned the proposal from the Secretariat to use surplus funds to cover costs related to the security, safety and staff counsellor services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva, believing that those expenses should be covered by UNEP in accordance with the memorandum of understanding concluded between UNEP and the conferences of the Parties in 2019. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported, as a general approach, keeping surpluses from particular operations available for the next biennium and using them for the core activities of the three conventions.

349. The conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on programmes of work and budgets, to be co-chaired by Mr. Álvarez-Pérez (Chile) and Premysl Stepanek (Czechia). The group was mandated to develop the programmes of work and budgets for the three conventions for the biennium 2024–2025, as well as a draft decision for each of the conferences of the Parties, using the text set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/27–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/28 as the starting point for its deliberations, and taking into account the discussion in plenary.

350. Reporting back to plenary, the co-chair of the contact group on programmes of work and budgets said that, during its consideration of the budget, one representative had expressed concern that, owing to lack of dedicated financial support for travel for bureau members, delegations that included members of a bureau had to choose between seeking financial support to fund their bureau member and seeking it to fund a substantive specialist, thus reducing their ability to ensure adequate representation. The Secretariat had noted that funding of the participation of representatives of developing-country Parties and of Parties with economies in transition in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties was carried out pursuant to the procedure set out in the annex to the financial rules and gave priority to least developed country Parties and small-island developing State Parties. The procedure did not specify the number of Parties to be funded and did not exclude funding of eligible bureau members. The contact group had therefore confirmed its understanding that members of the bureau of the Conference of the Parties from eligible Parties would be funded subject to the availability of funds, and after the participation of representatives from eligible Parties had been ensured, in the order of priority as set out in the financial rules.

351. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group on budget matters.

352. Decision BC-16/28, on the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2024–2025, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

353. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the programmes of work and budgets of those conventions for the biennium 2024–2025. Decisions RC-11/15 and SC-11/27, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the

Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

## **VIII. Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (agenda item 8)**

354. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 355 to 359 below are replicated in section IX of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section IX of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

355. Introducing the item, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions recalled that the three memorandums of understanding had been adopted by the respective conferences of the Parties during their 2019 meetings. Each memorandum included provisions on staffing, delegation of authority, administrative and programme support costs, financial matters and budgets, performance evaluation and management review, and programmatic relationships, among other things. Pursuant to the respective memorandums of understanding, the Executive Director of UNEP and, in the case of the Rotterdam Convention, the Director-General of FAO were to submit to each ordinary meeting of the conferences of the Parties, 90 days in advance of the meeting, a report on the implementation of the respective memorandums of understanding that would provide Parties with detailed information on administration services provided to the conventions by UNEP or FAO. The report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the respective conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the implementation of the memorandums of understanding was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/49–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/53 and the report of FAO to the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/34.

356. In decisions BC-15/30, RC-10/19 and SC-10/26, which were identical in terms of substance, the Executive Director of UNEP had been requested to comply with the memorandum of understanding between the relevant Conference of the Parties and UNEP regarding service costs to be covered by UNEP pursuant to the annex to the relevant memorandum of understanding.

357. A representative of UNEP said that the Executive Director of UNEP had initiated a review of the memorandums of understanding to clarify the provision of administrative services to the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the cost-sharing arrangements. The amendments to the memorandums of understanding aimed to clarify which costs were covered by UNEP and which were covered by the conventions' budgets. Mainly, centrally administered services provided by UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi were covered by the UNEP share of the programme support cost income, and common services charges, associated with the location of the secretariats in Geneva, such as medical and counselling services, diplomatic services, mail and diplomatic pouch services, and security and safety, were covered by the conventions' budgets. The letters by the Executive Director of UNEP proposing amendments to the memorandums of understanding between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, between FAO, UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/53–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/39–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/57. The proposed amendments would provide the necessary clarifications regarding the provision of services against the coverage of the cost of those services. The amendments aimed to align with standards followed by all the conventions administered by UNEP and by UNEP offices.

358. Following the introduction, several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, took note of the proposal to amend the memorandums of understanding. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their support for the draft decision. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed her grave concern regarding the proposal by the Secretariat to use savings from the budget retroactively, namely to cover costs of the previous biennium, as was being proposed in relation to the amendments to the memorandums of understanding, and therefore would welcome a discussion on the proposal in the joint contact group on programmes of work and budgets.

359. The conferences of the Parties agreed to refer further discussion of the matter to the joint contact group on programmes of work and budgets. The group was mandated to prepare draft decisions based on the text set out in documents UNEP/CHW.16/28, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/23 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/29, and taking into account the discussion in plenary.

360. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a decision prepared by the contact group on programmes of work and budgets.

361. Decision BC-16/27, on amendments to the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

362. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the implementation of the relevant memorandum of understanding that were similar to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-11/14 and SC-11/26, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

## **IX. Venue and dates of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 9)**

363. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 364 and 365 below are replicated in section X of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section X of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

364. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/29-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/30, including the draft decision set out therein. She recalled that the rules of procedure of the three conferences of the Parties provided for their meetings to take place at the seat of the Secretariat unless other appropriate arrangements were made. As at 10 May 2023, no offer to host the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties had been received by the Secretariat.

365. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed the hope that more balanced arrangements could be made for the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties, for example by avoiding public holidays such as International Labour Day, and overcoming difficulties in booking the venue to ensure the participation of all Parties. Another representative said that Parties hosting the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions or intersessional meetings should fulfil their obligations to facilitate the participation of all the delegates nominated by the Parties to participate in the meetings, in order to ensure the full participation of experts in those meetings.

366. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat.

367. Decision BC-16/26, on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

368. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-11/13 and SC-11/25, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

## **X. Other matters (agenda item 10)**

### **Admission of observers**

369. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraph 370 below is replicated in section XI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25) and section XI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

370. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the procedure by which a body or agency applied for admission as an observer to a meeting of a Conference of the Parties. The lists of bodies or agencies making requests to be represented as observers to each meeting of a Conference of the Parties since the last meetings in 2022 and that met the relevant criteria were contained in, for the Basel Convention, document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/51; for the Rotterdam Convention, document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/42; and for the Stockholm Convention, document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/55. Following the issuance of those documents, the Secretariat had received requests from several further bodies and agencies that it had verified met the relevant criteria in relation to the three conventions.

371. The Conference of the Parties took note of the bodies and agencies making requests for admission as observers to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and requested the Secretariat to continue its current practice in that regard.

372. There were no further matters.

## **XI. Adoption of the report of the meeting (agenda item 11)**

373. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft report on the basis of the draft that had been circulated, on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, under the authority of the President of the Conference of the Parties.

## **XII. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)**

374. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 10.50 p.m. on Friday, 12 May 2023.



## Annex

### Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting

- BC-16/1: Strategic framework
- BC-16/2: Work to improve the prior informed consent procedure
- BC-16/3: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants
- BC-16/4: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes
- BC-16/5: Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention
- BC-16/6: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and on other waste batteries
- BC-16/7: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres
- BC-16/8: Cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
- BC-16/9: National reporting
- BC-16/10: Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents
- BC-16/11: Further consideration of plastic waste
- BC-16/12: Updating existing guidance, technical guidelines and fact sheets in order to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the e-waste amendments
- BC-16/13: Waste containing nanomaterials
- BC-16/14: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance
- BC-16/15: Providing further legal clarity
- BC-16/16: National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic
- BC-16/17: Technical assistance
- BC-16/18: Basel Convention Partnership Programme
- BC-16/19: Framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy
- BC-16/20: Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2024–2025
- BC-16/21: Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- BC-16/22: International cooperation and coordination with other organizations
- BC-16/23: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange
- BC-16/24: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes
- BC-16/25: From science to action
- BC-16/26: Dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- BC-16/27: Amendments to the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- BC-16/28: Programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2024–2025

## BC-16/1: Strategic framework

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Recalls* decision BC-13/1 on the Strategic Framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal for 2012–2021, and the draft report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Also recalls* decision BC-15/3 on the strategic framework, in which it decided to improve, as appropriate, the strategic framework for the period 2012–2021, taking into account the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework as reflected in the decisions adopted at its fifteenth meeting and on the lessons learned in the preparation of the report,<sup>2</sup> especially those pertaining to technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer and cooperation, including through strengthened and coordinated actions of regional centres;
3. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for Parties and others;
4. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the lead country, Canada, and the small intersessional working group on the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for the period 2012–2021;
5. *Also welcomes* the recommendations to improve the strategic framework for the period 2012–2021 developed by the small intersessional working group established in paragraph 6 of decision BC-13/1,<sup>3</sup> taking into account the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group;
6. *Decides* that a draft renewed strategic framework should be developed, taking into account the recommendations referred to in paragraph 5 of the present decision;
7. *Also decides* that the small intersessional working group will continue to work and be open to all Parties, inviting representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations, and to observers, including the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;
8. *Invites* Parties to nominate additional members to the small intersessional working group with specific knowledge and expertise in the evaluation of strategic plans, programmes, treaties or the national implementation of the Basel Convention to serve as members of the working group and to nominate such experts by 30 September 2023, and requests the Secretariat to facilitate the nomination process;
9. *Also invites* Parties to consider serving as lead country in the development of the renewed strategic framework referred to in paragraph 6 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat by 30 September 2023 of their willingness to do so;
10. *Decides* that the small intersessional working group will operate by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, will also hold face-to-face meetings;
11. *Requests* the small intersessional working group, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the present decision, to:
  - (a) Prepare a draft renewed strategic framework for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;
  - (b) Prepare a revised renewed strategic framework, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting, taking into account the outcome of the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group;

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/5, annex.

<sup>2</sup> For example, the reports of meetings of the small intersessional working group and submissions from Parties, which are available at <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/StrategicFramework/Overview/tabid/3807/Default.aspx>.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/5: Recommendations to improve, as appropriate, the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for the period 2012–2021.

12. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support the small intersessional working group in its work, including by organizing one face-to-face meeting during the biennium 2023–2024, and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

## BC-16/2: Work to improve the prior informed consent procedure

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the compilation and synthesis of information received from Parties and observers on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and on best practices, possible approaches, initiatives and views to improve the functioning of the procedure;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group open to all Parties, with the aim of balanced representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations, to identify challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure under the Basel Convention and best practices, possible approaches and initiatives to improve its functioning, taking into account the compilation and synthesis of information received from Parties and observers set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/6, the discussion during the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, views expressed at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and ongoing work under the Convention, and to develop recommendations for improving the functioning of the procedure, avoiding duplication of work and ensuring consistency;
3. *Invites* Parties and observers to nominate experts with relevant knowledge of and expertise in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure to participate in the small intersessional working group, and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 September 2023;
4. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead countries for the work referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat by 30 September 2023 of their willingness to do so;
5. *Invites* Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat by 30 September 2023 information on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and on best practices, possible approaches and initiatives to improve its functioning;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available the information received pursuant to paragraph 5 of the present decision on the website of the Convention and prepare a compilation of the information received, subject to the availability of resources, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;
7. *Requests* the lead country or countries or, in the absence of a lead country, the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare a report on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and best practices, possible approaches and initiatives to improve its functioning, as well as options for possible ways forward, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;
8. *Decides* that the small intersessional working group will operate by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, will also hold face-to-face meetings;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/6, annex.

## BC-16/3: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the small intersessional working group established by paragraph 9 of decision OEWG-I/4 to the tasks pertaining to technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;
2. *Adopts* the following technical guidelines:
  - (a) General technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds;<sup>2</sup>
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision to Parties and others in the six official languages of the United Nations;
4. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group established by paragraph 9 of decision OEWG-I/4 to provide for the group to monitor and assist in the review, updating and preparation, as appropriate, of technical guidelines regarding persistent organic pollutants, working in particular by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, through face-to-face meetings;
5. *Recognizes* that in some cases provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values have been established at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties and that in other cases knowledge limitations have posed challenges to the setting of such values, and that therefore a review of provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values is recommended;
6. *Decides* to continue working towards a review of the provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values included in the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, and in other technical guidelines, as appropriate, before the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
7. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 October 2023, comments on the low persistent organic pollutant content values included in the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, and in other technical guidelines, as appropriate; and examples of waste streams with low persistent organic pollutant content values above or below the values applied at the national level, along with related information, including on studies, taking into account relevant information available in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
8. *Decides* that the updating of the general technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision and the preparation or updating of specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention by decisions SC-11/9, SC-11/10 and SC-11/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention should be included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2024–2025, including with regard to the following:
  - (a) Establishment of the levels of destruction and irreversible transformation for the chemicals necessary to ensure that, when disposed of, they do not exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D to the Stockholm Convention;
  - (b) Determination of which disposal methods constitute environmentally sound disposal as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.1/Rev.1.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.2/Rev.1.

(c) Establishment, as appropriate, of the concentration levels of the chemicals in order to define for them the low persistent organic pollutant content referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;

9. *Invites* Parties to indicate to the Secretariat by 31 August 2023 their willingness to take the lead in updating or preparing the following technical guidelines, in accordance with paragraph 8 of the present decision:

(a) Updating the general technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, taking into account decisions SC-11/9, SC-11/10 and SC-11/11;

(b) Updating the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, or tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, or decabromodiphenyl ether to include Dechlorane Plus, taking into account decision SC-11/10;

(c) Updating the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, chlordane, chlordecone, dicofol, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, lindane, mirex, pentachlorobenzene, pentachlorophenol and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, technical endosulfan and its related isomers or toxaphene or with hexachlorobenzene as an industrial chemical to include methoxychlor, taking into account decision SC-11/9;

(d) Preparing new technical guidelines on UV-328, taking into account decision SC-11/11;

10. *Invites* the lead Parties, if any, for the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 9 of the present decision, and requests the Secretariat, if there is no lead Party, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare draft technical guidelines in accordance with paragraph 9 of the present decision, taking into account the comments and information provided pursuant to paragraph 7 of the present decision, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;

11. *Requests* the small intersessional working group to prepare a draft analysis of candidate persistent organic pollutants recommended by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee for listing in annexes A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention in order to identify whether technical guidelines will need to be updated or developed for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a compilation of the comments and information received pursuant to paragraph 7 of the present decision, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;

(b) To continue to provide, subject to the availability of resources, training to developing-country Parties and other Parties in need of assistance in using the adopted technical guidelines, organizing such activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres or by other appropriate means;

(c) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

## BC-16/4: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the Governments of China, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as co-lead countries, and the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 20 of decision BC-14/13 to the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes;
2. *Adopts* the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes;<sup>1</sup>
3. *Acknowledges* the need for further information on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes through all the technologies listed in section G and appendix A;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To disseminate the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision to Parties and others in the six official languages of the United Nations;
  - (b) To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, technical assistance activities to support developing-country Parties and other Parties needing assistance in using the adopted technical guidelines, organizing such activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres or by other appropriate means;
  - (c) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.3/Rev.1.

## **BC-16/5: Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention**

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the expert working group established by paragraph 4 of decision BC-13/5 to the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention;
2. *Adopts* on an interim basis the revised technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention;<sup>1</sup>
3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the expert working group established by paragraph 4 of decision BC-13/5;
4. *Invites* Parties and others to use and/or test, on a pilot basis, the technical guidelines adopted on an interim basis referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision and to submit, by 30 April 2024, the results of their use and/or testing of the technical guidelines to the Secretariat for consideration by the expert working group;
5. *Requests* the expert working group, taking into account, among other things, the submissions received in accordance with paragraph 4 of the present decision, to prepare updated technical guidelines, and to submit them for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To continue to undertake, subject to the availability of resources, technical assistance activities to support developing-country Parties and other Parties in need of assistance in using the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision, organizing such activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres or by other appropriate means;
  - (b) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/10/Rev.1.



## BC-16/6: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and on other waste batteries

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the Governments of China and Uruguay<sup>1</sup> and by the European Union,<sup>2</sup> as co-leads, and by the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision BC-15/11 to the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and other waste batteries;
2. *Takes note* of the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries<sup>3</sup> and of the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of other waste batteries;<sup>4</sup>
3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group;
4. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate additional experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 September 2023;
5. *Also invites* Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat by 30 September 2023 comments on the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and on the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of other waste batteries referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision, and requests the Secretariat to make the comments available on the Convention website;
6. *Requests* the co-leads, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of other waste batteries, taking into account the discussion during the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the comments received pursuant to paragraph 5 of the present decision, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Co-lead only for the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries.

<sup>2</sup> Co-lead only for the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of other waste batteries.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/12/Rev.1.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/13/Rev.1.

## **BC-16/7: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres**

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* with appreciation the contributions made by the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision BC-15/15 to the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres;
2. *Takes note* of the comments received on the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres;<sup>1</sup>
3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision BC-15/15;
4. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate additional experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 September 2023;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres, taking into account the discussion during the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Wastetyres/Technicalguidelines/CommentsBC1515wastetyres/tabid/9457/Default.aspx>.

## BC-16/8: Cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the report on the status of work of the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System related to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Invites* Parties and others to provide information to the Secretariat with a view to assisting the Secretariat in facilitating the inclusion of waste covered by the Basel Convention in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System pursuant to decision BC-14/9;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To continue to develop, for submission to the World Customs Organization, proposals for amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to allow the identification of the types of wastes set out in subparagraph 3 (a) of decision BC-14/9 that have not already been included in a proposal;
  - (b) To make the information received pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision available on the website of the Convention;
  - (c) To take into account the information received from Parties and others pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision in preparing proposals to amend the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to allow the identification of the types of waste set out in subparagraph 3 (a) of decision BC-14/9 and in facilitating the review of such proposals by the Harmonized System Committee and relevant subcommittees of the World Customs Organization;
  - (d) To continue, under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group, its cooperation with the Harmonized System Committee and relevant subcommittees of the World Customs Organization in order to facilitate the inclusion of wastes covered by the Basel Convention in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System;
  - (e) To report on progress achieved in the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/15.

## BC-16/9: National reporting

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Encourages* Parties that have not yet done so to transmit to the Secretariat their national reports for the year 2021 and for previous years as soon as possible;
2. *Takes note* of the information on the provision by Parties of information on waste generation in their national reports<sup>1</sup> and invites Parties that have not yet done so to include such information in their national reports at least once every four years and to provide detailed national statistics on the generation of waste types for which practical guidance on the development of inventories is available;<sup>2</sup>
3. *Recognizes* the importance of the submission of national reports by Parties and information provided therein on the generation, import, export and disposal of hazardous wastes for indicators 12.4.1,<sup>3</sup> 12.4.2<sup>4</sup> and 12.5.1<sup>5</sup> for measuring progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 12<sup>6</sup> and encourages Parties to strengthen their efforts to include such information in their national reports;
4. *Invites* Parties to inform the Secretariat, by 31 December 2023, of the types of waste streams for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories would be useful;
5. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group to consider, at its fourteenth meeting, the types of waste streams for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories would be useful, as identified by Parties in accordance with paragraph 4 above, and to prepare recommendations thereon for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To continue to develop the electronic reporting system and to support Parties in using it;
  - (b) Also to continue to develop, subject to the availability of resources, practical guidance on the development of inventories of waste cartridges and toners and olive oil milling waste for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;
  - (c) To continue to undertake, subject to the availability of resources, pilot projects to test the practical guidance on the development of an inventory of plastic waste, obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste, and waste batteries containing lithium, and to prepare, on the basis of the outcomes of those projects and comments received from Parties and observers on their experience in using the guidance, revised practical guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;
  - (d) To continue, subject to the availability of resources, to provide training to developing countries and other countries that need assistance to meet their reporting obligations, in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, and in doing so to prioritize capacity-building for Parties to develop national inventories and national legislation hand in hand, in

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/16, annex, sect. II.

<sup>2</sup> Decisions BC-13/8 and BC-15/13.

<sup>3</sup> “Number of Parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement”, as adopted by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session and recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35), chap. I, sect. A).

<sup>4</sup> “Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment”, as adopted by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session and recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35), chap. I, sect. A).

<sup>5</sup> “National recycling rate, tons of material recycled”, as adopted by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session and recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35), chap. I, sect. A).

<sup>6</sup> “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”, as adopted by the Statistical Commission at its forty-eighth session and recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35), chap. I, sect. A).

order to build on the approach taken by the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance;<sup>7</sup>

(e) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/Compliance/SpecificSubmissionsActivities/Currentsubmissions/tabid/2310/Default.aspx>.

## BC-16/10: Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Welcoming with appreciation* the work of the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision BC-15/14,

1. *Takes note* of the report with recommendations on the next steps regarding the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the small intersessional working group;<sup>1</sup>

2. *Reiterates* its invitation to Parties and observers willing to do so to work on pilot projects on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account the experiences of other Parties and of non-Parties, and the work carried out by other international organizations, and to submit their lessons learned to the Secretariat;

3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision BC-15/14;

4. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead countries for the work referred to in paragraph 5 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat by 31 July 2023 of their willingness to do so;

5. *Requests* the lead country or countries or, if there is no lead country or countries, the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to advance the work and to prepare a report with further recommendations on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account the experiences of Parties and non-Parties, including from pilot projects, the report with recommendations on the next steps regarding the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the small intersessional working group,<sup>2</sup> the comments received thereon,<sup>3</sup> the report of the first consultative workshop on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents of the Basel Convention,<sup>4</sup> and the discussions at the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group<sup>5</sup> and the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To organize, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, technical assistance activities and awareness-raising events in order to help Parties advance the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents of the Basel Convention;

(b) To make available on the website of the Convention lessons learned and information about pilot projects as referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision;

(c) To report to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/17.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Controllingtransboundarymovements/eapproachesfornotificationandmovement/Overview/CommentsBC1411decision/tabid/8359/Default.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/62.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/20/Add.1.

## BC-16/11: Further consideration of plastic waste

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics,<sup>1</sup> and of the compilation of inputs from Parties at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Decides* to include in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2024–2025, under topic II.D on further consideration of plastic waste, the consideration of further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste, as well as in the consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

3. *Invites* Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, by 28 February 2024, comments on the further activities referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available the comments received pursuant to paragraph 3 of the present decision on the website of the Convention, and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/18.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/62.

## BC-16/12: Updating existing guidance, technical guidelines and fact sheets in order to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the e-waste amendments

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare draft updates of the following documents in order to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, set out in decision BC-15/18 and known as the “e-waste amendments”:

(a) Practical guidance for the development of inventories of waste electrical and electronic equipment (version of April 2017);<sup>1</sup>

(b) Revised fact sheets on specific waste streams;<sup>2</sup>

(c) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with hexabromocyclododecane;<sup>3</sup>

(d) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, or tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, or decabromodiphenyl ether;<sup>4</sup>

(e) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, polychlorinated terphenyls, polychlorinated naphthalenes or polybrominated biphenyls including hexabromobiphenyl;<sup>5</sup>

(f) Guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment;<sup>6</sup>

(g) Revised guideline on environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and repair of used computing equipment;<sup>7</sup>

(h) Revised guideline on environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment;<sup>8</sup>

(i) Report with environmentally sound management criteria recommendations;<sup>9</sup>

(j) Report on strategies, actions and incentives to promote environmentally sound management of end-of-life-computing equipment;<sup>10</sup>

(k) Manual on Steps to Establish and Implement Environmentally Sound Management for Used and Waste Computing Equipment;<sup>11</sup>

2. *Decides* to include the following sentence at the beginning of the guidance document on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones:<sup>12</sup> “This guidance document does not reflect the amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention, set out in decision BC-15/18 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting”;

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/Guidanceoninventoryofhazardouswastes/tabid/8755/Default.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/7/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.7/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.14/7/Add.3/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.4/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/31/Rev.1, annex I.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/CHW.11/INF/12/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/CHW.11/INF/13/Rev.1, annex.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/PACEII/PACE/PACEGuidanceDocument/tabid/3246/Default.aspx>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/13, annex III.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/MPPI/MPPIGuidanceDocument/tabid/3250/Default.aspx>.



3. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit the draft updates of the documents referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision, once updated to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the e-waste amendments, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

## BC-16/13: Waste containing nanomaterials

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by Parties and observers related to activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Invites* Parties and observers to make available to the Secretariat, by 31 December 2023, any new information related to activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials, including case studies about and best practices relating to the management of waste containing nanomaterials;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To make available on the website of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal the information referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;
  - (b) To organize activities, subject to the availability of resources, to raise awareness among Parties of activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials, including case studies about and best practices relating to the management of waste containing nanomaterials collected pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision;
  - (c) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.basel.int/tabid/7619/Default.aspx](http://www.basel.int/tabid/7619/Default.aspx).

## **BC-16/14: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance**

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretariat on the work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Committee in the implementation of its work programme for the biennium 2022–2023 and the conclusions reached to improve timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention,<sup>2</sup> prevent and combat illegal traffic,<sup>3</sup> improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention,<sup>4</sup> improve the implementation of and compliance with Article 5 of the Convention<sup>5</sup> and enhance cooperation with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;<sup>6</sup>

### **I**

#### **Specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance**

3. *Welcomes* the resolution of the implementation and compliance matter set out in one specific submission;<sup>7</sup>
4. *Encourages* Parties concerned with a specific submission to cooperate with the Committee with a view to resolving the matter of concern;

### **II**

#### **Review of general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention**

##### **National reporting: classification of compliance performance**

5. *Encourages* Parties that appear to have transmitted an incomplete national report for 2018 or 2019 to review the draft classifications of compliance performance prepared by the Committee<sup>8</sup> and to provide feedback with a view to strengthening overall implementation of and compliance with paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention;

##### **National reporting: integration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks**

6. *Encourages* Parties, resident coordinators and relevant members of United Nations country teams to cooperate with the Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate to improve implementation and compliance with the national reporting obligation, including by replying to the Committee's questionnaire seeking information with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address those needs in their cooperation frameworks;

##### **National reporting: dialogue with Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and international bodies and organizations**

7. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme (including the secretariat of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/13.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/20.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/21.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/23.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/25.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/24.

<sup>7</sup> Submission regarding Liberia.

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/20, annexes I and II.

Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) and other entities, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions, to cooperate with the Committee, including by replying to the Committee's questionnaire seeking information on their activities aimed at assisting Parties in transmitting their national reports and by participating in dialogues organized by the Committee pursuant to its work programme, so that the Committee can fulfil its mandate to improve implementation and compliance with the national reporting obligation;

#### **Illegal traffic: scoping exercise**

8. *Decides*, in order to facilitate access to and analysis of the information transmitted by Parties about cases of illegal traffic, to initiate a review and revision of table 9 of the reporting format, as well as of the manual for completing the format for national reporting, taking into account the information set out in the reports on the scoping exercises considered by the Committee pursuant to its work programmes for the bienniums 2020–2021 and 2022–2023<sup>9</sup> and the Committee's findings;<sup>10</sup>

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the information mentioned in paragraph 8 of the present decision, possible revisions to table 9 of the reporting format and to the manual for completing the format for national reporting, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

#### **Illegal traffic: national coordination mechanisms and dissemination of guidance and tools**

10. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Maritime Organization, the World Trade Organization, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law and other relevant organizations and entities to cooperate with the Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate to improve implementation of and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention, including by replying to the Committee's questionnaire seeking information on their activities aimed at assisting Parties in enhancing coordination between their competent authorities and enforcement entities and their activities aimed at disseminating guidance and tools developed under the Convention to prevent and combat illegal traffic;

11. *Encourages* Parties to cooperate with the Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate in relation to preventing and combating illegal traffic, including by replying to the Committee's questionnaire seeking information on their activities to enhance coordination and increase the flow of information between their competent authorities and enforcement entities, and between themselves and the Secretariat;

#### **Illegal traffic: responses to question 1 (c) of the reporting format**

12. *Encourages* the 110 Parties that transmitted a report for 2019 to review the draft classification of Parties' compliance performance in relation to the obligations set out in Article 9 of the Convention, prepared using the legislator's checklist, and to provide feedback with a view to strengthening progress towards overall implementation of and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention;

#### **National legislation: self-review of legislation implementing the Basel Convention**

13. *Decides* to amend the checklist for the legislator<sup>11</sup> by adding Article 4A with a footnote reading "This provision only binds Parties that have consented to be bound by it", and the following text as a description of the obligation: "If a Party listed in Annex VII to the Convention makes

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/CHW/CC.14/4/Add.1 and UNEP/CHW/CC.15/4/Add.1.

<sup>10</sup> For the Committee's findings during its fourteenth meeting, see annex I to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/14. For the Committee's findings during its fifteenth meeting, see annex I to document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/21.

<sup>11</sup> The legislator's checklist is set out in annex I to the Manual for the Implementation of the Basel Convention, adopted in decision BC-12/7 and available in document UNEP/CHW.12/9/Add.4/Rev.1 and as a publication at [www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/GuidanceManuals/tabid/2364/Default.aspx](http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/GuidanceManuals/tabid/2364/Default.aspx).

provision for the obligation to prohibit all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes which are destined for operations according to section A of Annex IV and all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes under paragraph 1 (a) of Article 1 of the Convention which are destined for operations according to section B of Annex IV, to States not listed in Annex VII”;

14. *Welcomes* the self-review of legislation implementing the Convention undertaken by 49 Parties using the legislator’s checklist and invites those Parties to consider updating their self-review if needed and, where applicable, to specifically review whether their legislation reflects the amendments pursuant to decision BC-III/1 on amendment to the Basel Convention (Ban Amendment), decision BC-14/12 on amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention (plastic waste amendments) and decision BC-15/18 on amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention (e-waste amendments);<sup>12</sup>

15. *Invites* the Parties that have yet to undertake a self-review of their legislation implementing the Convention using the legislator’s checklist to do so and also to provide, where applicable, information on their legislative implementation of the Ban Amendment, plastic waste amendments and e-waste amendments;

16. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, upon request, to support Parties in undertaking a self-review of their legislation;

**National legislation: activities of the Secretariat aimed at assisting Parties in reviewing or developing legislation implementing the Basel Convention**

17. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, to continue to assist Parties in developing or reviewing legislation implementing the Basel Convention, directly or in cooperation with other partners, as appropriate;

**National legislation: activities of other entities aimed at assisting Parties in developing legislation implementing the Basel Convention**

18. *Encourages* Parties, when identifying their technical assistance needs (for instance, when completing the Secretariat’s questionnaire on technical assistance needs, when developing the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres’ business plans, and when developing their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks), to include the development of legal frameworks implementing the Convention, including any amendments thereto as appropriate, as a priority activity;

19. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the Executive Board of 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, the United Nations Environment Programme, and other entities, such as United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as the Global Environment Facility in the context of relevant activities funded under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to include or seek the inclusion of the transmission of legal frameworks implementing the Convention to the Secretariat as a concrete output of their activities or of activities funded by them, to support Parties in implementing the Convention;

20. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks, to participate as observers in the Secretariat’s technical assistance activities (webinars, regional workshops, country-level activities) aimed at supporting Parties in developing legal frameworks implementing the Convention.

**National legislation: dialogue with Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and international bodies and organizations**

21. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme, including the secretariats of the Special Programme and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and other entities, such as Food and

<sup>12</sup> The e-waste amendments will come into effect on 1 January 2025.

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions, to cooperate with the Committee to enable it to fulfil its mandate to improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention, including by replying to the Committee's questionnaire seeking information on their activities aimed at assisting Parties in developing legal frameworks for the implementation of the Basel Convention and participating in dialogues organized by the Committee pursuant to its work programme, so as to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate;

#### **National legislation: review of legislation**

22. *Welcomes* the information provided by three Parties that had either not indicated whether they had national legislation implementing the Convention or had indicated that they did not have such legislation, on the reasons for the lack of legislation or other measures and on steps that could be taken to resolve the matter;

23. *Invites* the Parties that have yet to indicate whether they have national legislation implementing the Convention or have already indicated that they do not have such legislation to engage with the Committee within the scope of its work programme for the biennium 2024–2025;

#### **Country contacts**

24. *Reminds* Parties of the obligation to inform the Secretariat within one month of the date of decision of any changes regarding the designation of focal point and competent authorities made pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 5 of the Basel Convention and requests the Secretariat to update the information on the Convention website on the basis of the information received;

### **III**

#### **Work programme for the biennium 2024–2025**

25. *Approves* the work programme of the Committee for the biennium 2024–2025 set out in the annex to the present decision;

26. *Requests* the Committee:

(a) To establish priorities, work methods and schedules for the activities in its work programme and to coordinate with the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, the Secretariat and the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to avoid duplication of activities;

(b) To consult Parties, in advance of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on a draft work programme for the biennium 2026–2027;

(c) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting on the work it has carried out to fulfil its functions, in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of the terms of reference of the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance;

### **IV**

#### **Election of members of the Committee**

27. *Elects*, in accordance with the terms of reference of the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Basel Convention,<sup>13</sup> the following members to serve on the Committee until the close of the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

##### **African States:**

Thomas Ntumba Kasonga (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

Khawla Elbashir Awad allah Mohamed (Sudan)

<sup>13</sup> See appendix to decision VI/12.

**Asia-Pacific States:**

Hassan Azhar (Maldives)

Sameera Mohamed Aldosari (Qatar)

**Eastern European States:**

Katrin Kaare (Estonia)

Kristine Vardanashvili (Georgia)

**Latin American and Caribbean States:**

Nneka Nicholas (Antigua and Barbuda)

Irina Talamoni (Argentina)

**Western European and other States:**

Jason Dunn (Australia)

Sonja Dünnwald (Germany)

## Annex to decision BC-16/14

### Work programme of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance for the biennium 2024–2025

#### I. Review of general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<b>1. National reporting</b> Improve timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention	<p>(a) Classify and, as appropriate, publish information on Parties' compliance with their annual national reporting obligations for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 based on the assumptions, criteria and categories adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting<sup>1</sup> and the targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;<sup>2</sup></p> <p>(b) Develop recommendations on the revision of the targets referred to in paragraph 10 of decision BC-15/17 for the reports due for 2022 and subsequent years;</p> <p>(c) In cooperation, as appropriate, with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, monitor United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their cooperation frameworks, identifying best practices and, on the basis of the assessment, developing recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>(d) Establish a dialogue with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the Executive Board of 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 (SAICM), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), SAICM and other entities such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in the implementation of their obligation to transmit national reports, and develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>(e) Consider whether a review of the information provided in tables 4 and 5 of the national reports for the years 2020 and 2021, taking into account relevant experience of Parties, could help identify discrepancies in the information reported by Parties and make recommendations accordingly through consultations with the Open-Ended Working Group;</p> <p>(f) Consider elaborating and further assessing measures not included under paragraphs 20 (a) and (b) of the terms of reference of the Committee that may be required when a Party has not submitted its national report for two or more years since the report due in 2016, and report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.</p>
<b>2. Illegal traffic</b> Prevent and combat illegal traffic	<p><b>Scoping exercise:</b></p> <p>(a) Review the information provided in table 9 of the national reports transmitted for the years 2020 and 2021 with a view to estimating: (i) how many cases of illegal traffic there were; (ii) with respect to which wastes (including regionally based information); (iii) in which regions; and (iv) how they were resolved; and make recommendations based on the outcome of the review;</p>

<sup>1</sup> Decision BC-13/9, para. 12.

<sup>2</sup> Decision BC-15/17.



<i>Objective</i>	<i>Activity</i>
	<p>(b) Assess the reasons for which Parties do not complete or have difficulties in completing table 9 of the reporting format and what measures could be recommended to the Conference of the Parties towards improving the rate of completion of table 9 as well as the quality of information provided therein;</p> <p>(c) Identify discrepancies in the information reported by Parties on cases that could constitute illegal traffic and make recommendations based on the outcome of the review.</p>
	<p><b>National coordination mechanisms</b></p> <p>(d) Monitor activities undertaken by the Secretariat, the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UNEP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other entities that are aimed at assisting Parties in enhancing coordination between their competent authorities and enforcement entities and make recommendations based on the outcome of the monitoring;</p> <p>(e) Monitor activities undertaken by Parties to enhance coordination and increase the flow of information between their competent authorities and enforcement entities, and between themselves and the Secretariat;</p> <p>(f) Develop recommendations to improve implementation of and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention.</p>
	<p><b>Responses to question 1 (c) of the reporting format</b></p> <p>(g) Review the texts of national legislation and other measures adopted by Parties to implement and enforce the Convention, their responses to question 1 (c) of the national reports for 2021, the outcome of Parties' self-review of their legislation and, using the legislator's checklist,<sup>3</sup> classify Parties' compliance performance in relation to the obligations set out in Article 9 of the Convention.</p>
	<p><b>Dialogue</b></p> <p>(h) Establish a dialogue and coordinate with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, relevant international organizations and cooperate with compliance bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic and develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.</p>
	<p><b>Cooperative arrangements including the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)</b></p> <p>(i) Maintain under review the activities of ENFORCE, particularly any developments that stem from any of the recommendations made by the Committee to the Conference of the Parties, subject to their adoption, and consider, at the next Committee meeting, whether the arrangements pertaining to ENFORCE need to be strengthened further.</p>
	<p><b>Dissemination of guidance and tools</b></p> <p>(j) Monitor activities undertaken by Parties, the Secretariat, the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, IMPEL, INTERPOL, UNEP, UNODC, WCO and other entities aimed at disseminating guidance and tools developed under the Convention that aim to prevent and combat illegal traffic.</p>

<sup>3</sup> The legislator's checklist is set out in annex I to the Manual for the Implementation of the Basel Convention, adopted by decision BC-12/7 and available in document UNEP/CHW.12/9/Add.4/Rev.1 and as a publication at [www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/GuidanceManuals/tabid/2364/Default.aspx](http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/GuidanceManuals/tabid/2364/Default.aspx).

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<b>3. National legislation</b> Improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention	<p>(a) Invite Parties that have yet to undertake a self-review of their legislation for implementing the Convention, using the legislator's checklist, to do so and also provide, where applicable, information on their legislative implementation of the Ban Amendment, the plastic wastes amendments and the e-waste amendments;</p> <p>(b) Invite the 49 Parties that undertook a self-review of their legislation for implementing the Convention, using the legislator's checklist, to consider updating their self-review if needed, and, where applicable, to specifically review whether their legislation reflects the Ban Amendment, the plastic wastes amendments and the e-waste amendments;<sup>4</sup></p> <p>(c) Consider general trends with the implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention;</p> <p>(d) Monitor progress achieved by Parties in transmitting to the Secretariat texts of national legislation and other measures adopted by them to implement and enforce the Convention; giving adequate consideration to improving the implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention, where applicable, with respect to the Ban Amendment, the plastic wastes amendments and the e-waste amendments;</p> <p>(e) Monitor requests from Parties received by the Secretariat for information aimed at facilitating the development and review of national legal frameworks and for the technical assistance activities of the Secretariat aimed at promoting the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention, including the Ban Amendment, the plastic wastes amendments and the e-waste amendments;</p> <p>(f) Monitor activities undertaken by or with the support of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, UNEP and other entities, including national development agencies, aimed at assisting Parties in developing legal frameworks for the implementation of the Basel Convention, including the Ban Amendment, the plastic wastes amendments and the e-waste amendments;</p> <p>(g) Establish a dialogue and coordinate with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the Executive Board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM, UNEP and other entities, such as FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNIDO, the World Bank and other relevant financial institutions, on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in performing their obligations related to the development of legal frameworks to implement and enforce the Convention, including the Ban Amendment, the plastic wastes amendments and the e-waste amendments;</p> <p>(h) Review, subject to the availability of resources and according to the priorities established by the Conference of the Parties for the given biennium, Parties' implementation of the Convention in national law, starting with Parties that have not yet provided information to the Secretariat as to whether they have national legislation implementing the Convention,<sup>5</sup> also taking into account the information received by three Parties under the work programme of the Committee for the biennium 2022–2023,<sup>6</sup> for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth and subsequent meetings;<sup>7</sup></p> <p>(i) Develop recommendations on how to improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention.</p>
<b>4. Review and updating</b> Generally improve the implementation of and compliance with the Convention	<p>(a) Regularly review the guidance developed by the Committee on the basis of periodic feedback from users and suggestions from stakeholders and in the light of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on the updating of the guidance;</p>

<sup>4</sup> The e-waste amendments will come into effect on 1 January 2025.

<sup>5</sup> See document UNEP/CHW.16/15.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW/CC.15/INF/9.

<sup>7</sup> Appropriate allocations in the budget to provide support for the Committee to undertake this work are recommended, along with allocations in the technical assistance budget specifically to help individual Parties with implementation of the Basel Convention.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Activity</i>
	(b) Update, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties and subject to the availability of resources, the Guide to the Control System and the Manual for the Implementation of the Basel Convention by including, as relevant, references to the Ban Amendment, the plastic wastes amendments, the e-waste amendments, the glossary of terms, and technical guidelines and new guidance adopted since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
<b>5. Country contacts</b> Improve the implementation of and compliance with Article 5 of the Convention	Review Parties' implementation of and compliance with the obligation to designate competent authorities and a focal point pursuant to Article 5, including any common difficulties or issues being faced by Parties with respect to the obligation to inform the Secretariat, within one month of the date of decision, of any changes made by them to the designation of such country contacts, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
<b>6. Enhanced cooperation with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention</b>	Enhance cooperation with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention to facilitate compliance through the exchange of views and information between the committees on activities, operations and processes of joint interest, including as appropriate during joint sessions of the meetings of the committees, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
<b>7. Integration in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks</b>	Provide guidance, including through consultation with the Open-ended Working Group, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting, on how individual Parties can integrate action to address their needs under the Basel Convention into their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

## II. Specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance

1. The Committee shall accord priority to dealing with specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance received or initiated in accordance with paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance.
2. In relation to the implementation fund, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Secretary on the allocation of the available resources from the fund during the period between the sixteenth and seventeenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to assist Parties in the context of the facilitation procedure set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the terms of reference of the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance. The resources are intended to fund activities listed in the compliance action plans presented by Parties in relation to specific submissions and approved by the Committee.

## BC-16/15: Providing further legal clarity

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the expert working group on the review of Annexes I, III and IV in the review of Annexes I and III<sup>1</sup> and takes note of the draft recommendations and findings developed by the group;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Requests* the expert working group:

(a) To consider the proposals by the European Union to amend Annex IV and certain entries in Annexes II and IX to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal<sup>3</sup> and the recommendations and findings of the expert working group,<sup>4</sup> taking into account decision BC-15/19, the discussions at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the discussions at the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the discussions at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,<sup>5</sup> and develop revised amendment proposals on Annex IV for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;

(b) To continue to develop draft recommendations on the review of Annexes I and III, taking into account the discussions at the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, the discussions at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the written general comments submitted at that meeting,<sup>6</sup> for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;

3. *Decides* to consider at its seventeenth meeting the revised amendment proposals for Annex IV and the draft recommendations on the review of Annexes I and III, taking into account the outcome of the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and any further developments from the expert working group after the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/8.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/27, annexes.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/13/Add.1.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/26, annexes.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/26/Rev.1, annex II.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/27/Rev.1, annex III.

## BC-16/16: National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* decision BC-16/24 on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes,

*Noting also* decision BC-16/14 on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance,

1. *Encourages* the Secretariat to continue to develop and provide implementation and enforcement activities to support Parties;
2. *Recalls* decision BC-15/20, in which it invited enforcement organizations and networks to continue to actively engage in preventing and combating illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes and to continue their collaboration with the Secretariat on activities aimed at assisting Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic;
3. *Reminds* Parties of the importance of establishing and updating legislative or administrative frameworks to fulfil their obligations, in particular under paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and by incorporating into their national legislation appropriate sanctions or penalties for illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes;
4. *Invites* Parties to continue to share information, through the Secretariat, on best practices in preventing and combating illegal traffic and to report cases of illegal traffic to the Secretariat using the prescribed form for confirmed cases of illegal traffic or table 9 of the format for national reporting;
5. *Encourages* Parties that have not yet provided the Secretariat with information on national definitions of hazardous wastes as required under Article 3 and paragraph 2 (b) of Article 13 of the Convention, or any information on import or export restrictions or prohibitions as required under paragraph 1 (a) and (b) of Article 4 of the Convention and paragraph 2 (c) and (d) of Article 13 of the Convention, to do so as soon as possible and to report, through their designated focal points, any subsequent significant change in that information using the standardized reporting format or the format for national reporting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To continue to maintain and update the collection of best practices for preventing and punishing illegal traffic, forms for reporting confirmed cases of illegal traffic, information on national definitions of hazardous wastes, and information on import or export restrictions or prohibitions, and to continue to make that information available on the Convention website;
  - (b) To make information on national definitions of hazardous wastes, and information on import or export restrictions or prohibitions available in the six official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of resources;
  - (c) To provide Parties, upon request, with advice on matters pertaining to the implementation and enforcement of the Convention, including on the development and updating of national legislation or other measures, and assistance in the identification of cases of illegal traffic;
  - (d) To continue to cooperate with enforcement organizations and networks;
  - (e) To further develop tools, including e-learning tools, and organize enforcement training activities, subject to the availability of resources, in collaboration with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the secretariats of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other international organizations, agencies or programmes and to assist Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to develop national legislation and other measures to implement and enforce the Convention and to prevent and punish illegal traffic;
  - (f) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

## BC-16/17: Technical assistance

*The Conference of the Parties*

### I

#### Technical assistance

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the biennium 2022–2023,<sup>1</sup> including capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and of the database summarizing technical assistance needs;<sup>2</sup>
2. *Invites* developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to submit to the Secretariat through an online questionnaire, by 31 March 2024, information on their needs for technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Parties may coordinate their replies and submit them jointly;
3. *Invites* developed-country Parties and others with the capacity to do so to submit to the Secretariat through an online questionnaire, by 31 March 2024, information on the technical assistance and technology that they have available to be transferred, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;
4. *Emphasizes* the key role of the regional centres, as described in the provisions of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, as well as the roles of the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering technical assistance upon request, particularly at the regional level, for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties, and invites the regional centres and others in a position to do so to continue to provide and prioritize capacity-building relating to legal and institutional frameworks;
5. *Encourages* Parties, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, according to their mandates and the priorities that have been established, to continue to support the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
  - (a) To continue to implement the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in cooperation with relevant actors;
  - (b) To develop online questionnaires to collect information from Parties in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present decision, to continue to update the technical assistance needs database accordingly, to make that information available on the websites of the conventions, and to prepare a report on the assessment of the information on the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance and technology transfer, based on the information submitted by Parties;
  - (c) To continue to include information on the monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken under the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the report requested in paragraph 7 of the present decision;
  - (d) To develop a technical assistance plan for the period 2026–2029, taking into account the reports referred to in subparagraphs 6 (b) and (c) of the present decision, and to present it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/25.

<sup>2</sup> [www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4898](http://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4898).

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

## II

### Regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions<sup>3</sup>

*Recalling* decisions BC-IX/10, RC-4/11 and SC-4/34 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in which Parties and other stakeholders are invited to promote the full and coordinated use of regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions and to promote coherent chemicals and waste management, bearing in mind the existing and ongoing work of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions, and recalling that this work should promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles, and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment,

8. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres in enhancing the provision of technical assistance for capacity-building to support the national efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the chemicals and waste conventions, in accordance with their core functions;

9. *Also emphasizes* the role of the regional centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and invites them to cooperate and coordinate with each other and with relevant partners in areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

10. *Takes note of:*

(a) The activity reports<sup>4, 5</sup> for the period January 2021–December 2022 submitted by the regional centres and the available business plans<sup>6</sup> or workplans<sup>7</sup> for the period January 2024–December 2027;

(b) The report on the activities of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions;<sup>8</sup>

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and of the 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat<sup>9</sup> and the summaries of the draft evaluation reports;<sup>10, 11</sup>

11. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the interim criteria and interim methodology set out in annexes I and II to decision BC-11/13, the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres established in accordance with decisions III/19, VI/6, VI/8, VII/10 and BC-14/18;<sup>12</sup>

<sup>3</sup> In decision SC-11/13, on technical assistance, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted part II, on regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, which is substantially identical to part II of the present decision.

<sup>4</sup> [www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspxx](http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspxx).

<sup>5</sup> [www.pops.int/?tabid=4112](http://www.pops.int/?tabid=4112).

<sup>6</sup> [www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspxx](http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspxx).

<sup>7</sup> [www.pops.int/?tabid=482](http://www.pops.int/?tabid=482).

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/27.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/26.

<sup>10</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/18, annex.

<sup>11</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.11/16, annex

<sup>12</sup> This paragraph is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

A<sup>13</sup>

12. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties;<sup>14</sup>

13. *Notes* the performance of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and actions in support of developing-country Parties;

14. *Endorses* for another period of four years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology listed in the annex to the present decision;

15. *Also endorses* the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region, Trinidad and Tobago, as a Stockholm Convention regional centre for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, in accordance with decision SC-3/12, for a period of four years;

## B

16. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2023–31 December 2024, by 31 December 2024, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

(b) Their business plans or workplans for the period 1 January 2024–31 December 2027, by 30 September 2023, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

17. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for consideration by the respective conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

(b) To prepare the draft evaluation reports on the performance and sustainability of all 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, in accordance with the interim criteria and interim methodology set out in annexes I and II to decision BC-11/13, and on the performance and sustainability of all 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9 and the methodology set out in annex III to decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the respective conferences of the Parties at their eighteenth and thirteenth meetings, respectively;

(c) To undertake the following activities to facilitate the work of the regional centres, subject to the availability of resources:

- (i) Organize two annual meetings of the coordinators of the Stockholm Convention regional centres and the directors of the Basel Convention regional centres, with a view to enhancing the performance of the regional centres and fostering cooperation and collaboration among them, and attend meetings of the regional centre steering committees;
- (ii) Continue to facilitate the implementation of subregional, regional and national projects, based on the business plans or workplans of regional centres, through the Regional Centre Small Grants Programme;
- (iii) Foster the activities of the regional centres to increase their visibility, highlighting the resources needed to fulfil their business plans or workplans;
- (iv) Assist the regional centres in identifying and mobilizing sources of financial support to foster implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

<sup>13</sup> This section is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

<sup>14</sup> Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21, SC-6/16 and SC-9/14.



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**III<sup>15</sup>**

18. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and Transfer of Technology, Trinidad and Tobago (SCRC-Caribbean), and of the centres listed in the annex to the present decision, and to reconsider their status as Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology at its thirteenth meeting;

19. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a draft evaluation report on the regional centres listed in paragraph 11 above, based on the methodology adopted in decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

20. *Invites* Parties, observers and institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable the regional centres to implement their business plans or workplans, with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

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<sup>15</sup> This section is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

## Annex<sup>1</sup> to decision BC-16/17

### Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres evaluated by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting and endorsed until the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centres</i>
<b>African States</b>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Algeria (SCRC-Algeria)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kenya (SCRC-Kenya)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Senegal (SCRC-Senegal)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, South Africa (SCRC-South Africa)</p>
<b>Asian and Pacific States</b>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, China (SCRC-China)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, India (SCRC-India)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Indonesia (SCRC-Indonesia)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran (SCRC-Iran)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kuwait (SCRC-Kuwait)</p>
<b>Central and Eastern European States</b>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Czechia (SCRC-Czechia)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Russian Federation (SCRC-Russian Federation)</p>
<b>Latin American and Caribbean States</b>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Brazil (SCRC-Brazil)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Mexico (SCRC-Mexico)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Panama (SCRC-Panama)</p> <p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and Transfer of Technology, Uruguay (SCRC-Uruguay)</p>
<b>Western European and other States</b>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Spain (SCRC-Spain)</p>

<sup>1</sup> This annex only applies to the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres.

# BC-16/18: Basel Convention Partnership Programme

*The Conference of the Parties*

## I

### Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste

1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the working group of the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste (hereinafter “the Partnership”) to implement its programme of work;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Invites* Parties and others who have not yet nominated members to the working group and who wish to do so to inform the Secretariat of their nominations;
3. *Approves* the programme of work of the Partnership for the biennium 2024–2025<sup>2</sup> and requests the working group of the Partnership to implement it;
4. *Requests* the working group to prepare draft guidance documents on television screens, including cathode ray tube (CRT), liquid crystal display (LCD) and light-emitting diode (LED) screens, video and audio equipment on the one hand, and on refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment on the other hand, on the basis of the tables of contents set out in annexes I and II to the relevant note by the Secretariat,<sup>3</sup> for consideration by the Open-Ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

## II

### Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic

6. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic since the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;<sup>4</sup>
7. *Invites* entities with a specific mandate to deliver implementation and enforcement capacity-building activities that could assist Parties to the Basel Convention in preventing and combating illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes to consider sending a duly motivated request to the Chair of the Network regarding admission as members of the Network;
8. *Elects* the following representatives of three Parties to the Basel Convention to serve as members of the Network until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
  - From African States: Assane Diop (Senegal);
  - From Western European and other States: Brian Heffernan (Ireland);
  - From Eastern European States: Rene Rajasalu (Estonia);
9. *Designates* the following two representatives of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to serve as members of the Network until the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
  - From the African region: Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for French-speaking countries in Africa, Senegal (BCRC-Senegal);
  - From the Eastern European region: [to be completed in the intersessional period];
10. *Encourages* members with the mandate to undertake enforcement operations activities on preventing and combating the illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes under the

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/39/Add.1, annex II.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/19/Add.1, annex.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/31.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/33, annex.

Basel Convention at the global level to jointly plan and deliver such activities in cooperation with the other members of the Network and the Secretariat, as appropriate;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

### III

#### Household Waste Partnership

12. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by the Household Waste Partnership working group to implement its workplan for the biennium 2022–2023;<sup>5</sup>

13. *Takes note* of the revised draft overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste developed by the working group;<sup>6</sup>

14. *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments on the revised draft overall guidance document mentioned in paragraph 13 of the present decision to the Secretariat by 30 September 2023;

15. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available on the Convention website the comments received pursuant to paragraph 14 of the present decision;

16. *Requests* the working group to implement the following activities, which constitute the workplan of the Household Waste Partnership for the biennium 2024–2025:

(a) Preparation of a further revised draft of the overall guidance document mentioned in paragraph 13 of the present decision, taking into account the comments received prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;<sup>7</sup> the discussions at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and any additional comments received pursuant to paragraph 14 of the present decision, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting;

(b) Activities for awareness-raising and training relating to the environmentally sound management of household waste, coordination of outreach activities, and cooperation with other organizations working on household waste management;

(c) Continued coordination of outreach activities and cooperation with other organizations working on household waste management, including the Partnership on Plastic Waste, to prevent overlap between programmes and to share lessons learned;

17. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

### IV

#### Partnership on Plastic Waste

18. *Welcomes* the activities of the working group of the Partnership on Plastic Waste to implement its workplan for the biennium 2022–2023;<sup>8</sup>

19. *Invites* Parties and others who have not yet nominated members to the working group and who wish to do so to inform the Secretariat of their nominations;

20. *Takes note* of the report on best practices and lessons learned on measures taken by key stakeholders to prevent and reduce single-use plastic waste and packaging waste,<sup>9</sup> and the compilation of national and international specifications related the Basel Convention plastic waste amendments aimed at assisting Parties in their implementation of the amendments;<sup>10</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Decision BC-15/22, para. 18.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/19/Add.2.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/HouseholdWastePartnership/OverallGuidanceDocument/tabid/8227/%20Default.aspx>.

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/CHW.14/INF/16/Rev.1, annex II, and decision BC-15/22.

<sup>9</sup> See document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/55.

<sup>10</sup> See document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/56.

21. *Approves* the workplan of the Partnership for the biennium 2024–2025<sup>11</sup> and requests the working group of the Partnership to implement it;
22. *Requests* the working group to continue to approve the work products and reports prepared by the project groups in accordance with its workplan, and to widely disseminate such information and knowledge gathered and generated through the activities of the Partnership;
23. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.

## V

### Subscription fees\*

*Having considered* the financial and staffing implications of having the Secretariat implement the annual subscription fees system as per the respective terms of reference of the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste,<sup>12</sup> the Household Waste Partnership<sup>13</sup> and the Partnership on Plastic Waste,<sup>14</sup>

24. *Considers it necessary* to withdraw the requirement to apply annual subscription fees for business and industry, non-governmental organizations and academia by amending relevant paragraphs in the terms of reference of the above-mentioned partnerships;

25. *Decides*, in relation to the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste, to amend paragraphs 13 (e), 31 (c), 32 and 33 of the Partnership's terms of reference,<sup>15</sup> as follows:

~~13. (e) Demonstrated commitment and ability to provide annual membership pledges in accordance with the financial arrangements in paragraphs 31–33, as a prerequisite for membership in the working group;~~

~~31. (c) Intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies and Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional and Coordinating Centres are welcome to make in-kind and financial contributions towards the Partnership generally or towards specific projects of the Partnership. No annual subscription would apply to these organizations.~~

~~32. Industry associations, individual companies, non-governmental organizations and academia that are members of the working group will provide contributions as an annual subscription based on the scale of assessment set out in Table 1 below. Such contributions shall be made promptly by 1 January of the year they relate to. Representatives of industry associations, individual companies, and non-government organizations will be able to participate as partners in the partnership meetings provided that their body has paid the appropriate annual subscription~~

~~33. Experts and observers invited by the officers of the working group can participate in the working group for a limited time at no charge.~~

Table 1

#### Scales of assessment for annual subscriptions to the Partnership

Total annual revenue or budget (USD)	Annual Partnership subscription (USD)
Over 2 billion	20,000
100 million to 2 billion	10,000
1 million to 100 million	5,000
Below 1 million	500

<sup>11</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/19/Add.3/Rev.1.

\* All text quoted from the terms of reference is reproduced without formal editing.

<sup>12</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/39/Add.1, annex I.

<sup>13</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33/Rev.1, annex II.

<sup>14</sup> UNEP/CHW.14/INF/16/Rev.1, annex I.

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/39/Add.1, annex I.

26. *Also decides*, in relation to the Household Waste Partnership, to amend paragraph 18 (c) of the Partnership's terms of reference<sup>16</sup> and paragraphs 2, 6, 7 and 8 of appendix II, on financial arrangements, to the terms of reference, as follows:

18. ~~(c) Demonstrated commitment and ability to provide annual membership pledges in accordance with the financial arrangements in Annex 2 as a prerequisite for membership in the working group; and~~

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<sup>16</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33/Rev.1, annex II.

## Appendix II

### Financial Arrangements

#### I. Introduction

~~2. Representatives of industry bodies or associations, individual companies, and non-government organizations would be able to participate as partners in the partnership meetings and teleconferences where their body had paid the appropriate annual subscription, based on the proposed sliding scale of assessment (see below table: Sliding scales of assessment for annual subscriptions to the partnership).~~

#### II. Contributions

6. Private Sector and Public-interest Non-governmental Organizations: Individual companies, industry associations and public-interest non-governmental organizations ~~may~~ can provide in-kind and financial contributions ~~will provide an annual subscription to participate as partners in the partnership, based on proposed sliding scales of assessment (table).~~

7. Invited Non-governmental Organization Observers and Experts may ~~can~~ provide in-kind and financial contributions ~~Non-governmental organization observers and experts invited by the partnership can participate at no charge.~~

8. Research Institutions, Academic Institutions, Regional Centres and other UN Bodies: Independent research institutes, academic institutions, Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres and other UN Bodies are welcome to attend the partnership meetings as active participants, and to make in kind and financial contributions towards its work. ~~No membership fee would apply to these organisations.~~

~~Table: Sliding scales of assessment for annual subscriptions to the partnership~~

~~Individual Companies and Producer Responsibility Organizations~~

~~Total asset (USD) — Annual contribution (USD)~~

~~Over 30 billion — \$25,000~~

~~30 billion — 20 billion — \$20,000~~

~~20 billion to 10 billion — \$15,000~~

~~10 billion — 5 million — \$10,000~~

~~Below 5 million<sup>1</sup> — \$5,000~~

~~Business Associations and  
Environmental NGOs (not for profit organizations)~~

~~Total budget (USD) — Annual contribution (USD)~~

~~Over 10 million — \$10,000~~

~~10 million to 1 million — \$3,000~~

~~1 million to 100,000 — \$1,000~~

~~Below 100,000<sup>2</sup> — \$200~~

27. *Further decides*, in relation to the Partnership on Plastic Waste, to amend paragraphs 12 (e) and 30 (b) and (c) of the Partnership's terms of reference,<sup>1</sup> as follows:

<sup>1</sup> Exemption from subscriptions may have to be considered for small scale enterprises.

<sup>2</sup> Exemption from subscriptions may have to be considered for small scale environmental non-governmental organizations.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.14/INF/16/Rev.1, annex I.

12. (e) ~~Demonstrated commitment and ability to provide annual membership pledges in accordance with the financial arrangements in paragraph 30 below as a prerequisite for membership in the working group;~~

30. (b) Business/industry, non-governmental organizations, academia: Individual companies, industry associations, non-governmental organizations and academia ~~may~~ ~~could~~ make voluntary contributions. ~~will provide an annual subscription based on proposed sliding scales of assessment set out in Table 1 below;~~ ~~representatives of industry bodies or associations, individual companies, and non-government organizations will be able to participate as partners in the Partnership meetings and teleconferences provided that their body has paid the appropriate annual subscription, based on the proposed sliding scale of assessment set out in Table 1 below.~~

30. (c) Intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies and Regional Centres: Intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies and Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional and Coordinating Centres are welcome to make in-kind and financial contributions towards the Partnership generally or towards specific projects of the Partnership. ~~No annual subscription would apply to these organisations;~~

[...]

Table 1

**Sliding scales of assessment for annual subscriptions to the Partnership**

<b>Total asset or budget (USD)</b>	<b>Annual contribution (USD)</b>
Over 2 billion	20,000
100 million to 2 billion	10,000
1 million to 100 million	5,000
Below 1 million	500

28. *Requests* the Secretariat to make other relevant non-substantive conforming changes to the above-mentioned terms of reference in relation to withdrawing the requirement to apply annual subscription fees for business and industry, non-governmental organizations and academia, and to make the amended terms of reference available on the website of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Amended terms of reference of the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste are contained in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/63; amended terms of reference of the Household Waste Partnership in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/64 and amended terms of reference of Partnership on Plastic Waste in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/65.



## BC-16/19: Framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy<sup>1</sup>

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* that environmental challenges have been increasing in magnitude and complexity while resources aimed at mitigating problems are not matching needs,

*Welcoming* the assessment of the relevance for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants of existing guidelines developed by the United Nations system on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors,<sup>2</sup>

*Recognizing* the midterm strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme aimed at coping with the three interconnected planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution,<sup>3</sup> which is set to widen and secure the resource base for the execution of its strategy,

*Noting* the intersessional process to develop an improved multi-stakeholder framework under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for the sound management of chemicals and waste, based on the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste,

*Recognizing* the urgent need to explore innovative sources of finance from non-State actors to complement the existing funding mechanism in order to assist the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

*Appreciating* the efforts of the Secretariat to mobilize resources from non-State actors,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, subject to the availability of resources, to explore, based on information reflected in the assessment of the relevance for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions of existing guidelines developed by the United Nations system on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors,<sup>4</sup> as well as other relevant documents, the development of a non-State actor resource mobilization strategy and to report on its findings to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

2. *Encourages* the Secretariat to continue the mobilization of financial resources from non-State actors to complement existing financial sources, pending the finalization of the work referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision.

<sup>1</sup> The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions RC-11/7 and SC-11/15, on a framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/37, annex.

<sup>3</sup> See UNEP/EA.5/3/Rev.1.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/37, annex.

## BC-16/20: Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2024–2025

*The Conference of the Parties*

*Adopts* the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2024–2025 as set out in the annex to the present decision.

### Annex to decision BC-16/20

#### Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2024–2025

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Priority</i>
<b>I. Strategic issues</b>			
A. Strategic framework	Consider the draft renewed strategic framework prepared by the small intersessional working group.	Decision BC-16/1	High
B. Work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure	1. Consider the compilation of information received on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and on best practices, possible approaches and initiatives to improve its functioning.	Decision BC-16/2	High
	2. Consider the report on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and best practices, possible approaches and initiatives to improve its functioning, as well as options for possible ways forward.	Decision BC-16/2	High
<b>II. Scientific and technical matters</b>			
A. Technical guidelines	1. Consider comments and information relating to the review of provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values in the general technical guidelines referred to in decision BC-16/3 and other technical guidelines, as appropriate.	Decision BC-16/3	High
	2. Update the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, and specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by decisions SC-11/9, SC-11/10 and SC-11/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, including the following:	Decision BC-16/3	High
	(a) Establishment of levels of destruction and irreversible transformation for the chemicals necessary to ensure that, when disposed of, they do not exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants specified in paragraph 1 of		

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Priority</i>
	Annex D to the Stockholm Convention;		
	(b) Determination of which disposal methods constitute environmentally sound disposal as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;		
	(c) Establishment, as appropriate, of the concentration levels of the chemicals in order to define for them low persistent organic pollutant content as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention.		
	3. Consider the report on progress in the implementation of decision BC-16/5 on technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention.	Decision BC-16/5	Medium
	4. Consider the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and on other waste batteries.	Decision BC-16/6	High
	5. Consider the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres.	Decision BC-16/7	Medium
B. National reporting	1. Consider practical guidance on the development of inventories of waste cartridges and toners and olive oil milling waste, if developed by the Secretariat.	Decision BC-16/9	Medium
	2. Consider the types of waste for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories would be useful.	Decision BC-16/9	Medium
	3. Consider the possible revisions to table 9 of the reporting format and to the manual for completing the format for national reporting.	Decision BC-16/14, para. 9	High
C. Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents	Consider the report with further recommendations on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents.	Decision BC-16/10	Medium
D. Further consideration of plastic waste	Consider possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and to health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics.	Decision BC-16/11	Medium
E. Waste containing nanomaterials	Consider information related to activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials.	Decision BC-16/13	Low

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Priority</i>
F. Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX on e-waste	Consider the updates to existing guidance, technical guidelines and fact sheets in order to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the e-waste amendments.	Decision BC-16/12	Medium
G. Amendments to the annexes to the Basel Convention	Consider and review any applications for changes and any corrections to the list of wastes contained in Annexes VIII and IX to the Basel Convention.	Decision VIII/15	High
<b>III. Legal, governance and enforcement matters</b>			
A. Providing further legal clarity	1. Consider the revised amendment proposals regarding Annex IV prepared by the expert working group on the review of annexes and provide recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.	Decision BC-16/15	High
	2. Consider progress made in the review of Annexes I and III and provide recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.	Decision BC-16/15	High
B. Consultation with the Implementation and Compliance Committee	1. Consult with the Committee on whether a review of the information provided in tables 4 and 5 of the national reports for the years 2020 and 2021, taking into account relevant experience of Parties, could help identify discrepancies in the information reported by Parties.	Decision BC-16/14	High
	2. Consult with the Committee on the provision of guidance on how individual Parties can integrate action to address their needs under the Basel Convention into their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.	Decision BC-16/14	High
<b>IV. International cooperation and coordination</b>			
A. Basel Convention Partnership Programme	1. Consider progress made in and provide guidance on the implementation of the programme of work of the working group of the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste for the biennium 2024–2025.	Decision BC-16/18	Medium
	2. Consider the revised draft of the overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste.	Decision BC-16/18	High
	3. Consider progress made in and provide guidance on the implementation of the workplan of the working group of the Household Waste Partnership for the biennium 2024–2025.	Decision BC-16/18	Medium

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Priority</i>
	4. Consider progress made in and provide guidance on the implementation of the workplan of the working group of the Partnership on Plastic Waste for the biennium 2024–2025.	Decision BC-16/18	Medium
B. Cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System	Consider progress made with regard to the inclusion of Basel Convention wastes in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.	Decision BC-16/8	Medium

## BC-16/21: Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury<sup>1</sup>

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recognizing* that the sharing of services within a stable framework will enhance cooperation and coordination based on experience and proximity and can foster the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention without undermining the autonomy of the secretariats or the accountability of their executive heads,

*Recalling* decisions BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

1. *Takes note* of the joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,<sup>2</sup> and the outline of cooperation activities planned, including for the sharing and purchase of relevant services, between the two secretariats for the biennium 2024–2025;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of continued cooperation on programmatic synergies, of the use of the task force between the two secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch, and of the possibility for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to provide secretariat support to the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of the conventions for each biennium;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue, with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, scientific and technical and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the programme of work and budget, and to explore ways to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration with the Minamata Convention;

(b) To continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium;

(c) To report on the implementation of the present decision, including on a stable framework for cooperation and for the sharing of services, providing an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the biennium 2026–2027, for the consideration of and, as necessary, further guidance by, the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

<sup>1</sup> The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions RC-11/8 and SC-11/20, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/40, annex I.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., annex II.

## BC-16/22: International cooperation and coordination with other organizations<sup>1</sup>

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January–31 December 2022,<sup>2</sup> the information provided by the secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, on the work of the committee,<sup>3</sup> the update provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020,<sup>4</sup> the information on activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme on programmatic matters pertaining to the conventions<sup>5</sup> and the information note provided by the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;<sup>6</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat and the secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue to closely cooperate and coordinate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and to participate in the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on issues relevant to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including in relation to persistent organic pollutants in plastic products;

3. *Reiterates* its invitation to Parties participating in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to ensure that the international legally binding instrument is fully coherent with and complementary to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, that it avoids the duplication of actions set out in the relevant provisions of those conventions, and that it promotes cooperation and coordination with those conventions, and to ensure that the expertise of the Secretariat and the Parties and the experience built up in implementing the conventions is fully shared to help the intergovernmental negotiating committee in its deliberations; and its encouragement to the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to participate in the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and share their expertise;

4. *Takes note* of the report entitled “Global governance of plastics and associated chemicals”<sup>7</sup> and requests the Secretariat to submit it to the intergovernmental negotiating committee, along with other information of relevance to the mandate of the committee and to promote its dissemination;

5. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue contributing to the preparation of proposals for the science-policy panel and cooperating closely with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the science-policy panel;

6. *Reiterates* its invitation to Parties participating in the ad hoc open-ended working group to promote cooperation and coordination with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as complementarity and avoidance of duplication of effort between the work of the panel and

<sup>1</sup> The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions RC-11/9 and SC-11/21, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/41.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/23–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/45.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/44.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/38–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/43.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/52–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/36–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/56.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/58–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/41–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/59, annex.

that of the conventions, and to ensure close cooperation with the scientific and technical bodies under the conventions, as appropriate,<sup>8</sup> and that the extensive experience of the science-based promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste is made available to the ad hoc open-ended working group;

7. *Reiterates* its request to the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of activities described in resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly that are relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

8. *Welcomes* the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” on the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

9. *Also welcomes* the programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme on matters of mutual interest, including in the context of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

10. *Further welcomes* the programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on matters of mutual interest;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue such programmatic cooperation efforts as described in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the present decision;

12. *Welcomes* the invitation by the heads of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, through their respective secretariat, to become a participating organization of the Programme;

13. *Decides* to accept the invitation mentioned in paragraph 12 of the present decision and requests the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, the executive secretaries of the Rotterdam Convention and the Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention to sign, on behalf of the relevant conventions, the memorandum of understanding concerning the establishment of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

14. *Requests* the executive secretaries, within their respective mandates, to represent the conventions in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

15. *Reiterates* the requests contained in paragraphs 18 and 19 of decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21 for the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with relevant organizations with regard to the contributions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

16. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To work closely with other international organizations, within their mandates, on activities related to plastic pollution;

(b) To enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and with other international bodies in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including in the areas and with the organizations listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January–31 December 2022;<sup>9</sup>

17. *Also requests* the Secretariat to enhance its cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns on issues of common interest, subject to the availability of resources;

18. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to enhance communications related to the contributions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions towards resolving the triple planetary crisis and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, and their interlinkages with the processes and instruments of other intergovernmental bodies, and to report back to the conferences of the Parties to the conventions at their next meetings;

<sup>8</sup> See paras. 5 (c), 6 (d) and 8 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/41.



19. *Invites* Parties to strengthen the visibility of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, with the goal of raising awareness of the work of the conventions and their relevant interlinkages with the processes and instruments of other intergovernmental bodies, as appropriate;
20. *Takes note* of the information on the preparation by the Secretariat of a report on interlinkages between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer<sup>10</sup> and requests the Secretariat to enhance its cooperation and coordination with the Ozone Secretariat on issues of common interest, subject to the availability of resources;
21. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen coherence and synergies across the chemicals and waste agenda at the international level, and calls on Parties to take into account the strategic objectives and targets of the global chemicals and waste framework for beyond 2020, once adopted, in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
22. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions could contribute to the global chemicals and waste framework for beyond 2020, once adopted, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;
23. *Also requests* the Secretariat to develop a proposal for the inclusion in the programme of work for the biennium 2026–2027 of activities to support the implementation of the global chemicals and waste framework for beyond 2020, once adopted, in line with the objectives of the conventions, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;
24. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and reiterates the call to Parties contained in paragraph 26 of decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21 to take into account the objectives of the Framework in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
25. *Reiterates* the requests contained in paragraph 27 of decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21 to the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 targets and 2050 goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the conventions at their next meetings;
26. *Welcomes* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/161 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and requests the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Secretary-General in fostering the implementation of that resolution, and with the advisory board of eminent persons to be set up by the Secretary-General to promote local and national zero-waste initiatives;
27. *Also welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and processes in the chemicals and waste cluster, including the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, in the training of potential chairs and negotiators for meetings of various bodies, and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue implementing such training;
28. *Notes* that actions under the conventions may contribute to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, decides to take this into account in its work, and encourages Parties to do the same when implementing the conventions;
29. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to enhance its cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on issues of common interest;
30. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings.

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<sup>10</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/59–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/37–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/42, annex.

## BC-16/23: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange<sup>1</sup>

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-11/17, on the effectiveness evaluation, as they relate to the clearing-house mechanism,

*Noting also* decision RC-11/5 on the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention, in particular the activities on information exchange included in the programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025 of the Compliance Committee,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism;
2. *Takes note* of the workplan for the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025;<sup>3</sup>
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To continue the work to implement the strategy of the clearing-house mechanism<sup>4</sup> in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
  - (b) To implement the maintenance activities outlined in section II.A of the workplan for the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision, in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium, while prioritizing recurring activities, in particular with respect to the maintenance of existing systems;
  - (c) To implement, subject to the availability of resources, the activities outlined in section II.B of the workplan for the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision, in particular activities aimed at expanding the clearing-house mechanism to be an online collaborative platform for a community of stakeholders in line with the second goal of the clearing-house mechanism strategy and the recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee of the Stockholm Convention,<sup>5</sup> in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium 2024–2025;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) 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 including academia, as appropriate, and to ensure complementarity with and avoid duplication of existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
  - (b) To continue its collaboration with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to exchange information and share experiences and best practices regarding the use of existing clearing-house mechanism systems;
5. *Invites* Parties and observers to participate, as appropriate, in the implementation and further development of the clearing-house mechanism strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan for the biennium 2024–2025, in accordance with the present decision;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments regarding the international agenda on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

<sup>1</sup> The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions RC-11/10 and SC-11/22, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/46.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

<sup>5</sup> See UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, annex, sect. I, para. 5 (e).

## BC-16/24: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes<sup>1</sup>

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions BC-15/27, RC-10/16 and SC-10/23, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes,

### I<sup>2</sup>

1. *Reiterates* its encouragement to Parties to voluntarily provide information about cases of international trade in hazardous chemicals occurring in contravention of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, using the forms adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their tenth meetings;<sup>3</sup>

2. *Takes note* of the report on existing cooperative arrangements with international organizations or entities with a mandate to prevent and combat illegal trade in hazardous chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including recommendations on strengthening such arrangements, taking into account relevant experience with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;<sup>4</sup>

3. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue collecting information about confirmed cases by Parties concerned by illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes occurring in contravention of the Convention submitted by Parties on a voluntary basis and to make such information available on the website of the Convention;

(b) To develop, subject to the availability of resources, case studies on action taken by Parties to implement and enforce the trade control measures of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) To strengthen, subject to the availability of resources, its cooperation with relevant entities with a mandate to prevent and combat the illegal trade in hazardous chemicals covered by the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

### II<sup>5</sup>

4. *Reminds* Parties to the Basel Convention to report cases of illegal traffic to the Secretariat using the prescribed form for confirmed cases of illegal traffic<sup>6</sup> or through table 9 of the format for national reporting for cases of illegal traffic that have been closed in the reporting year;<sup>7</sup>

### III

5. *Invites* Parties to provide best practices for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to voluntarily share information through the Secretariat on action taken to implement and enforce the trade control measures, as well as on challenges Parties may be facing;<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions RC-11/11 and SC-11/23, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

<sup>2</sup> This section is only relevant to the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/52.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/60.

<sup>5</sup> This section is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

<sup>6</sup> See [www.basel.int/tabid/1544/Default.aspx](http://www.basel.int/tabid/1544/Default.aspx).

<sup>7</sup> Taking note of responsibilities of Parties under Article 9 of the Basel Convention.

<sup>8</sup> In the light of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

6. *Takes note* of the report on best practices from Parties for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and related lessons learned;<sup>9</sup>

7. *Encourages* the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,<sup>10</sup> the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, and relevant global and regional enforcement networks to undertake activities aimed at assisting Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, and to inform the Secretariat thereof;

8. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to provide advice and, subject to the availability of resources, undertake technical assistance activities to strengthen the capacity of Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(b) To collect best practices from Parties for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to present a compilation thereof and lessons learned for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

(c) To provide Parties, upon request, with assistance in identifying cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals as well as in identifying cases of illegal traffic in wastes;

(d) Based on the information submitted under paragraph 3 (a) and (b) of section I, and under paragraph 4 of section II, of the present decision, subject to the availability of resources, to propose a workplan, outlining timelines and associated action, to strengthen Parties' capacity to provide information about confirmed cases and experience related to preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and waste, to be considered by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively, for possible adoption;

(e) To explore, subject to the availability of resources, the needs related to amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to identify substances and products that contain the chemicals listed in Annexes A and B to the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the current work conducted under the Basel and Rotterdam conventions on those matters, and to present recommendations to be considered by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

(f) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/43–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/48.

<sup>10</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; World Health Organization; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; World Bank.

## BC-16/25: From science to action<sup>1</sup>

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-11/16, on effectiveness evaluation, as they relate to strengthening science-policy-industry interactions,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the information on action to implement the road map<sup>3</sup> for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
2. *Encourages* Parties and others to continue to undertake action that promotes the implementation of the road map;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in taking science-based action for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme and, as appropriate, other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders towards strengthening the science-policy interface, including in the context of the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

<sup>1</sup> The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions RC-11/12 and SC-11/24, on from science to action, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

<sup>2</sup> This paragraph is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/49.

## **BC-16/26: Venue and dates of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions<sup>1</sup>**

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Decides* to convene the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants back to back, from 28 April to 9 May 2025, in Geneva;
2. *Also decides* that the meetings will include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues;
3. *Further decides* that the meetings will include a high-level segment of no more than one day's duration;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in order to assist Parties in preparing for the back-to-back meetings, to support, subject to the availability of resources, regional meetings, held in coordination with other regional meetings, to assist regional preparatory processes;
5. *Invites* Parties to submit offers to host the 2027 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, if possible by 28 January 2025, for consideration during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2025.

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<sup>1</sup> The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions RC-11/13 and SC-11/25, on venue and dates of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

## **BC-16/27: Amendments to the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision BC-15/30, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to comply with the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, in particular with regard to core services costs to be supported by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to the annex to the memorandum of understanding,

*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, reviewing the central administrative and support services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to amending the said Memorandum of Understanding to align it with relevant financial regulations and rules of the United Nations and standard United Nations practices,<sup>1</sup>

*Taking note also* of the proposal by the Executive Director to amend the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting* decision BC-16/28 on the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2024–2025,

1. *Adopts* the amended annex to the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, as set out in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Requests* the President of the Conference of the Parties, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to sign the memorandum of understanding as amended during or following the closure of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/49–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/53.

<sup>2</sup> See UNEP/CHW.16/28, annex.

## Annex to decision BC-16/27

### Amended annex to the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

#### Annex to the memorandum of understanding<sup>1</sup>

[English only]

#### UNEP's central administrative services in support of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions

The table below is without prejudice to the delegation of authority from the Executive Director of UNEP to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.

The list of central administrative services is not exhaustive and may include additional services, as mutually agreed from time to time between UNEP and the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions.

The cost of these services is covered by UNEP against the 33% share of the Programme Support Cost income attributable to all of the trust funds of the BRS Conventions.

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Policy, guidelines, and procedures</b>	<p>All policies concerning administrative arrangements are governed by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions and those of United Nations Environment Programme's governing body. United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules (UNFRR) supplemented by Multilateral Environmental Agreements' and entities' financial procedures, or rules ensure effective and efficient use of resources in accordance with the purposes for which funds are provided, within authorized limits and available income. The UNFRR also regulate the organization's procurement activities.</p> <p>UNFRR set the framework within which UNEP's personnel, including different categories of staff members, consultants and independent contractors, are recruited and administered.</p> <p>United Nations Secretariat policies supplement and provide details on the implementation of the resolutions and regulations. They are embodied in United Nations administrative issuances i.e. Secretary-General's Bulletins, Administrative Instructions and Information Circulars which may be further interpreted and translated into guidelines and procedures for day to day operations.</p>
<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>Recruitment, staff administration, mandatory training and performance management</b>
Talent Acquisition and Management	Developing staffing plans and implementing related recruitment activities namely classification, vacancy announcement, oversight of assessments, evaluation, review and selection to ensure that all actions are in line with UN Regulations and Rules.
Administration of staff and personnel administered by UNON	Onboarding, administering contracts, processing entitlements and benefits, review and update of dependency status, leave records, lateral move, separation from service. Administering end-of-service and post-retirement benefits including pension fund deductions and After Service Health Insurance scheme.
Development and training of personnel administered by UNON	Mandatory training of personnel, and administration thereof, on issues such as security, ethics and integrity, competency based interviewing skills, management development programme. Training and capacity building sessions offered by CSD under the Corporate Academy, excluding travel.
Performance Management	Implementing and monitoring compliance with performance management policies, process and tools (INSPIRA) to reward/recognize/retain staff and address underperformance. Supporting rebuttal process guidance and conducting training on writing workplans and performance assessments. Managing the Financial Disclosure programme.

<sup>1</sup> The annex is presented without formal editing.



<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Budget and Finance</b>	<b>Management, oversight and reporting of budgets and financial resources of the governing bodies and donors.</b>
Budgeting / Fund Management	<p>Review budgets prepared by the BRS Secretariat and present recommendations to the BRS Secretariats.</p> <p>Identify the programme support cost revenue generated by BRS in the Overhead Trust Account, calculate BRS share and submit annual budget for approval by UNEP Executive Director (ED). Record allocations to BRS upon ED approval.</p> <p>Evaluate the financial viability of operations funded by the Overhead Trust Account. Work closely with BRS to ensure budgets are in line with allocations issued. Issue periodic reports and forecast spending to BRS to predict likely outcomes.</p> <p>Create, review, and close Trust Funds.</p>
General Accounting / Financial Statements	<p>Prepare and issue the financial statements of the BRS trust funds.</p> <p>Prepare and issue donor financial reports.</p> <p>Maintain accounting records and process accounting transactions.</p>
Payments / Expenditure	<p>Process the disbursement of payments to Implementing Partners, consultants, vendors and meeting participants.</p> <p>Monitor advances to implementing partners and record expenditures based on their financial reports.</p>
Payroll	Process payment of salaries, entitlements and related advances and maintain payroll accounts. Maintain Umoja Organizational Management (OM) records to facilitate proper accounting for payroll expenses.
Contributions /Cash Management	<p>Issue invoices to Parties, record and monitor contribution receivables, process contributions upon receipt of payments; reconcile applied deposit accounts. Issue receipts/acknowledge letters of contributions on a need basis.</p> <p>Reconcile Parties' receivables, contributions and unpaid balances. Answer queries raised by BRS Parties on the contributions to the trust funds.</p>
Treasury/Banking/ Investment	Receive and disburse funds, manage the House Bank, perform bank reconciliations. Maintain banking details for staff, vendors, implementing partners and consultants. The investment of UNEP funds in the right products is managed by United Nations headquarters (UNHQ) Treasury.
Oversight	<p>Coordinate internal audit, investigation, inspection and external audit. Support in providing responses to audit queries and coordinate the implementation of the audit recommendations.</p> <p>Coordinate statutory reporting and support to the annual external audit.</p>
<b>Legal</b>	<b>Legal advice, opinions and representation in the Internal Justice System.</b>
Advisory and Representation	<p>Provide corporate legal advice and institutional support.</p> <p>Represent the organisation before the Management Evaluation Unit with regards to requests filed by staff members.</p> <p>Represent the organisation at the United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) and provide support to the Office of Legal Affairs with regards to appeals filed at the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.</p> <p>Negotiate settlements of claims; provide legal support and advice in mediation, conciliation and arbitration.</p> <p>Provide legal and institutional support in disciplinary procedures; provide legal advice in cases of alleged misconduct and relevant investigations.</p> <p>Review and clear Host Country Agreements and legal instruments in accordance with the Delegation of Authority Policy and Framework for the Management and Administration of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.</p> <p>Provide legal advice on human resources issues e.g., interpretation of the Staff Regulations and Rules, advise on outside activities, separation from employment, settlements.</p> <p>Provide advice on engaging with implementing partners.</p>
<b>Support Services</b>	<b>Services to support operations including office space, premises, host country arrangements and protocols.</b>
Contracts and Procurement	<p>Supervise procurement related functions and provide advice on procurement proposals of significant financial or operational impact.</p> <p>Deliberate on the proposed strategy/approach to best serve office's interests in line with standing procedures and UNFRR.</p> <p>Provide oversight over the service providers.</p> <p>Liaise with the contracts committee for the presentation of cases for recommendation and address follow-up queries, in consultation with the UNON procurement section and BRS.</p>

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
Inventory / Asset Management	Provide services to manage inventory of equipment items and assets. Coordinate physical verification exercise in compliance with UNFRR. Process the disposal of obsolete and unserviceable items.
Travel, Shipping and Visa	Provide advice on developments in Secretariat travel policies and procedures.
Facilities Management	Advise on the provision of comfortable and efficient working environment for BRS staff.
Mail Pouch	Provide advisory services on mail, courier and pouch. Provide internal mail collection and distribution services.
Archives/Document Management	Advise on and oversee the implementation of policies for the management of archives in accordance with established archival standards and practices.
Enterprise Resource Programme (ERP) – Umoja	Advise on all aspects of workflow analysis, business process reengineering and organizational transformation. Manage core transformational activities connected to the Umoja implementation and system life cycle. Provide training and guidance on Umoja functionality, access and modality for the execution of administrative processes.
Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and Internal Controls	Implement the United Nations Secretariat ERM policy and framework, its monitoring and development. Advise on developments and activities related to the life cycle of ERM. Liaise directly with the UN Secretariat's Department of Management for all issues relating to ERM and IC implementation and update of the ERM treatment plan.
Information and Communications Technology	<b>Computing, telecommunications, office automation, infrastructure support including electronic mail as well as consulting, advisory and help desk services.</b>
Corporate intranet and email	Provide access to UNEP corporate intranet and email systems.
Software development and maintenance	Provide advice from tactical, operational and strategic aspects with consideration to the specific needs of the office. Make recommendations on cost effective options e.g., outsourcing or in-house IT services. Provide customised / off the shelf software applications to support the specific needs of office.
Help desk services	Provide local and global services to staff in resolving various IT related issues for the UN enterprise and UNEP corporate applications /systems.

## BC-16/28: Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2024–2025 of the Basel Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision BC-15/30 on the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2022–2023,

*Taking note* of the financial reports for 2020 and 2021 from the trust fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention general trust fund),<sup>1</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report by the Secretariat on the available surpluses and options for using surpluses to fund core activities,<sup>2</sup>

*Recalling* decision BC-14/26 on the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention,

*Noting* decision BC-16/27, whereby the Conference of the Parties adopted amendments to the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in particular its annex setting out the central administrative services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme in support of the Convention,

### I

#### Basel Convention general trust fund

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2024–2025 of 5,100,791 United States dollars for 2024 and 5,100,792 United States dollars for 2025, for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention to make commitments up to the amount of the approved operational budget, drawing upon available cash resources;
3. *Decides* to maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for the biennium 2024–2025;
4. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2024–2025 set out in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the Executive Secretary, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2024 for 2024;
5. *Recalls* that contributions to the Basel Convention general trust fund are expected by 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, urges Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2023 for the calendar year 2024 and by 16 October 2024 for the calendar year 2025, and requests the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;
6. *Reiterates* the ongoing concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Basel Convention general trust fund for 2022 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules, and urges Parties to pay their outstanding contributions in full as soon as possible;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to work directly with the permanent missions, ministries of foreign affairs and focal points of the Parties in that situation so that they fully pay their arrears and assessed contributions as soon as possible, and to present at regional meetings information on the current situation regarding arrears and their consequences;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to work closely with the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/47.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to improve the timely communication of information on the payment of contributions, including arrears;

9. *Recalls* the provisions of paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5 of the financial rules on outstanding contributions, pursuant to which, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2001 onwards, no Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall be eligible to become a member of any bureau of the Conference of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies, provided, however, that this shall not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States or to any Party that has agreed on and is respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with the financial rules;

10. *Also recalls* the provisions of paragraph 10 of decision BC-15/30, and decides to continue the practice that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for four or more years and that has not agreed on or is not respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of rule 5 of the financial rules shall be eligible to receive financial support for attendance at intersessional workshops or other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years must be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

11. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers for foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, requests that this practice continue, and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

12. *Adopts* the staffing table of the Secretariat for the biennium 2024–2025 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

13. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that positions remain at the same level or become lower, that the Executive Secretary remains within the overall cost for the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2024–2025, in line with the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,<sup>3</sup> and that the staffing does not cause any additional budget obligations to be incurred beyond that biennium;

14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting on the level of positions filled against the approved staffing table;

15. *Recalls* decision BC-15/30, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to comply with the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in particular with regard to core services costs to be supported by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to the annex to the memorandum of understanding;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to comply with the memorandum of understanding adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting in decision BC-14/26 and, accordingly, to cover the costs for the biennium 2022–2023;

17. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to draw from the available surplus of the Basel Convention general trust fund the amount of 53,565 United States dollars for the purposes set out in table 6 of the present decision;

## II

### **Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions**

18. *Takes note* of the funding estimates of 10,006,188 United States dollars for 2024 and 10,006,188 United States dollars for 2025, in table 1 of the present decision, for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention (Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions);

19. *Notes* that the requirements for the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions presented in the budget represent the Secretariat's best efforts to be realistic and reflect

<sup>3</sup> Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.

priorities agreed upon by all Parties, and urges Parties, and invites non-Parties and others, to make voluntary contributions to the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions;

20. *Also notes* the importance of having funding available in the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions for the participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and of Parties with economies in transition in meetings under the Convention;

21. *Reiterates* that it looks forward to the outcomes of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme task force established to conduct an overall review of the current methodology for calculating and allocating programme support costs, which, once available, may be considered by the Conference of the Parties;

22. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute, as a matter of urgency and as early as feasible, to the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and of Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

### III

#### Preparations for the next biennium

23. *Notes* the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the Secretariat and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

24. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2026–2027 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the biennium 2024–2025 in a programmatic format;

25. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a staffing table and reflect the total actual costs in the budget of the Convention for the biennium 2026–2027;

26. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of various options and, to that end, requests the Executive Secretary to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2026–2027 two funding scenarios that take into account any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 23 of the present decision and are based on:

(a) The Executive Secretary's assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2024–2025 level in nominal terms, to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2024–2025 level in nominal terms;

27. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions with budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions, before the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

28. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to allocate resources to fund the travel of participants from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition on the basis of the country classification lists developed by the United Nations Secretariat,<sup>4</sup> in observance of paragraph 3 (c) of rule 4 of the financial rules of the Basel Convention;

29. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the requirement for the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions for the biennium 2026–2027 presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, the *World Economic Situation and Prospects* annual report.

## **IV**

### **Follow-up to the recommendations from the United Nations Board of Auditors**

30. *Adopts* the amendments to the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal as set out in the annex to the present decision.

Table 1  
**Programme budget, reserves and financing for the biennium 2024–2025**  
 (United States dollars)

Activity	General trust funds			Voluntary trust funds (*)		
	Basel (BCL)	Rotterdam (ROL)	Stockholm (SCL)	Basel (BDL)	Rotterdam (RVL)	Stockholm (SVL)
1 Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention	568 816	–	–	1 249 821	–	–
2 Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention	–	568 816	–	–	1 221 405	–
3 Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	–	–	568 816	–	–	1 249 821
4 Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention	335 153	–	–	583 424	–	–
5 Chemical Review Committee	–	452 924	–	–	215 597	–
6 Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee	–	–	916 100	–	–	89 975
7 Bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions	44 016	30 536	38 614	–	–	–
10 Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee	40 804	–	–	45 492	–	–
11 Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee	–	40 204	–	–	8 028	–
12 Support for scientific bodies	–	–	–	40 000	40 000	40 000
13 Technical assistance and capacity development	–	–	–	567 302	656 297	655 300
14 Basel Convention training and capacity development	–	–	–	5 580 800	–	–
15 Rotterdam Convention training and capacity development	–	–	–	–	1 310 000	–
16 Stockholm Convention training and capacity development	–	–	–	–	–	1 150 000
18 Partnerships	–	–	–	3 750 000	–	–
19 Basel and Stockholm convention support for regional centres	–	–	–	976 650	–	956 650
20 Basel Convention scientific support	339 375	–	20 000	435 000	–	–
21 Rotterdam Convention scientific support	–	86 000	–	–	78 000	–
22 Stockholm Convention scientific support	–	–	120 000	–	–	417 000
23 Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation and global monitoring plan	–	–	40 000	–	–	440 000
24 Basel and Stockholm convention national reporting	40 000	–	70 000	43 333	–	10 000
25 Clearing-house mechanism	42 673	92 856	42 671	83 334	83 332	83 334
26 Publications	23 766	23 766	23 766	55 753	54 000	54 000
27 Communication, outreach and public awareness	8 834	8 833	8 833	162 000	–	–
28 Executive direction, management and administration	154 600	238 600	238 600	–	–	–
29 International cooperation	6 667	6 667	6 667	34 510	34 510	34 510
30 Resource mobilization and financial mechanisms	–	–	175 000	64 333	16 333	267 834
32 Basel Convention legal and policy activities	–	–	–	969 938	–	–
33 Legal and policy activities	–	–	–	24 334	111 332	31 334

Activity	General trust funds			Voluntary trust funds (*)		
	Basel (BCL)	Rotterdam (ROL)	Stockholm (SCL)	Basel (BDL)	Rotterdam (RVL)	Stockholm (SVL)
34 Basel Country country-led initiative (environmentally sound management and further legal clarity)	—	—	—	444 440	—	—
35 Office maintenance and operational services	434 853	237 427	434 853	—	—	—
36 Information and communications technology (ICT) services	101 360	77 280	101 360	—	—	—
Staffing	6 887 034	5 751 351	8 199 842	2 599 603	972 155	1 137 213
<b>Total approved programme of work (excluding programme support costs)</b>	<b>9 027 950</b>	<b>7 615 259</b>	<b>11 005 121</b>	<b>17 710 067</b>	<b>4 800 989</b>	<b>6 616 971</b>
Programme support costs 13 per cent	1 173 633	989 984	1 430 666	2 302 309	624 129	860 206
<b>Total approved programme of work (including programme support costs)</b>	<b>10 201 583</b>	<b>8 605 242</b>	<b>12 435 787</b>	<b>20 012 376</b>	<b>5 425 118</b>	<b>7 477 178</b>

(\*) Funding of the voluntary budget is subject to the availability of resources.



**Funding from the general trust funds for the budget for the biennium 2024–2025**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Approved budgets for the biennium 2024–2025</b>					
Direct costs for the biennium 2024–2025		9 027 950	7 615 258	11 005 121	27 648 329
Programme support costs (13 per cent)		1 173 633	989 984	1 430 666	3 594 283
<i>Total operational budget for the biennium 2024–2025</i>		<i>10 201 583</i>	<i>8 605 242</i>	<i>12 435 787</i>	<i>31 242 612</i>
<b>Working capital reserve (WCR)</b>					
Current level of WCR (15 per cent)		736 091	627 645	895 321	2 259 057
Required level of WCR (15 per cent)		765 119	645 393	932 684	2 343 196
<i>Change in the working capital reserve</i>		<i>29 028</i>	<i>17 748</i>	<i>37 363</i>	<i>84 139</i>
<b>Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve</b>					
Current level of the reserve			298 874		298 874
Required level of the reserve			294 902		294 902
<i>Change in the reserve</i>	<i>(1)</i>		<i>(3 972)</i>		<i>(3 972)</i>
<b>Total resources required for the biennium 2024–2025</b>		<b>10 230 611</b>	<b>8 619 018</b>	<b>12 473 150</b>	<b>31 322 779</b>

<b>Approved funding of the budgets for the biennium 2024–2025</b>					
Host country contributions of Switzerland (excluding the Swiss assessed contribution)	<i>(2,4,5,6)</i>		660 066	2 083 636	2 743 702
Host country contribution of Italy	<i>(3,5)</i>		1 320 132	–	1 320 132
Assessed contributions of Parties		10 230 611	6 638 820	10 389 514	27 258 945
<b>Total proposed funding</b>		<b>10 230 611</b>	<b>8 619 018</b>	<b>12 473 150</b>	<b>31 322 779</b>

*Remarks:*

(1) The level of the Rotterdam Convention's special contingency reserve has been established to reserve the equivalent of one year's staff costs for the two full-time positions provided as in-kind staff by FAO. The reserve has been adjusted to reflect the changes in the budgeted staff costs between the bienniums 2022–2023 and 2024–2025 at the Rome duty station.

(2) Switzerland's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention is €1,200,000 for the biennium, of which 50 per cent is allocated to the general trust fund and 50 per cent is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions.

(3) Italy's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention's general trust fund is €1,200,000 for the biennium.

(4) Switzerland's host country contribution to the Stockholm Convention is CHF 4,000,000 for the biennium, of which CHF 2,000,000 (including Switzerland's assessed contribution) is allocated to the general trust fund and CHF 2,000,000 is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions.

(5) The host country contributions for the Rotterdam Convention are pledged in euros and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.909 euros for May 2023.

(6) The host country contributions for the Stockholm Convention are pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.896 Swiss francs for May 2023.

Table 2

**Assessed contributions of Parties to the general trust funds for the operational budgets for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2024–2025**

(United States dollars)

	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention			
	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
Party	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Afghanistan	0.006	0.008	384	768	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Albania	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	333	666	0.010	524	1 048
Algeria	0.109	0.136	6 972	13 944	0.137	4 533	9 066	0.137	7 137	14 274
Andorra	0.005	0.006	320	640	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–
Angola	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Argentina	0.719	0.899	45 992	91 984	0.901	29 898	59 796	0.906	47 080	94 160
Armenia	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Australia	2.111	2.640	135 034	270 068	2.644	87 781	175 562	2.661	138 228	276 456
Austria	0.679	0.849	43 434	86 868	0.851	28 235	56 470	0.856	44 461	88 922
Azerbaijan	0.030	0.038	1 919	3 838	n.a.	–	–	0.038	1 964	3 928
Bahamas	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	n.a.	–	–	0.024	1 244	2 488
Bahrain	0.054	0.068	3 454	6 908	0.068	2 245	4 490	0.068	3 536	7 072
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Barbados	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	333	666	0.010	524	1 048
Belarus	0.041	0.051	2 623	5 246	n.a.	–	–	0.052	2 685	5 370
Belgium	0.828	1.035	52 965	105 930	1.037	34 430	68 860	1.044	54 217	108 434
Belize	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Benin	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	0.024	790	1 580	0.024	1 244	2 488

	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention			Stockholm Convention		
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.015	768	1 536	0.015	499	998	0.015	786	1 572
Botswana	0.015	0.019	960	1 920	0.019	624	1 248	0.019	982	1 964
Brazil	2.013	2.517	128 765	257 530	2.522	83 706	167 412	2.537	131 811	263 622
Brunei Darussalam	0.021	0.026	1 343	2 686	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–
Bulgaria	0.056	0.070	3 582	7 164	0.070	2 329	4 658	0.071	3 667	7 334
Burkina Faso	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Burundi	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Cambodia	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Cameroon	0.013	0.016	832	1 664	0.016	541	1 082	0.016	851	1 702
Canada	2.628	3.286	168 105	336 210	3.292	109 279	218 558	3.313	172 081	344 162
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Chad	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Chile	0.420	0.525	26 866	53 732	0.526	17 465	34 930	0.529	27 502	55 004
China	15.254	19.075	975 752	1 951 504	19.109	634 303	1 268 606	19.228	998 830	1 997 660
Colombia	0.246	0.308	15 736	31 472	0.308	10 229	20 458	0.310	16 108	32 216
Comoros	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Congo	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Cook Islands		0.001	51	102	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Costa Rica	0.069	0.086	4 414	8 828	0.086	2 869	5 738	0.087	4 518	9 036
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022	0.028	1 407	2 814	0.028	915	1 830	0.028	1 441	2 882
Croatia	0.091	0.114	5 821	11 642	0.114	3 784	7 568	0.115	5 959	11 918
Cuba	0.095	0.119	6 077	12 154	0.119	3 950	7 900	0.120	6 221	12 442
Cyprus	0.036	0.045	2 303	4 606	0.045	1 497	2 994	0.045	2 357	4 714

	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention			
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Czechia	0.340	0.425	21 749	43 498	0.426	14 138	28 276	0.429	22 263	44 526
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Denmark	0.553	0.692	35 374	70 748	0.693	22 995	45 990	0.697	36 210	72 420
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Dominica	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Dominican Republic	0.067	0.084	4 286	8 572	0.084	2 786	5 572	0.084	4 387	8 774
Ecuador	0.077	0.096	4 925	9 850	0.096	3 202	6 404	0.097	5 042	10 084
Egypt	0.139	0.174	8 891	17 782	n.a.	–	–	0.175	9 102	18 204
El Salvador	0.013	0.016	832	1 664	0.016	541	1 082	0.016	851	1 702
Equatorial Guinea	0.012	0.015	768	1 536	0.015	499	998	0.015	786	1 572
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Estonia	0.044	0.055	2 815	5 630	0.055	1 830	3 660	0.055	2 881	5 762
Eswatini	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
European Union		2.500	127 882	255 764	2.500	82 985	165 970	2.500	129 870	259 740
Fiji	0.004	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Finland	0.417	0.521	26 674	53 348	0.522	17 340	34 680	0.526	27 305	54 610
France	4.318	5.400	276 209	552 418	5.409	179 554	359 108	5.443	282 742	565 484
Gabon	0.013	0.016	832	1 664	0.016	541	1 082	0.016	851	1 702
Gambia	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Georgia	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	333	666	0.010	524	1 048
Germany	6.111	7.642	390 902	781 804	7.655	254 112	508 224	7.703	400 148	800 296
Ghana	0.024	0.030	1 535	3 070	0.030	998	1 996	0.030	1 572	3 144

Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention			Stockholm Convention			
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Greece	0.325	0.406	20 789	41 578	0.407	13 514	27 028	0.410	21 281	42 562
Grenada	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Guatemala	0.041	0.051	2 623	5 246	0.051	1 705	3 410	0.052	2 685	5 370
Guinea	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Guyana	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Honduras	0.009	0.011	576	1 152	0.011	374	748	0.011	589	1 178
Hungary	0.228	0.285	14 584	29 168	0.286	9 481	18 962	0.287	14 929	29 858
Iceland	0.036	0.045	2 303	4 606	n.a.	–	–	0.045	2 357	4 714
India	1.044	1.306	66 782	133 564	1.308	43 412	86 824	1.316	68 361	136 722
Indonesia	0.549	0.687	35 118	70 236	0.688	22 829	45 658	0.692	35 948	71 896
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371	0.464	23 732	47 464	0.465	15 427	30 854	0.468	24 293	48 586
Iraq	0.128	0.160	8 188	16 376	0.160	5 323	10 646	0.161	8 381	16 762
Ireland	0.439	0.549	28 081	56 162	0.550	18 255	36 510	0.553	28 746	57 492
Israel	0.561	0.702	35 885	71 770	0.703	23 328	46 656	n.a.	–	–
Italy	3.189	3.988	203 991	407 982	3.995	132 607	265 214	4.020	208 815	417 630
Jamaica	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	333	666	0.010	524	1 048
Japan	8.033	10.045	513 847	1 027 694	10.063	334 034	668 068	10.126	526 000	1 052 000
Jordan	0.022	0.028	1 407	2 814	0.028	915	1 830	0.028	1 441	2 882
Kazakhstan	0.133	0.166	8 508	17 016	0.167	5 530	11 060	0.168	8 709	17 418
Kenya	0.030	0.038	1 919	3 838	0.038	1 247	2 494	0.038	1 964	3 928
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Kuwait	0.234	0.293	14 968	29 936	0.293	9 730	19 460	0.295	15 322	30 644
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038

	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention			Stockholm Convention		
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Latvia	0.050	0.063	3 198	6 396	0.063	2 079	4 158	0.063	3 274	6 548
Lebanon	0.036	0.045	2 303	4 606	0.045	1 497	2 994	0.045	2 357	4 714
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Liberia	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Libya	0.018	0.023	1 151	2 302	0.023	748	1 496	0.023	1 179	2 358
Liechtenstein	0.010	0.013	640	1 280	0.013	416	832	0.013	655	1 310
Lithuania	0.077	0.096	4 925	9 850	0.096	3 202	6 404	0.097	5 042	10 084
Luxembourg	0.068	0.085	4 350	8 700	0.085	2 828	5 656	0.086	4 453	8 906
Madagascar	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Malawi	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Malaysia	0.348	0.435	22 261	44 522	0.436	14 471	28 942	n.a.	–	–
Maldives	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Mali	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Malta	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	0.024	790	1 580	0.024	1 244	2 488
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Mauritania	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Mauritius	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	0.024	790	1 580	0.024	1 244	2 488
Mexico	1.221	1.527	78 104	156 208	1.530	50 772	101 544	1.539	79 951	159 902
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Monaco	0.011	0.014	704	1 408	n.a.	–	–	0.014	720	1 440
Mongolia	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Montenegro	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Morocco	0.055	0.069	3 518	7 036	0.069	2 287	4 574	0.069	3 601	7 202

	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention			Stockholm Convention		
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Mozambique	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Namibia	0.009	0.011	576	1 152	0.011	374	748	0.011	589	1 178
Nauru	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Nepal	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	1.377	1.722	88 082	176 164	1.725	57 259	114 518	1.736	90 166	180 332
New Zealand	0.309	0.386	19 766	39 532	0.387	12 849	25 698	0.389	20 233	40 466
Nicaragua	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Niger	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Niue		n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Nigeria	0.182	0.228	11 642	23 284	0.228	7 568	15 136	0.229	11 917	23 834
North Macedonia	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Norway	0.679	0.849	43 434	86 868	0.851	28 235	56 470	0.856	44 461	88 922
Oman	0.111	0.139	7 100	14 200	0.139	4 616	9 232	0.140	7 268	14 536
Pakistan	0.114	0.143	7 292	14 584	0.143	4 740	9 480	0.144	7 465	14 930
Palau	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Panama	0.090	0.113	5 757	11 514	0.113	3 742	7 484	0.113	5 893	11 786
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.013	640	1 280	n.a.	–	–	0.013	655	1 310
Paraguay	0.026	0.033	1 663	3 326	0.033	1 081	2 162	0.033	1 702	3 404
Peru	0.163	0.204	10 427	20 854	0.204	6 778	13 556	0.205	10 673	21 346
Philippines	0.212	0.265	13 561	27 122	0.266	8 816	17 632	0.267	13 882	27 764
Poland	0.837	1.047	53 540	107 080	1.049	34 805	69 610	1.055	54 807	109 614
Portugal	0.353	0.441	22 580	45 160	0.442	14 679	29 358	0.445	23 114	46 228
Qatar	0.269	0.336	17 207	34 414	0.337	11 186	22 372	0.339	17 614	35 228

Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention			Stockholm Convention			
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Republic of Korea	2.574	3.219	164 651	329 302	3.224	107 034	214 068	3.245	168 545	337 090
Republic of Moldova	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Romania	0.312	0.390	19 958	39 916	0.391	12 974	25 948	0.393	20 430	40 860
Russian Federation	1.866	2.333	119 362	238 724	2.338	77 593	155 186	2.352	122 185	244 370
Rwanda	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.003	128	256	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Samoa	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Saudi Arabia	1.184	1.481	75 737	151 474	1.483	49 234	98 468	1.492	77 528	155 056
Senegal	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Serbia	0.032	0.040	2 047	4 094	0.040	1 331	2 662	0.040	2 095	4 190
Seychelles	0.002	0.003	128	256	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Singapore	0.504	0.630	32 239	64 478	0.631	20 958	41 916	0.635	33 002	66 004
Slovakia	0.155	0.194	9 915	19 830	0.194	6 445	12 890	0.195	10 149	20 298
Slovenia	0.079	0.099	5 053	10 106	0.099	3 285	6 570	0.100	5 173	10 346
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Somalia	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
South Africa	0.244	0.305	15 608	31 216	0.306	10 146	20 292	0.308	15 977	31 954
Spain	2.134	2.669	136 505	273 010	2.673	88 737	177 474	2.690	139 734	279 468
Sri Lanka	0.045	0.056	2 879	5 758	0.056	1 871	3 742	0.057	2 947	5 894
State of Palestine		0.001	51	102	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038



	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention			Stockholm Convention		
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Sudan	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Suriname	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Sweden	0.871	1.089	55 715	111 430	1.091	36 219	72 438	1.098	57 033	114 066
Switzerland	1.134	1.418	72 539	145 078	1.421	47 155	94 310	1.429	74 254	148 508
Syrian Arab Republic	0.009	0.011	576	1 152	0.011	374	748	0.011	589	1 178
Tajikistan	0.003	0.004	192	384	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Thailand	0.368	0.460	23 540	47 080	0.461	15 302	30 604	0.464	24 097	48 194
Togo	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Tonga	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037	0.046	2 367	4 734	0.046	1 539	3 078	0.047	2 423	4 846
Tunisia	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	0.024	790	1 580	0.024	1 244	2 488
Türkiye	0.845	1.057	54 052	108 104	1.059	35 137	70 274	1.065	55 331	110 662
Turkmenistan	0.034	0.043	2 175	4 350	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Uganda	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Ukraine	0.056	0.070	3 582	7 164	0.070	2 329	4 658	0.071	3 667	7 334
United Arab Emirates	0.635	0.794	40 619	81 238	0.795	26 405	52 810	0.800	41 580	83 160
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.375	5.471	279 855	559 710	5.481	181 924	363 848	5.515	286 474	572 948
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Uruguay	0.092	0.115	5 885	11 770	0.115	3 826	7 652	0.116	6 024	12 048
Uzbekistan	0.027	0.034	1 727	3 454	n.a.	–	–	0.034	1 768	3 536
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.175	0.219	11 194	22 388	0.219	7 277	14 554	0.221	11 459	22 918
Viet Nam	0.093	0.116	5 949	11 898	0.117	3 867	7 734	0.117	6 090	12 180

<div>Basel Convention</div> <div>Rotterdam Convention</div> <div>Stockholm Convention</div>										
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Yemen	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Zambia	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Total		100.000	5 115 306	10 230 612	100.000	3 319 410	6 638 820	100.000	5 194 757	10 389 514

*Notes:*

(1) United Nations scale of assessment as per resolution 76/238 of 24 December 2021 adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

(2) As per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Basel Convention, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by the General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that: (i) no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total; (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total; (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(3) As per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that: (i) no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total; (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total; (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(4) This is the annual contribution to be paid by the Parties both in 2024 and 2025. It is the same for both years and is the average of Parties' assessed contributions due for the biennium 2024–2025.

Table 3

**Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2024–2025 funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes only)**

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>Funding source</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>General trust fund</i>	<i>In-kind by FAO</i>	<i>Programme support costs</i>	
<b>A. Professional categories</b>				
D-2 level	1 00	0 25		<b>1 25</b>
D-1 level	1 00			<b>1 00</b>
P-5 level	7 00			<b>7 00</b>
P-4 level	7 00		2 00	<b>9 00</b>
P-3 level	16 50	1 00		<b>17 50</b>
P-2 level	2 00			<b>2 00</b>
<b>Subtotal A</b>	<b>34 50</b>	<b>1 25</b>	<b>2 00</b>	<b>37 75</b>
<b>B General Service category</b>				
GS	12 00	1 25	6 00	<b>19 25</b>
<b>Subtotal B</b>	<b>12 00</b>	<b>1 25</b>	<b>6 00</b>	<b>19 25</b>
<b>Total (A+B)</b>	<b>46 50</b>	<b>2 50</b>	<b>8 00</b>	<b>57 00</b>
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(3)	

*Remarks:*

- (1) Core funded positions are funded from the general trust funds (Parties' assessed contributions).
- (2) Posts provided by FAO as an in-kind contribution to the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.
- (3) Posts funded from programme support costs levied on both assessed (general trust funds) and voluntary contributions.

Table 4  
**Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2024–2025 funded from the technical cooperation/voluntary special trust funds (used for costing purposes only)**

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>Funding source</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>Voluntary trust funds</i>	<i>Junior Professional Officers</i>	
<b>A. Professional categories</b>			
D-2 level			
D-1 level			
P-5 level			
P-4 level			
P-3 level	1 60		1 60
P-2 level	1 00	2 00	3 00
<b>Subtotal A</b>	<b>2 60</b>	<b>2 00</b>	<b>4 60</b>
<b>B General Service category</b>			
GS	5 20		5 20
<b>Subtotal B</b>	<b>5 20</b>		<b>5 20</b>
<b>Total (A+B)</b>	<b>7 80</b>	<b>2 00</b>	<b>9 80</b>
Remarks	(1)	(2)	

*Remarks:*

- (1) Voluntary funded posts will only be filled if sufficient voluntary funding becomes available. Additional voluntary funded positions may be created to support the implementation of voluntary funded projects as required and subject to the availability of resources.
- (2) Technical cooperation trust funds for junior professional officers are established and managed by UNEP.

Table 5  
**Projected staff costs for the Geneva and Rome duty stations for the biennium 2024–2025**  
 (United States dollars)

**Duty station: Geneva**

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2024-2025</i>
<b>A. Professional categories</b>					
D-2/D-1 level	326 728	336 530	346 626	357 025	703 651
P-5 level	286 303	294 893	303 740	312 853	616 593
P-4 level	233 012	240 003	247 204	254 621	501 825
P-3 level	191 955	197 714	203 646	209 756	413 402
P-2 level	143 790	148 104	152 548	157 125	309 673
<b>B. General Service category</b>					
GS	141 622	145 872	150 249	154 757	305 006
C. Other					
Retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs					262 931
General temporary assistance, including overtime					100 000
After Service Health Insurance (ASHI)					423 321
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3) (4) (5)

*Remarks:*

(1) Actual staff costs and staff entitlements incurred during January–September 2022 have been used as the basis for projecting staff costs for future years.

(2) Staff costs for 2023, 2024 and 2025 have been estimated by incrementing the actual 2022 costs by 3 per cent per annum to provide for salary step increases, inflation, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on post adjustment and any other unexpected changes in staff costs.

(3) Projected costs associated with retirement/separation (e.g., repatriation, shipment, annual leave commutation) and recruitment of replacement staff (e.g., relocation costs, assignment grants) have been presented separately as they are not part of actual ordinary staff cost projections. The provisions made take into account the fact that three staff members will retire during the biennium 2024–2025. No provision has been made to cover the repatriation and annual leave commutation of two additional staff members who have the option to retire during the biennium 2024–2025 should they wish to do so.

(4) General temporary assistance includes the cost of staff to replace staff on parental leave as well as general service staff overtime during large meetings such as meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention.

(5) The After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) programme provides eligible staff members with continued health insurance coverage throughout their retirement. This benefit to staff creates an accrued liability for the Organization. The United Nations Controller has approved for UNEP an increase of the monthly accrual from 6 to 9 per cent of the base salary to reduce the risk associated with staff liabilities.

**Duty station: Rome**

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2024–2025</i>
<b>A. Professional categories</b>					
P-5 level	231 200	238 136	245 281	252 640	497 921
P-4 level	228 936	235 805	242 880	250 167	493 047
P-3 level	185 382	190 944	196 673	202 574	399 247
P-2 level	139 676	143 867	148 184	152 630	300 814
<b>B. General Service category</b>					
GS	88 480	91 135	93 870	96 687	190 557
<b>C. Other</b>					
Retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs					
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3)

*Remarks:*

- (1) Staff costs incurred during January–June 2022 have been used as the basis for projecting staff costs for future years.
- (2) Staff costs for 2023, 2024 and 2025 have been estimated by incrementing the 2022 actual costs by 3 per cent per annum to provide for salary step increases, inflation, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on post adjustment and any other unexpected changes in staff costs.
- (3) None of the staff located in Rome are expected to retire during the biennium 2024–2025.

Table 6  
**Specified activities to be funded from the available surpluses in the general trust funds of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**  
 (United States dollars)

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>General Trust Fund</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Basel (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm (SCL)</i>	
Funding the correction of one Party's assessed contribution under the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019		31 866		31 866
Additional costs incurred owing to contingency arrangements made to allow online/hybrid participation in meetings of the Conference of the Parties during its face-to-face segment held in Geneva in June 2022 (including programme support costs)	53 565	53 565	53 565	160 695
<b>Total</b>	<b>53 565</b>	<b>85 431</b>	<b>53 565</b>	<b>192 561</b>

## Annex to decision BC-16/28

### **Amendments to the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

[...]

#### **Financial period**

##### **Rule 2**

The financial period shall be a ~~biennium~~ consisting calendar year. The biennial programme of work and budget period shall normally consist of two consecutive calendar years, the first of which shall be an even year.

[...]

#### **Accounts and audit**

##### **Rule 6**

1. The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations.
2. ~~An interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties during the second year of the period and a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties as soon as possible after the accounts for the financial period are closed. The financial statements shall be prepared annually in United States dollars in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.~~
3. The Conference of the Parties shall be informed of any ~~relevant remarks~~ key findings in the reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors on financial statements of the United Nations Environment Programme that directly and/or adversely affect the funds and operations of the Convention.

[...]

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