



**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Thirteenth meeting**
Geneva, 24 April –5 May 2017

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 thirteenth meeting

Introduction

1. By decisions BC-12/23, RC-7/13 and SC-7/31, 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, respectively, decided to hold the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention back to back from 24 April to 5 May 2017 (hereinafter, “the 2017 meetings”). The conferences of the Parties also decided that their 2017 meetings would “include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues” and would feature a high-level segment of no more than one day’s duration.

I. Opening of the meetings (agenda item 1)

2. Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, Chief, Scientific Support Branch of the Secretariat, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed participants to the 2017 meetings.
3. The meetings began with a performance of Swiss yodelling.

A. Opening remarks

4. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Mohammed Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, speaking also on behalf of Mr. Franz Perrez (Switzerland), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention; Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Bill Murray, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention; Mr. Marc Chardonnens, State Secretary, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment; and Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
5. In his remarks Mr. Khashashneh said that positive outcomes from the current meetings would be vital to addressing the enormous challenges faced by the world, which were exemplified by the figures showing the small fraction of chemicals that had undergone environmental assessments and the statistics on deaths from pesticide poisoning, particularly in developing countries, and on deaths among children under five years of age as a result of unhealthy environments and, notably, the effects of pollution. Progress in preventing and minimizing waste generation had been achieved through the approach, plans and guidelines developed and implemented under the Basel Convention,

demonstrating the benefits of cooperation with its sister chemical conventions and indeed its status as a model to be emulated with regard to implementation and compliance. As to the Rotterdam Convention, it was crucial to increase its effectiveness because chemicals meeting the requirements for listing in Annex III to the Convention were sometimes not listed. More determined efforts must also be made to enhance implementation of the Stockholm Convention through elimination of the chemicals listed thereunder. Concerning the review of the synergies arrangements, it showed that the synergies process had provided a model for policy consistency among the three conventions, particularly with regard to the life cycle of chemicals and wastes, and had achieved efficiencies in the implementation of the conventions. While national and regional synergies continued to need improvement, synergies at the international level had been remarkably successful, which might be seen as evidence supporting the inclusion of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in the same framework as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

6. In his remarks, Mr. Payet said that the outcomes of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties would be crucial to tackling the nexus between development and planetary health and, hence, to improving the quality of life in a sustainable environment. He had been encouraged by the spirit of commitment that had characterized the regional preparatory meetings organized with the support of the Government of Switzerland. The relevance of the three conventions to sustainable development and poverty eradication had been recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in several key decisions and resolutions adopted since the 2015 meetings by, among others, the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the United Nations Environment Assembly and the World Health Assembly, and in a report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. In addition, some of the fruits of private sector commitment to engage with Governments in seeking sustainable solutions would be showcased at the current meetings, at the first ever technology fair.

7. Urging the Parties to address the continued decrease in voluntary contributions to the conventions and the increase in arrears in assessed contributions for the core funding of the Secretariat, he thanked those donors that had remained strongly committed to supporting the conventions such as Australia, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Sweden and Switzerland. He also commended the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies on making available the financial resources and technical expertise needed for updating national implementation plans and for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, which, according to the needs assessment report to be considered by the Conference of the Parties, would require over \$4.3 billion for the period 2018–2022. He urged the GEF secretariat and donor countries to take into consideration the recommendations of the report when negotiating the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund.

8. Mr. Murray, in his remarks, drew attention to the major impacts that agriculture had on the state of the environment and vice versa. While the projected increase in the world's population to 9.2 billion by 2050 would, he said, require a 50 per cent increase in global food production, some 80 per cent of it from land already under cultivation, the input-intensive approach of the past had proved unsustainable in view of its deleterious effects on natural resources and biodiversity. Meanwhile, many millions around the globe were currently facing extreme hunger and most of the worst affected depended directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods and were at the greatest risk from the adverse effects of climate change and hazardous pesticides, chemicals and wastes. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, among other things, had placed food security and agriculture at the centre of the global development agenda but there was no standard solution. Successful approaches must be context-specific and tailored to the needs of particular regions or communities, drawing on traditional knowledge and advances in science and technology, which required greater cooperation and collaboration at all levels, as in the case of the synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the results of which would be discussed in the coming days. Recalling the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in capacity development and institution building for national governance frameworks that reduced the risks to human health and the environment from pesticides and associated wastes while facilitating regional collaboration, he said that the technology fair and side events at the current meetings would provide opportunities to learn about partnerships and to share knowledge and experience in promoting the sound management of chemicals and wastes and a detoxified future.

9. Mr. Chardonnens, in his remarks, welcomed the participants to the 2017 meetings in the city of Geneva, which had a long history of hosting those championing the protection of nature and hoped to be home not only to the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions but also that of the Minamata Convention. The multilateral system, he said, had to adjust to meet the many new

challenges arising from the large-scale production and use of chemicals so as to ensure global governance frameworks that were more effective in protecting human health and the environment. To that end, the 2017 meetings offered an excellent opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions through, among other things, the adoption of compliance mechanisms and decisions on the listing of hazardous chemicals and to strengthen the synergies between them. They also offered the opportunity to pave the way for additional synergies with the Minamata Convention, which could contribute to a more coherent effort by the international community to ensure the sound management and use of resources. Commending the Secretariat and the presidents of the three conferences of the Parties to the conventions on organizing the 2017 meetings, and expressing appreciation to UNEP and FAO for their support in furthering implementation, he called on the Parties, civil society and industry to support the multilateral processes in the intensive work of the coming two weeks. Given that communication over borders was important and fruitful, as evidenced by the prior informed consent procedure, he invited all participants to send the available postcards home to colleagues, friends and family to report about the meetings and their time in Geneva.

10. In his remarks Mr. Thiaw said that, in contrast to their predecessors, young people lived in a heavily polluted world in which the prospect of enjoying safe air and water in the future seemed remote. The humans that were destroying the planet through pollution were not doing enough to prevent the millions of pollution-related deaths, in which chemicals played a significant part. Chemicals unquestionably improved lives but their use across the planet was outpacing the efforts to assess and address their impact on humans, wildlife and the entire food chain. Swift action was needed yet the process was slow and difficult. The existence of irrefutable scientific data placed a moral responsibility on all stakeholders to act where doubt existed. To that end, a rethink in the life-cycle approach to chemicals and adaptation to react to new findings must be triggered, including by working in various ways with Governments, scientists, the private sector, schools and the general public. The power of concerted action had been proven with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as had the importance of precautionary action, which could furthermore generate profit through the increasing demand for true life-cycle alternatives and renewable energy, mobile technology and electric transport. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions provided a crucial opportunity for taking the collective action needed to phase out some of the world's worst pollutants. That opportunity to achieve the sound management of chemicals by 2020, add important new chemicals to the conventions and accomplish global progress must therefore be seized immediately to avoid regret later.

B. Regional statements

11. Representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries and individual countries made general statements on the issues to be discussed during the meetings.

C. Formal opening

12. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 11.45 a.m. on 24 April 2017 by Mr. Khashashneh, Mr. Perez, and Mr. Adu-Kumi, respectively.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

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

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 thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Strategic issues:

- (i) Strategic framework;
 - (ii) Follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention;
 - (iii) Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes;
 - (b) Scientific and technical matters:
 - (i) Technical guidelines;
 - (ii) Amendments to the annexes to the Basel Convention;
 - (iii) Classification and hazard characterization of wastes;
 - (iv) National reporting;
 - (c) Legal, compliance and governance matters:
 - (i) Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention;
 - (ii) National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic;
 - (d) Technical assistance:
 - (i) Capacity-building;
 - (ii) Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;
 - (iii) Implementation of decision V/32 on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention;
 - (e) International cooperation, coordination and partnerships:
 - (i) Basel Convention Partnership Programme;
 - (ii) International cooperation and coordination;
 - (f) Financial resources;
 - (g) Operations and work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2018–2019.
5. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
 6. Programme of work and budget.
 7. Venue and date of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Adoption of the report.
 10. Closure of the meeting.

14. In adopting its agenda the Conference of the Parties agreed to discuss under item 8, Other matters, a possible memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the admission of observers to meetings under the Convention and guidelines on conduct for meeting participants.

15. During the discussion of the agendas for the 2017 meetings one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the matter of memorandums of understanding should be set out as separate items on the agendas for the three meetings rather than be discussed under the agenda items for “other matters”. He said that the issue had been brought up at previous meetings of the conferences of the Parties and that the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, as reflected in its decisions RC-6/15 and RC-7/14, adopted in 2013 and 2015, had already decided twice that such a memorandum of understanding would be necessary. Given the importance of the issue, it should be presented as a separate agenda item. One representative supported the proposal, but others opposed it. It was agreed that the matter would remain under other matters and that the proposal to list it as a separate item would be noted in the reports of the 2017 meetings.

III. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)

A. Attendance

16. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 160 Parties: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, 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), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine (State of), Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, 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, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

17. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of ten Parties that did not submit valid credentials: Barbados, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Rwanda, Suriname, Uzbekistan. It was also attended by representatives of two States that were not Parties to the Convention: the Holy See and the United States of America.

18. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Economic Commission for Europe, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University, World Bank Group, World Health Organization.

19. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Association of Southeast Asian Nations, International Criminal Police Organization, League of Arab States, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, South Centre, 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 the Latin America and 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 Central Europe (BCRC-Slovakia); 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 (SPREP); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Algeria); Stockholm Convention Regional

Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Kuwait); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Spain); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Panama).

21. A number of non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/70-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/53-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/66).

B. Election of officers

22. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that the Parties would need to elect the officers of the three conferences of the Parties whose terms of office would start at the closure of the 2017 meetings, as well as officers and members of subsidiary bodies. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in documents UNEP/CHW.13/2, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/2 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/2, noting, among other things, that curricula vitae should be provided for nominees for membership on the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention.

23. Following that introduction one representative said that in the past there had been some flexibility regarding the provision of curriculum vitae and that they should not be required because each Party had the right to decide who would best represent it. The President said in response that it was up to each region to decide on its nominations and that the requirement to submit curricula vitae had been communicated at the regional meetings that had been held in preparation for the 2017 meetings.

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

President:	Mr. Mohammed Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Els Van De Velde (Belgium)
	Ms. Alison Kennedy (Canada)
	Mr. Henry Williams (Liberia)
	Mr. Dragan Asanovic (Montenegro)
	Ms. Magda Gosk (Poland)
	Mr. Abderrazak Marzouki (Tunisia)
	Ms. Augustina Camilli (Uruguay)

25. Ms. Gaia Hernandez (Colombia) and Mr. Laurence Edwards (Marshall Islands), elected Vice-Presidents at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, were unable to complete their terms of office. Pursuant to rule 24, their compatriots, Ms. Claudia Vásquez Marazzani and Mr. Lowell Alik, respectively, served in their stead.

26. Pursuant to rule 21, Mr. Asanovic served as rapporteur.

27. Also in accordance with rule 21, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the new Bureau, 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:	Ms. Petronella Shoko (Zimbabwe)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Florencia Grimalt (Argentina)
	Ms. Els Van de Velde (Belgium)
	Mr. Luis Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador)
	Mr. Bishwanath Sinha (India)
	Mr. Sidi Ould Aloueimine (Mauritania)
	Mr. Dragan Asanovic (Montenegro)
	Ms. Magda Gosk (Poland)
	Mr. Yasser Abu Shanab (State of Palestine)
	Mr. Felix Wertli (Switzerland)

28. Mr. Abu Shanab was elected to serve as Rapporteur.

C. Organization of work

29. The discussion summarized in the present section, on organization of work (agenda item 3 (b)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 30–34 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 28–32, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 29–33.

30. The three conferences of the Parties agreed to conduct their meetings in accordance with the scenario note set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/1, the schedule set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/2-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/2-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/2 and the arrangements for the high-level segment described in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/3-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/3-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/3. 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.

31. In accordance with the agreed arrangements, and as described in the scenario note, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would hold both joint and separate sessions during their meetings. During the joint sessions, the conferences of the Parties would discuss cross-cutting issues affecting at least two of the three conventions. In addition, the conferences of the Parties would establish such joint and separate contact and other groups as they deemed necessary for the various meetings, including a joint contact group on budget matters. 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 2018–2019. The total number of contact groups meeting at any one time would be limited to facilitate participation by all delegations. 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.

32. A high-level segment of the meetings would be held on the afternoon of 4 May and the morning of 5 May. A ministerial dinner would take place on the evening of 4 May. A report on the high-level segment is set out in annex II to the present report.

33. In carrying out their work at the current meetings, the conferences of the Parties had before them working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the agendas for the meetings. Lists of those documents for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, are set out in information documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/4, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/4 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/4, respectively.

34. During discussion of the organization of work one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern that there might not be sufficient time for careful consideration of all issues in plenary sessions. He also expressed concern with regard to the scheduling of a single session of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on Thursday, 27 April, with the remaining sessions of that meeting to take place the following week, saying that as had been previously agreed the meetings of the conferences of the Parties should be held back to back, i.e., one after the other. He concluded by voicing concern that some documents had been circulated late.

D. Credentials

35. The discussion summarized in the present section, on credentials (agenda item 3 (c)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 36–39 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 34–37, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 35–38.

36. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that during the period leading up to the 2017 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 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the

three conventions. Pursuant to that approach each Bureau would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies, on the understanding that, in the case of the latter, originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

37. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the requirements in respect of credentials set out in rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, saying that in accordance with those rules the bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions would examine the credentials of the representatives of the Parties present at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively, and that each Bureau would present its report to its Conference of the Parties on the afternoon of Thursday, 4 May.

38. The President added that the three presidents were of the view that credentials were essential to multilateral environmental negotiations and served an important function that should be taken seriously. At the current meetings, he said, it would be important to have an early indication of possible problems with regard to credentials, and he therefore called on Parties to submit the credentials of their representatives by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 26 April. Information on the status of credentials would be provided on Friday 28 April.

39. Also under the item it was announced that, as at the start of the 2017 meetings, there were 185 Parties to the Basel Convention, 157 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 181 Parties to the Stockholm Convention. At a later stage in the meetings, on the morning of 2 May 2017, it was announced that Turkey had recently ratified the Rotterdam Convention and would deposit its instrument of ratification in the near future.

40. On 28 April 2017 the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at noon on that day, indicating that the Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 166 Parties to the Basel Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 154 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 154 representatives were originals, while 14 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

41. It was also reported that the following 12 Parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives: Albania, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Rwanda, Suriname, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials.

42. On the afternoon of 5 May 2017 the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at 1 p.m. on that day, indicating that the Bureau had further examined the credentials of the representatives of the 170 Parties to the Basel Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 160 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 149 of those 160 representatives were originals, while 11 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

43. It was also reported that the following 10 Parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives: Barbados, Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Rwanda, Suriname, Uzbekistan.

44. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials, which superseded the report adopted on 28 April 2017.

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

A. Strategic issues

1. Strategic framework

45. The President introduced the sub-item, recalling that at its tenth meeting the Conference of the Parties had adopted the Strategic Framework for the Implementation of the Basel Convention for the period 2012–2021. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to a note by the Secretariat on progress in implementation of the strategic framework

(UNEP/CHW.13/3). Recalling that the 2011 baseline report had been based on information submitted by only 19 per cent of the Parties, she outlined efforts to obtain more information to serve as the basis of the report to be prepared by the Secretariat to facilitate the mid-term evaluation. In response to those efforts the Secretariat had received information from 20 Parties, or 11 per cent of the Parties, eight of which were among the 36 Parties that had provided information for the preparation of the 2011 baseline report. Thus only 4 per cent of the Parties had provided information for both reports. As the Secretariat had not received funding for the retention of a consultant to prepare the mid-term report it had instead circulated to the Parties information on the number of Parties that had submitted 2015 information for the conduct of the mid-term evaluation.

46. In the ensuing discussion the representative of Canada suggested that given the limited response to the efforts to carry out the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Framework the approach be revised and efforts focused on the preparation of the final evaluation for consideration in 2021. He tabled a conference room paper that, he said, proposed a way forward for a final evaluation and suggested that it be considered in a contact group. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Framework was of considerable importance in guiding the work under the Convention, voiced support for the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/3 and said that the countries for which he spoke would work towards increasing feedback to inform the evaluation.

47. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties established a contact group on strategic matters, co-chaired by Mr. Yorg Aerts (Belgium) and Mr. Prakash Kowlessar (Mauritius), to consider the matter further and to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/3, taking into account the discussions in plenary and the conference room paper.

48. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of the draft decision submitted by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

49. Decision BC-13/1, on the Strategic Framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention

50. The President introduced the sub-item, noting that it would encompass three matters flowing from decision BC-12/1, on follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative, including addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment, the development of guidelines on environmentally sound management of wastes and providing legal clarity with regard to the interpretation of certain terminology used in the Convention.

(a) Addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment

51. Introducing the matter the President noted that since March 2015 nine Parties had deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of the Ban Amendment with the Depositary. The Secretariat, he said, continued to assist Parties having difficulties in ratifying the Amendment. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section II A of document UNEP/CHW.13/4, reporting that in accordance with decision BC-12/1 and with generous financial support from the Government of Switzerland the Secretariat had organized country-specific activities including capacity-building activities, national consultations, high-level visits and direct contact, and advice and assistance for a number of developing-country Parties. She also reported that 89 Parties to the Convention had consented to be bound by the Ban Amendment, including 60 that had been Parties at the time of its adoption, and recalled that according to the information from the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs the Amendment would enter into force upon its ratification by 66 Parties that were Parties at the time of its adoption.

52. Opening the floor for discussion the President congratulated those Parties that had ratified the Ban Amendment since the twelfth meeting of the Parties, namely, Antigua and Barbuda, El Salvador, Guinea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Niger, Seychelles and South Africa.

53. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries welcomed the latest ratifications and called on other Parties to ratify the Amendment. Several representatives underscored the importance of the Ban Amendment and

expressed support for the draft decision, with one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, saying that the decision should include a specific call for all Parties to ratify the Amendment.

54. One representative (Maldives) reported that the ratification process in his country was nearly complete and thanked the Government of Switzerland and the Secretariat for their support with the process. Another said that his country currently did not have the legislative support necessary to ratify the Amendment. A number of representatives called for increased technical assistance to developing countries to assist them in ratifying the Amendment, while another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for more country-specific assistance in support of ratifications, including capacity-building and high-level visits.

55. One representative said that the Ban Amendment was inconsistent with a circular economy and created barriers to recycling in a time of increasing globalization. His country allowed imports and exports of hazardous waste for recycling and recovery purposes under stringent monitoring and with prior informed consent, and such activities constituted part of his country's strategy for creating sustainable consumption and production patterns and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

56. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted section I of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/4, as orally amended and pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

57. Section I of decision BC-13/2, on follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(b) Environmentally sound management of wastes

58. Introducing the matter the President said that the expert working group on environmentally sound management established by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting had achieved a great deal in the development of practical tools for promoting environmentally sound management, thanks in part to the leadership provided by the group's co-chairs, Mr. Adel Shafei Osman (Egypt) and Mr. Andreas Jaron (Germany). Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the documentation relevant to the matter, including section II B of document UNEP/CHW.13/4 and a number of documents prepared by the expert working group, including a revised set of practical manuals for the promotion of the environmentally sound management of wastes (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.1), a draft work programme of the expert working group (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.3), revised draft fact sheets on specific waste streams (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/7), draft practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/8) and a report on the responses to the online survey to assess the relevance and utility of the Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9).

59. Mr. Jaron then gave a brief presentation on the work of the expert working group in developing the documents listed in the preceding paragraph, which it had developed and revised in the light of consultations with and comments by Parties and others, observing that it had been difficult at times to capture the differing contexts of different countries in such brief documents. In addition to the documents listed above, the group was presenting for consideration and possible adoption at the current meeting its draft guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of wastes (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/11), which he noted would be considered under agenda item 4 (a) (iii), on the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes. In concluding, he said that the group had included the last remaining tasks under its mandate in the draft work programme set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.3 and he expressed appreciation for the support of the Secretariat; for the effort and experience put into the work by the group members and observers; and for the financial support and in-kind contributions provided by the donors and other partners, including the European Union, the Governments of Belgium, Germany, Japan, Norway and Switzerland and Sims Recycling Solutions.

60. In the ensuing discussion general appreciation was expressed to the expert working group for the quality of its work, with one representative thanking the Parties that had supported it financially. Most of those that spoke, including one on behalf of a group of countries, said that the revised set of draft practical manuals were ready for adoption. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that the insight they provided into key aspects of the environmentally sound management of wastes would serve to further the implementation of the concept at the national and local levels, while another representative said that the manuals needed to be made available in all six

official languages of the United Nations and should be tested in regional and subregional pilot projects. Several representatives expressed appreciation for the fact sheets, with a number saying that they too were ready for adoption and that the Conference of the Parties should welcome them and encourage their dissemination and use.

61. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for the mandate of the expert working group to be extended and its draft work programme adopted. Several, including the one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they looked forward to seeing the further development of the draft practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management, which dealt with concepts that a number said were already being mainstreamed into their national laws. One representative, supported by another, said that there was no need to include further development of the draft guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal in the work programme, as it could already be adopted as presented in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/11. Among the additional areas that could be included in the draft work programme one representative suggested plans specific to, among other things, wastes with a high recycling potential, the informal waste management sector, technical transfer mechanisms and the recovery of hazardous and other wastes, bearing in mind the need to avoid any duplication of the work done under the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that some of the activities in the work programme needed clarification in the draft decision and, together with another representative, expressed the desire to discuss that and other aspects of the work programme and the extended mandate of the expert working group further in a contact group.

62. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the set of practical manuals set out in the annex to document UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.1/Rev.1 and welcomed the revised fact sheets on specific waste streams set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/7/Rev.1. It also decided to refer all other documents relevant to the sub-item and in need of revision or enhancement to the contact group on strategic matters established as described in section IV A 1 above (para. 47) and to request the contact group to prepare a revised version of section II of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/4 for its consideration and possible adoption, taking into account the discussions in plenary. The contact group on strategic matters would also consider the report on the responses to the online survey to assess the relevance and utility of the Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9), and its discussions would be open to any participants in the technical matters contact group established as described in section IV B 1 (a) below (para. 80) that might wish to participate.

63. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of section II of the draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

64. Section II of decision BC-13/2, on follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(c) Legal clarity

65. Introducing the matter, the President noted that it encompassed the glossary of terms developed by the small intersessional working group on legal clarity established in accordance with decision BC-12/1, as well as the review of Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX of the Convention. He also noted that the small intersessional working group had elected Ms. Jimena Nieto (Colombia) and Mr. Simon Parker (United Kingdom) as the co-chairs of the working group and that Canada had served as lead country for the review of Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX until the current meeting.

66. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section II C of document UNEP/CHW.13/4, recalling that at its tenth meeting the Open-ended Working Group had recommended that the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting adopt the glossary of terms finalized by the small intersessional working group. In accordance with decision OEWG-10/8, Canada had developed a concept paper on the review of Annex IV to the Convention and related aspects of Annex IX to the Convention and the review of Annexes I and III to the Convention, and Parties and others had been invited to comment on it. The glossary of terms (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.2) and a report by Canada on the review of the annexes (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/10) were before the Conference of the Parties. Financial support for the work on

legal clarity had been generously provided by the European Union and the Governments of Japan and Switzerland.

67. Mr. Juan Simonelli (Argentina) then reported on the work of the small intersessional working group on behalf of the group's co-chairs, saying that the group had worked over several months by electronic means before finalizing the glossary of terms in a face-to-face meeting organized thanks to financial support from the Government of Japan. In accordance with decision OEWG-10/8, it had also been consulted by Canada concerning its work as lead country for the review of Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX. With regard to the glossary of terms, he emphasized its primary aim of clarifying the distinction between waste and non-waste; its focus on overarching, rather than specific, terms; its borrowing of existing definitions for terms from the Convention; its non-alphabetical listing of terms in favour of a more logical sequence; and its inclusion of notes to assist users.

68. Mr. Marc d'Iorio (Canada), reporting on the work on the review of Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX, said that the world of chemicals and waste had changed enormously over the years since the Convention had been adopted, necessitating a comprehensive review of its annexes so as to identify solutions to issues that had emerged from its implementation. The review was important not only to further guide the development of relevant national legislation, but also because it would enhance the effectiveness of the Convention. The welcome views received in response to the concept paper developed by Canada had been integrated into Canada's report on the review, which contained options for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

69. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the work of the small intersessional working group and called for the adoption of the glossary of terms, saying that it was a very useful piece of guidance that would bring clarity on key elements of the Convention. One, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that his delegation had suggestions for amending the draft decision. Another representative, while praising its aim and overall content, said that the glossary required further discussion to examine potential inconsistencies or conflicts. One said that while the glossary would facilitate implementation, some Parties required additional assistance to implement the Convention effectively, particularly with regard to the illegal transboundary movements of wastes.

70. There was general agreement regarding the importance of reviewing Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Convention, most likely through an intersessional working group, especially given that the annexes had been adopted long before. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested prioritizing and completing the review of Annex IV and related aspects of Annex IX in time for proposals to amend them to be adopted at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A number of representatives said that Parties should take their time to complete the review. One representative suggested that a review of Annex II might also be appropriate. Several representatives proposed various modalities for the intersessional work, including that it be, *inter alia*, open-ended, transparent, structured to include the active participation of many Parties, including developing countries, open to observers, tasked with addressing issues related to oceans and allowed time to consider the issues carefully. Several representatives expressed appreciation for the role played by Canada as the lead country and for the financial support provided by the European Union and the Governments of Japan and Switzerland for the work on improving legal clarity.

71. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group on compliance and legal matters established during the joint sessions as described in section IV C 1 below (para. 126) should consider the matter further with the mandate to finalize the glossary of terms set out in UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.2 and to prepare a revised version of section III of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/4, taking into consideration the report by Canada on the review of the annexes set out in UNEP/CHW.13/INF/10 and the discussions in plenary.

72. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of section III of the draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

73. Section III of decision BC-13/2, on follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

3. **Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes**

74. Introducing the matter the President observed that by adopting the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties to the Convention had committed to promoting and implementing more efficient waste prevention and minimization strategies, taking measures to decouple economic growth and environmental impacts and encouraging improved access to cleaner production methods. At their twelfth meeting the Parties had followed up by adopting a road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration.

75. The representative of the Secretariat continued the introduction, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/5 and recalling that, in addition to adopting the road map, by its decision BC-12/2 the Conference of the Parties had mandated the expert working group on environmentally sound management to develop guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal, had invited Parties and others to provide the Secretariat with information on their efforts to implement the road map and had requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on progress in the implementation of the road map for consideration at the current meeting. In accordance with the decision the expert working group had developed guidance (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/11). As only one Party had submitted information on its implementation of the road map, however, the Secretariat had not been able to prepare the report requested in decision BC-12/2.

76. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work done by the expert working group and supported the adoption of the draft guidance. The representative of the European Union and its member States drew attention to a conference room paper submitted by his delegation that contained minor proposals for enhancing the consistency of the draft guidance and suggested that a contact group could discuss it as well as ways to amend the draft decision to create a structured information exchange regarding good practices and examples. One representative said that financial and technological assistance should be provided to assist Parties that required it to implement the goals of the Convention and the Cartagena Declaration. Another detailed efforts in her country to develop and implement policies and actions consistent with the Declaration and how that work would benefit from the guidance developed by the expert working group. One representative expressed concern that recovery was not included in the road map, despite its inclusion in the title of the Declaration, and in the draft guidance. His country believed recovery was at the core of sustainable production and consumption patterns, and that this was indicated in the Sustainable Development Goals. He welcomed the draft guidance but proposed that it be considered for adoption at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, following the addition of a section on recovery.

77. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group on strategic matters established as described in section IV A 1 above (para. 47) should consider the matter further with the mandate to consider further the draft guidance and to prepare a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties based on the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/5, taking into account the discussions in plenary.

78. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

79. Decision BC-13/3, on the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

B. Scientific and technical matters

1. Technical guidelines

(a) Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants

80. In the interests of time the Conference of the Parties established a contact group on technical matters, co-chaired by Ms. Jacinthe Séguin (Canada) and Ms. Magda Gosk (Poland), to consider the matter of technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and to prepare a draft decision for

consideration by the Conference of the Parties based on the draft decision set out in section I of document UNEP/CHW.13/6.

81. Following the work of the contact group its co-chair introduced a draft decision prepared by the group, reporting that agreement had been reached on all six sets of guidelines under consideration and on the provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values for each of the new persistent organic pollutants considered. Saying that one Party's willingness to compromise had been key to achieving consensus on the provisional low persistent organic pollutant content value for polychlorinated naphthalenes, and expressing appreciation for, among other things, the financial support for the small intersessional working group provided by the Government of Japan, she highlighted areas in which participants had called for further work to improve Basel Convention guidance on the management of persistent organic pollutant wastes, including with regard to matters such as low persistent organic pollutant content values for dioxins and furans and additional screening and disposal methods for chemicals with low persistent organic pollutant content values.

82. The Conference of the Parties then adopted, as orally amended, the draft decision prepared by the contact group on technical matters, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

83. Decision BC-13/4, 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 annex I to the present report.

(b) 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

84. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section II of document UNEP/CHW.13/6 and recalled that, by decision BC-12/5, the Conference of the Parties had on an interim basis adopted 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, which were available on the Convention website. The Conference of the Parties had also requested Parties and others to submit comments and information on the matters listed in paragraphs 5 and 8 of the decision relevant to the distinction between waste and non-waste. In response to a subsequent request by the Open-ended Working Group in its decision OEWG-10/5, the Secretariat had circulated a questionnaire developed with the small intersessional working group on e-waste on the experience of Parties and others with the technical guidelines, the responses to which were compiled in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/16, and had prepared a note providing preliminary legal advice on the issues referred to in paragraphs 8 (c) and 8 (f) of the decision (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/17).

85. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives expressed appreciation for the work of the small intersessional working group and the Secretariat in developing the technical guidelines, which they said were of great importance. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, described measures taken in their own countries to implement the guidelines, which included transposing them into national legislation or guidelines. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that it would take time to assess the impact of such measures and joined by others said that it would be necessary to share experiences with implementation of the guidelines in order to improve them; the Secretariat's compilation of responses to the questionnaire was very useful in that regard. A number of representatives stated their willingness to share their national experiences in dealing with e-waste.

86. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Open-ended Working Group must continue its work of refining the technical guidelines and that the Convention's regional and coordinating centres should assist developing countries to build their capacities to elaborate the legal and policy frameworks needed for implementation of the guidelines; use the guidelines at the national and regional levels; control the import of e-waste; and manage the flow of transit notifications. One representative said that implementation of the guidelines was dependent on a Party's resources and would require technical and financial assistance.

87. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the outstanding issues pertaining to the guidelines must be resolved, in particular the distinction between waste and non-waste, which was vital to improving the control of e-waste in developing countries. A number of others said that differing national definitions of waste must be taken into account, together with prohibitions or requirements under national legislation concerning the import of waste streams and

transboundary movement procedures applicable to wastes defined as hazardous. A number of others said that the distinction between hazardous waste and non-hazardous waste should also take into account contamination levels, one of them asking in addition whether e-waste classified as unusable was deemed hazardous, including in terms of transboundary movement. Another representative said that the guidelines should clearly stipulate that any electronic equipment destined for reuse must be shipped back to the country of export if it failed to function or was unusable for its intended purpose and that the residual lifetimes and dates of production of such equipment should be declared prior to shipment. One representative suggested that e-waste should be defined as distinct from new items and that it would be useful to classify products in accordance with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

88. One representative said that more information should be provided with regard to the customs regimes applicable to non-e-waste and extended producer responsibility, which another said should underpin the guidelines. Another representative said that national legislation prevailed over the guidelines, in particular with regard to the notification requirement under paragraphs 27 and 29. In his view, notification to the Secretariat and written confirmation from the authorities in the country of destination that equipment was not considered to be waste would help to ensure that used electrical and electronic equipment would be reusable following its repair and would serve as a means of screening the transboundary movement of hazardous waste. One representative said that e-waste importing countries should inform exporting countries of the results of failure analysis, repair and refurbishment operations.

89. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries was joined by another in saying that the technical guidelines must be consistent with the other technical guidelines relating to hazardous waste, in particular persistent organic pollutants and mercury. The other technical guidelines should also be updated and all guidelines made available in the six official languages of the United Nations. He added that all non-functional or untested used electronic equipment should be considered hazardous waste, in conformity with a decision of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa. He further added that paragraph 31 (b) of the guidelines must be urgently amended to limit the exceptions to the definition of waste to situations involving emergencies and epidemics, failing which African Parties to the Convention might not be in a position to implement its provisions. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that his delegation had prepared proposed amendments to the draft decision in section II of document UNEP/CHW.13/6. The representative of China introduced a conference room paper setting out similar proposed amendments and the representative of India introduced a conference room paper with suggestions on outstanding issues regarding the adopted interim guidelines.

90. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group on technical matters established as described in section IV B 1 (a) above (para. 80) should consider the matter further by first prioritizing resolution of the pending issues in the technical guidelines, in particular with regard to appendix V thereof, and thereafter, if time permitted, by discussing further issues. The group was also to take into consideration the conference room papers prepared by China and India. On that understanding, the group was requested to prepare a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, using as a basis the draft decision set out in section II of document UNEP/CHW.13/6 and taking into account the discussions in plenary and the proposed amendments that had been submitted in writing.

91. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

92. Decision BC-13/5, 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 annex I to the present report.

93. At the time of adoption of the decision, the representative of Switzerland welcomed the process set out in the decision as one that boded well for advancing the work to finalize the technical guidelines and called on Parties and others to provide information and knowledge in furtherance of that goal. He thanked China for its offer to serve as the lead country for the work of the expert group, which his Government would support through a financial contribution. The representative of Japan said that the technical guidelines would enhance the effectiveness of import and export control measures relating to e-waste and announced that his Government would provide both technical and

financial assistance for the intersessional activities of the expert working group. The representative of China expressed appreciation for the trust placed in her country as lead country, saying that it was through concerted efforts and support that progress towards resolving the outstanding issues pertaining to the guidelines would be achieved before the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(c) **Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds**

94. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in section III of document UNEP/CHW.13/6 and recalling that by decision BC-12/4 the Conference of the Parties had adopted technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury, which were available on the Convention website, and had requested Parties and others to submit comments on their experience in using the guidelines and on any developments regarding methods for the environmentally sound disposal of mercury wastes. The Secretariat had not to date received any such comments.

95. In the ensuing discussion one representative said that environmentally sound management of mercury and mercury wastes were important issues to be tackled by each country. His country, he said, had amended national legislation to ensure the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes, including through various technical guidelines and the development of a methodology for the final disposal of wastes containing mercury or mercury compounds. His country had been leading the informal discussions on the threshold for the identification of mercury wastes under the Minamata Convention and he expressed appreciation to the countries that had contributed to that work.

96. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties took note of the information set out in section III of document UNEP/CHW.13/6.

(d) **Technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), on specially engineered landfill (D5) and on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8)**

97. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in section IV of document UNEP/CHW.13/6 and recalling that at its twelfth meeting the Conference of the Parties had included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2016–2017 (decision BC-12/19, annex) consideration of whether the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), the technical guidelines on specially engineered landfill (D5) and the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) should be updated. At its tenth meeting the Open-ended Working Group had requested the Secretariat to conduct a survey to assess the relevance and utility of the Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management, including the above technical guidelines, and had recommended that the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting, taking into account the results of the survey, consider whether the technical guidelines should be updated. The results of the survey were set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9 and the assessment prepared by the Secretariat in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/18.

98. In the ensuing discussion a number of representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries said that the guidelines should be updated, with priority given to those on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5), although one of them said that the updating should await the gathering of additional information through the conduct of a further survey. Another representative agreed that the guidelines should be updated but said that priority should go to the guidelines on incineration on land and the guidelines on biological treatment. Supported by another representative, one of the representatives speaking on behalf of a group of countries also said that the fact sheets on persistent organic pollutant destruction technologies should be used as the basis for the development of practical manuals that would complement the technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes. Another representative said that it was necessary to look at all of the relevant communications products under the Convention and to decide which ones might need updating and what form any updating should take, with the aim of ensuring that all of them conveyed the same information and avoided inconsistencies. The issue, she said, should be discussed in a contact group. Another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that it was not clear from the results of the survey that the guidelines needed to be updated, and he expressed the desire to hear from Parties that had used them and considered them to be important tools regarding their experiences in doing so. If the guidelines were to be updated, he added, it would be necessary to consider the priority of the related work in the context of the entire programme of work under the Convention.

99. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group on strategic matters established as described in section IV A 1 above (para. 47) should discuss the next steps for the report on the responses to the online survey and provide recommendations to the contact group on technical matters established as described in section IV B 1 (a) above (para. 80). The contact group on technical matters would then consider the preparation of a draft decision as necessary taking into account the recommendations of the strategic matters contact group.

100. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group on technical matters, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

101. Decision BC-13/6, on technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5), as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Amendments to the annexes to the Basel Convention

102. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, recalling that Parties wishing to propose changes to the lists of wastes in Annex VIII and Annex IX to the Convention could do so using the procedure and form adopted for that purpose by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VIII/15, according to which proposed changes would be considered by the Open-ended Working Group. No proposals for changes to the lists in Annex VIII and Annex IX had been put forth for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting.

103. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information presented.

3. Classification and hazard characterization of wastes

104. Introducing the matter, the President observed that the Conference of the Parties had long recognized that it would be useful for codes under the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System of the World Customs Organization (WCO) to be assigned to wastes listed under the Basel Convention and that to that end the Secretariat had long pursued cooperation with WCO. The representative of the Secretariat continued the introduction, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/7 and recalling that pursuant to decision BC-10/10 the Secretariat had in 2013 submitted to WCO a proposal for the inclusion of a list of 15 wastes in the Harmonized System. Since its forty-sixth session, in November 2013, the WCO Harmonized System Review Subcommittee had been working on ways to amend the Harmonized System to include wastes covered by the Basel Convention, with a priority on e-waste, in the 2022 edition of the Harmonized System Nomenclature, but it was not yet clear if the work could be completed in time for the inclusion of the wastes in that edition.

105. In the ensuing discussion there was general commendation of and support for the work on the matter undertaken by the Secretariat in coordination with WCO, and several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, urged the Secretariat to continue to collaborate with WCO towards the amendment of the Harmonized System to allow for the classification of wastes listed under the Basel Convention.

106. One representative said that further clarity on and identification of those waste streams that should be dealt with as a priority would help the Harmonized System Review Subcommittee to focus its work. One representative said that the glossary of terms developed by the small intersessional working group on legal clarity, including the clear definition of electrical and electronic waste, would be of great assistance in stopping illegal traffic of hazardous wastes. Another representative encouraged those regulating transboundary movement of hazardous wastes to continue to work with WCO and the Basel Convention Secretariat to clarify definitions that remained unclear, for example the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, thus facilitating compliance with the Convention. One representative said that the scope of the 2022 edition of the Harmonized System could usefully be widened to include such wastes as lead, tyres, plastics and certain metals.

107. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/7, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

108. Decision BC-13/7, on cooperation with the World Customs Organization and its Harmonized System Committee, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

4. National reporting

109. Introducing the matter the President recalled that at its twelfth meeting the Conference of the Parties had adopted a revised format for reporting by Parties, which would be used for the first time in 2017, had requested the small intersessional working group on reporting, led by Germany, to prepare a draft manual on the use of the format and had requested the Secretariat to update the electronic reporting system and to prepare guidance on developing inventories of specific waste streams. The representative of the Secretariat continued the introduction, noting that the draft manual on the use of the reporting format was set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/20 (in the six official languages of the United Nations) and a draft revision of the user manual for the electronic reporting system in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/21. Changes to the revised reporting format proposed by the Implementation and Compliance Committee in respect of conditions for transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the jurisdiction of multiple competent authorities were set out in the annexes to document UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2. She also reported that the Secretariat was collaborating with UNEP and the United Nations Statistics Division to facilitate the reporting by Parties in their national reports of data that was useful for measuring progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 12 (to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns) and to further develop methodologies for the indicators. She also noted that in response to decisions BC-12/6 and OEWG-10/6 the Secretariat had developed practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries, electrical and electronic waste and waste oils (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/22).

110. The representative of Germany, as the chair of the small intersessional working group on reporting, thanked the 20 participants of the group for their hard work and effective collaboration.

111. In the ensuing discussion, there was general appreciation for the documents produced by the small intersessional working group on reporting and by the Secretariat.

112. The representative of the European Union and its member States drew attention to three conference room papers proposing amendments to document UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2; corresponding modifications to document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/20; and amendments to the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/8. While expressing appreciation for the practical guidance in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/22, he proposed that experience with its use be gained before work on any similar guidance relating to other waste streams was begun. Two other representatives said they wished to discuss in more detail and propose amendments to the conference room papers.

113. One representative highlighted differences between her country's national legislation on waste management and the Basel Convention waste list, which had led to gaps in its national reporting. Another representative explained that her country had initially experienced some technical difficulties in submitting its report by the deadline, but those difficulties had been overcome and the report had been submitted. One representative proposed that a methodology be developed to facilitate the compilation of data on targets 12.2 and 12.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals to help with national reporting.

114. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/8, in consultation with interested Parties and taking into account the discussions in plenary and the submitted conference room papers.

115. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

116. Decision BC-13/8, on national reporting, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

C. Legal, compliance and governance matters

1. Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention

117. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention (agenda item 4 (c) (i)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 118–149 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs

126–157, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 191–222.

118. Introducing the item, the President indicated that matters relating to compliance under each of the three conventions would be discussed sequentially, with each President presiding over the discussions pertaining to his convention.

(a) Basel Convention

119. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, indicating that the principal subjects to be considered at the current meeting were the report of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance on its activities during the biennium 2016–2017 (UNEP/CHW.13/9, sects. II B and II C), which included recommendations in respect of both the Committee's general review mandate and its specific submission mandate, and the election of five new members of the Committee. Draft guidance on illegal traffic (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1) and proposed revisions to the revised reporting format and the forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions or prohibitions (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2) were also before the Conference of the Parties for consideration. She highlighted the generous financial support for the Committee that had been provided by the Governments of Colombia, Japan, Norway and Switzerland and by the European Union.

120. Mr. Simonelli, Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, gave a presentation, highlighting some of the activities and recommendations detailed in document UNEP/CHW.13/9. Regarding the work of the Committee on specific submissions, he outlined the progress made in dealing with the 13 specific submissions considered at the Committee's twelfth meeting. He added that the Committee recommended that it be mandated to explore options for strengthening institutional links with 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, to ensure mutual support between the two bodies and the efficient use of resources. As to the work under the general review mandate, he drew attention to the activities and recommendations related to national reporting, national legislation, illegal traffic, guidance on insurance, bonds and other guarantees and the control system. On the matter of reporting he pointed out that the targets set at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to improve the completeness and timely submission of national reports had not been met, with only nine of the 178 Parties with an obligation to submit full reports for 2013 having done so by the stated deadline. In concluding, he drew attention to the Committee's proposed programme of work for 2018–2019, which included new areas of work for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, and expressed appreciation for, among other things, the cooperation of Parties in the activities of the Committee and the financial support provided by Parties, including through the implementation fund.

121. In the ensuing discussion, many participants voiced appreciation for the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee. One representative said that the mechanism should assist Parties to implement the Convention and be simple, transparent and not overly rigid. He said that it should help Parties to provide reports with the required information within required timelines and improve coordination between all authorities such that information could be provided on product inventorying and scheduling, and he added that additional guidelines for the preparation of reports and inventories should be developed. Another representative said that the mechanism worked well and that Parties viewed it as supportive rather than punitive. He added that his country was pleased to continue to support the implementation fund. Another representative urged that work towards the development of guidance on Article 11 agreements and arrangements with non-Parties continue. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Committee should keep its activities consistent with its programme of work and mandate. He drew attention to conference room papers submitted by the European Union and its member States that contained suggestions for amendments to the guidance on illegal traffic and the format for national reporting, saying that another conference room paper would be submitted proposing changes to the draft decision and to the Committee's programme of work. Supported by another representative he expressed concern regarding the proposed further work on electronic approaches to the control system and said that the possible establishment of an intersessional group as well as the previously mentioned issues could be discussed in a contact group. Another representative said that amending the terms of reference of the Committee merited further discussion and that she would have some recommendations on a few items of the work programme.

122. One representative said that he had submitted a conference room paper reflecting concerns with the reporting format. Regarding the classification of Parties' compliance performance with regard to reporting, he objected to the naming of Parties and, suggesting that even developed countries did not always have the capacity to complete their national reporting, said that the mechanism must retain the spirit of the Convention by building the capacity of countries to implement its objectives. Another representative said that the proposed additional paragraph for the terms of reference of the Committee should reflect a non-punitive, non-adversarial and conciliatory mechanism, which was not the way it was currently drafted.

123. A few representatives drew attention to the low level of reporting, with one adding that it was not clear whether the Committee had carried out a study to understand the reason why there had been so little reporting and another suggesting that the reason was that there was no new information to report. One representative said that since the existing reporting system was not being well implemented it might not be effective to impose additional requirements that might improve the process but would require additional funding that had not yet been identified.

124. Several representatives said that there was a need for technical and financial assistance, training and capacity-building in respect of reporting. One representative said that the Special Programme could assist countries with such needs. He added that it was important to accelerate the mechanism so that reporting could be carried out in a timely manner and consistently between the three conventions.

125. Several representatives outlined their countries' experience in matters related to compliance and identified challenges faced, including a lack of infrastructure resulting in hazardous waste needing to be treated abroad, national situations that led to the spread of hazardous wastes and chemicals, a need for assistance with the return of illegal goods to their points of origin, improvement of feedback on reports submitted and a lack of national legislation and inventories of all processes for fighting against waste products.

126. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties established a contact group on Basel Convention compliance and legal matters, co-chaired by Mr. Simonelli and Mr. Geri-Geronimo Romero Sañez (Philippines). The group was asked to prepare for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at a subsequent session a draft decision using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/9 as a starting point and taking into account the discussion outlined above; a revised draft of the guidance set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1; and revised proposed revisions to the revised reporting format and the forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions or prohibitions set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2 and the conference room papers submitted by the European Union and its member States and India.

127. Following the establishment of the contact group the President said that it was vital for all Parties to the Convention, especially those not in a position to participate in intersessional processes, to have the time to review the outcomes of such processes so that they could come to meetings of the Conference of the Parties prepared for their consideration and possible adoption. The regional preparatory meetings were key to that preparatory work, as was careful planning to ensure that the outcomes of intersessional processes were finalized in a timely manner. To that end, he had asked the Secretariat to prepare a schedule for intersessional work to ensure that all products of intersessional groups under the Basel Convention were complete by the end of October 2018 so that they would be ready for consideration and possible adoption at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

128. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019, the draft decision prepared by the contract group, in which, among other things, it adopted a revised version of the draft guidance on illegal traffic (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1/Rev.1) and further revised versions of the reporting format and forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions and prohibitions (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1).

129. Decision BC-13/9, on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28).

(b) Rotterdam Convention

130. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18 and recalling that at its seventh meeting, as at all its previous

meetings, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had discussed but had not achieved consensus on adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention. By its decision RC-7/6, the Conference of the Parties had accordingly decided that it would further consider the procedures and mechanisms for adoption early in the course of its eighth meeting, using the draft text in the annex to the decision (reproduced for the current meeting in annex I to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18) as the starting point for its discussions, and had invited the Bureau to facilitate consultations among Parties in the period between its seventh and eighth meetings to promote a policy dialogue on outstanding issues. In the course of those consultations, following the submission of views by Parties, the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties had submitted to the bureaux of the three Conventions a proposal that the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention consider for adoption the procedures and mechanisms on compliance in plenary at the beginning of the 2017 meetings. Concluding the introduction of the document, she said that the compromise text and draft decision by the co-chairs of the contact group that had considered the matter at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties was set out in annex II to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18.

131. The President said that as a result of the consultations held since the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, it appeared that there was no longer any objection to the adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance. He proposed that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decision set out in annex II to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18, with minor adjustments to reflect that it was being adopted at the eighth rather than the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

132. In the ensuing discussion, it was widely acknowledged that the establishment of compliance procedures was required by the Convention, that compliance with the Convention was crucial to its success, and that the compliance procedure to be established should contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention and be facilitative, transparent and non-punitive in nature. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized that the provision of adequate financial and technical assistance was closely linked to the effective implementation of the Convention and thus compliance.

133. Several representatives called for the examination of the draft text on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention and the links between compliance and financial resources and technical assistance, including with regard to how the term compliance should be defined. One called for amending the Convention to create a dedicated financial mechanism to support implementation. Other representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that compliance procedures could be agreed to at the current meeting based on the compromise text and draft decision achieved at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Several of those representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that discussion should be limited to issues on which there was disagreement at the end of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as indicated by the presence of square brackets around relevant paragraphs in the draft text. Another representative underscored that, at the seventh meeting of the Parties, his country had not agreed to the text on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention.

134. Following the discussion, it was agreed that the matter would be further considered during the separate sessions of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

135. Following resumption of the consideration of the matter of compliance a regionally balanced friends-of-the-President group chaired by the President was established to look at the way forward. The President subsequently presented for adoption a compromise version of the annexes to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18 that he had prepared following consultations in the friends-of-the-President group in an effort to accommodate the concerns of those opposing the proposed compliance mechanism and procedures in their current form while respecting the position of others that matters on which tentative agreement had been reached at the sixth and seventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties should not be reopened. In introducing the compromise version he noted in particular that a Party-to-Party trigger could only be effected following consultation with the Party concerned to allow it to correct any misunderstandings and that the proposed compliance committee would have to ensure that it was taking into account the Party's national circumstances in drafting its recommendations; that while the committee could adopt decisions by a four-fifths majority, any recommendations put forward by the committee to the Conference of the Parties for adoption would need to be approved by the Conference of the Parties by consensus; and that any Party being reviewed should receive information and advice from the committee to facilitate its preparation of a voluntary plan for meeting its obligations under the Convention. He also highlighted a new paragraph in the related draft decision stating that the procedures and mechanisms should be facilitative, non-punitive and non-adversarial.

136. In the ensuing discussion one representative said that the President's compromise version did not adequately capture his country's position. Supported by several other representatives, he said among other things that only a few Parties had had a chance to examine it in detail; that it therefore reflected the views of a relatively small group of Parties; and that debate should continue and not be limited to provisions enclosed in square brackets in the draft text in annex I to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18. One representative, supported by another, called for further discussion in a contact group.

137. Several other representatives, on the other hand, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended the President on his work and, expressing dismay at the failure to achieve consensus, opposed any further discussion of text on which tentative agreement had been reached at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

138. The President then indicated that while some representatives had expressed concern regarding his compromise proposal none had objected to its adoption, and he accordingly announced that it had been adopted. Several representatives, asking that their comments be reflected in the present report, argued strongly in response that they had indeed objected to the adoption of the compromise proposal. They also said that the President's announcement that his proposal had been adopted was invalid, with one Party objecting to the announcement.

139. At a subsequent session, one Party, asking that its comment be reflected in the present report, requested that the quorum for the debate to proceed be verified, which was done by the Secretariat and announced by the President. The debate then continued with the President saying that, in the light of the comments mentioned in the previous paragraph, it had become clear that there was no consensus on his proposal and that the Conference of the Parties had not in fact adopted his proposed compromise text, and he then withdrew that text as a proposed basis for further discussion.

140. Regarding the basis for further discussion of compliance at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, reiterated their position that discussion should proceed from the tentative agreement that had been reached at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, with one Party referring to the importance of incremental negotiations, that draft text set out in the annex to decision RC-7/6 that was not enclosed in square brackets should not be reopened. Citing the proposition that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed", a number of other representatives argued that all provisions of the draft compliance procedures and mechanisms remained open for debate and that future discussions should reflect all positions put forth at the current meeting, including in relevant conference room papers. Another representative said that aspects of the consensus decision-making procedures were blocking progress in the operation and further development of the Convention.

141. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of compliance to its ninth meeting.

(c) Stockholm Convention

142. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23 and recalling that at its seventh meeting and all previous meetings the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention had discussed but had not achieved consensus on adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention. By its decision SC-7/26, the Conference of the Parties had accordingly decided that it would further consider the procedures and mechanisms for adoption early in the course of its eighth meeting and had invited the Bureau to facilitate consultations among Parties in the period between its seventh and eighth meetings to promote a policy dialogue on outstanding issues. In the course of those consultations, following the submission of views by Parties, the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties had submitted to the bureaux of the three conventions a proposal that the issue of compliance be taken up by a friends-of-the-President group early in the course of the 2017 meetings. She also noted that in considering the draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance the Conference of the Parties might wish to take into account relevant recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22/Add.1, paras. 151–169, 179 and 180), which included a recommendation that the Conference of the Parties adopt procedures and mechanisms on compliance at the current meeting.

143. Continuing the introduction the President said that the Conference of the Parties could commence its work based on either of the two versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23: the first version as it stood at the close of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which time there were four principal issues

outstanding, and the second as it stood at the close of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which reflected several additional outstanding issues raised at that meeting.

144. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, underscored the importance of establishing an effective compliance mechanism. A number of representatives said that compliance and the provision of adequate financial and technical assistance to developing countries were linked. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that discussion of the matter should move forward on matters on which agreement had not yet been reached and should not reopen previous discussions. Another representative proposed the establishment of a contact group to discuss remaining substantial issues and views.

145. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties established a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada) and Mr. Humphrey Mwale (Zambia), to consider the matter for a period of three hours, after which the co-chairs would report to the plenary on the outcome of the group's discussions.

146. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties decided that a regionally balanced friends-of-the-President group co-chaired by Ms. Daniel and Mr. Mwale would consider the matter further with a focus on the outstanding issues and with the aim of preparing for its consideration a draft decision taking into account the discussions in plenary and in the contact group.

147. At a subsequent session, the co-chair of the friends-of-the-President group reported that the group had continued the discussions initiated in the contact group on the outstanding issues common to both versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23, namely, triggers and measures, until one delegation had expressed strong concern over the operating format that had been set for the group. The Conference of the Parties therefore decided to resume consideration of the matter in the contact group. At a subsequent session, the co-chair of the contact group reported that the group had held general discussions on 16 elements put forward by a group of countries, and subsequently discussed, without reaching agreement, how to further consider the matter of compliance at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

148. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, given that no agreement on any issue had been reached at the present meeting, future discussions of the matter should be based on the two versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23. Several other representatives, said that deliberations on the matter at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties should also give equal consideration to the discussions, and the proposals introduced, at the current meeting. One representative said that the entire text was open for further negotiation and requested that the Secretariat compile all relevant documents, including proposals introduced and views expressed at the current meeting, to produce a comprehensive text as the basis for future discussions.

149. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of the matter of compliance to its ninth meeting.

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

150. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/10, including with regard to the Secretariat's response to decision BC-12/8, pursuant to which it had provided legal and policy advice to Parties; continued to collect national legislation and other measures transmitted by Parties; continued to collect and, within available resources, translate, notifications of national definitions of hazardous wastes and of import/export restrictions and prohibitions; assisted Parties in their identification of cases of illegal traffic; collected forms regarding confirmed cases of illegal traffic and information from Parties on best practices in preventing and combating illegal traffic; and undertook activities aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic, including with a range of partners.

151. In the ensuing discussion most of those that spoke expressed support for the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/10, with many highlighting the problems and practices contributing to the continued proliferation of illegal traffic in hazardous wastes in their countries, such as inadequate or fraudulent labelling, dumping and the export of e-waste, including equipment exported in the guise of charitable donations and for recycling. Many representatives gave examples of their Governments' efforts to address those problems through, among other things, legislative action and information-sharing and coordination with other stakeholders. Many also expressed the concern that developing and least developed-country Parties in particular lacked the capacity to tackle those problems and called for financial and technical assistance from the international community to enable

them to develop and enforce adequate border controls through, inter alia, data collection, monitoring and enforcement training, failing which those countries were unlikely to meet their obligations under the Basel Convention. Several representatives requested the Secretariat to develop additional guidance to assist Parties in developing national strategies to tackle the specific problem of the dumping of e-waste and another suggested the creation of a unified information-sharing platform.

152. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the proposed draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/10 and suggested several amendments.

153. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019 and on the understanding that the decision might need to be adjusted to take into account the outcome of the discussions on illegal traffic and trade in the joint contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues.

154. Decision BC-13/10, 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 annex I to the present report.

D. Technical assistance

155. The discussion summarized in the present section, on technical assistance (agenda item 4 (d)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 156–162, 166–171 and 177–179 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 159–165, 169–174 and 177–179, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 128–134, 138–143 and 147–149.

156. Introducing the matter, the President said that technical assistance was essential to the successful implementation of the conventions, that the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional and subregional offices of UNEP and FAO continued to play a vital role in its delivery and that it was one of the areas of work that benefited most from enhanced coordination and cooperation among the three conventions. The main matters to be considered at the current meetings were technical assistance in general, including the technical assistance plan prepared by the Secretariat for the delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions; the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres; and the implementation of decision V/32 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention.

1. Capacity-building

157. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17 and recalling that since the 2013 meetings of the conferences of the Parties the Secretariat had implemented a common technical assistance and capacity-building programme for the three conventions aimed at avoiding duplication and thus increasing the effectiveness of delivered assistance. Based on past experience and information provided by Parties about their needs, the Secretariat had developed a four-year technical assistance plan to replace the current biennial programme with a view to allowing for improved impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation while advancing capacity development and assisting Parties to address their needs in a strategic, systematic and forward-looking manner.

158. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives said that technical assistance and technology transfer were crucial to implementation of the three conventions by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. Examples of the achievements to which technical assistance had contributed included regulation and standard-setting relating to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) under the Stockholm Convention and data collection for the preparation of a proposal on carbofuran as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation under the Rotterdam Convention. Several representatives said that there was a need for increased technical assistance, in relation, for example, to dealing with new industrial persistent organic pollutants, e-waste and plastics, including microplastics in the marine environment.

159. There was general support for the Secretariat's four-year technical assistance plan, including its cross-cutting nature in respect of many issues. Several representatives, however, suggested changes to the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17, and others said that they would like to discuss the matter further in a contact group.

160. Several representatives said that there was a need for more resources for technical assistance, from both existing and new sources, to ensure that the plan could be implemented successfully. Their proposals included leveraging public-private partnerships; drawing on the expertise and resources of implementing institutions such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and ensuring coordinated programme planning with international organizations implementing programmes on chemicals and wastes.

161. One representative proposed that the technical assistance plan should build on the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and that it should incorporate the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Several representatives made comments in relation to training support, calling for more dynamic, hands-on learning as opposed to a traditional workshop format; saying that there was a need for more research, training, education and scientific and technical support in specialized fields relevant to implementation of the conventions; and calling for more support on reporting, which was currently only available from the Secretariat, which had limited time and capacity to provide it. One representative said that there was a need to ensure that the plan was a living document that was updated and adjusted as needed and implemented according to the resources available.

162. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section IV F 3 below (para. 248) should consider the matter further.

163. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision submitted by the contact group, as sections I and IV of decision BC-13/11, on technical assistance.

164. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

165. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on technical assistance that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-8/9 and SC-8/15 (sections I and III), as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

2. Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

166. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in documents UNEP/CHW.13/11 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1, on the activities undertaken by the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, the Secretariat and others in response to the requests of the conferences of the Parties to the two conventions, and highlighting information about the number of regional centres that had submitted their business plans, work plans and activity reports, the 2015 and 2016 annual joint meetings of the directors of the regional centres under the two conventions and the status of framework agreements with a number of regional centre host country Governments, including the decision by the Government of El Salvador to terminate the framework agreement between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Government of El Salvador.

167. In the ensuing discussion several members said that regional centres played a critical role in enabling the sound management of chemicals and wastes and that the need for support provided by the centres was increasing with the constant development of new products. It was also said that the regional centres should take into account the specific requirements for technical assistance identified at the current meetings when developing their work plans.

168. One representative said that the regional centres could play a role in collecting and verifying information not only on best available technologies but also on the operators using such technologies, with the aim of developing a register to assist countries in stemming the spread of dubious technologies.

169. Several representatives said that there was a need to ensure that the regional centres had the resources that they needed to support Parties. In that respect, several representatives expressed concern at the closure of a regional centre in the Latin America region, saying that others should be saved from the same fate. In that context the representative of Brazil proposed that the Stockholm Convention regional centre based in the environment agency of the State of São Paulo, (Companhia do Tecnologia do Saneamento Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo), which had also developed a number of initiatives in support of the Basel Convention, become a regional centre for the latter convention. The representatives of several countries hosting existing regional centres expressed their continued support for those centres.

170. One representative said that language-related difficulties prevented her country from benefiting fully from the services of the centre in her region, and she proposed that the regional centre located in Moscow be strengthened to allow it to support countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

171. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section IV F 3 below (para. 248) should consider the matter further.

172. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention decided to mandate both the contact group on technical matters and the contact group on budget matters to consider a submission by Panama proposing the Centre for Investigation and Medical and Toxic Information (CIIMET) as a regional centre for the Basel Convention, with a view to determining whether CIIMET fulfilled the relevant criteria and making a recommendation accordingly.

173. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/11 prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019, as section II of decision BC-13/11, on technical assistance.

174. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

175. Following adoption of the decision several representatives from the Central American and Mexican subregion said that, although they supported the decision, they wished the present report to reflect their view that the Basel Convention regional centre serving their subregion should be situated in one of the countries of that subregion for logistical and linguistic reasons and to facilitate subregional cooperation.

176. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a decision on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer as section II of decision SC-8/15, on technical assistance. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32).

3. Implementation of decision V/32 on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention

177. In the interests of time, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention decided not to discuss the implementation of decision V/32, on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention, in plenary. Instead the matter would be taken up directly by the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section IV F 3 below (para. 248).

178. Following the discussion in the contact group the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision on the matter set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/12, without change, as section III of decision BC-13/11, on technical assistance.

179. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28).

E. International cooperation, coordination and partnerships

1. Basel Convention Partnership Programme

180. Introducing the sub-item the President said that it would encompass two existing partnerships, namely, the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) and the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE), and a proposal to establish a household waste partnership. In addition, he noted that the Secretariat was involved in other partnerships such as the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the Global Partnership on Waste Management, which had been reported during the joint sessions of the 2017 meetings.

(a) Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

181. Introducing the matter the President paid tribute to the co-chairs that he said had ably managed PACE since its inception, Mr. Oladele Osibanjo of the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre in Nigeria, Ms. Leila Devia, Director of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South American region located in Argentina, and Mr. Marco Buletti (Switzerland). At the current meeting, he concluded, the Conference of the Parties would review the outcome of PACE. The representative of the Secretariat then drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.13/13.

182. At the request of the President Mr. Buletti and Ms. Devia then gave a presentation on the work of PACE. Mr. Buletti began by saying that PACE had completed the tasks assigned to it and thus was ready to be disbanded in its current structure. He then went on to describe the guidelines, manuals and reports that PACE had prepared through face-to-face and virtual meetings and the involvement of six project groups, all of which had been made possible by the generosity of donors, members of PACE and the countries that had hosted PACE meetings. The documents developed by PACE included a report setting forth the recommended criteria for environmentally sound management; a glossary of terms for PACE products; guidelines on the environmentally sound testing, refurbishment and repair of used computing equipment and environmentally sound material recovery and recycling of end-of-life computing equipment; an overall guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment; a report on strategies, actions and incentives to promote the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment; and a manual on the steps for establishing and implementing the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment.

183. With regard to the overall guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, the Conference of the Parties had adopted sections 1, 2, 4 and 5 at its eleventh meeting in 2013, but for section 3 had asked PACE to wait for the finalization of 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. Those technical guidelines had been adopted on an interim basis by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting in 2015, and PACE had subsequently revised section 3 of the overall guidance document in accordance with a request from the Open-ended Working Group. The revised section 3 was before the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting for its consideration and possible adoption in documents UNEP/CHW.13/13 and UNEP/CHW.13/13/Add.1.

184. Ms. Devia then went on to describe the pilot projects, awareness-raising activities and a proposal by PACE on how to carry on related work once PACE had ceased to function. Pilot projects, she said, had been carried out in Burkina Faso, El Salvador and the Central American region, Jordan, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, South Africa in cooperation with Lesotho and Namibia, and Suriname; workshops on PACE guidelines had been held by several regional centres and webinars had been organized in English, French and Spanish. As to follow-up on the work of PACE, the members of the partnership were of the view that there was a need to further strengthen the regional and national delivery of environmentally sound e-waste management and thus a need for a new partnership to follow up on PACE with a focus on concrete actions on the ground and the Basel Convention regional centres playing the lead coordinating role. As a next step it was proposed that the regional and coordinating centres in Argentina, China, El Salvador, Indonesia, Nigeria, Slovakia, South Africa and Trinidad and Tobago, with support from interested stakeholders and subject to the availability of resources, coordinate the implementation of activities listed in the work programme in the revised concept note set out in annex II to document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/31/Rev.1.

185. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the work of PACE, with a number outlining how their countries had benefitted from that work. Several of those who spoke, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged the regional centres to take the lead in future work on the

implementation of the actions proposed by PACE, with one calling for additional support to enable the regional centres to do so.

186. Several representatives said that it was vital for countries to share their experiences, including one who proposed that a report be prepared on the difference between electronic and other forms of waste indicating which countries had the most experience in managing such waste so that other countries could benefit from that experience. Another representative made a similar proposal, suggesting that a list be prepared distinguishing computing equipment from other used electronic equipment and specifying expected lifetimes, as it was important for developing countries to know how long they could use such equipment. One representative proposed the establishment of a list of electronic waste management companies in order to facilitate the management of electronic waste and control illicit traffic, and another representative echoed that proposal, drawing attention to the environmental challenge posed by large quantities of residual computing waste in his region that neither importers nor Governments knew what to do with and suggesting that it would be helpful to countries if the guidance could be broadened beyond the recovery of useful components.

187. One representative suggested that it was premature to adopt section 3 of the overall guidance document because matters relating to transboundary movement were still being negotiated. In response, the representative of the Secretariat indicated that the draft decision referred to the technical guidelines on transboundary movement adopted on an interim basis and that the only forum for any follow-up discussions on transboundary movement issues was the small intersessional working group on e-waste.

188. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Parties and the PACE co-chairs, to prepare for its consideration revisions to the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/13 taking into account the discussions in plenary.

189. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted, as orally amended, a revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

190. Decision BC-13/12, on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(b) Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic

191. Introducing the matter the President recalled that at its eleventh meeting the Conference of the Parties had established ENFORCE in order to increase efficiency in the use of resources available to assist Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic through the sharing of information, the pooling of resources and the coordination of technical assistance activities. Continuing the presentation the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.13/14, recalling that by its decision BC-12/14 the Conference of the Parties had elected members of ENFORCE, had encouraged ENFORCE members to continue to collaborate, and had requested the Secretariat to organize annual meetings of ENFORCE and to report on its activities. The members of ENFORCE had subsequently elected Ms. Devia, of the Basel Convention regional centre in Argentina, and Ms. Viera Spalkova, of the Basel Convention regional centre in Slovakia, as Chair and Vice-Chair of ENFORCE, respectively, and had held their second meeting, with financial support from the Government of Japan, and three teleconferences.

192. At the request of the President Ms. Devia then reported on the work of ENFORCE to date and proposed action for going forward, saying that at their meetings the members of the partnership had discussed trends in illegal traffic; exchanged information on relevant activities; agreed to, and discussed follow-up on, an updated road map and timetable for ENFORCE activities through the fourth quarter of 2017; and discussed the effectiveness of ENFORCE in facilitating capacity-building related to illegal traffic. Activities had been divided between priority activities, aimed at improving understanding of the challenges and needs of Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic in line with the requirements of the Basel Convention, and supporting activities like the sharing of training tools and materials and the facilitation of information exchange. One priority activity was the development in 2015, with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, of an independent ENFORCE website to host information shared by ENFORCE members. She also reported that two new organizations had joined ENFORCE, the Latin American Network of Environmental Prosecutors and the Arendal centre of the Global Resource Information Database (GRID-Arendal). A list of members was set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/32. At the current meeting it was proposed that the Conference of the Parties consider adopting the draft decision in document

UNEP/CHW.13/14, providing for ENFORCE to carry on its work and the election of nine new members.

193. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work undertaken by ENFORCE and supported its continuation. One called for ENFORCE to analyse specific cases of illegal traffic and provide updates regarding lessons learned. Another requested that information on domestic laws and organizations be developed so that countries would know who to contact in other countries regarding cases of illegal traffic. One representative called for involving networks and actors from more regions in the work of ENFORCE.

194. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/14, on the understanding that the names of the members of ENFORCE elected at the current meeting would be added to the decision once the elections had taken place.

195. Decision BC-13/13, on the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(c) Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste

196. Introducing the matter the President observed that the environmentally sound management of household waste posed one of the greatest challenges faced by Governments at all levels. He also recalled resolution 2/11 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on marine plastic litter and microplastics, in which the Environment Assembly stressed that the prevention and environmentally sound management of waste was key to long-term success in combating marine pollution, including marine plastic debris and microplastics. It had been timely, he concluded, when the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting had initiated the development of a partnership that would assist Governments in their efforts to support a circular economy with the aim of preventing the generation and reducing the amount of waste. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.13/15, recalling that by its decision BC-12/13 the Conference of the Parties had established an informal group to develop a workplan on the environmentally sound management of household waste, the members of which had elected Ms. Gabriela Medina (Uruguay) and Mr. Kowlessor to serve as co-chairs. At the request of the President, Ms. Medina and Mr. Kowlessor then reported on the work of the informal group to date and proposed actions for going forward.

197. Ms. Medina reported that 16 Parties, 4 intergovernmental organizations, 13 Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, 2 industry associations and 3 non-governmental organizations were participating in the group and that it had held teleconferences and, thanks to the generous financial support of the Governments of Japan and Switzerland, a face-to-face meeting in Montevideo. The group had prepared a concept note on the establishment of a household waste partnership for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting and, at the request of the Open-ended Working Group, a revised version of the concept note, including terms of reference and a workplan for 2018–2019, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting. The group had also considered whether to revise the 1994 technical guidelines on wastes collected from households and concluded that they were outdated and should therefore be supplemented by a new and more comprehensive guidance document to be developed by the household waste partnership.

198. Noting that the draft concept note and terms of reference were set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33, Mr. Kowlessor suggested that the Conference of the Parties might wish to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/15 and thus establish the household waste partnership and mandate it to carry out its workplan.

199. In the ensuing discussion all representatives who took the floor supported the establishment of a partnership on household waste and expressed appreciation to the informal group.

200. Noting the enormous problems that countries, in particular developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island developing States, faced in dealing with household waste, many representatives provided information on related challenges faced in their countries and regions, including addressing the transport of wastes through national waterways to the oceans; adverse effects on fishing communities; and difficulties in managing the great variety of substances contained in household waste, which were commingled and included hazardous and medical wastes. Several representatives said that plastic wastes such as those deriving from cosmetics, plastic bags and single use plastics often ended up in rivers and oceans, posing a serious problem. Representatives also expressed concerns about open and uncontrolled dumpsites; a lack of space for landfills, especially in the case of small island developing States; contamination of ground water and soil by dumpsites; open burning; resistance to the siting of landfills; and socioeconomic impacts.

201. Representatives mentioned a number of things that would be needed in any effort to tackle household waste, including techniques that avoided generation of unintentional persistent organic pollutants; technical and financial support; manuals and technical guidelines; assistance in the development of relevant legislation; the strengthening of regional partnerships; options for best practices most suitable to individual country situations; the minimization of waste at point of source; support for a circular economy; information sharing; and the sharing of experiences with successful techniques for managing household wastes.

202. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that he hoped that the establishment of the partnership would be the first in a series of actions to deal with household waste management that would include information sharing, technology management, capacity-building and funding issues to assist developing countries in their efforts to address the issue. Another representative said that consideration should be given to identify good practices that once implemented should be widely disseminated through the Convention website and other social media. A number of representatives mentioned household waste pilot projects in their countries supported by GEF and UNIDO, offering to share their experiences and noting that they required additional support for their further implementation.

203. The representative of the European Union and its member States introduced two conference room papers proposing amendments to the terms of reference for the partnership and the draft decision on household wastes.

204. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the terms of reference in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33 and the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/15, as orally amended and pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

205. Decision BC-13/14, on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. International cooperation and coordination

(a) International cooperation and coordination

206. The discussion summarized in the present section, on international cooperation and coordination (agenda item 4 (e) (ii)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 207–218 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 200–211, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 224–235.

207. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the documents relevant to the sub-item, which outlined the activities of the Secretariat in respect of international cooperation and coordination undertaken in response to decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27, including contributions that the three conventions could make to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, cooperation with UNEP in the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and cooperation with other entities both within and beyond the chemicals and waste cluster. She also introduced information documents setting out reports submitted by the Executive Director of UNEP, the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention. Observing that the aim of cooperation was to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the conventions and to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources and expertise, the President opened the floor, suggesting that Parties, building upon the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24, might wish to consider additional efforts under the conventions to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

208. In the ensuing discussion there was general consensus that enhanced international cooperation and coordination were essential to the implementation of the three conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One representative said that the management of chemicals and wastes under the three conventions was aligned with the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 12, and with the three pillars of sustainable development. Another representative said that the 2030 Agenda included many Sustainable Development Goals related to the environmentally

sound management of chemicals and wastes and that their associated targets could only be achieved through the effective and efficient use of resources through enhanced cooperation and collaboration involving all actors and that the three conventions had already demonstrated what could be achieved through a synergistic approach. Another representative said that the complexity and ambition of the 2030 Agenda should not divert attention from the universality and interdependence of the Sustainable Development Goals. One representative said that synergies between the three conventions and other United Nations entities should lead to actual direct cooperation rather than just the identification of areas of mutual interest. Another representative said that it was essential that countries fully comply with their obligations under the chemicals and waste conventions as they committed to delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.

209. Several representatives offered proposals for further elements that might be included in the draft decision. The representative of the European Union and its member States, introducing a conference room paper on the matter, said that reference should be made to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integration of the sound management of chemicals and waste in a number of the Sustainable Development Goals and work under the Strategic Approach. Another representative said that the draft decision should draw on the work of other entities, such as UNDP and FAO, to assist Governments in mainstreaming sound chemicals and waste management into their development activities. Another representative said that the draft decision should include those organizations and entities with which the Secretariat was requested to enhance cooperation and coordination, including the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes.

210. Several representatives commented on the balance between obligations under international agreements and the right of individual countries to follow their own development agendas. One representative said that the Sustainable Development Goals were aspirational rather than binding and that countries retained flexibility regarding the development of national indicators. While synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals were to be welcomed, linkages with national reporting related to the three conventions should be avoided. Another representative called for further study of the implications for Parties of bringing the Sustainable Development Goals into the domain of the three conventions. Another representative stressed the voluntary nature of the national review processes that would form part of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda.

211. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged Parties and regional and intergovernmental organizations with experience in implementing measures in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals to provide inputs to the Secretariat for subsequent circulation among the Parties to guide them in implementing the three conventions within the context of the 2030 Agenda.

212. The representative of UNEP highlighted some issues discussed in the Executive Director's report to the conferences of the Parties (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59), including the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and priority matters that would be considered during the third session, the theme of which – “pollution-free planet” – was closely aligned with the objectives of the three conventions. In addition, he said, several of the elements of the UNEP programme of work provided opportunities for integration with work under the three conventions.

213. The representative of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach highlighted the main areas of cooperation between those entities and the three conventions, particularly in the context of the lead-up to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, the efforts to achieve the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management and the recent launch of an intersessional process for preparing recommendations on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

214. The representative of UNIDO gave a statement on the Joint Declaration of Intent on Chemical Leasing signed in November 2016 between UNIDO, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Chemical leasing, he said, was a new and innovative business model that could contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development and sound chemicals management. The initiative was closely aligned with the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the objectives of the three conventions and could contribute to and stimulate the engagement of industry and the public sector to translate those objectives into business opportunities.

215. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe gave an update on activities under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, which was the first convention to deal with air pollution on a regional basis. Its protocol on persistent organic pollutants currently covered 16 substances. The convention gave a prominent role to science, not just in providing information but

also in guiding policy. The protocol's long-term strategy called for greater linkages with the work of the Stockholm Convention.

216. The representative of the United Nations Environment Management Group gave a report on the group's work to enhance coordination in the United Nations system to address the global challenge of e-waste. The Environment Management Group had established an Inter-agency Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste in 2016 to facilitate further synergies, including with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in promoting e-waste prevention and environmentally sound management. A draft report had been prepared by the inter-agency issue management group on a coordinated approach to e-waste management in the United Nations system.

217. Following the discussion, the President noted that the proposals referred to in footnote 16 of document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 could be further considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention during its discussion of national reporting.

218. The conferences of the Parties decided that the joint contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues, established as described in section V A below (para. 264), should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing for their consideration at a subsequent joint session a draft decision based on the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24, taking into account the discussion on the matter and the content of the conference room paper presented by the European Union and its member States.

219. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 prepared by the contact group.

220. Decision BC-13/16, on international cooperation and coordination, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

221. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on international cooperation and coordination that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-8/10 and SC-8/20, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

222. During the consideration of the decision, one representative said that while he supported its adoption he regretted that neither it nor document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 made reference to the Samoa Pathway. Such a reference would facilitate linkages between secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, small island developing States and the wider sustainable development agenda, in the light of a report by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations system and the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

(b) Environmentally sound dismantling of ships

223. Introducing the matter the President observed that the environmentally sound dismantling of ships had been on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties since the 1990s and that many important developments had taken place since then, including the adoption of the Hong Kong International Convention on the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships in 2009. As that convention had not yet entered into force he encouraged Parties to ratify it as soon as possible, echoing decision BC-10/17. The representative of the Secretariat then drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.13/16, which provided information on the implementation of decision BC-12/15, including with regard to programmes on sustainable ship recycling such as a project on the environmentally sound management of waste from ship recycling. Funded by the European Union and undertaken in Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Governments of Bangladesh, Norway and the International Maritime Organization, and in Pakistan, in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, the project had led to the successful development of hazardous waste inventories for ship recycling localities, as well as the design and costing of hazardous waste management infrastructure and the development of a business case for its construction.

224. In the ensuing discussion the representative of Pakistan expressed his Government's appreciation for the technical and financial support that it had received from the Secretariat and the European Union in connection with the project undertaken in his country. One representative,

speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the environmentally sound recycling of ships globally was of great importance and urgently needed improvement. A number of representatives reported briefly on what their countries were doing with to regulate ship recycling, and another called for financial assistance for the development of disposal facilities for hazardous waste generated by ship recycling.

225. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties took note of the information presented.

(c) Cooperation with the International Maritime Organization

226. The representative of the Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CHW.13/18 and reported that, in accordance with decision BC-12/16, the Secretariat had prepared a first draft of a guidance manual on how to improve the sea-land interface, taking into account the revised version of the Comprehensive Manual on Port Reception Facilities by the International Maritime Organization. Following comments by Parties and others and discussion at the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, the Secretariat had prepared a revised draft of the guidance manual (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/37) for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting.

227. The representative of the European Union and its member States subsequently introduced a conference room paper setting out proposed amendments to the revised draft of the guidance manual.

228. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/18, as orally amended, by which it adopted the revised draft of the guidance manual as amended in the conference room paper.

229. Decision BC-13/15, on cooperation between the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

F. Financial resources

230. The discussion summarized in the present section, on financial resources (agenda item 4 (f)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 231–248 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 181–198, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 151–168.

231. Under the item the conferences of the Parties first considered issues relating to the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and second the integrated approach to financing for chemicals and wastes and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach.

1. Financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention

232. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18 and noting that it comprised five issues: first, guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism; second, the fourth review of the financial mechanism; third, cooperation between the Secretariat and the GEF secretariat and reciprocal representation at relevant meetings; fourth, the assessment of the funding needed by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention during the period 2018–2022; and fifth, reporting by the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties.

233. Regarding the first issue, he said that a non-exhaustive list of proposed elements of guidance to the financial mechanism was before the Conference of the Parties for consideration in the draft decision set out in the document, along with newly proposed guidance that took into account proposed programme priorities for 2018–2022 and that was based on the recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee. The Conference of the Parties, he added, might wish to consider further additional guidance to the financial mechanism. For the second and third issues, the Conference of the Parties had before it a draft report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/30) prepared by an independent evaluator, and information on cooperation between the Secretariat and the GEF secretariat (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18, paras. 22–27) and the GEF co-financing policy (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/29). With regard to the fourth issue, document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/32 contained a full report on the assessment of funding needs prepared by two independent experts. Echoing the President, he added that the outcomes of the deliberations on the

assessment of funding needs for the period 2018–2022, the additional guidance to the financial mechanism and the fourth review of the financial mechanism would constitute important inputs for the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund.

234. Finally, regarding reporting by the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties, he noted that a report by the GEF Council was before the Parties in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/28. Following the Secretariat's introduction, the representative of GEF introduced the report, which provided information on GEF activities between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2016 and how GEF had responded to existing guidance from the Conference of the Parties. During the period, she noted, GEF had provided funding of approximately \$187 million, leveraging an additional \$753 million from private sector and other sources, for 81 projects in the chemicals and wastes focal area, including \$131 million for projects aimed at reducing human exposure to persistent organic pollutants. More than 45 per cent of the approved projects for the sixth replenishment period related to chemicals, including projects relating to unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, PCBs, persistent organic pollutant pesticides, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, effectiveness evaluation, national implementation plans, capacity-building, green chemistry, reducing chemical emissions in the context of sustainable urban growth and chemicals management in the industrial sector. In the more than 15 years of implementation of the Stockholm Convention, GEF had provided over \$1 billion in resources and leveraged an additional \$3 billion in co-financing for implementation of the Convention. Evaluations of those projects, including the fourth review of the financial mechanism, had shown that GEF support was exceeding performance targets with positive impacts, but GEF looked forward to working with all partners to further improve its operations during its seventh replenishment period.

235. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, indicated their general support for the draft decision, although a number, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they wished to propose minor changes or additions.

236. A number of representatives said that predictable funding was critical to the successful implementation of the conventions. One suggested that new sources of predictable, sustainable and adequate financing would need to be identified due to the interim nature of the role of GEF with regard to the financial mechanism. He also said that the approach of GEF was politicized and should be more technical. Another representative said that GEF should improve access to funding by allowing various national agencies to participate and to bear in mind the practices of other international financial institutions with regard to access to funding.

237. Several representatives said that there was a need for diversified sources of funding. A number of representatives said that the private sector should play a greater role in financing, with one calling for the development of strategies in that regard. Another said that private sector participation should form part of a broader co-financing effort and asked that GEF support developing countries in identifying and mobilizing co-financing for implementation projects. He also encouraged GEF to seek alternative international funding sources that could allow for joint efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner. Another representative said that in addition to diversified sources of funding, countries with economies in transition needed access to very low interest loans.

238. One representative, saying that GEF was a crucial tool for catalysing resource mobilization at the domestic level, expressed concern about a decision taken at the latest meeting of the GEF Council regarding a possible reduction of resources as a result of exchange rate fluctuations and the possibility that such a situation might recur during the seventh replenishment period.

239. One representative called for countries to more accurately assess both the volumes of persistent organic pollutants subject to ultimate disposal and the financial means required for that, at the same time expressing appreciation for the needs assessment work done by the Secretariat and other stakeholders.

240. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section IV F 3 below (para. 248) should consider the matter further.

241. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

242. Decision SC-8/16, on the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the report of the

Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32).

2. Integrated approach and Special Programme

243. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/40-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/44-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/35 and reporting that, in accordance with decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22, the Secretariat had continued to take the integrated approach as a reference in its mandated activities and its support for the Parties to the three conventions and had participated 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, including by attending the first two meetings of the Special Programme executive board as an observer.

244. The representative of UNEP then reported on the implementation of the Special Programme, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/41-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/45-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/36.

245. The conferences of the Parties were invited to take note of the information provided.

246. In the ensuing discussion a number of representatives, speaking on behalf of groups of countries, praised the achievements of the Special Programme to date. Along with the fact that GEF was already taking into account possible co-benefits for the implementation of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, said one, the implementation of the Special Programme showed the good progress made in the external financing component of the integrated approach. He called for further progress in the other two components, namely, mainstreaming and private sector involvement, pointing to the recent adoption by several Parties of legislation imposing taxes and levies in accordance with the polluter pays principle as an example to be followed. Another representative called for continued improvement of the programme, in particular by including a needs assessment to ensure that country needs and stated goals were met and by raising the current cap on funding.

247. The representative of India said that efficient implementation of the conventions required the dissemination of appropriate technologies to developing countries, supported by effective capacity-building and technical assistance. Consequently, his delegation intended to introduce a conference room paper proposing a framework for the development of a mechanism along the lines of the technology facilitation mechanism under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A second representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the view that technology transfers were essential and that the technology facilitation mechanism was a good means of facilitating them but said that the mobilization of new, additional and predictable financial resources remained key to the implementation of the conventions in developing countries.

3. Establishment of a contact group

248. Following the discussion in section 2 above, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources co-chaired by Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. Niko Urho (Finland). The group was mandated to prepare for consideration at a subsequent session of the meetings draft decisions on technical assistance using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17 as a starting point; on Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres using the draft decisions in documents UNEP/CHW.13/11 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1; on the implementation of decision V/32 using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/12; on the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention using the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18. The group was also tasked with considering the integrated approach and Special Programme and the conference room paper on the financial mechanism for technology transfer to be submitted by India.

G. Operations and work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2018–2019

249. The President introduced the sub-item, recalling the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/21, noting that a draft work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019 (UNEP/CHW.13/21, annex) had been prepared for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting based on the decisions adopted by the Working Group at its tenth meeting as well as comments by Parties and the bureaux of the Conference of the Parties and of the Working Group following the Working Group's tenth meeting. The results of the current meeting would also need to be reflected in the work programme as adopted. Regarding operational

arrangements he recalled that the tenth meeting of the Working Group had featured three days of simultaneous interpretation, including one day made possible by the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, and one day with no plenary sessions. Comments by Parties and others on those arrangements were compiled in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/42.

250. In the ensuing discussion the representative of Norway, speaking on behalf of his delegation and those of Uruguay and Mexico and recalling resolution 2/11 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on marine plastic litter and microplastics, introduced a conference room paper proposing the inclusion of new work on that subject in the work programme of the Open-ended Working group for the biennium 2018–2019.

251. Many representatives said that marine plastic litter and microplastics posed a serious problem, including for marine ecosystems and biodiversity and food security, and expressed support for the inclusion of work on the subject in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019. One representative said that the Basel Convention regional centres had an important role to play in responding to the problem and another called for continued support for and strengthening of the centres. Linking the issue to the cross-cutting nature of activities under the Strategic Development Goals, she also said that a cross-cutting approach at the local, national, regional and international levels with a focus on synergies was essential. Several representatives provided information on the situations in their countries, highlighting challenges such as identifying the source of marine debris, harm to marine life and ecosystems, measures to prevent such pollution and the risks it posed to the circular economy, food security and livelihoods. Several representatives said that the response to the problem must encompass river basins and deltas.

252. The representative of a Basel Convention regional centre, speaking on behalf of all Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, welcomed Parties' expressions of their intention to support the centres in addressing the challenge of marine litter, saying that some centres already had considerable experience in the matter. At their most recent joint meeting, the centres had agreed to establish an informal working group on the subject, and the report of that meeting summarized the evidence on marine plastic litter as a source of toxic chemicals representing a threat to marine ecosystems, biodiversity, food security and human health. It also outlined various proposals for action that might be undertaken with the framework of the Stockholm and Basel conventions.

253. The representative of Zambia drew attention to the issue of nanomaterials, which he noted had been identified as an emerging policy issue under the Strategic Approach and a new waste stream of concern in the 2015 Global Waste Management Outlook report prepared by UNEP. He introduced a conference room paper on behalf of a number of countries setting out a draft decision that he said would set the stage for exploring the issue and determining if there was a role for the Basel Convention in dealing with it. The decision would task the Secretariat with preparing a report on the basis of available literature on the issues related to the presence of nanomaterials in waste and their management for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, as well as a thought starter paper exploring how the Convention could support the management of nanomaterials in waste streams. Several representatives said that the issue should be discussed at the current meeting, with one proposing changes to the draft decision in the conference room paper.

254. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that his region counted on support through technology transfer and capacity-building, taking into consideration the particular circumstances of individual countries, for the effective implementation of the Convention. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that decreases in funding had limited the participation of developing countries in meetings under the Convention, with the one representing a group of countries adding that it had also resulted in the detrimental shortening of the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and reduction in the sessions of that meeting benefitting from interpretation. One of them invited donor countries to rectify the situation. He also said that the criteria under the Convention for choosing which Party's meeting participation costs to fund, including equitable geographic representation, should be followed so that the same Parties did not attend all meetings to the exclusion of others, and he invited the Secretariat to develop a paper on that issue for review by the Conference of the Parties. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, raised concerns with regards to the recent reductions in the number of sessions benefitting from interpretation during meetings of the Open-ended Working Group. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the arrangements for the last meeting of the Open-ended Working Group had been successful and should in principle be continued, saying that in his delegation's view the two days of interpretation provided at the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group had been sufficient.

255. One representative indicated that his country had proposed revisions to the work programme of the Open-Ended working Group during the comment and consultation period with regard to the Cartagena Declaration and the technical guidelines on e-waste, saying that they should be discussed in the contact groups considering those matters.

256. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Parties, to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/21, including a draft work programme, taking into account the discussions in plenary, the two submitted conference room papers and any further developments during the current meeting.

257. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

258. Decision BC-13/17, on the work programme and operations of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

V. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 5)

259. The discussion summarized in the present section, on enhancing cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 5), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 260–264, 268–269, 273–274, 278–279 and 283–284 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 217–221, 225–226, 230–231, 235–236 and 240–241 and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 241–245, 249–250, 254–255, 259–260 and 264–265.

260. Introducing the item, the President said that it encompassed five topics: the reviews of the synergies arrangements between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange; mainstreaming gender; illegal traffic and trade; and “from science to action”. Each topic would be discussed separately.

A. Review of the synergies arrangements

261. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25 and recalling that by decisions BC-12/20, RC-7/10 and SC-7/28 the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had mandated three reviews of the three conventions’ synergies arrangements: a review of the matrix-based management approach and organization of the Secretariat; a review of the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO to enhance synergies arrangements; and a review of the overall synergies arrangements, including joint activities and joint managerial functions. A steering committee, comprising the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties, the executive secretaries and Deputy Executive Secretary of the three conventions, the Corporate Services Division of UNEP and the Evaluation Office of UNEP, had overseen the conduct of the three reviews by an independent consulting company. Reports on the results of the reviews, including 40 recommendations on various thematic issues directed to various audiences, were before the conferences of the Parties in documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/44-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/30-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/47, UNEP/CHW.13/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/48 and UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46, respectively, and a compilation of the recommendations and actions proposed in response thereto was set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1.

262. In the ensuing discussion several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the reviews, saying that the synergies process had provided important benefits for the operation and management of the Secretariat and the implementation of the conventions, including in advancing the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes

throughout their life cycles. Many said that the synergies process and its benefits should be focused on assisting countries to implement key provisions of the conventions more effectively, including with regard to, inter alia, reporting, technology transfer, financial resources, administrative costs and burdens and the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the intent of the draft decision on the matter, with several representatives introducing proposals for amendments and calling for their discussion in a contact group. The representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper on the subject and the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, indicated that those countries would also submit a conference room paper.

263. Some representatives underscored what they said were the potential advantages of including the Minamata Convention in aspects of the synergies arrangements, including potentially co-locating its secretariat with, or integrating its secretariat into, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and expressed support for requesting the Secretariat to examine the potential impact of, and potential modalities for, doing so. While only the parties to the Minamata Convention could take decisions regarding their secretariat, and nothing that occurred at the current meetings would prejudice such decisions, it would be appropriate to signal to the parties to the Minamata Convention that the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were open to exploring the issue. Several other representatives said that it was premature to hold formal discussions of synergies with the Minamata Convention before the Conference of the Parties to that convention had discussed issues related to its secretariat at its first meeting.

264. Following the discussion the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues, co-chaired by Ms. Jane Stratford (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Mr. Nguyen Anh Tuan (Viet Nam), to prepare for their consideration at a subsequent joint session a draft decision using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25 as a starting point and taking into account the conference room papers introduced relevant to the issue and the discussion in plenary.

265. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

266. Decision BC-13/18, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

267. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among 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-8/11 and SC-8/21, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

B. Clearing-house mechanism

268. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/23-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/26 and recalling that by decisions BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29 the conferences of the Parties had taken note of the proposed joint clearing-house mechanism strategy prepared by the Secretariat, invited Parties and others to comment on the strategy and requested the Secretariat to make information in 11 priority thematic areas available through the clearing-house mechanism and to revise the proposed strategy. A revised version of the proposed strategy (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50) and a draft biennial workplan prepared by the Secretariat based on the draft revised workplan (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/48-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/39-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/43) were before the conferences of the Parties.

269. Following the introduction, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section V A above (para. 264) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/23-

UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/26 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

270. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

271. Decision BC-13/19, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

272. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the clearing-house mechanism that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-8/12 and SC-8/22, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

C. Mainstreaming gender

273. In the discussion of the sub-item, one representative said that the issue of mainstreaming gender was important both to the operation and effectiveness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and offered several amendments to the relevant draft decision. A number of other representatives said that those amendments and those in a conference room paper submitted by the European Union and its member States warranted further discussion.

274. The conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section V A above (para. 264) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/20-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/19-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/19 as a starting point and taking into account the discussion in plenary and a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

275. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

276. Decision BC-13/20, on mainstreaming gender, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

277. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on mainstreaming gender that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-8/13 and SC-8/23, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

D. Illegal traffic and trade

278. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/24-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/23-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/27 and recalling that at their 2015 meetings the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to prepare recommendations on possible synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, building on lessons learned under the Basel Convention. In the absence of financial support for such work the Secretariat had developed a number of such recommendations based on an analysis of possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/51) that it had prepared for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its 2015 meeting.

279. Following the introduction the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section V A above (para. 264) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/24-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/23-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/27 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

280. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, as orally amended and pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

281. Decision BC-13/21, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

282. 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-8/14 and SC-8/24, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

E. From science to action

283. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/25-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/28 and recalling that at their 2015 meetings the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to develop a road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the regional and national levels, taking into account the roles of the scientific bodies of the conventions. In response to the decision the Secretariat, in consultation with the experts of the scientific bodies of the conventions, regional centres and other relevant stakeholders and taking into account the results of an online survey of Parties and other stakeholders, had prepared a draft road map for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at the current meetings. The draft roadmap was set out in annex I to document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52 and a summary of the results of the online survey in annex II to the same document.

284. Following the introduction, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section V A above (para. 264) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/25-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/28 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

285. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

286. Decision BC-13/22, on from science to action, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

287. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on from science to action that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-8/15 and SC-8/25, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

VI. Programme of work and budget (agenda item 6)

288. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the programme of work and budget (agenda item 6), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 289–295 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 246–252, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 270–276.

289. Introducing the item, the President said that it was key to ensuring that the 2018–2019 programmes of work included the activities and resources needed to support the implementation of the three conventions, while ensuring the continuation of the activities of the previous biennium, and that the Secretariat's staff and financial resources were managed efficiently and effectively in a way that responded to the needs of the three conventions and in conformity with United Nations policies and procedures.

290. The representative of the Secretariat then continued the introduction, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/26-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/25-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/29 and the related tables in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/51-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/53. He said that in preparing the budget proposal the executive secretaries had attempted to assure the core capacity of the Secretariat to service meetings of the Parties and to provide technical assistance and scientific, technical and legal support to Parties; to strengthen the science-based action required for implementing the conventions; to ensure adequate capacity to mobilize, manage and efficiently administer resources; to prioritize core budget resources for essential activities; and to provide a conservative and realistic assessment of the requirements for 2018–2019. In response to decisions BC-12/25, RC-7/15 and SC-7/33, the Secretariat was presenting two budget scenarios for consideration by the conferences of the Parties. The first assumed zero nominal growth compared with the budget for 2016–2017, while the second represented the executive secretaries' assessment of the amount necessary to provide a similar level of services to those provided during the 2016–2017 biennium.

291. Regarding the implications of the two scenarios, the executive secretaries' scenario would allow the continuation of the approved programme of work for 2016–2017, along with a number of new activities, and would involve an average increase of 3 per cent across the three conventions. The zero nominal growth scenario envisaged a reduction in the core services provided by the Secretariat, including a 42 per cent reduction in the number of translated pages of pre-session documents for the meetings of the conferences of the Parties and the replacement of face-to-face meetings of the three individual bureaux with video conferences. The scenario also envisaged that certain activities currently funded from the core budgets would henceforth be funded from the voluntarily-funded budgets. In addition, based on an analysis of recent trends in voluntary funds raised during the preceding years, the voluntary fund budget proposal was reduced by 37 per cent to reflect the shortfalls that had been experienced in recent years. It was noted that the staff requirements were the same in the two scenarios.

292. As to the format of the budget, it had been necessary to change it owing to the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in 2014 and the implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning system in June 2015. Umoja's cost-sharing functionality enabled the equitable sharing of staff costs and savings among the conventions, and it was thus considered unnecessary to establish a single operational account for staff costs as had been recommended by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services. In addition, it was noted that the detailed information previously provided in the budget proposals was available in activity fact sheets on the activities in the proposed programme of work (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/52-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/37-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/54).

293. He also drew attention to the financial reports for the current biennium (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/53/Rev.2) and highlighted issues with regard to difficulties caused by the implementation of Umoja, growth in arrears in contributions to the Conventions, which had increased beyond the amount of the working capital reserve and a drop, as noted above, in voluntary contributions. Information on donors that had contributed to the implementation of the three conventions and the activities that they had funded was provided in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/55-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/43-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/57. He expressed particular thanks to those countries that had generously supported the participation of representatives of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the current meetings.

294. In conclusion, he recalled that FAO continued to provide the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat with \$1.5 million per biennium and noted that during the period 1999–2015 the FAO part of the Secretariat had accumulated an unspent balance of \$994,524 that would be returned to the Rotterdam Convention general trust fund in 2017 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/51).

295. Following the presentation the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on budget matters for the three conventions, chaired by Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile). The group was asked to prepare for consideration and separate adoption by the conferences of the Parties draft programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2018–2019 and related draft decisions.

296. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

297. Decision BC-13/24, on the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

298. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the programmes of work and budgets for those conventions for the biennium 2018–2019. Decisions RC-8/17 and SC-8/27, 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 eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

VII. Venue and date of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 7)

299. The conferences of the Parties decided to hold their next meetings in Geneva from 29 April to 10 May 2019 in a format similar to that of the 2017 meetings, with joint sessions covering matters of relevance to at least two of the three conventions and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the three conferences of the Parties. They also decided that the 2019 meetings would not feature a high-level segment and that such segments would occur only at every second set of meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

VIII. Other matters (agenda item 8)

A. Memorandums of understanding between UNEP and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

300. The discussion summarized in the present section, on memorandums of understanding between UNEP, FAO and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 301–306 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 258–263, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 282–287.

301. Introducing the matter, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that at their previous meetings the three conferences of the Parties had reviewed draft memorandums of understanding with UNEP regarding the provision of secretariat services, following which they had, in decisions BC-12/24, RC-7/14 and SC-7/32, noted that many of the issues addressed in the draft memorandums of understanding were being discussed by a task team established by the Executive Director in response to decision 27/13 of the UNEP Governing Council, on the effectiveness of the administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provided secretariat services, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; decided to wait for the task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the memorandums of understanding; and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the Environment Assembly at its second session, revised draft memorandums of understanding for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings. At its second session, in its resolution 2/18, the Environment Assembly, noting the work of the task team, had requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of the UNEP-administered multilateral

environmental agreements, to develop for consideration by the governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements a draft flexible template of options for the provision of secretariat services. In the same resolution the Environment Assembly had also requested the Executive Director, when delegating authority to the heads of the multilateral environment agreement secretariats, to maintain the flexibility required on a case-by-case basis, including reflecting the size of the secretariats.

302. As had been reported to and discussed with the bureaux during the intersessional period, work on the draft template of options was expected to be completed in time for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its third session, in December 2017. Accordingly, no revised draft memorandums of understanding had been prepared for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at the 2017 meetings. As to delegations of authority, a policy and framework on that subject had entered into force on 1 November 2016 and, on 30 January 2017, had been supplemented by a direct delegation of authority to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; both the policy and framework and direct delegation covered matters covered by the draft memorandums of understanding, and the full extent of that overlap would be examined during the development of the draft template of options.

303. The representative of UNEP then provided additional information about the delegation of authority policy and framework and related matters, confirming that UNEP had taken administrative actions pursuant to decisions BC-12/24, RC-7/14 and SC-7/32, as well as in accordance with Environment Assembly resolution 2/18, and saying that the new delegation of authority policy and framework simplified, standardized and streamlined the delegation of authority from the Executive Director to the heads of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and of other bodies for which UNEP provided the secretariat or secretariat functions.

304. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the memorandums of understanding were a long-standing issue to which his delegation attached great importance. He noted with concern that no draft memorandums of understanding were being presented for consideration and possible adoption at the current meetings.

305. As to the statement in paragraph 9 of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/26 that FAO saw no need for a memorandum of understanding between the Director General of FAO and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention “unless the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention holds different views”, he said that as reflected in its decisions RC-6/15 and RC-7/14 the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had already twice determined that such a memorandum of understanding was necessary.

306. Following those comments, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section V A above (para. 264) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing draft decisions for consideration by the conferences of the Parties.

307. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

308. Decision BC-13/23, on the draft memorandum of understanding between 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 annex I to the present report.

309. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on draft memorandums of understanding with UNEP and, in the case of the former, FAO. Decisions RC-8/16 and SC-8/26, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

B. Admission of observers

310. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the admission of observers, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 311–313 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 268–270, and in the report of the

Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 292–294.

311. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, recalling that at their meetings in 2015 the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to maintain its current practices with regard to the admission of observers to meetings under the Conventions, including the use of the previously approved application forms to be used by bodies or agencies wishing to be represented as observers at such meetings. She then briefly outlined the procedures by which the requests were transmitted by such bodies and agencies and reviewed by the Secretariat. She also drew attention to documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/57/Rev.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/9 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/56/Rev.1, which set out lists of the bodies and agencies requesting admission to participate in the respective meetings as observers. The attention of the meeting was drawn to a number of additional bodies and agencies that were also requesting admission to participate in the meetings as observers but that had transmitted their applications after the deadline to be included in the relevant documents.

312. Following the presentation one representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the current report, said that the Secretariat should strive to ensure that the participation of observers that were non-governmental organizations was in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions.

313. The conferences of the Parties took note of the information provided.

C. Guidelines on conduct for meeting participants

314. The discussion summarized in the present section, on guidelines on conduct for meeting participants, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 315–318 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 272–275, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 298–301.

315. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to two sets of guidelines that had been prepared by the Secretariat, the first on the use of cameras and audio and video recording devices at meetings of the conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies and the second on the participation of observers in such meetings. The guidelines, which had been brought to the attention of the bureaux of the three conferences of the Parties at their meetings in June and July 2016, were available on the convention websites and were reproduced in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/58-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/47-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/24.

316. In the ensuing discussion, one representative requested clarification as to whether the guidelines had been presented for adoption or approval or whether they were already applicable to all meeting participants, suggesting also that paragraph 2 of annex I to the document should be amended to prevent negotiations from being disrupted by incidents of the kind that had occurred at the current meetings, in which the representative of an observer had disseminated pictures taken during contact group discussions via social media. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called on all observers to respect the rules of conduct, and a number of others said that there must be serious consequences for failing to do so, including in the current case, as it threatened to undermine the spirit of mutual trust prevailing among the government representatives participating in the meetings.

317. The representative of the Secretariat said in response that the guidelines had been developed by the Secretariat based on the standard practices of other multilateral environmental agreements; that they had been developed in response to expressions of concern regarding similar incidents at the 2015 meetings; and that they were not intended for adoption and had been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to its inherent prerogative and responsibility to ensure the smooth running of meetings under the conventions. The Secretariat, she concluded, considered that the incident that had taken place at the current meeting was covered by the guidelines as they stood.

318. The conferences of the Parties took note of the information provided.

IX. Adoption of the report (agenda item 9)

319. The Conference of the Parties adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report set out in documents UNEP/CHW.13/L.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/L.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/L.1, as orally amended, and UNEP/CHW.13/L.1/Add.1, 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.

X. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 10)

320. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 6.40 p.m. on Friday, 5 May 2017.

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting

- BC-13/1: Strategic Framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021
- BC-13/2: Follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention
- BC-13/3: Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes
- BC-13/4: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants
- BC-13/5: 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-13/6: Technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5)
- BC-13/7: Cooperation with the World Customs Organization and its Harmonized System Committee
- BC-13/8: National reporting
- BC-13/9: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance
- BC-13/10: National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic
- BC-13/11: Technical assistance
- BC-13/12: Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment
- BC-13/13: Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic
- BC-13/14: Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste
- BC-13/15: Cooperation between the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization
- BC-13/16: International cooperation and coordination
- BC-13/17: Work programme and operations of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019
- BC-13/18: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- BC-13/19: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange
- BC-13/20: Mainstreaming gender
- BC-13/21: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes
- BC-13/22: From science to action
- BC-13/23: Draft memorandum of understanding between 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-13/24: Programme of work and proposed budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019

BC-13/1: Strategic Framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its appreciation to those Parties to the Basel Convention that have provided information for the year 2015 relevant to the indicators listed in section V of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021¹ as requested in paragraph 17 of the strategic framework and using the format for reporting developed by the Secretariat;
2. *Notes*, however, that only 11 per cent of the Parties have submitted information for the year 2015 to the Secretariat and that only 4 per cent of the Parties have submitted information for both the years 2011 and 2015, thereby hindering the midterm evaluation of the strategic framework as well as the final evaluation to take place in 2021;
3. *Acknowledges* that the midterm evaluation report could not be prepared owing in part to the reasons described in the note by the Secretariat,² in particular the low level of responses to the request for information in support of the indicators and a lack of financial contributions for the purpose of retaining a consultant to collect data and prepare the report;
4. *Notes* that the approach used for gathering the information to assess the implementation of the strategic framework needs to be improved;
5. *Decides* to forgo the midterm evaluation and adopt a new approach for the preparation of the final evaluation of the strategic framework in time for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2021;
6. *Establishes* a small intersessional working group that is open in nature and decides that the group shall consist of ten members nominated by Parties based on equitable geographical representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations and will be open to observers;
7. *Requests* each regional group to nominate from Parties, through its Bureau representative and by 31 July 2017, two members of 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. The small intersessional working group shall call upon additional experts as needed, subject to the availability of resources;
8. *Requests* the small intersessional working group to elect its own co-chairs. The working language of the group shall be English and the group shall otherwise organize its working modalities according to the rules of procedure of the Basel Convention;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group:
 - (a) To identify all relevant sources of information related to the indicators to be used for the preparation of the final evaluation of the strategic framework, such as Parties' annual national reports, documents and reports from the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention, publications of the Basel Convention, work of the Basel Convention partnerships and regional and coordinating centres and the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) To gather and compile the necessary additional information from sources identified in subparagraph 9 (a) above relevant to indicators in the strategic framework;
 - (c) To prepare a draft compilation of the information referred to in subparagraph 9 (b) above for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and to finalize the compilation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;
 - (d) To prepare, using as a basis the compilation of information referred to in subparagraph 9 (c) above, and taking into account any further comments by Parties and others as requested by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting and the information provided by Parties relevant to the indicators and Parties' annual national reports, a draft report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting;
 - (e) To organize one face-to-face meeting during the 2020–2021 biennium, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

¹ Decision BC-10/2, annex.

² UNEP/CHW.13/3.

(f) To submit a final version of the report referred to in subparagraph 9 (d) above to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to support the small intersessional working group in its work and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

11. *Urges* Parties to provide to the Secretariat, no later than 31 January 2020, information for the year 2019 relevant to the indicators listed in section V of the strategic framework, as requested in paragraph 17 of the strategic framework, using the format for reporting developed by the Secretariat.

BC-13/2: Follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention

The Conference of the Parties

I

Addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment

1. *Welcomes* the ratification and acceptance by additional Parties to the Basel Convention of the amendment set out in decision III/1, known as the “Ban Amendment”;³
2. *Calls* upon Parties to ratify the Ban Amendment;
3. *Invites* Parties to continue to take action towards encouraging and assisting other Parties to ratify the Ban Amendment;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and upon request, to continue to assist Parties that are having difficulties in ratifying the Ban Amendment;

II

Developing guidelines for environmentally sound management

5. *Expresses* its appreciation to the expert working group on environmentally sound management and its co-chairs for their work;
6. *Adopts* the set of practical manuals for the promotion of the environmentally sound management of wastes prepared by the expert working group,⁴ welcomes the fact sheets on specific waste streams prepared by the expert working group⁵ and encourages the dissemination and use of the manuals and fact sheets by Parties and others;
7. *Welcomes* the draft practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management prepared by the expert working group⁶ and invites Parties and others to submit comments thereon to the Secretariat by 30 November 2017;
8. *Takes note* of the evaluation of the toolkit for environmentally sound management, known as the “ESM Toolkit”, undertaken by the expert working group;⁷
9. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the expert working group;
10. *Adopts* the work programme of the expert working group set out in annex I to the present decision and developed in accordance with the evaluation referred to in paragraph 8 above and requests the expert working group to implement it, subject to the availability of resources;
11. *Takes note* of the report on the responses to the online survey to assess the relevance and utility of Convention documents related to environmentally sound management;⁸
12. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to promote and disseminate the ESM Toolkit in collaboration with the expert working group, Parties, regional and coordinating centres and other stakeholders as appropriate;
13. *Requests* the expert working group to assess proposals for further pilot projects and invites those Parties and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide support for such pilot projects;
14. *Invites* Parties, regional and coordinating centres and other stakeholders to provide the Secretariat with information on activities undertaken to ensure the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and requests the Secretariat to make such information available on the Basel Convention website;

³ UNEP/CHW.13/4.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.1/Rev.1.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/7/Rev.1.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/8.

⁷ As reflected in the meeting report of the sixth meeting of the expert working group <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/Meetings/EWG6onESM/Overview/tabid/5356/Default.aspx>.

⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9, annex I.

15. *Requests* that draft documents developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management be submitted for comment to Parties and other stakeholders and for consultation, where appropriate, with the Open-ended Working Group and the Implementation and Compliance Committee before being submitted to the Conference of the Parties for adoption and requests the Secretariat to make such draft documents available on the Convention website along with any comments received;

16. *Requests* the expert working group to report to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on the activities it has undertaken in accordance with its work programme;

III

Providing further legal clarity

Voluntary options: glossary of terms

17. *Expresses* its appreciation to the small intersessional working group on legal clarity for its work and to Japan for providing financial support;

18. *Adopts* the glossary of terms⁹ as a piece of guidance and agrees that it is without prejudice to the review of Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Convention or to legislation and guidance developed at the national level and agrees to consider the revision of the glossary of terms at its fourteenth meeting on the basis of the feedback submitted in accordance with paragraph 19 below;

19. *Invites* Parties and others to use the glossary of terms, as appropriate, with a view to submitting comments on it, if any, to the Secretariat not later than two months before the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

20. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to organize and deliver capacity-building activities to raise awareness in this regard;

Legally binding options: review of Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Basel Convention

21. *Expresses its appreciation* to Canada as the lead country for the review of Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Basel Convention;

22. *Welcomes* the report from Canada on the review of Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Convention,¹⁰ which includes compiled and analysed information from Parties and others, and agrees that the report should be taken as a basis for the further work on the review of those Annexes;

23. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contribution of information from Parties and others¹¹ and the small intersessional working group that supported the lead country's analysis;

24. *Decides* to establish an expert working group that is open in nature that consists of 50 members nominated from Parties on the basis of equitable geographical representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations and that is open to observers, with the mandate and terms of reference specified in annex II to the present decision, and notes that the number of members may be revised at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

25. *Also decides* that the expert working group will operate under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group and the authority of the Conference of the Parties;

26. *Requests* each regional group to nominate, through its Bureau representative and by 15 July 2017, 10 experts with relevant expertise to serve as members of the expert working group;

27. *Invites* Parties to serve as lead countries for the review of Annex IV and related aspects of Annex IX and/or Annexes I and III;

28. *Agrees* that the expert working group established by the present decision should give higher priority to work on Annex IV and related aspects of Annex IX during the next biennium;

⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.2.

¹⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/10.

¹¹ Available at <http://www.basel.int/tabid/4753/Default.aspx>.

29. *Invites* Parties and observers involved in the expert working group to submit, taking into account the report from Canada referred to in paragraph 22 above, comments on the review of Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Convention to the Secretariat by 30 September 2017 for consideration by the expert working group and requests the Secretariat to publish any such comments submitted on the Basel Convention website;

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

Annex I to decision BC-13/2

Work programme of the expert working group on environmentally sound management

I. Objective

1. The work programme of the expert working group on environmentally sound management (ESM) will support and implement the objectives of the framework for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes.¹² The work programme is aimed at the development of an “ESM toolkit” that includes practical tools to be promoted and implemented by stakeholders.

II. ESM toolkit and its promotion

2. The activities described below to develop and implement the ESM toolkit will be conducted during the 2018–2019 biennium.

Topic	Proposal for 2018–2019 work programme
Manuals and fact sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the practical manual on insurance and liability, taking into account the outcome of the pilot project in Argentina and the development of draft guidance on insurance, bond and guarantee by the Implementation and Compliance Committee. Finalize the four pilot projects to test the manuals and fact sheets.¹³ Finalize practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems, as appropriate. Develop a practical manual for stakeholders¹⁴ to ensure that notifications of transboundary movements meet ESM requirements.
Guidance on prevention and minimization ¹⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue work on gathering good practices and examples with regard to waste prevention and minimization.
Guidance on recycling and recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a guidance document to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for the recycling and recovery of hazardous and other wastes, as part of activities to implement the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes.
Certification schemes to support ESM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate an exchange of experiences on the operational aspects of certification schemes to support ESM.
Pilot projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize the five pilot projects. Develop outcome reports and undertake evaluations of pilot projects. Further assess the possibility for further pilot projects.
Promotion of ESM in the informal sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidance on how to address ESM in the informal sector.

¹² Available on the Basel Convention website at: <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMFramework/tabid/3616/Default.aspx>.

¹³ During the 2016–2017 biennium two projects to test the manuals and factsheets developed by the expert working group will be implemented by the Basel Convention regional centres in Slovakia and China. Two more projects are to be selected by the expert working group following the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹⁴ Including competent authorities, exporters and generators.

¹⁵ As requested in the road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (decision BC-12/2).

Annex II to decision BC-13/2

Terms of reference for the review of the Annexes

1. Mandate

Review Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Basel Convention.

(a) For Annex IV and the related aspects in Annex IX:

Review, with a view to:

- (i) Improve/update the description of disposal operations in Annex IV;
- (ii) Improve environmental controls by including additional disposal operations that occur in practice or could occur in practice in Annex IV; and
- (iii) Clarify the descriptions in Annex IV and in Annex IX (B1110) to address conflicts or overlaps.

(b) For Annex I and III:

Review, with a view to:

- (i) Improve/update the description of categories of wastes in Annex I and the list of hazardous characteristics in Annex III;
- (ii) Improve environmental controls by including any additional categories of wastes in Annex I and any additional hazardous characteristics in Annex III that occur in practice; and
- (iii) Clarify the descriptions in Annexes I and III to address conflicts or overlaps.

2. Overarching objectives

Improve legal clarity of the Basel Convention to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from the generation and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

3. Membership and participation

Membership of the Expert Working Group is open to nominated Experts from Parties to the Basel Convention.

The Expert Working Group will be open to representatives of other Parties and observers, and may decide to invite additional experts on an ad hoc basis possessing specialized technical knowledge on an issue to be discussed at a meeting to participate in that meeting, or parts thereof.

4. Co-chairs

The Expert Working Group shall elect its co-chairs.

5. Working methods

The Expert Working Group will work by electronic means and conference calls. Face-to-face meetings will be at the discretion of the co-chairs and be subject to the availability of resources.

The Expert Working Group may consult Parties and others as appropriate.

The Expert Working Group shall organize its working modalities according to the rules of procedure of the Basel Convention.

BC-13/3: Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the outcome of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in particular resolutions 2/7, on the sound management of chemicals and waste, 2/8, on sustainable consumption and production, 2/11, on marine plastic litter and microplastics, and 2/5, on delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, insofar as they are relevant to waste prevention and to minimization and recovery of hazardous wastes and other wastes,

1. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the Basel Convention on the environmentally sound management and prevention of waste generation in ensuring the full integration of the environmentally sound management of waste in the programme-wide strategies and policies of the United Nations Environment Programme;¹⁶
2. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to continue to undertake activities to implement the road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes and to provide information on such activities to the Secretariat;
3. *Expresses* its appreciation to the expert working group on environmentally sound management and its co-chairs for their work in developing draft guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal;
4. *Adopts* the guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal;¹⁷
5. *Invites* Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat by 30 June 2018 further good practices and examples with regard to waste prevention and minimization for consideration by the expert working group on environmentally sound management;
6. *Requests* the expert working group on environmentally sound management to continue its work, subject to the availability of resources, on gathering good practices and examples with regard to waste prevention and minimization and requests the Secretariat to make them available on the website of the Basel Convention, in a structured manner, together with the good practices and examples in the annex to the guidance referred to in paragraph 4 above;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit a report on progress made in the implementation of the road map for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

¹⁶ United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7, para. 11.

¹⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/11/Rev.1.

BC-13/4: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses* its appreciation to the lead countries, Canada and Japan, and the small intersessional working group for their work pertaining to the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and to Norway for its work on waste-related information on decabromodiphenyl ether;
2. *Adopts* the following general technical guidelines, which are not legally binding:
 - (a) Updated general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;¹⁸
 - (b) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with hexachlorobutadiene;¹⁹
 - (c) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters;²⁰
 - (d) Updated 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;²¹
 - (e) Updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins, polychlorinated dibenzofurans, hexachlorobenzene, polychlorinated biphenyls, pentachlorobenzene or polychlorinated naphthalenes;²²
 - (f) Updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, chlordane, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, lindane, mirex, pentachlorobenzene, pentachlorophenol and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, technical endosulfan and its related isomers or toxaphene, or with hexachlorobenzene as an industrial chemical;²³
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 above to Parties and others in the six official languages of the United Nations;
4. *Invites* Parties and others to use the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 above and to submit through the Secretariat, not later than two months before the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, comments on their experience in so doing and requests the Secretariat to make such comments available to it at its fourteenth meeting;
5. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group established by paragraph 9 of decision OEWG-I/4 of the Open-ended Working Group to provide that the group shall monitor and assist in the review, updating and preparation, as appropriate, of technical guidelines regarding persistent organic pollutants, working in particular by electronic means;
6. *Welcomes* the invitation by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to consider the enhanced involvement of experts working under the Basel Convention in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;
7. *Invites* Parties and others to encourage experts working under the Basel Convention to provide information on waste and disposal issues pursuant to paragraph 4 of decision SC-8/9;

¹⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.1/Rev.1.

¹⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.2/Rev.1.

²⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.3/Rev.1.

²¹ UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.4/Rev.1.

²² UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.5/Rev.1.

²³ UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.6/Rev.1.

8. *Recalls* that provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values have been established and that knowledge limitations have posed challenges for the setting of such values;
9. *Decides* to continue working towards a review of provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values in the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate, before its fourteenth meeting;
10. *Invites* Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, three months in advance of the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group:
 - (a) Comments on the provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values included in the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate, and related information, including on studies, taking into account relevant information available under the Stockholm Convention;
 - (b) The low persistent organic pollutant content values applied at the national level;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of any comments and information submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 above for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting;
12. *Decides* that the updating of the general technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above and the preparation or updating of specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annexes A and C to the Stockholm Convention by decisions SC-8/10, SC-8/11 and SC-8/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention should be included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2018–2019, including with regard to the following:
 - (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 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;
13. *Invites* Parties and organizations to indicate to the Secretariat by 31 August 2017 their willingness to take the lead in updating or preparing the following technical guidelines in accordance with paragraph 12 above:
 - (a) Updating the general technical guidelines referred in paragraph 2 (a) above, taking into account decisions SC-8/10, SC-8/11 and SC-8/12;
 - (b) Preparing new technical guidelines on short-chain chlorinated paraffins, taking into account decision SC-8/11, by which the chemical was listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention;
 - (c) Updating the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (e) above to include hexachlorobutadiene, taking into account decision SC-8/12, by which the chemical was listed in Annex C to the Stockholm Convention, and to make subsequent changes in the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (b);
14. *Welcomes* with appreciation the offer by Norway to prepare, in accordance with paragraph 12 above, updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, and tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, to include decabromodiphenyl ether, taking into account decision SC-8/10, by which the chemicals were listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention;
15. *Invites* the lead countries for the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 13 above, if selected, and requests the Secretariat, if no country is selected for one or more of such technical guidelines and subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare draft technical guidelines in accordance with paragraph 13 above for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting;
16. *Invites* Norway to prepare, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, draft updated technical guidelines in accordance with paragraph 14 above for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting;

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

18. *Welcomes* the involvement of experts working under the Stockholm Convention, including members and observers of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, in the work referred to in paragraphs 5, 9 and 12 above;

19. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to provide training to developing countries and other countries based on information gathered from Parties on their need for assistance with and training in using the adopted technical guidelines, and organizing such activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in accordance with their business plans or by other appropriate means;

20. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

BC-13/5: 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. *Takes note* of the comments provided by Parties and others pertaining to paragraph 5 of decision BC-12/5²⁴ and the responses provided by Parties and others on their experience with the implementation of 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, and the preliminary legal advice on the issues referred to in subparagraphs 8 (c) and (f) of decision OEWG-10/5;²⁵
2. *Acknowledges* the need to look further into 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, adopted on an interim basis by decision BC-12/5, including the guidance on the distinction between waste and non-waste, and the issues referred to in paragraph 5 of decision BC-12/5 and paragraph 8 of decision OEWG-10/5, to advance the work towards finalization of the guidelines;
3. *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments on 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, including suggestions for text on the issues mentioned in paragraph 5 of decision BC-12/5 and/or alternative text to Appendix V of the guidelines, to the Secretariat by 30 October 2017;
4. *Decides* to establish an expert working group to undertake the work outlined in paragraph 2 above;
5. *Decides* that the expert working group established in paragraph 4 above shall consist of twenty-five members nominated by Parties, based on equitable geographical representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations, shall be open to observers, including those from the Basel Convention regional centres, and may call for additional experts as needed;
6. *Requests* each regional group to nominate through its Bureau representatives, by 30 June 2017, five members of the expert working group with relevant knowledge and expertise;
7. *Requests* the expert working group to elect its own co-chairs and organize its working modalities according to the rules of procedure of the Basel Convention;
8. *Decides* that the expert working group shall operate by electronic means and shall also hold physical meetings, subject to available funding;
9. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer by China to serve as the lead country for the work of the expert working group;
10. *Requests* the expert working group, taking into account, inter alia, the comments received in accordance with paragraph 3 above, to submit to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting suggestions for amendments to the guidelines;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to develop, as appropriate, and in consultation with the lead country, a revised questionnaire based upon paragraph 3 of decision OEWG-10/5 and to send it to Parties and others by 30 September 2017;
12. *Invites* Parties and others to provide responses to the questionnaire referred to in paragraph 11 above to the Secretariat by 30 November 2017;
13. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To support the work of the expert working group;

²⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/15, annex; UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/22, annex.

²⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/16, annex; UNEP/CHW.13/INF/17.

(b) To publish any comments received pursuant to paragraph 3 above on the Basel Convention website and to prepare a compilation of all comments pertaining to paragraph 5 of decision BC-12/5 for consideration by the expert working group and by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting;

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

BC-13/6: Technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5)

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2016–2017, set out in the annex to decision BC-12/19, the outcome of the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the results of the online survey to assess the relevance and utility of the Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management,

1. *Recalls* decision III/13, by which it adopted the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes subject to the Basel Convention, including on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5);
2. *Takes note* of the recommendation made by the Open-Ended Working Group at its tenth meeting²⁶ that the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting consider whether the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), on specially engineered landfill (D5) and on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) should be updated;
3. *Also takes note* of the results of the online survey²⁷ and the full report thereon, including the responses to the survey;²⁸
4. *Decides* that the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5) should be updated;
5. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead countries in the updating of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 4 above and to inform the Secretariat of their willingness to do so by 31 August 2017;
6. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, operating by electronic means, to undertake the updating referred to in paragraph 4 above;
7. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 31 August 2017;
8. *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 prepare the draft updated technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 4 above for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting;
9. *Invites* Parties and other stakeholders to make financial and in-kind contributions to support the activities referred to in paragraph 4 above;
10. *Decides* to include in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019 the consideration of whether the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) referred to in decision V/26 should be updated;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on the progress of work on the updating of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 4 above.

²⁶ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/13, para. 64.

²⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/18.

²⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9.

BC-13/7: Cooperation with the World Customs Organization and its Harmonized System Committee

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;²⁹
2. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) 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;
 - (b) To report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

²⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/19.

BC-13/8: National reporting

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of decision BC-13/9 on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, whereby the Conference of the Parties adopted revisions to questions 1a and 3 of the revised format for national reporting under the Basel Convention,³⁰

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the small intersessional working group on national reporting and Germany as lead country for their work;
2. *Takes note of:*
 - (a) The manual for completing the format for national reporting under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal³¹ and the user manual for the electronic reporting system under the Basel Convention;³²
 - (b) The practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries, of electrical and electronic waste and of waste oils;³³
3. *Encourages* Parties to use the manuals referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above;
4. *Invites* Parties and others to make use of the practical guidance referred to in paragraph 2 (b) above and to inform the Secretariat of their experience in doing so by 30 March 2018;
5. *Invites* Parties to inform the Secretariat, by 28 February 2018, of the types of wastes for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories would be useful;
6. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group to consider, at its eleventh meeting, the types of wastes for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories would be useful, as identified by Parties in accordance with paragraph 5 above, and to prepare recommendations thereon for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;
7. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to transmit to the Secretariat their completed questionnaires on the transmission of information for the year 2015 and for previous years as soon as possible, using the electronic reporting system of the Basel Convention;
8. *Recognizes* the importance of the information to be submitted by Parties in their national reports on the generation, import, export and disposal of hazardous wastes for indicators 12.4.1,³⁴ 12.4.2³⁵ and 12.5.1³⁶ for measuring progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 12³⁷ and encourages Parties to strengthen their efforts to include such information in their national reports;

³⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1, annexes I and IV.

³¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/20/Rev.1.

³² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/21.

³³ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/22.

³⁴ “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 of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session and recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (see the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35), ch. I A).

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

³⁶ “National recycling rate, tons of material recycled”, as adopted by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session and recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (see the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35), ch. I A).

³⁷ “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns,” as adopted by the Statistical Commission of the United Nations at its forty-eighth session and recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (see the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-eighth session (E/2017/24-E/CN.3/2017/35), ch. I A).

9. *Requests the Secretariat:*

(a) To continue to develop the electronic reporting system, taking into account necessary modifications consistent with the revised format for national reporting adopted in decision BC-13/9, on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, as well as the manual for completing the format for national reporting referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above, and to support Parties in using it;

(b) To translate into English, subject to the availability of resources, any information submitted by Parties in their national reports in the official languages of the United Nations other than English and to incorporate such information into the electronic reporting system;

(c) To make available in the six official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of resources, the practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries, of electrical and electronic waste and of waste oils referred to in paragraph 2 (b) above to enhance its use by Parties;

(d) To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, pilot projects to test the practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries, of electrical and electronic waste and of waste oils referred to in paragraph 2 (b) above and to prepare, on the basis of the outcomes of those projects and comments received pursuant to paragraph 4 above, revised practical guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

(e) To continue to provide, subject to the availability of resources, training to developing countries and other countries that are in need of assistance to meet their reporting obligations by organizing training activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres or by other appropriate means;

(f) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on the progress of work on national reporting.

BC-13/9: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of decision BC-13/17 on the work programme and operations of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019 relevant to the work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretariat on the work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance and the recommendations made therein³⁸ and welcomes the work undertaken by the Committee since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

I

Specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance

2. *Encourages* Parties concerned by a submission covered by the decisions adopted by the Committee at its twelfth meeting to cooperate with the Committee with a view to resolving the matter of concern;

3. *Encourages* the Committee, in the framework of specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance, to continue to inform the relevant Parties about possible means of assistance from the implementation fund and from other sources, such as the United Nations Environment Programme special programme on institutional strengthening,³⁹ in accordance with the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste;⁴⁰

4. *Takes note* of the report on the review of the operation of the implementation fund;⁴¹

5. *Notes* that the objective of the special programme on institutional strengthening is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, which will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel Convention, among other instruments;

6. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Committee for its efforts to assist with the resolution of matters of concern with regard to the implementation of and compliance with the Convention, including by recommending to the Secretariat the use of resources from the implementation fund to finance activities listed in the ten compliance action plans submitted by concerned Parties in respect of specific submissions and approved by the Committee;

7. *Notes* that resources in the implementation fund have to date been used to assist seven Parties to implement their compliance action plans and have enabled three Parties to return to compliance with the obligation to submit national reports pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention;

II

Review of general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention

National reporting: individual compliance performance

8. *Welcomes* the slight improvement in the completeness of national reports since 2010 and the positive trend towards an improvement in the timeliness of national reports since 2010;

³⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/9.

³⁹ 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.

⁴⁰ See resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, section II, on an integrated approach to the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

⁴¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/25, annex.

9. *Notes with concern that:*

(a) The targets for the year 2013 approved by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting with regard to the timeliness and completeness of national reports have not been met, with 22 per cent of reports submitted on time against a target of 30 per cent and 7 per cent of reports submitted complete against a target of 20 per cent;

(b) As at 31 October 2016, 94 Parties had not submitted their reports for the year 2013;⁴²

(c) The overall rate of submission of national reports since 2009 does not appear to have improved;

10. *Acknowledges* that the problem of non-reporting, incomplete reporting or late reporting is all the more serious because of the close link between the core obligations of the Convention and the obligation to submit national reports in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention;

11. *Sets*, as a way of measuring progress in the overall implementation of and compliance with paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, the following interim targets: 10 per cent of reports due for 2014 and 2015 are complete and submitted on time and 20 per cent of reports due for 2014 and 2015 are complete as submitted but late;

12. *Decides* that, in undertaking the classification of compliance with the national reporting obligation for the years 2014 and beyond, the Committee will:

(a) Classify, for its own consideration under its general review powers, Parties on the basis of two criteria: timeliness and completeness of their reports, and in the five categories as follows:

- (i) Complete report submitted on time;
- (ii) Complete report submitted late;
- (iii) Incomplete report submitted on time;
- (iv) Incomplete report submitted late;
- (v) Not reported;

(b) Classify, for its own consideration under its general review powers, Parties on the basis of the following assumptions:

- (i) Information reported by Parties is presumed to reflect reality, without prejudice to quality control by the Secretariat;
- (ii) The completeness of national reports will be reviewed on the basis of the answers provided by Parties to all questions and sub-questions of the revised reporting format,⁴³ with the exception of questions and tables that are designated as optional;
- (iii) Should a report contain answers that do not provide the information sought (such as “in preparation”, “no data available” or “no information”), the Party providing such answers will not be considered to have submitted a complete report;
- (iv) Should a report contain answers that provide information sought that is “provisional” or “estimated”, the Party providing such answers will be considered to have submitted a complete report.

National reporting: additional steps to improve the timeliness and completeness of national reporting

13. *Decides* to prioritize efforts and ongoing activities to increase the timeliness and completeness of national reporting and calls on Parties to strengthen their efforts in that regard;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee for its work over the years to improve the timeliness and completeness of national reporting and decides that the work programme of the

⁴² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/26.

⁴³ See UNEP/CHW.12/9/INF/16/Rev.1, adopted by decision BC-12/6 and amended by decision BC-13/9.

Committee should continue to emphasize activities aimed at improving implementation and compliance with the national reporting obligation;

Illegal traffic

15. *Adopts* the guidance on the implementation of the Basel Convention provisions dealing with illegal traffic (paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 9)⁴⁴ and encourages Parties to use it and to provide information to the Secretariat on their experiences with the guidance for the consideration of the Committee;

National legislation

16. *Invites* Parties, in particular Parties that have not submitted to the Secretariat their legislation for implementing the Basel Convention, to undertake a review of their implementing legislation, using the legislator's checklist,⁴⁵ and to submit the outcome of their review to the Committee for its consideration;

Control system: transit issues

17. *Adopts* the revisions to question 3 of the revised reporting format for Basel Convention national reporting adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting⁴⁶ and the revisions to the standardized reporting format for transmitting information under paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of Article 4 and paragraphs 2 (c) and (d) of Article 13 of the Convention (import and export prohibitions);⁴⁷

18. *Reminds* Parties of the obligation:

(a) To inform the Secretariat of any change regarding the designation of competent authorities within one month of the date of the decision by which such change is effected, as provided for in paragraph 3 of Article 5 of the Convention;

(b) To promptly acknowledge receipt of notifications of proposed transit transboundary movements, as provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention;

(c) Of any State of export to not allow a transboundary movement to commence until it has received the written consent of the State of transit, as provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention;

19. *Also reminds* Parties:

(a) That if at any time a Party decides, pursuant to the fourth sentence of paragraph 4 of Article 6, not to require prior written consent, either generally or under specific conditions, for transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes, or modifies its requirements in that respect, it shall forthwith inform the other Parties of its decision pursuant to Article 13 of the Convention;

(b) That in case a Party has decided not to require prior written consent for proposed transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and no response is received by a State of export within 60 days of the receipt of a given notification by the State of transit the State of export may allow the export to proceed through the State of transit;

20. *Encourages* Parties:

(a) To respond to notifications of proposed transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes within 60 days in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention;

(b) To ensure that the contact details of competent authorities, including e-mail addresses, are complete and up to date;

⁴⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1/Rev.1.

⁴⁵ UNEP/CHW.12/9/Add.4/Rev.1.

⁴⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1, annex I.

⁴⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1, annex II.

Control system: electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents

21. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents;⁴⁸

Control system: multiple competent authorities

22. *Adopts* the revision to question 1a of the revised reporting format and to the revised form for notification of designation of country contacts⁴⁹ and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, at their eighth meetings, to take note of the change to the former;

III**Work programme for the biennium 2018–2019**

23. *Approves* the work programme of the Committee for the biennium 2018–2019 set out in the annex to the present decision;

24. *Invites* Parties to submit comments on the revised version of the Committee's guidance on improving national reporting,⁵⁰ the guide for the development of national legal frameworks to implement the Basel Convention⁵¹ and the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention⁵² to the Secretariat by 30 September 2017 for consideration by the Committee;

25. *Requests* the Committee:

(a) To establish priorities, work methods and schedules for the activities in its work programme, to coordinate with the Secretariat and the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to avoid duplication of activities and to consult Parties and others on certain issues as appropriate;

(b) To consult Parties, in advance of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on a draft work programme for 2020–2021;

(c) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on the work that 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 of and compliance with the Basel Convention;

IV**Election of members of the Committee**

26. *Elects*, in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the appendix to decision VI/12, the following members to serve on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention until the close of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

African States:	Mr. Leonard Leswam Tampushi (Kenya)
Asia-Pacific States:	Mr. Ali Al-Ghamdi (Saudi Arabia)
Central and Eastern European States:	Mr. Artak Khachatryan (Armenia)
Latin American and Caribbean States:	Mr. Mario Miranda (Ecuador)
Western European and other States:	Ms. Christine Vignon (France)

⁴⁸ UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.2, annex; UNEP/CHW.13/9.

⁴⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1, annexes III and IV. The revised harmonized form for notification of designation of contacts was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eleventh meeting and was also adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its sixth meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting. It is available from <http://www.basel.int/Procedures/CompetentAuthorities/tabid/1324/Default.aspx>.

⁵⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/59.

⁵¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/27.

⁵² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/24.

Annex to decision BC-13/9

Work programme of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance for the biennium 2018–2019

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

Objective	Activity
1. National reporting Improve timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention.	(a) Classify and, as appropriate, publish information on Parties' compliance with their annual national reporting obligations for 2014 and 2015, based on the assumptions, criteria, categories and targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting; ⁵³ (b) Develop recommendations on the revision of targets referred to in paragraph 11 of decision BC-13/9 for the reports due for 2016 and subsequent years; (c) Develop an updated version of the benchmark report aimed at facilitating reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Basel Convention as of the reporting year 2016, based on the revised reporting format for national reporting adopted in decision BC-12/6 as amended by decision BC-13/9; (d) Finalize the revised version of the Committee's guidance on improving national reporting ⁵⁴ in the light of the revised reporting format adopted in decision BC-12/6 as amended by decision BC-13/9 for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting; (e) On the basis of, inter alia, the information contained in the national reports and possible means of technical assistance, develop recommendations for improving the timeliness and completeness of national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Basel Convention.
2. Illegal traffic Prevent and combat illegal traffic.	Consider what additional steps could be taken to improve implementation of and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention.
3. National legislation Improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention.	(a) Finalize the guide for the development of national legal frameworks to implement the Basel Convention ⁵⁵ for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting; (b) Compile the outcome of Parties' self-review of their legislation for implementing the Convention using the legislator's checklist and consider general trends; (c) 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; (d) Monitor requests for information received by the Secretariat from Parties aimed at facilitating the development and review of national legal frameworks as well as 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; (e) Monitor activities undertaken by or with the support of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities

⁵³ Decision BC-13/9.

⁵⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/59.

⁵⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/27.

Objective	Activity
	aimed at assisting Parties to develop legal frameworks for the implementation of the Basel Convention.
4. Insurance, bond or other guarantee Improve the implementation of and compliance with paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention.	Finalize, including through consultation with the Open-ended Working Group, the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention ⁵⁶ for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.
5. Control system Improve the implementation of and compliance with Article 6 of the Convention.	Develop, taking into account the report on the implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention on transit transboundary movements, ⁵⁷ in particular its paragraphs 81–83, guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.
6. Implementation of and compliance with the Convention Improve the implementation of and compliance with the Convention.	(a) Regularly review the guidance on legal matters developed by the Committee (e.g., the manual for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the guide to the control system and the guidance on illegal traffic), based on 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 their updating; (b) Review the operation of the implementation fund, including the links with the Secretariat's technical assistance plan (document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25), notably in relation to access to technical and financial support.

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 of the Basel Convention.
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 implementation fund during the period between the thirteenth and fourteenth 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 of the Convention. 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.
3. In relation to the amendment of paragraph 9 (c) of the terms of reference, the Committee shall prepare a report on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the amendment mentioned in paragraph 4 of decision BC-12/7, including recommendations, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

⁵⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/24.

⁵⁷ UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.1, annex.

BC-13/10: National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the implementation and enforcement activities undertaken by the Secretariat⁵⁸ and encourages the Secretariat to further develop those activities;
2. *Also welcomes* the active engagement of enforcement organizations and networks in preventing and combating illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes and invites those organizations and networks to continue their collaboration with the Secretariat on activities aimed at assisting Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic;
3. *Urges* Parties to fulfil their obligations under paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Basel Convention, including by updating or developing stringent legislation on the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and by incorporating into their national legislation appropriate sanctions or penalties for illegal traffic in hazardous wastes and other wastes;
4. *Encourages* Parties to continue to provide the Secretariat with the texts of national legislation and other measures adopted by them to implement and enforce the Convention;
5. *Invites* Parties to share information, through the Secretariat, on best practices in preventing and combating illegal traffic and to report confirmed cases of illegal traffic to the Secretariat using the prescribed form for confirmed cases of illegal traffic;
6. *Also invites* Parties that have not yet provided the Secretariat with any of the information on national definitions of hazardous wastes required under Article 3 and paragraph 2 (b) of Article 13 of the Convention, including national lists, or any of the information on import or export restrictions or prohibitions required under paragraphs 1 (a) and 1 (b) of Article 4 of the Convention and paragraphs 2 (c) and 2 (d) of Article 13 of the Convention to do so as soon as possible and to report any subsequent significant change in that information using the standardized reporting format or using the revised questionnaire on the transmission of information through designated focal points;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To continue to maintain a collection of national legislation and other measures adopted by Parties to implement the Convention, including measures or best practices for preventing and punishing illegal traffic, forms for reporting confirmed cases of illegal traffic, information on national definitions of hazardous wastes, including national lists, as well as 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, including national lists, as well as 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 such as measures to protect themselves from unwanted imports of wastes, and with assistance in the identification of cases of illegal traffic;
 - (d) To continue to cooperate with enforcement organizations and networks;
 - (e) To develop 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 fourteenth meeting.

⁵⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/10.

BC-13/11: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

I

Technical assistance

Noting the recommendations contained in the report on the overall review of the synergies arrangements,⁵⁹

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect, through the database established for that purpose, information on the technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;

2. *Welcomes* the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention, 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 for the period 2018–2021⁶⁰ and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement it in cooperation with relevant actors striving to attract the programming capacity and financial resources of relevant international organizations;

3. *Encourages* Parties, regional centres and others:

(a) To make financial or in-kind contributions to facilitate the availability of capacity-development materials and activities in appropriate official regional languages;

(b) To undertake capacity-building activities in official local languages, as appropriate;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with other international organizations to explore additional ways of facilitating North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in its technical assistance plan referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres, as set out in the provisions of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as 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, upon request, technical assistance at the regional level for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention and in facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;

6. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution highlighting the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in assisting the regions in the implementation of the two conventions and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve;⁶¹

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021, including, as appropriate, adjustments to the plan, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

⁵⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46.

⁶⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

⁶¹ See United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

II

Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

8. *Takes note of:*

(a) The business plans for the period from January 2016 to December 2019⁶² and activity reports for the period from January 2015 to December 2016⁶³ submitted by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;

(b) The report on the activities of the regional and coordinating centres;⁶⁴

(c) The report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres in joint documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/29/Rev.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/26/Rev.1;

(d) The newly signed framework agreement between the Secretariat on behalf of the Conference of the Parties and the Governments of Argentina⁶⁵ and the Islamic Republic of Iran;⁶⁶

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to take the steps necessary to effect the signing, pursuant to decision VI/3, of a framework agreement with the Government of Slovakia in order to formalize the establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central and Eastern European Countries in Slovakia;

10. *Takes note* of the end of the activities of the existing Basel Convention regional centre in the Russian Federation and of the request of the Russian Federation to establish a new Basel Convention regional centre in that country and authorizes the Secretariat to take the steps necessary to effect the signing, pursuant to decision VI/3 and in accordance with the criteria adopted in decision II/19, of a framework agreement for the possible establishment of a new Basel Convention regional centre in the Russian Federation;

11. *Takes note* of the requests of Brazil and of Panama to establish a new Basel Convention regional centre to serve the Central America and Mexico subregion, authorizes the Secretariat to initiate a process aimed at the signing, pursuant to decision VI/3 and in accordance with the criteria adopted in decision II/19, of a framework agreement for the possible establishment of a new Basel Convention regional centre to serve the Central America and Mexico subregion, taking into account the views of the Parties in the region on the matter as expressed at the latest at the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group;

12. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to submit to the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting:

(a) Their business plans for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023 by 30 September 2019;

(b) Their activity reports for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018 by 31 December 2018;

13. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, including on technology transfer, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;

14. *Encourages* regional and coordinating centres interested to work, under the Convention, on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastics and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management, which should be reflected in the report requested in paragraph 13 above and as appropriate in other relevant reporting;

15. *Takes note* of the notification by the Government of El Salvador of the termination of the framework agreement on the hosting of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Central American subregion, including Mexico, which will become effective on 4 May 2017;⁶⁷

⁶² Available at <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx>.

⁶³ Available at <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx>.

⁶⁴ See UNEP/CHW.13/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/26.

⁶⁵ <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/TheCentres/BCRCArentina/tabid/4838/Default.aspx>.

⁶⁶ <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/TheCentres/SCRCIran/tabid/4846/Default.aspx>.

⁶⁷ See UNEP/CHW.13/11.

16. *Invites* Parties, observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to implement their business plans with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention;

17. *Encourages* Parties, observers and other financial institutions to enhance communication with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres.

III

Implementation of decision V/32 on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention

18. *Takes note* of the information on activities carried out by the Secretariat pursuant to decision BC-12/11;⁶⁸

19. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit with regard to emergency situations and encourages its continued cooperation with the Secretariat;

20. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and invites the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to continue to carry out capacity-building activities with relevant partners, such as the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit, relevant to the prevention of incidents and enhancing the preparedness of countries to deal with emergencies caused by transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal, in line with part 3 of the interim guidelines for the implementation of decision V/32 on enlargement of the scope of the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and in line with decisions BC-IX/10, RC-4/11 and SC-4/34;

21. Also requests the Secretariat to continue its cooperation and collaboration with the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit;

IV

Secretariat report

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

⁶⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/12.

BC-13/12: Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the progress made in the implementation of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment;⁶⁹
2. *Recalls* decision BC-11/15, by which it adopted sections 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment;
3. *Mindful* of the fact that section 3 of the guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment refers 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,⁷⁰ which were adopted on an interim basis by decision BC-12/5, and mindful of the fact that further work is required on the outstanding issues referred to in decision BC-13/5 on the technical guidelines referred to above;
4. *Adopts*, on an interim basis, without prejudice to national legislation, section 3 of the guidance document on environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment and the proposed additional changes to ensure consistency of the text throughout the guidance document⁷¹ and decides to withdraw the guidance on transboundary movement of used and end-of-life computing equipment;⁷²
5. *Invites* Parties and signatories to use the guidance document on the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment, as revised to include section 3 and the additional changes referred to in paragraph 4 above,⁷³ and the guidelines, manual and reports produced by the Partnership Working Group;
6. *Decides* that the Partnership Working Group has successfully completed its mandate and is hereby disbanded and that any follow-up tasks that may be required in the future will be carried out by the Secretariat, with the participation of interested Parties, signatories, industry, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders;
7. *Takes note* of the concept note on a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment;⁷⁴
8. *Invites* interested Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres:
 - (a) To take the lead in the implementation of activities listed in the work programme set out in the concept note referred to in paragraph 7 above and, based on the work undertaken, to propose further development of the concept for a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment at the regional or international level, as the need arises;
 - (b) To report, through the Secretariat, on the implementation of paragraph 8 (a) above to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;
9. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to make financial and in-kind contributions to support the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in their efforts to implement the activities identified in paragraph 8 (a) above.

⁶⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/13.

⁷⁰ UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.1/Rev.1.

⁷¹ UNEP/CHW.13/13/Add.1, annex.

⁷² <http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-CHW-PART-GUID-PACE-TransboundaryMovement-20110131.English.pdf>.

⁷³ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/31/Rev.1, annex I.

⁷⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/31/Rev.1, annex II.

BC-13/13: Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic on its work⁷⁵ and acknowledges the progress made by the Network since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Encourages* members of the Network to continue to collaborate by exchanging experiences, providing relevant information and undertaking capacity-building activities to prevent and combat illegal traffic;

3. *Elects* the following representatives of five Parties to the Basel Convention to serve as members of the Network until the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

From African States:	Mr. Serge Molly Allo'o (Gabon)
From Asia-Pacific States:	Mr. Renato Tantoco Cruz (Philippines)
From Latin American and Caribbean States:	Ms. Leila Devia (Argentina)
From Western European and other States:	Ms. Alannah Pentony (Australia)
From Central and Eastern European States:	Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia)

4. *Designates* the following four representatives of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to serve as members of the Network until the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

From the African region:	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States, located in Egypt
From the Asia-Pacific region:	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, located in China
From the Central and Eastern European region:	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe, located in Slovakia
From the Latin American and Caribbean region:	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean region, located in Trinidad and Tobago

5. *Welcomes* the Latin American Network of Environmental Prosecutors and the Arendal centre of the Global Resource Information Database as additional members of the Network;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to organize annual meetings of the Network and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on the Network's activities.

⁷⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/32.

BC-13/14: Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the work undertaken by the informal group on household waste towards the establishment of a household waste partnership under the Basel Convention;⁷⁶
2. Decides to establish a working group of the household waste partnership that will be responsible for overseeing organizational matters pertaining to the implementation of the partnership's activities, including the establishment of project groups and the review of their work products and reports, serving as a forum for information sharing and taking the lead in awareness-raising, outreach and coordination in relation to activities undertaken by the partnership;
3. Adopts the terms of reference for the household waste partnership;⁷⁷
4. Requests the working group to implement the workplan set out in the annex to the present decision;
5. Also requests the working group to coordinate and collaborate on, as appropriate, activities with other organizations and initiatives in order to achieve synergies and avoid duplication;
6. Emphasizes that the partnership does not have the authority to create additional or abrogate existing rights or responsibilities of Parties under the Basel Convention;
7. Requests the Secretariat:
 - (a) To facilitate and provide expertise to the partnership, subject to the availability of funds;
 - (b) To report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

Annex to decision BC-13/14

Household waste partnership workplan for the biennium 2018–2019

The following tasks are to be undertaken by the working group of the household waste partnership and any project groups established thereunder:

- (a) Develop an overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste, compiling the key outcomes and recommendations resulting from the work of any project groups on:
 - (i) Best practices related to the environmentally sound management of household waste;
 - (ii) Mechanical biological treatment, energy recovery, management of sanitary landfills and compartmentalization to deal with various waste streams;
 - (iii) Assessment of current waste management systems, decision-making and efforts to ensure the environmentally sound management of household waste;
- (b) Collect case studies from various regions related to the topics addressed in the guidance document;
- (c) Enhance awareness-raising and training on the environmentally sound management of household waste and enhance people's participation in household waste management activities and decision-making;
- (d) Coordinate outreach activities and cooperation with other organizations working on household waste management.

⁷⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/15.

⁷⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33/Rev.1, annex II.

BC-13/15: Cooperation between the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information in the note by the Secretariat on cooperation between the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization;⁷⁸
2. *Adopts* the guidance manual on how to improve the sea-land interface;⁷⁹
3. *Invites* Parties and others to use the guidance manual on how to improve the sea-land interface;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To continue, as appropriate, its cooperation with the International Maritime Organization and the International Organization for Standardization;
 - (b) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

⁷⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/18.

⁷⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/37/Rev.1.

BC-13/16: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;⁸⁰ the note by the Secretariat on integrating chemicals and waste management into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;⁸¹ and the information provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020;⁸²
2. *Welcomes* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the sound management of chemicals and wastes as an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development;
3. *Emphasizes* the important contributions 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 to supporting the Parties to those conventions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets;
4. *Takes note* of the methodology for the collection of data relevant to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of other chemicals and wastes-related multilateral environmental agreements to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of the methodology;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available to the United Nations Environment Programme information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted to it by Parties, as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
6. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;⁸³
7. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to assist Parties, upon request, in their efforts to integrate relevant elements of the conventions into their national plans and strategies for sustainable development, and, as appropriate, legislation;
8. *Welcomes* the adoption of relevant resolutions by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the conventions in the implementation of those resolutions, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of those resolutions;
9. *Welcomes* the resolutions adopted at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including in particular the endorsement of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, and the resolution to launch an intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in this respect and to participate in and provide relevant input to the Strategic Approach intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;
10. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the secretariat of the Strategic

⁸⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

⁸¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/39-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/28-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/45.

⁸² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/54-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/42-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/58.

⁸³ In accordance with the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

Approach in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as with the international organizations and the activities listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;⁸⁴

11. *Also* requests the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

⁸⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

BC-13/17: Work programme and operations of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance with the Basel Convention on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents;⁸⁵
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of funding and for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting, a document containing options on how to move forward on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account the note by the Secretariat on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention,⁸⁶ the note by the Secretariat entitled “Control system: electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents”⁸⁷ and the results of a further survey on the issue, in particular through the gathering of more recent information from Parties and others on existing electronic approaches;
3. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments on whether to consider the review of Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention, taking into account the approach outlined in annex II of document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/52;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile the comments submitted in accordance with paragraph 3 above for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting;
5. *Also requests* the Secretariat to prepare, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and subject to the availability of resources, a document compiling information on existing activities that address waste containing nanomaterials and identifying issues related to waste containing nanomaterials that may be relevant to work under the Convention and on options for further work that may be carried out under the Basel Convention related to waste containing nanomaterials within the scope of the Convention, avoiding duplication with activities relating to the matter in other forums;
6. *Adopts* the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019 set out in the annex to the present decision;
7. *Decides* that any work by the Secretariat requested by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its fourteenth meeting shall be undertaken, if approved by the Conference of the Parties, subject to the availability of resources;
8. *Takes note* of the comments received from Parties and others on experiences with regard to the arrangements for the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group;⁸⁸
9. *Decides* that the eleventh and subsequent meetings of the Open-ended Working Group will be of four days’ duration, with two days of plenary sessions with simultaneous interpretation provided, plus one additional day of plenary sessions with interpretation provided subject to the availability of resources, to be applied flexibly by the Executive Secretary, and invites those in a position to do so to provide voluntary funding for any interpretation not included in the core budget.

⁸⁵ UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.2, annex; UNEP/CHW.13/9.

⁸⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/9.

⁸⁷ UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.2.

⁸⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/42, annex.

Annex to decision BC-13/17

Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019

Topics	Activities	Mandate	Priority
I. Strategic issues			
A. Strategic framework	Consider a draft compilation of information related to the indicators in the strategic framework.	Decision BC-13/1	Medium
B. Development of guidelines for environmentally sound management	1. Review the progress made in the implementation of the work programme of the expert working group on environmentally sound management. 2. Consider the draft documents developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management.	Decision BC-13/2	High
II. Scientific and technical matters			
A. Technical guidelines	1. Consider comments and information relating to a review of provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values in the general technical guidelines referred to in decision BC-13/4, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate. 2. Update the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and prepare or update specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annexes A and C to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by decisions SC-8/10, SC-8/11 and SC-8/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 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 the Stockholm Convention low persistent organic pollutant content as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention. 	Decision BC-13/4	High

Topics	Activities	Mandate	Priority
	<p>3. Consider comments on 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 and suggestions for amendments to those guidelines from the expert working group.</p> <p>4. Consider the draft updated technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5).</p> <p>5. Consider whether the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) should be updated.</p>	<p>Decision BC-13/5</p> <p>Decision BC-13/6</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Medium</p>
B. National reporting	Consider the types of wastes for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories would be useful and prepare recommendations thereon for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.	Decision BC-13/8	High
C. Amendments to the annexes to the Basel Convention	Consider and review any applications for changes and any corrections to the list of wastes in Annexes VIII and IX to the Basel Convention.	Decision VIII/15	High
D. Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents	Consider work that may be carried out on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents.	Decision BC-13/17	Medium
E. Marine plastic litter and microplastics	Subject to the availability of resources, consider relevant options available under the Convention to further address marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into account, inter alia, the assessment requested by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in its resolution 2/11, any relevant resolution by the Environment Assembly at its forthcoming third session and existing guidance documents and activities under the Basel Convention that address issues related to marine plastic litter and microplastics, and develop a proposal for possible further action, within the scope of the Convention and avoiding duplication with activities relating to the matter in other forums, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.	Decision BC-13/17	High
F. Waste containing nanomaterials	Consider further work that may be carried out in relation to waste containing nanomaterials.	Decision BC-13/17	Medium
III. Legal, governance and enforcement matters			
A. Consultation with the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance	Consult with the Committee on the finalization of the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention and on other matters as decided by the Committee.	Decision BC-13/9	High

Topics	Activities	Mandate	Priority
B. Providing further legal clarity	1. Provide guidance to the expert working group on the review of Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Basel Convention.	Decision BC-13/2	High
	2. Consider whether to review Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention.	Decision BC-13/17	Medium
IV. International cooperation and coordination			
A. Basel Convention Partnership Programme	1. Consider, as needed, a report from the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres on the implementation of activities listed in the work programme set out in the concept note on a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment.	Decision BC-13/12	Medium
	2. Consider progress made with, and provide guidance on the implementation of, the workplan of the working group of the household waste partnership established by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.	Decision BC-13/14	High
B. Cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System	Consider progress achieved with regard to the inclusion of Basel Convention wastes in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.	Decision BC-13/7	Medium
V. Programme of work and budget			
Financing and budget for the biennium 2018–2019	Consider the report by the Secretariat on the status of the implementation of decision BC-13/24 on the programme of work and proposed budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019.	Decision BC-13/24	Medium

BC-13/18: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of, respectively, 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,

Reaffirming that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance and enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to Parties with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels, taking into account national-level activities, circumstances and priorities, as appropriate,

Mindful that several of the follow-up actions to the recommendations presented in the reports on the reviews called for in decisions BC-12/20, RC-7/10 and SC-7/28⁸⁹ are addressed in decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the further review of the synergies arrangements;⁹⁰
2. *Also welcomes* the report on the review of the matrix-based management approach and organization⁹¹ undertaken by the Executive Director in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
3. *Further welcomes* the report on the review of the proposals to enhance synergies arrangements set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;⁹²
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to seek opportunities for enhanced coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in order to ensure policy coherence and enhance efficiency with a view to reducing the administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;
5. *Invites* Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 June 2018, suggestions for possible further action to enhance cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and requests the Secretariat to inform the Conference of the Parties about the specific suggestions received in the documents to be considered under each relevant agenda item for its next meeting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to include information on progress achieved in enhancing cooperation and coordination in its reports on the implementation of relevant decisions.

⁸⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1.

⁹⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46, annex.

⁹¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/44-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/30-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/47, annex.

⁹² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/48, annex.

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

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism;
2. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretariat in revising the draft joint clearing-house mechanism strategy⁹³ and in preparing a draft workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2018–2019;⁹⁴
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To start the work to implement the strategy of the joint clearing-house mechanism⁹⁵ in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
 - (b) To implement the activities of the workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To ensure that activities undertaken in the development of the clearing-house mechanism are cost-effective, proportionate and balanced and in line with the capacity and resources of the Secretariat;
 - (b) To prioritize recurring activities, in particular in respect of maintenance;
 - (c) To implement activities in-house whenever possible and to resort to the use of consultants only in justifiable cases;
 - (d) To link with other relevant existing mechanisms and sources of information without having to redo the content already contained in them;
 - (e) Where possible, to participate in meetings through electronic means and to use translations already available in the six official United Nations languages;
5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination activities with existing partners in the area of information exchange, to explore possible cooperative activities with new partners as appropriate and to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication with existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
6. *Invites* Parties and others to participate, as appropriate, in the development of the strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan in accordance with the present decision;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments with regard to matters such as the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

⁹³ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

⁹⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/48-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/39-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/43.

⁹⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

BC-13/20: Mainstreaming gender

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/5 of 27 May 2016, entitled “Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which, among other things, stresses the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting gender equality in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Welcomes* the Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan⁹⁶ and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts in respect of gender mainstreaming in its activities, projects and programmes;

2. *Recognizes* that, notwithstanding the efforts of Parties and the Secretariat to promote gender equality, efforts are still needed to ensure that women and men from all Parties are equally involved in the implementation of the three conventions and are represented in their bodies and processes and thus inform and participate in decision-making on gender-responsive hazardous chemicals and wastes policies;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) In accordance with decisions BC-12/25, RC-7/15 and SC-7/33, to continue to report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2019 and at subsequent meetings;

(b) To update, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings, the Gender Action Plan for mainstreaming gender considerations in the programme of work with indicators for monitoring progress so as to enable the conferences of the Parties to follow up on the plan’s implementation.

⁹⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/46-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/32-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/49, annex.

BC-13/21: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to strengthening legislation and regulations for the implementation and enforcement of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Mindful of decision BC-13/10 on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and efforts to combat illegal traffic under the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the analysis of possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, building on lessons learned under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;⁹⁷
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, in particular Articles 11 and 12, for preventing and combating illegal trade in hazardous chemicals;
3. *Underlines* the importance of adequate legal and institutional frameworks at the national level in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes under the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention;
4. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure complementarity and consistency and to avoid duplication of the work on illegal traffic and trade under the conventions with similar work by the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations;
5. *Urges* Parties to strengthen action under the conventions, including cooperation with other Parties, to combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the information provided by Parties to the Secretariat under each convention on the measures that they have adopted in order to implement the convention and requests the Secretariat to make the information relevant to illegal traffic and trade, if not identified as confidential by Parties involved, available on the website of the convention, without duplicating related requests under the other conventions;
7. *Encourages* Parties to two or more of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:
 - (a) To establish, where they do not yet exist, coordinating mechanisms at the national level with a view to facilitating the exchange of information among relevant authorities responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of the chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions, other relevant institutions and the private sector;
 - (b) To review, through those coordinating mechanisms, the lessons learned under each convention that could benefit the implementation and enforcement of the others and, as appropriate, to adjust their legal and institutional frameworks accordingly;
8. *Invites* Parties to share with other Parties, through the Secretariat, while avoiding duplication:
 - (a) Their experiences pursuant to paragraph 7 above;
 - (b) Information on cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
9. *Invites* the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and relevant global and regional enforcement networks to provide the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, with information on their activities aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous

⁹⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/49-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/34-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/51.

chemicals and wastes as well as lessons learned from those activities for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To seek, subject to the availability of resources, comments from Parties and others on further areas, including areas common to two or three of the conventions, in which legal clarity could be improved as a means of preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes and, based on those comments, to prepare a report, including recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

(b) To support Parties, upon request and within available resources, on matters pertaining to the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of chemicals and wastes covered under the three conventions, including on the development and updating of national legislation or other measures;

(c) To develop examples of the integration of the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions into national legal frameworks and to organize training activities, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with partners, to assist Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in the development of national legislation and other measures to implement and enforce the provisions of the conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions;

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

BC-13/22: From science to action

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Emphasizes* that, through its subsidiary bodies, expert groups and other related mechanisms, including with other partners, the necessary processes are in place to ensure science-based work and decision-making under the Basel Convention on the Control of the 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 welcomes their work in that regard;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of, and the need to enhance, the interaction between scientists, policymakers and other actors in the policy process to promote the exchange, development and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of achieving more informed decision-making for reaching the objectives of the conventions;
3. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to initiate action to promote science-based decision-making and action in the implementation of the conventions at the national level;
4. *Takes note* of the Secretariat's draft road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions;⁹⁸
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with regional centres, as appropriate, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in science-based decision-making and action in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
6. *Welcomes* the progress made to date and requests the Secretariat, by 30 September 2017, to further revise the draft road map with a focus on moving from multilateral dialogue to action at the national and regional levels while avoiding duplication and inconsistencies with existing mechanisms and taking into account the views expressed by Parties during the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions;
7. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments on the further revised road map by 28 February 2018;
8. *Invites* Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to nominate through their bureau representatives up to four experts per United Nations region, by 30 June 2017, to assist the Secretariat in further revising the draft road map, working through electronic means, and requests the Secretariat to prepare a final draft, with a focus on enhancing science-based action at the national and regional levels, in particular with regard to section 4.2 and appendix 1 of the current draft road map,⁹⁹ for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions at their next meetings;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders to strengthen the science-policy interface and to report to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2019 on the implementation of the present decision.

⁹⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52, annex I.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

BC-13/23: Draft memorandum of understanding between 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,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties, and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and 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 have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Recalls* its request in decision BC-12/24 for the preparation by the Secretariat of a draft memorandum of understanding concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Basel Convention by UNEP and notes with concern that no such draft has been submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties in 2017;
2. *Reiterates* its request in decision BC-12/24 for the preparation by the Secretariat of a draft memorandum of understanding for consideration and possible adoption at its next meeting;
3. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/18 on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats and of the progress report prepared by the Executive Director of UNEP;¹⁰⁰
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to engage actively in the work of the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of other UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, taking into account the UNEP delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the draft memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director;¹⁰¹
5. *Decides* that if the work of UNEP under paragraph 4 above is not finalized in time for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties it should not delay consideration of the draft memorandum of understanding;
6. *Decides* to include the draft memorandum of understanding as an item on the provisional agenda of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with rule 9 (2) of the rules of procedure.

¹⁰⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59.

¹⁰¹ UNEP/CHW.12/25, annex; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex; UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9, annex.

BC-13/24: Programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the financial reports on the Basel Convention trust funds for 2016 and estimated expenditures for 2017 from the Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention Trust Fund),¹⁰²

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Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 of 9,634,869 United States dollars for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention to make commitments in an amount up to 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 2018–2019;
4. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2018–2019 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 2018 for 2018 and before 1 January 2019 for 2019;
5. *Recalls* that contributions to the Basel Convention Trust Fund are expected by or on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, requests Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2017 for the calendar year 2018 and by 16 October 2018 for the calendar year 2019 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. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Basel Convention Trust Fund for 2016 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules;
7. *Urges* Parties to pay their contributions promptly by or on 1 January of the year to which the contributions apply and requests the Secretariat to present at regional meetings information on the state of play¹⁰³ regarding arrears and their consequences;
8. *Recalls* the provisions of paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5 of the financial rules on outstanding contributions due from 1 January 2001 onwards and paragraph 10 of decision BC-12/25 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;
9. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers of 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;

¹⁰² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/53/Rev.2.

¹⁰³ For the present decision, “state of play” consists of the current status of arrears, difficulties with paying assessed contributions due to restrictions that go beyond national jurisdiction, and the status of any payment plans agreed on with the Secretariat.

10. *Takes note* of the indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2018–2019 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

11. *Authorizes*, on an exceptional basis, the Executive Secretary, as a last resort, to draw additional funds, not exceeding 100,000 United States dollars, from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions' three general trust funds' net balance to cover any shortfall from the approved staffing envelope for the biennium 2018–2019, should the annual increase applied to real staff costs and used to determine the staffing envelope not be adequate, provided that they are not reduced below the working capital reserve, except in the case of the Stockholm Convention, where the working capital reserve may temporarily be used for this purpose;

12. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that he remains within the overall cost of the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2018–2019, as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its audit report;¹⁰⁴

13. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to continue cooperating on programmatic matters with the interim secretariat to the Minamata Convention and to provide any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;

14. *Requests* the Secretariat to ensure the full utilization of the programme support costs available to it in 2018–2019 and, where possible, to offset those costs against the administrative components of the approved budget;

II

Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention

15. *Takes note* of the funding estimates included 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 on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Technical Cooperation Trust Fund) in the amount of 6,657,894 United States dollars for the biennium 2018–2019;

16. *Notes* that the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget represents the Secretariat's best efforts to be realistic and reflects priorities agreed upon by all Parties and urges Parties and invites non-Parties and others to make voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund so as to encourage contributions from donors;

17. *Also notes* the importance of having funding available in the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the participation in the meetings of the Convention of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition;

18. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute urgently to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund 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 Parties with economies in transition, in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

III

Preparations for the next biennium

19. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2019 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2018–2019, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

20. *Takes note* of the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the joint secretariat and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

¹⁰⁴ Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at <https://oios.un.org/page/download/id/120>.

21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2020–2021, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the 2020–2021 period in a programmatic format;

22. *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 2020–2021 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 20 above 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 2018–2019 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 2018–2019 level in nominal terms;

23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Open-ended Working Group on the status of the implementation of the present decision;

24. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary at the fourteenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have 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;

25. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the 2020–2021 Technical Cooperation Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;

26. *Requests* the Secretariat to identify elements of programmatic cooperation with other organizations of the chemicals and wastes cluster for the programme of work for 2018–2019 in line with decision BC-13/16 on international cooperation and coordination.

Table 1
Programme budget, reserves and financing for the 2018–2019 biennium (United States dollars)
Programme budget

	General trust fund			Voluntary trust fund		
	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
1 Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention	557 575			1 014 871		
2 Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention		557 575			1 014 871	
3 Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention			557 575			1 014 871
4 Eleventh meeting of the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group	347 982			669 512		
5 Fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Rotterdam Convention Chemical Review Committee and orientation workshop for members of the Chemical Review Committee		517 208			89 535	
6 Fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee			952 962			111 552
7 Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and joint meeting of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	50 900					
8 Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and joint meeting of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions		30 200				
9 Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and joint meeting of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions			44 000			
10 Thirteenth meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee	35 000			30 280		
12 Support for the work of and coordination between the scientific bodies of the conventions				40 000	40 000	40 000
13 Technical assistance and capacity development programme of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions ¹				516 000	636 500	637 500
14 Training and capacity development activities under the Basel Convention				1 000 000		
15 Training and capacity development activities under the Rotterdam Convention					1 000 000	
16 Training and capacity development activities under the Stockholm Convention						1 000 000
18 Partnerships for technical assistance				566 600	278 800	39 600
19 Coordination of and support for the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and cooperation and coordination between regional centres	44 150		44 150	300 000		300 000
20 Scientific support for Parties to the Basel Convention	275 000		20 000	235 000		
21 Scientific support for Parties to the Rotterdam Convention		60 000			130 000	
22 Scientific support for Parties to the Stockholm Convention			135 000			372 000
23 Effectiveness evaluation and the global monitoring plan			60 000			398 000
24 National reporting	42 500		70 000	107 500		20 000
25 Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, including the prior informed consent database and the Rotterdam Convention website in English, French and Spanish	42 705	92 792	42 703	83 334	83 330	83 336

	General trust fund			Voluntary trust fund		
	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
26 Publications	33 400	33 200	33 400			
27 Joint communication, outreach and public awareness	10 000	10 000	10 000			
28 Executive direction and management	122 300	225 427	204 868			
29 International cooperation and coordination, including partnerships						
30 Financial resources and mechanisms	12 000	12 000	12 000			
32 Legal and policy specific to the Basel Convention				402 500		
33 Joint legal and policy activities under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; national legislation, illegal traffic and trade, and enforcement under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions				20 000		
34 Coordination and provision of support to Parties in follow-up to the country-led initiative on environmentally sound management and further legal clarity				677 500		
35 Office maintenance and services	364 080	212 040	364 080			
36 Joint information technology services	100 000	80 000	100 000			
Staff costs	6 488 841	5 460 797	7 599 014	228 845	228 845	228 845
Total (excluding programme support costs)	8 526 433	7 291 239	10 249 752	5 891 942	3 501 881	4 245 704
Programme support costs	1 108 436	947 861	1 332 468	765 952	455 244	551 941
Total (including programme support costs)	9 634 869	8 239 100	11 582 220	6 657 894	3 957 125	4 797 645
Grand total		29 456 189		15 412 664		

¹ The impact assessment of the implementation of the technical assistance plan shall be funded as a priority using unearmarked contributions to the voluntary trust funds of the conventions.

Reserves

	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
2018–2019 approved budget from the general trust fund	9 634 869	8 239 100	11 582 220
Working capital reserve			
Current level	705 363	611 008	748 847
Required level	722 615	617 933	868 666
Approved changes to the working capital reserve	17 252	6 924	119 820
Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve			
Current level	0	292 540	0
Approved changes to the Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve	0	0	0
Total required for the approved budget and changes to reserves	9 652 121	8 246 025	11 702 039

Financing

	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
Funded from the trust fund balance	0	0	0
Funded from the Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve	0	0	0
Funded from the host country contributions of Switzerland ^{1,2}	0	651 466	1 934 389
Funded from the host country contributions of Italy ¹	0	1 302 932	0
Funded from assessed contributions of Parties	9 652 121	6 291 627	9 767 650

¹ The host country contribution for the Rotterdam Convention was pledged in Euros and converted to United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.921 euros on 1 May 2017.

² The host country contribution for the Stockholm Convention was pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.996 Swiss francs on 1 May 2017.

Table 2

Assessed contributions apportioned to Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the 2018–2019 biennium (United States dollars)

United Nations Secretariat scale			Basel Convention (BCL)		Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
Party		United Nations scale	BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium	
Remarks		(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
-		Per cent	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars
1	Afghanistan	0.006	1	0.008	362	1	0.010	315	1	0.010	488
2	Albania	0.008	2	0.010	483	2	0.010	315	2	0.010	488
3	Algeria	0.161	3	0.201	9 717	—	n.a.	n.a.	3	0.213	10 400
4	Andorra	0.006	4	0.008	362	—	n.a.	n.a.	4	n.a.	n.a.
5	Angola	0.010	5	0.010	483	—	n.a.	n.a.	—	0.010	488
6	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	6	0.003	121	3	0.010	315	5	0.010	488
7	Argentina	0.892	7	1.115	53 834	4	1.131	35 595	6	1.180	57 623
8	Armenia	0.006	8	0.008	362	5	0.010	315	7	0.010	488
9	Australia	2.337	9	2.923	141 043	6	2.964	93 256	8	3.091	150 969
10	Austria	0.720	10	0.900	43 454	7	0.913	28 731	9	0.952	46 511
11	Azerbaijan	0.060	11	0.075	3 621	—	n.a.	n.a.	10	0.079	3 876
12	Bahamas	0.014	12	0.018	845	—	n.a.	n.a.	11	0.019	904
13	Bahrain	0.044	13	0.055	2 655	8	0.056	1 756	12	0.058	2 842
14	Bangladesh	0.010	14	0.010	483	—	n.a.	n.a.	13	0.010	488
15	Barbados	0.007	15	0.009	422	—	n.a.	n.a.	14	0.010	488
16	Belarus	0.056	16	0.070	3 380	—	n.a.	n.a.	15	0.074	3 618
17	Belgium	0.885	17	1.107	53 412	9	1.123	35 315	16	1.171	57 170
18	Belize	0.001	18	0.001	60	10	0.010	315	17	0.010	488
19	Benin	0.003	19	0.004	181	11	0.010	315	18	0.010	488
20	Bhutan	0.001	20	0.001	60	—	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.
21	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.012	21	0.015	724	12	0.000	0	19	0.016	775
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.013	22	0.016	785	13	0.016	519	20	0.017	840
23	Botswana	0.014	23	0.018	845	14	0.018	559	21	0.019	904
24	Brazil	3.823	24	4.781	230 726	15	4.849	152 554	22	5.057	246 963
25	Brunei Darussalam	0.029	25	0.036	1 750	—	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
26	Bulgaria	0.045	26	0.056	2 716	16	0.057	1 796	23	0.060	2 907
27	Burkina Faso	0.004	27	0.005	241	17	0.010	315	24	0.010	488
28	Burundi	0.001	28	0.001	60	18	0.010	315	25	0.010	488
29	Cabo Verde	0.001	29	0.001	60	19	0.010	315	26	0.010	488
30	Cambodia	0.004	30	0.005	241	20	0.010	315	27	0.010	488
31	Cameroon	0.010	31	0.013	604	21	0.013	399	28	0.013	646
32	Canada	2.921	32	3.653	176 288	22	3.705	116 561	29	3.864	188 695
33	Central African Republic	0.001	33	0.001	60	—	n.a.	n.a.	30	0.010	488
34	Chad	0.005	34	0.006	302	23	0.010	315	31	0.010	488
35	Chile	0.399	35	0.499	24 080	24	0.506	15 922	32	0.528	25 775
36	China	7.921	36	9.906	478 049	25	10.048	316 082	33	10.477	511 691
37	Colombia	0.322	37	0.403	19 433	26	0.408	12 849	34	0.426	20 801
38	Comoros	0.001	38	0.001	60	—	n.a.	n.a.	35	0.010	488
39	Congo	0.006	39	0.008	362	27	0.010	315	36	0.010	488
40	Cook Islands	0.001	40	0.001	60	28	0.010	315	37	0.010	488
41	Costa Rica	0.047	41	0.059	2 837	29	0.060	1 876	38	0.062	3 036
42	Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	42	0.011	543	30	0.011	359	39	0.010	488
43	Croatia	0.099	43	0.124	5 975	31	0.126	3 951	40	0.131	6 395
44	Cuba	0.065	44	0.081	3 923	32	0.082	2 594	41	0.086	4 199
45	Cyprus	0.043	45	0.054	2 595	33	0.055	1 716	42	0.057	2 778
46	Czechia	0.344	46	0.430	20 761	34	0.436	13 727	43	0.455	22 222
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	47	0.006	302	35	0.010	315	44	0.010	488
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.008	48	0.010	483	36	0.010	315	45	0.010	488

United Nations Secretariat scale			Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)		
Party		United Nations scale	BC adjusted scale, per cent		Average annual contribution for biennium	RC adjusted scale, per cent		Average annual contribution for biennium	SC adjusted scale, per cent		Average annual contribution for biennium
Remarks		(1)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)			
-		<i>Per cent</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>
49	Denmark	0.584	49	0.730	35 246	37	0.741	23 304	46	0.772	37 726
50	Djibouti	0.001	50	0.001	60	38	0.010	315	47	0.010	488
51	Dominica	0.001	51	0.001	60	39	0.010	315	48	0.010	488
52	Dominican Republic	0.046	52	0.058	2 776	40	0.058	1 836	49	0.061	2 972
53	Ecuador	0.067	53	0.084	4 044	41	0.085	2 674	50	0.089	4 328
54	Egypt	0.152	54	0.190	9 174	—	n.a.	n.a.	51	0.201	9 819
55	El Salvador	0.014	55	0.018	845	42	0.018	559	52	0.019	904
56	Equatorial Guinea	0.010	56	0.010	483	43	0.010	315	—	n.a.	n.a.
57	Eritrea	0.001	57	0.001	60	44	0.010	315	53	0.010	488
58	Estonia	0.038	58	0.048	2 293	45	0.048	1 516	54	0.050	2 455
59	Ethiopia	0.010	59	0.010	483	46	0.010	315	55	0.010	488
60	European Union	2.500	60	2.500	120 652	47	2.500	78 645	56	2.500	122 096
61	Fiji	0.003		n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.	57	0.010	488
62	Finland	0.456	61	0.570	27 521	48	0.578	18 196	58	0.603	29 457
63	France	4.859	62	6.076	293 251	49	6.164	193 895	59	6.427	313 888
64	Gabon	0.017	63	0.021	1 026	50	0.022	678	60	0.022	1 098
65	Gambia	0.001	64	0.001	60	51	0.010	315	61	0.010	488
66	Georgia	0.008	65	0.010	483	52	0.010	315	62	0.010	488
67	Germany	6.389	66	7.990	385 589	53	8.104	254 949	63	8.451	412 725
68	Ghana	0.016	67	0.020	966	54	0.020	638	64	0.021	1 034
69	Greece	0.471	68	0.589	28 426	55	0.597	18 795	65	0.623	30 426
70	Guatemala	0.028	69	0.035	1 690	56	0.036	1 117	66	0.037	1 809
71	Guinea	0.002	70	0.003	121	57	0.010	315	67	0.010	488
72	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	71	0.001	60	58	0.010	315	68	0.010	488
73	Guyana	0.002	72	0.003	121	59	0.010	315	69	0.010	488
74	Honduras	0.008	73	0.010	483	60	0.010	315	70	0.010	488
75	Hungary	0.161	74	0.201	9 717	61	0.204	6 425	71	0.213	10 400
76	Iceland	0.023	75	0.029	1 388	—	n.a.	n.a.	72	0.030	1 486
77	India	0.737	76	0.922	44 479	62	0.935	29 410	73	0.975	47 610
78	Indonesia	0.504	77	0.630	30 417	63	0.639	20 112	74	0.667	32 558
79	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.471	78	0.589	28 426	64	0.597	18 795	75	0.623	30 426
80	Iraq	0.129	79	0.161	7 785	—	n.a.	n.a.	76	0.171	8 333
81	Ireland	0.335	80	0.419	20 218	65	0.425	13 368	77	0.443	21 641
82	Israel	0.430	81	0.538	25 951	66	0.545	17 159	—	n.a.	n.a.
83	Italy	3.748	82	4.687	226 200	67	4.754	149 562	—	n.a.	n.a.
84	Jamaica	0.009	83	0.011	543	68	0.011	359	78	0.010	488
85	Japan	9.680	84	12.105	584 208	69	12.279	386 274	79	12.804	625 321
86	Jordan	0.020	85	0.025	1 207	70	0.025	798	80	0.026	1 292
87	Kazakhstan	0.191	86	0.239	11 527	71	0.242	7 622	81	0.253	12 338
88	Kenya	0.018	87	0.023	1 086	72	0.023	718	82	0.024	1 163
89	Kiribati	0.001	88	0.001	60	—	n.a.	n.a.	83	0.010	488
90	Kuwait	0.285	89	0.356	17 200	73	0.362	11 373	84	0.377	18 411
91	Kyrgyzstan	0.002	90	0.003	121	74	0.010	315	85	0.010	488
92	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.003	91	0.004	181	75	0.010	315	86	0.010	488
93	Latvia	0.050	92	0.063	3 018	76	0.063	1 995	87	0.066	3 230
94	Lebanon	0.046	93	0.058	2 776	77	0.058	1 836	88	0.061	2 972
95	Lesotho	0.001	94	0.001	60	78	0.010	315	89	0.010	488
96	Liberia	0.001	95	0.001	60	79	0.010	315	90	0.010	488
97	Libya	0.125	96	0.156	7 544	80	0.159	4 988	91	0.165	8 075
98	Liechtenstein	0.007	97	0.009	422	81	0.010	315	92	0.010	488
99	Lithuania	0.072	98	0.090	4 345	82	0.091	2 873	93	0.095	4 651
100	Luxembourg	0.064	99	0.080	3 863	83	0.081	2 554	94	0.085	4 134
101	Madagascar	0.003	100	0.004	181	84	0.010	315	95	0.010	488

United Nations Secretariat scale				Basel Convention (BCL)		Rotterdam Convention (ROL)		Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
Party		United Nations scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent		Average annual contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent		Average annual contribution for biennium	
Remarks		(1)		(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)		
-		Per cent	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars
102	Malawi	0.002	101	0.003	121	85	0.010	315	96	0.010	488
103	Malaysia	0.322	102	0.403	19 433	86	0.408	12 849	–	n.a.	n.a.
104	Maldives	0.002	103	0.003	121	87	0.010	315	97	0.010	488
105	Mali	0.003	104	0.004	181	88	0.010	315	98	0.010	488
106	Malta	0.016	105	0.020	966	89	0.020	638	99	0.021	1 034
107	Marshall Islands	0.001	106	0.001	60	90	0.010	315	100	0.010	488
108	Mauritania	0.002	107	0.003	121	91	0.010	315	101	0.010	488
109	Mauritius	0.012	108	0.015	724	92	0.015	479	102	0.016	775
110	Mexico	1.435	109	1.795	86 605	93	1.820	57 263	103	1.898	92 700
111	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	110	0.001	60	–	n.a.	n.a.	104	0.010	488
112	Monaco	0.010	111	0.013	604	–	n.a.	n.a.	105	0.013	646
113	Mongolia	0.005	112	0.006	302	94	0.010	315	106	0.010	488
114	Montenegro	0.004	113	0.005	241	95	0.010	315	107	0.010	488
115	Morocco	0.054	114	0.068	3 259	96	0.068	2 155	108	0.071	3 488
116	Mozambique	0.004	115	0.005	241	97	0.010	315	109	0.010	488
117	Myanmar	0.010	116	0.010	483	–	n.a.	n.a.	110	0.010	488
118	Namibia	0.010	117	0.013	604	98	0.519	16 334	111	0.013	646
119	Nauru	0.001	118	0.001	60	–	n.a.	n.a.	112	0.010	488
120	Nepal	0.006	119	0.008	362	99	0.010	315	113	0.010	488
121	Netherlands	1.482	120	1.853	89 442	100	1.880	59 138	114	1.960	95 736
122	New Zealand	0.268	121	0.335	16 174	101	0.340	10 694	115	0.354	17 313
123	Nicaragua	0.004	122	0.005	241	102	0.010	315	116	0.010	488
124	Niger	0.002	123	0.003	121	103	0.010	315	117	0.010	488
125	Nigeria	0.209	124	0.261	12 614	104	0.265	8 340	118	0.276	13 501
126	Niue	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.	119	0.010	488
127	Norway	0.849	125	1.062	51 239	105	1.077	33 879	120	1.123	54 845
128	Oman	0.113	126	0.141	6 820	106	0.143	4 509	121	0.149	7 300
129	Pakistan	0.093	127	0.116	5 613	107	0.118	3 711	122	0.123	6 008
130	Palau	0.001	128	0.001	60	–	n.a.	n.a.	123	0.010	488
131	Panama	0.034	129	0.043	2 052	108	0.043	1 357	124	0.045	2 196
132	Papua New Guinea	0.004	130	0.005	241	–	n.a.	n.a.	125	0.010	488
133	Paraguay	0.014	131	0.018	845	109	0.018	559	126	0.019	924
134	Peru	0.136	132	0.170	8 208	110	0.173	5 427	127	0.180	8 786
135	Philippines	0.165	133	0.206	9 958	111	0.209	6 584	128	0.218	10 659
136	Poland	0.841	134	1.052	50 756	112	1.067	33 560	129	1.112	54 328
137	Portugal	0.392	135	0.490	23 658	113	0.497	15 643	130	0.519	25 323
138	Qatar	0.269	136	0.336	16 235	114	0.341	10 734	131	0.356	17 377
139	Republic of Korea	2.039	137	2.550	123 058	115	2.586	81 365	132	2.697	131 718
140	Republic of Moldova	0.004	138	0.005	241	116	0.010	315	133	0.010	488
141	Romania	0.184	139	0.230	11 105	117	0.233	7 342	134	0.243	11 886
142	Russian Federation	3.088	140	3.862	186 367	118	3.917	123 225	135	4.085	199 483
143	Rwanda	0.002	141	0.003	121	119	0.010	315	136	0.010	488
144	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	142	0.001	60	120	0.010	315	137	0.010	488
145	Saint Lucia	0.001	143	0.001	60	–	n.a.	n.a.	138	0.010	488
146	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	144	0.001	60	121	0.010	315	139	0.010	488
147	Samoa	0.001	145	0.001	60	122	0.010	315	140	0.010	488
148	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	146	0.001	60	123	0.010	315	141	0.010	488
149	Saudi Arabia	1.146	147	1.433	69 163	124	1.454	45 730	142	1.516	74 031
150	Senegal	0.005	148	0.006	302	125	0.010	315	143	0.010	488
151	Serbia	0.032	149	0.040	1 931	126	0.041	1 277	144	0.042	2 067
152	Seychelles	0.001	150	0.001	60	–	n.a.		145	0.010	488
153	Sierra Leone	0.001	151	0.001	60	127	0.010	315	146	0.010	488
154	Singapore	0.447	152	0.559	26 977	128	0.567	17 837	147	0.591	28 876

United Nations Secretariat scale			Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)									
Party		United Nations scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent		Average annual contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent		Average annual contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent		Average annual contribution for biennium				
Remarks		(1)		(2)		(4)		(3)		(4)		(3)		(4)				
-		Per cent		No.	Per cent		United States dollars		No.	Per cent		United States dollars		No.	Per cent		United States dollars	
155	Slovakia	0.160	153	0.200	9 656	129	0.203	6 385	148	0.212	10 336							
156	Slovenia	0.084	154	0.105	5 070	130	0.107	3 352	149	0.111	5 426							
157	Solomon Islands	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.	150	0.010	488							
158	Somalia	0.001	155	0.001	60	131	0.010	315	151	0.010	488							
159	South Africa	0.364	156	0.455	21 968	132	0.462	14 525	152	0.481	23 514							
160	Spain	2.443	157	3.055	147 440	133	3.099	97 486	153	3.231	157 816							
161	Sri Lanka	0.031	158	0.039	1 871	134	0.039	1 237	154	0.041	2 003							
162	State of Palestine	0.001	159	0.001	60	—	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.							
163	Sudan	0.010	160	0.010	483	135	0.010	315	155	0.010	488							
164	Suriname	0.006	161	0.008	362	136	0.010	315	156	0.010	488							
165	Swaziland	0.002	162	0.003	121	137	0.010	315	157	0.010	488							
166	Sweden	0.956	163	1.196	57 697	138	1.213	38 149	158	1.265	61 757							
167	Switzerland	1.140	164	1.426	68 801	139	1.446	45 491	159	1.508	73 643							
168	Syrian Arab Republic	0.024	165	0.030	1 448	140	0.030	958	160	0.032	1 550							
169	Tajikistan	0.004	166	0.005	241	—	n.a.	n.a.	161	0.010	488							
170	Thailand	0.291	167	0.364	17 562	141	0.369	11 612	162	0.385	18 798							
171	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.007	168	0.009	422	142	0.010	315	163	0.010	488							
172	Togo	0.001	169	0.001	60	143	0.010	315	164	0.010	488							
173	Tonga	0.001	170	0.001	60	144	0.010	315	165	0.010	488							
174	Trinidad and Tobago	0.034	171	0.043	2 052	145	0.043	1 357	166	0.045	2 196							
175	Tunisia	0.028	172	0.035	1 690	146	0.036	1 117	167	0.037	1 809							
176	Turkey	1.018	173	1.273	61 438	—	n.a.	n.a.	168	1.347	65 762							
177	Turkmenistan	0.026	174	0.033	1 569	—	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.							
178	Tuvalu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.	169	0.010	488							
179	Uganda	0.009	175	0.010	483	147	0.010	315	170	0.010	488							
180	Ukraine	0.103	176	0.129	6 216	148	0.131	4 110	171	0.136	6 654							
181	United Arab Emirates	0.604	177	0.755	36 453	149	0.766	24 102	172	0.799	39 018							
182	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.463	178	5.581	269 351	150	5.661	178 093	173	5.903	288 307							
183	United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	179	0.010	483	151	0.010	315	174	0.010	488							
184	Uruguay	0.079	180	0.099	4 768	152	0.100	3 152	175	0.104	5 103							
185	Uzbekistan	0.023	181	0.029	1 388	—	n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.							
186	Vanuatu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	—	n.a.	n.a.	176	0.010	488							
187	Venezuela	0.571	182	0.714	34 461	153	0.724	22 785	177	0.755	36 886							
188	Viet Nam	0.058	183	0.073	3 500	154	0.074	2 314	178	0.077	3 747							
189	Yemen	0.010	184	0.010	483	155	0.010	315	179	0.010	488							
190	Zambia	0.007	185	0.009	422	156	0.010	315	180	0.010	488							
191	Zimbabwe	0.004	186	0.005	241	157	0.010	315	181	0.010	488							
Total (annual)		80.490		100.000	4 826 060		100.000	3 145 813		100.000	4 883 825							
Total (biennium)					9 652 121			6 291 627			9 767 650							

Remarks:

(1) United Nations scale of assessment per General Assembly resolution 70/245, adopted at the seventieth session of the General Assembly for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 on 23 December 2015.

(2) 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 and (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(3) 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 the 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 and (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 2018 and 2019. It is the same for both years and is based on the total required funds for the biennium and the average requirement for the year.

Table 3

Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2018–2019

Posts funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Approved 2016–2017 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions				Total proposed 2018–2019 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions			
	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP programme support costs	Total	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP programme support costs	Total
A. Professional category								
D-2 level	1.00	0.25	–	1.25	1.00	0.25	–	1.25
D-1 level	1.00	–	–	1.00	1.00	–	–	1.00
P-5 level	7.50	–	–	7.50	7.00	–	–	7.00
P-4 level	8.00	–	2.00	10.00	7.00	–	2.00	9.00
P-3 level	17.50	1.00	–	18.50	16.00	1.00	–	17.00
P-2 level	2.00	–	–	2.00	2.00	–	–	2.00
Subtotal A	37.00	1.25	2.00	40.25	34.00	1.25	2.00	37.25
B. General Service category								
GS	13.00	1.25	6.00	20.25	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
Subtotal B	13.00	1.25	6.00	20.25	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
TOTAL (A+B)	50.00	2.50	8.00	60.50	46.00	2.50	8.00	56.50
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(3)		(1)	(2)	(3)	

Remarks:

- (1) Post funded by assessed contributions.
- (2) Provided by FAO as an in-kind contribution in its capacity as part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.
- (3) Funded by the programme support cost of 13 per cent accrued from both assessed (core) and voluntary contributions; includes finance, administration and logistics staff.

Posts funded from voluntary special and technical cooperation trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Approved 2016–2017 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	Total proposed 2018–2019 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
A. Professional category		
D-2 level	–	–
D-1 level	–	–
P-5 level	–	–
P-4 level	1.00	
P-3 level	5.25	1.00
P-2 level	–	–
Subtotal A	6.25	1.00
B. General Service category		
GS	4.00	1.00
Subtotal B	4.00	1.00
TOTAL (A+B)	10.25	2.00
Remarks		(1)

Remarks:

(1) Voluntarily-funded staff will be recruited only if funds are available.

Projected salary costs for Geneva for the biennium 2018–2019 (United States dollars)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018–2019
A. Professional category					
D-2	332 988	339 648	346 441	353 370	699 811
D-1	332 988	339 648	346 441	353 370	699 811
P-5	295 207	301 111	307 133	313 276	620 409
P-4	224 791	229 287	233 873	238 550	472 423
P-3	183 774	187 449	191 198	195 022	386 221
P-2	144 919	147 817	150 773	153 789	304 562
B. General Service category					
GS	131 318	133 945	136 623	139 356	275 979
C. Other direct personnel costs					
Retirement and replacement recruitment costs					351 115
ASHI costs	116 000	117 624	119 271	120 941	240 211
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(3), (4)

Remarks:

(1) Average actual salary costs including staff entitlement of BRS Geneva staff for 2016 was used as basis to project future salary costs.

(2) Staff costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2016 with an increase of 2 per cent per annum to cover for salary step increase, inflation, exchange rate fluctuations and unexpected adverse movements in salary costs.

(3) The projected actual salary costs for the biennium exclude the estimated retirement and recruitment costs of a total of USD 351,115 for 4 staff members for staff due to retire and their replacements. The retirement/recruitment costs are an integral part of the staffing costs and have been added separately.

(4) After service health insurance (ASHI) is a new staff-related cost that is 3 per cent of the net base salary of every staff member and is mandatory in the United Nations Secretariat as at 1 January 2017. These costs were not yet mandatory in 2016 and thus are included separately.

Projected salary costs for Rome for the biennium 2018–2019 (United States dollars)

Staff category and level	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018–2019
A. Professional category					
P-5	220 381	224 788	229 284	233 870	463 154
P-4	228 301	232 867	237 524	242 274	479 798
P-3	185 452	189 161	192 944	196 803	389 747
P-2	136 869	139 607	142 399	145 247	287 645
B. General Service category					
GS	94 042	95 923	97 842	99 799	197 640
C. Other direct personnel costs					
ASHI costs	22 000	22 308	22 620	22 937	45 557
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2), (3)

Remarks:

- (1) Average actual salary costs including staff entitlements and improved cost recovery uplift (ICRU) in respect of Rome staff for 2016 was used as a basis to project future salary costs.
- (2) Staff costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2016 increased by 2 per cent per annum. No retirement or recruitment costs were included in the estimates.
- (3) After service health insurance (ASHI) is a new staff-related cost that is 3 per cent of the net base salary of every staff member and is mandatory in the United Nations Secretariat as at 1 January 2017. These costs were not yet mandatory in 2016 and thus are included separately.

Annex II

Report of the high-level segment of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

1. The high-level segment of the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions took place on the afternoon of Thursday, 4 May 2017, and the morning of Friday, 5 May 2017, focusing on the theme “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”. The segment comprised a ceremony to mark recent ratifications of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment; introductory statements by the members of a high-level panel; twelve simultaneous ministerial round-table discussions; and a presentation and discussion of the key messages emerging from the round-table discussions.

I. Opening of the high-level segment

2. Following a performance of traditional Swiss music, Ms. Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director of the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva, welcomed the participants to the high-level segment.

3. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Marc Chardonnnens (Switzerland), Chair of the high-level segment of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, speaking also on behalf of the presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions; Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility (GEF); and Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Ms. Kate Gilmore, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, then delivered a keynote speech.

4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Chardonnnens welcomed the participants, extending particular greetings to the Executive Director of UNEP, the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions. The national and international focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, he said, was contributing to the mainstreaming of sustainable chemicals and waste management in development, environmental and economic plans, and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, together with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, constituted the cornerstones of an environmental governance structure. He urged countries to ratify the Minamata Convention. While congratulating the Parties on the listing of several chemicals in the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the current meeting, he said that the conventions must either be amended or complemented by additional instruments to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycles. He called on Parties to be ambitious and to collaborate to enhance the effectiveness of the three conventions, saying that the cost of failing to do so was too high.

5. Highlighting the improvement in cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, he said that it must continue to counter fragmentation and ensure that the conventions could face the challenges of a globalized world with innovative technology. Highlighting the need for adequate means to meet the challenges, he welcomed the increased funding for chemicals and waste management in the most recent GEF replenishment. He called on Governments to lead by example, including by acting as convenors and enablers, and he stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment under the Basel Convention, in finding and implementing solutions to specific problems. As important as it was to respond immediately to pressing issues, however, he also underscored the need to think strategically about long-term objectives and to adopt the policies required to achieve them.

6. Mr. Adu-Kumi, in his welcoming remarks, said that the high-level segment provided an opportunity to reflect not only on the intensive work conducted during the 2017 meetings but also on the links between that work and the many broader environmental and sustainable development issues facing humanity. In that context, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions demonstrated synergy at its best and exemplified the beauty of unity and diversity. The theme of the meetings, “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”, had captured imaginations and brought home the message that combined efforts and a common cross-cutting approach were key to achieving

that aim. The full commitment of all stakeholders, especially those at the highest level, was thus crucial to driving forward the global agenda on chemicals and waste.

7. Mr. Solheim said that it was gratifying that so many from around the world had gathered for the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, as they were doing in increasing numbers at other events to address global problems and improve lives. Indeed, the positive results achieved through the 2017 meetings showed that there was no limit to what could be accomplished by coordinating efforts toward a common goal, as already amply demonstrated by such successes as the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the signing and imminent entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the eradication and control of such diseases as poliomyelitis, measles and smallpox. The next great ambition of achieving a pollution-free world was likewise achievable by setting the tone and direction for the global efforts and decisive national actions that it would require. But achieving that goal would also require a fair world in which developed countries provided technical assistance to others in pursuit of shared objectives, with Governments, civil society and the private sector all playing their parts. Chemicals undoubtedly provided enormous benefits to the world but their proper control was critical, particularly in what was a rapidly changing scientific environment. It was only by working together to find solutions to such issues that humanity would fully reap those benefits.

8. Ms. Ishii began by highlighting how much the international situation had changed over the preceding two years with the adoption of milestone international agreements and a shift towards action and implementation of the sustainability agenda. The chemicals and waste agenda was emerging as the catalyst for sound economic and social systems, she said, but was tied to key economic systems and needed to be addressed systematically. With global pollution worsening at alarming rates and the continued use of toxic chemicals putting unsustainable pressure on the global environment, business as usual could not continue. With a rising world population and a growing middle class, production and consumption patterns had to be transformed; cities, industries and the food system had to be transformed to embrace supply chain interventions, innovative waste management approaches and alternatives to harmful chemicals. Economic sectors such as manufacturing, building and agriculture were highly dependent on chemicals, but also presented opportunities to reduce chemicals and waste through innovative approaches such as green chemistry and the circular economy and opportunities for synergies in climate action, responsible consumption, life on land and other areas covered by the Sustainable Development Goals. Noting that the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund would be informed by the outcome of the current meetings, she called for urgent work to bring about transformation through political leadership, coalitions for change and innovation. She closed her remarks by expressing the commitment of GEF to working with all Parties on the journey towards a future detoxified.

9. Ms. Semedo opened her remarks by saying that although access to food was the most basic human right, nearly 800 million people, most living in rural areas, still suffered from hunger. The world's poor and hungry were the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of harmful pesticides and chemicals and waste. Growth in the agriculture sector remained one of most cost-effective means for developing countries to reduce poverty and end food insecurity, but sustainable agriculture must also contribute to detoxifying the air, water and soil. As an example of the work of FAO towards that end, she drew attention to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, developed jointly with the World Health Organization, to help avert the negative consequences of pesticide misuse, including the decline in the populations of birds, insects and other pollinators vital to food production. She also noted efforts by FAO, in partnership with UNEP, to prevent the accumulation of microplastics in the marine environment, a growing concern for fisheries. Overall, FAO was committed to exploring innovative solutions, supporting dialogue, sharing information and enabling policies for sustainable agriculture, and promoted ecosystem approaches to achieve its aims. The farming, fishery and forestry sectors had demonstrated their ability to work together to share knowledge and expertise in finding innovative approaches to developing more effective, efficient and resilient production systems, but robust government structures, strong institutions, ministerial collaboration and international cooperation were required for countries to benefit more fully from global instruments such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. While good progress had been made in putting together mechanisms, frameworks and instruments at the national, regional and global levels, greater political will was needed to take advantage of them.

10. In her keynote speech, Ms. Gilmore likened the relationship between the sound management of chemicals and waste and the protection of human rights to a long-term marriage in which commitment had not always been strong, illustrating the point with the mercury poisoning in Minamata, Japan, that had given rise to the adoption of the Minamata Convention, the first recognized case of which had involved a child. Children were particularly vulnerable to the effects of toxic chemicals, but in what could be termed a silent pandemic the consequences might not manifest for many years. Almost every

country had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which, in Article 24, required States Parties to ensure adequate food and clean drinking water for children, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution. The story of the Minamata mercury poisoning demonstrated many issues with regard to the relationship between chemicals and waste management and human rights, including the power of community engagement to provide early warning; the rights of individuals and communities to receive information; the danger of stigmatization of and discrimination against the victims of toxic poisoning; the hindering of a prompt and effective response; the ability of large corporations to obstruct investigations into their malpractice, instil fear into their employees and neglect the rights of victims; and the harm that could result when the State sided with business over its citizens.

11. Humans were central to the inviolable, intricate relationship between biodiversity, species protection, environmental sustainability and human habitat, which broke down if humans were disconnected or disempowered. People had to be at the centre of the story, as they were the planet's greatest natural resource. Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted the right of everyone to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. Interference with that right for political or commercial purposes was a betrayal of human rights. Legal obligations must empower the State to oblige accountability from those whose resources and activities had the potential to cause great harm, even in the context of manufacture that could create great benefit. If it abandoned those responsibilities, it was derogating from its responsibilities as a State. Collateral damage to people and their rights in the pursuit of prosperity should not be allowed. Freedom of information was a fundamental human rights obligation, and a fundamental responsibility of the State. In conclusion, she said that the chemicals and human rights sectors should be partners in using the various measures at their disposal, including international agreements and instruments, and national legislation and political responsibility, to ensure commitment to human rights within the development nexus.

II. Round-table discussions

12. Following the opening of the high-level segment ministers, deputy ministers and ambassadors engaged in 12 simultaneous round-table discussions on the theme of the session: "A future detoxified: Sound management of chemicals and waste". Each round table was served by a high-level moderator from the United Nations Secretariat or other United Nations entity. A number of resource persons also participated in the round-table discussions. The composition of the round tables is set out in appendix I to the present report.

13. For the purposes of the ministerial round-table discussions the theme was subdivided into three sub-themes:

- (a) Opportunities for a detoxified future in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
- (b) Opportunities for strengthened implementation through partnerships;
- (c) Opportunities for reducing waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity.

14. Following the round-table discussions, Mr. Tim Kasten, Deputy Director of the Economy Division of the United Nations Environment Programme, presented a compilation of the messages emerging therefrom.

15. The members of a ministerial panel – representing the round-table discussions – then reacted to the messages, with other participants from the discussions adding their views. The panel members were Ms. Arlette Sombo-Dibele, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, and Hunting and Fishing (Central African Republic); Ms. Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment (Congo); Mr. Khaled M. Fahmy, Minister of Environment (Egypt); Mr. Sydney A. Samuels, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Guatemala); Mr. Noel Holder, Minister of Agriculture (Guyana); Ms. Carole Dieschbourg, Minister of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure (Luxembourg); Mr. Etienne Didier Dogley, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Seychelles); Mr. Singappuli Premajayantha, Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy (Sri Lanka) and Ms. O.C.Z. Muchinguri, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate (Zimbabwe).

16. In their reactions and comments, the panel members and other participants in the round-table discussions referred to some of the key issues identified as priorities across the three themes of the high-level segment, with many highlighting the role of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in promoting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in turn the

achievement of social and economic prosperity. In that context, numerous speakers mentioned the importance of synergies and of harmonizing national development plans with the Sustainable Development Goals, including as a way of facilitating the vital task of monitoring implementation. Several emphasized chemical and waste management as a priority for all, with another saying that immediate action to reduce pollution from chemical waste would be much less costly than dealing in the future with the consequences of inaction. Several speakers said that there was a need for robust legislation and regulations to control chemical and other wastes and imports of hazardous substances.

17. Several speakers said that institutional capacity-building was vital to ensuring the enforcement of relevant laws and regulations, particularly in developing countries, which should also receive training and guidance designed to promote implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Many said that it was important to share knowledge, experiences and solutions to that end, including through scientific research and technology transfer. One speaker said that information and data must be transparent and readily available at all stages, including with regard to the life cycle of all products. In the interests of an integrated approach, numerous speakers emphasized the vital need for broad cooperation and partnership at the national, regional and global levels among all stakeholders, including Governments, ministries, civil society, academia, industry and business, with one saying that care must be taken to avoid any duplication of effort.

18. Various speakers also spoke of awareness-raising and education among the public, consumers and manufacturers as matters for attention. One said that financial assistance should be provided for that purpose and others said that simple language should be used to communicate the messages of the three conventions to the public. Other issues highlighted by speakers included a need to focus on the “3Rs” (reduce, reuse, recycle); waste management training for operators; innovative mechanisms for financing waste treatment centres; plastics and marine litter; price incentives to promote waste reduction; and, notably, the provision of financial assistance for building the capacities of small island developing States, other developing countries and least developed countries in the sound management of chemicals and waste. One said that the circular economy had its benefits but that care must be taken to ensure that recycled products did not contain toxins.

19. Speakers also said that there was a need for high-level commitment, political will, political coherence and a long-term strategic vision and framework for chemicals and waste management, with the last said to be a cross-cutting issue that called for strong institutional structures. Others placed emphasis on gender in policymaking, ethical policymaking and corruption. One speaker highlighted the problem of the dumping of used vehicles and equipment and another called for measures to stop occupying authorities from dumping chemical wastes and building chemical production facilities in the territories that they occupied.

20. The moderator then opened the floor for general discussion and comments, with responses from the panellists.

21. In the ensuing discussion many representatives spoke of a need for cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders at all levels. One panellist said that the fact that a number of countries did not produce toxic chemicals but still used them, for example in the case of fertilizers and pesticides to increase food security, was itself an argument for cooperation, including between chemical producers and end users. Another panellist spoke of a need for cooperation among entities at the national level, for example between different ministries, to facilitate coherent national action. She also said that the concept of a circular economy implied the need for all stakeholders to work together at the regional level in order to share best practices and identify opportunities and benefits, while maintaining connectivity with issues at the global and national levels.

22. Several representatives spoke of the scale of the challenge of managing chemicals and wastes in a sound and sustainable manner. One representative said that least developed countries were particularly vulnerable because they lacked the necessary infrastructure; the question was how to articulate action at the global, regional and national levels to provide effective solutions to the problems facing those countries. In response, a panellist said that the common agreement on waste management of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community served as an example of how cross-border alignment of regulatory measures could facilitate the management of wastes at the regional or subregional level. Another panellist said that controlling cross-border trade in hazardous substances was more difficult when there were disparities in the relevant regulations of neighbouring countries. One representative said that regional centres had a role to play in sharing good regulatory and policy practices among the countries of their regions. Another representative expressed concern at the lack of progress made in dealing with certain hazardous chemicals at successive meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Another representative said

that it was important to promote awareness-raising and education, including in schools and the media, in order to disseminate the messages of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

23. Several representatives spoke of the importance of gender in the sound management of chemicals and wastes. One panellist said that insufficient attention was given to the exposure and vulnerability of women in the mining sector, for example when fetching contaminated water. Another panellist said that it was important to build the capacity of women and raise awareness of gender issues so that more women filled positions of responsibility. Another panellist said that the matter of gender should be strongly institutionalized, for example in national constitutions or through the establishment of gender commissions and clear gender-inclusive policies. Another panellist said that there was a tendency to focus on the vulnerability of women rather than on the strong roles they played in many sections of society. Another panellist said that gender concerned not only the role of women but also the interaction of both sexes, including with regard to their roles at the household and community levels, for example in the area of hazardous waste management in the home. Another panellist said that as gender equality was one of the Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 5) the gender dimension should be included in chemicals and waste management planning given the indivisibility of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

24. Several participants said that developing countries would need financial, technical and other assistance to realize their goals with regard to the sound management of chemicals and waste. One panellist said that there was a danger of funding bias, whereby donors funded larger, more regionally prominent countries or blocs of countries rather than States that were smaller but just as in need. Another panellist said that fiscal measures could be utilized to ensure that funds were levied for environment-related programmes and to support capacity-building and awareness raising. One panellist said that efforts should be made to streamline the often cumbersome processes by which international financing was made available and to provide training to countries in the design of bankable projects, while another panellist highlighted the difficulties that developing countries often faced in aligning their project needs with donor requirements. Another panellist drew attention to the relationship between financial resources and compliance, stating that while there was general political will for compliance with the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, funding mechanisms were often inadequate to generate the necessary financing. Another panellist said that policy coherence was important to facilitate financing and that there was a need for donor and recipient countries to agree on such matters as the polluter pays principle, climate neutrality and waste reduction.

25. Following the discussion the moderator thanked the panellists and other participants for their contributions to what she said was a rich and interesting discussion.

26. At the conclusion of the interactive discussion, Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, presented a consolidation of the key messages that emerged from the round-table discussions, which summarized the outcomes of the high-level segment. The key messages are set out in appendix II to the present report.

III. Closure of the high-level segment

27. Closing the high-level segment, Mr. Chardonens said that the valuable ideas and global perspectives that had informed the discussions and the resulting key messages demonstrated the strength of the multilateral approach and the importance of concerted action to address challenges in an efficient and effective manner. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a unique opportunity for the mainstreaming of the chemicals and waste agenda, to which end he encouraged all stakeholders to continue what he described as sterling work towards the goal of protecting human health and the environment.

Appendix I

Composition of round tables

Round table 1

Moderator: Mr. Steven Stone (United Nations Environment Programme)

Ms. Jeanne Josette Acacha Akoha (Benin)

Mr. Batio Bassière (Burkina Faso)

Mr. Serge Karonkano (Burundi)

Mr. Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva (Cabo Verde)

Mr. Pierre Hele (Cameroon)

Ms. Rosalie Matondo (Congo)

Mr. Patrick Mayombe-Mumbyoko (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Ms. Aya Thiam Diallo (Mali)

Round table 2

Moderator: Ms. Katharina Kummer (World Health Organization)

Mr. Apolinário Jorge Correia (Angola)

Ms. Arlette Sombo-Dibele (Central African Republic)

Ms. Anne Désirée Ouloto (Cote d'Ivoire)

Ms. Chantal Abengdang Mebaley (Gabon)

Mr. Antonio Serifo Embalo (Guinea-Bissau)

Ms. Benedicte Johanita Ndahimananjara (Madagascar)

Mr. Almoustapha Garba (Niger)

Round table 3

Moderator: Mr. Achim Halpaap (United Nations Environment Programme)

Ms. Khomoatsana Tau (Lesotho)

Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara (Sierra Leone)

Ms. Barbara Thomson (South Africa)

Mr. Christopher Gamedze (Swaziland)

Mr. Sam Cheptoris (Uganda)

Mr. Lloyd Mulenga Kaziya (Zambia)

Ms. O. C. Z. Muchinguri (Zimbabwe)

Round table 4

Moderator: Ms. Monika Linn (Economic Commission for Europe)

Mr. Kare Chawicha Debessa (Ethiopia)

Mr. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng (Ghana)

Mr. Abdulla Ziyad (Maldives)

Mr. Ibrahim Usman Jibril (Nigeria)

Mr. Etienne Didier Dogley (Seychelles)

Round table 5

Moderator: Mr. Habib N. El-Habr (United Nations Environment Programme)

Mr. Abdul Wali Modaqiq (Afghanistan)

Mr. Mohamed Bindaina (Bahrain)

Mr. Khaled Mohamed Fahmy Abdelall (Egypt)

Ms. Saja Majali (Jordan)

Ms. Adalah Atira (State of Palestine)

Mr. Mustafa Osman Ismail Elamin (Sudan)

Mr. Per Ångquist (Sweden)

Mr. Mehmet Ceylan (Turkey)

Mr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi (United Arab Emirates)

Round table 6

Moderator: Mr. Andrey Vasilyev (Economic Commission for Europe)

Mr. Ado Lõhmus (Estonia)
 Mr. Gani Sadibekov (Kazakhstan)
 Mr. Mindaugas Gudas (Lithuania)
 Ms. Carole Dieschbourg (Luxembourg)
 Mr. Marek Haliniak (Poland)
 Mr. Sergey Kraevoy (Russian Federation)
 Ms. Stana Bozovic (Serbia)
 Mr. Marc Henri Bruno Chardonnens (Switzerland)

Round table 7

Moderator: Mr. Stephan Sicars (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

Mr. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob (Bangladesh)
 Mr. Gigla Agulashvili (Georgia)
 Mr. Noel Holder (Guyana)
 Ms. Bounkham Vorachit (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
 Mr. Ohn Winn (Myanmar)
 Mr. Jay Dev Joshi (Nepal)
 Mr. Mykola Kuzyo (Ukraine)

Round table 8

Moderator: Ms. María Neira (World Health Organization)

Mr. Javier Ureta Sáenz Peña (Argentina)
 Ms. Cynthia Silva Maturana (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)
 Mr. Jair Tannus Junior (Brazil)
 Ms. Irene Cañas (Costa Rica)
 Mr. Walter Francisco Garcia Cedeño (Ecuador)
 Mr. Santiago Francisco Engonga Osono (Equatorial Guinea)
 Mr. Sydney Alexander Samuels Milson (Guatemala)
 Mr. Carlos Pineda Fasquelle (Honduras)
 Mr. Edgardo Alberto Villalobos Jaen (Panama)
 Mr. Marcos Gabriel Alegre Chang (Peru)
 Mr. Jesus Castillo (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)

Round table 9

Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Seth (United Nations Institute for Training and Research)

Mr. Omar Figueroa (Belize)
 Mr. Ty Sokhun (Cambodia)
 Mr. Ajay Narayan Jha (India)
 Ms. Tuti Hendrawati Mintarsih (Indonesia)
 Mr. Shigemoto Kajihara (Japan)
 Mr. Joseph Caruana (Malta)
 Mr. Singappuli Achchige Don Susil Premajayantha (Sri Lanka)
 Mr. Surasak Karnjanarat (Thailand)
 Mr. Siasosi Sovaleni (Tonga)

Round table 10

Moderator: Mr. Cosmas L. Zavazava (International Telecommunication Union)

Mr. Yury Ambrazevich (Belarus)
 Ms. Beatriz Londoño Soto (Colombia)
 Mr. Tae Song Han (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
 Ms. Kadra Ahmed Hassan (Djibouti)
 Mr. Wayne McCook (Jamaica)
 Mr. Israhyananda Dhalladoo (Mauritius)

Round table 11

Moderator: Ms. Maria Luisa Silva (United Nations Development Programme)

Ms. Lucija Ljubic Lepine (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ms. Sundus Al-Bayraqdar (Iraq)

Mr. Janis Karklinš (Latvia)

Mr. Ernest Makawa (Malawi)

Mr. Robert Dufter Salama (Malawi)

Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua (Marshall Islands)

Mr. Milorad Scepanovic (Montenegro)

Round table 12

Moderator: Mr. Tim Kasten (United Nations Environment Programme)

Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Rahbi (Oman)

Mr. Farukh Akhter Amil (Pakistan)

Mr. Ahmad Al-Sada (Qatar)

Mr. Kyong-Lim Choi (Republic of Korea)

Ms. Elena Dumitru (Romania)

Mr. François Xavier Ngarambe (Rwanda)

Mr. Yackoley Kokou Johnson (Togo)

Mr. Chi Dung Duong (Viet Nam)

Mr. Ali Mohamed Saeed Majawar (Yemen)

Resource persons

Ms. Maria Helena Semedo (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Mr. Ross Bartley (Bureau of International Recycling)

Mr. David Azoulay (Center for International Environmental Law)

Mr. Klaus Kunz (CropLife International)

Ms. Pamela Miller (International POPs Elimination Network)

Ms. Meriel Watts (Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific)

Ms. Sascha Gabizon (Women Engage for a Common Future International)

Appendix II

Key messages emerging from the high-level segment of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Overall messages

1. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals the political momentum for a detoxified planet has increased. This opportunity must be seized.
2. There can be no sustainable development without a commitment to a pollution-free planet, and that requires the sound management of chemicals and waste.
3. The key to a detoxified future is to take action now, including through the implementation by all Parties of all the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which should be translated into national legislation, policy and actions.

On opportunities for a detoxified future in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4. The sound management of chemicals and wastes is central to achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development and should be dealt with as a priority in a mutually supportive way to achieve the 2030 goals. It is also central to addressing poverty, food security, access to water, human rights and gender issues, particularly for women, children and vulnerable populations, and is linked to addressing climate change and the protection of biodiversity. With the obvious link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and the many cross-sectoral aspects of that link, the chemicals and wastes-related Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved unless the conventions are implemented effectively.
5. The 2030 Agenda provides a unique opportunity for mainstreaming chemicals and wastes-related issues into national sustainable development plans and for the development of business cases for the sound management of chemicals and wastes. Institutional frameworks at all levels and policy coherence across all sectors must be strengthened. This requires strong political will, cooperation and community and end-user awareness, as well as partnerships at all levels.
6. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda provides specific targets that support commitment to the sound management of chemicals and wastes in order to protect human health and the environment. The importance of increasing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through a focus on poverty reduction strategies recognizing that the poor are the most affected by pollution, including through the extensive use of chemicals in agriculture, is clear.
7. There is a need for greater commitment by industry to prevent the pollution of streams and other water bodies that are depended upon by communities, especially those in abject poverty. Industry must play a more proactive role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Different levels of development and differing country capacities to address the challenges of chemicals and waste management must be recognized, particularly in small island developing States, least developed countries and vulnerable populations that have limited capacity or access to information necessary to deal with environmental challenges.

On opportunities for strengthened implementation through partnerships

9. Increased cooperation and coordination is needed at the national, regional and global levels to implement the conventions effectively. Partnerships have a central role and civil society, business, industry and private sector investment must be fully engaged.
10. Partnerships have proved to be useful tools in the implementation of the chemicals and waste agendas and should be further encouraged. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including those involving the private sector, should be strengthened to promote new technologies, win-win partnerships and innovation in support of the implementation of the conventions.

11. Partnerships must be established with all sectors and stakeholders, including with local communities and municipal entities. A bottom-up approach is essential because citizens are the key driver for action. Regional networks can assist in monitoring and managing cross-border issues and civil society groups can help Governments monitor the environment.
12. The Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres are uniquely positioned to deliver synergistically on chemicals and wastes by engaging in capacity-building and catalysing the transfer of technology for the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national level.
13. Availability of, and access to, adequate financial resources are fundamental to ensuring the restoration of our oceans and landscapes from chemical pollution and for the adequate implementation of the chemicals and wastes agenda within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

On opportunities for reducing waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity

14. Although there has been much progress, further efforts through the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and to prevent or minimize significant adverse effects of hazardous wastes on human health and the environment.
15. Commitment to, and the conscientious implementation of, the chemicals and wastes conventions contributes to the achievement of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and the reduction of illegal traffic in waste and cross-border pollution, thus facilitating economic and social prosperity.
16. Raising awareness of the interlinkages between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and issues such as air pollution, plastic pollution and marine litter increases the visibility of chemicals and wastes issues in a consistent manner to stakeholders, the media and schools, thereby enhancing the conventions' contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the protection of human health and the environment.
17. Adequate technology transfer is essential to address sustainable development in fields such as agriculture, recycling, household and medical waste management, as are training and capacity-building in the management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycles. Legislation and control techniques should be in place in all sectors; currently there is limited enforcement even where relevant regulations exist.
18. Lack of financial resources, as well as limited institutional capacity, are legitimate concerns that require attention. Further scientific research is also needed in developing countries along with associated funding, including for national coordinating units, laboratories and strengthening research institutes to enhance their ability to develop new technologies for chemicals and wastes management, to establish baseline data, to develop viable alternatives, to promote science-based decisions and to enhance monitoring capacity and database management skills needed to monitor progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets.
19. Mechanisms such as economic and policy incentives and disincentives should be established to implement the polluter pays principle, taking into consideration the specific situation of each country.
20. Formalization of the informal recycling sector is fundamental to the creation of decent jobs and the reduction of legal and occupational risks and environmental impacts. There is a large potential for recycling to have positive economic impacts in developing countries. Related activities must be facilitated by strong regulatory frameworks and technical expertise to ensure that wastes destined for use as resources do not have an adverse impact on human health and the environment.
21. Concepts such as the circular economy and the green economy provide opportunities for developing countries to reduce waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity; they do, however, require behavioural and cultural adaptations.
22. Industry should be encouraged to develop chemicals and products based upon green and sustainable chemistry principles taking into account the precautionary principle, in particular in the case where persistence, bioaccumulation and long-range transport are of concern, in order to prevent further damage to human health and the environment.