



**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Fifteenth meeting**
Geneva (online), 26–30 July 2021*

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 fifteenth meeting

Introduction

1. In the light of the exceptional circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants decided that the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention would be held in two segments: the first online from 26 to 30 July 2021 and the second face to face over a two-week period in 2022 (tentatively in Geneva in June 2022).
2. Accordingly, and as described in greater detail below under “Organization of work”, the 2021 meetings featured joint sessions to address cross-cutting issues of concern to at least two of the three conventions, as well as the opening and organization of the meetings, and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the conferences of the Parties.

I. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

A. Formal opening

3. The fifteenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 1.15 p.m. on 26 July 2021 by Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez (Chile), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Mr. Serge Molly Allo'o Allo'o (Gabon), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and Ms. Silvija Nora Kalniņš (Latvia), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively.

* Face-to-face resumed meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants are scheduled to take place in Geneva from 6 to 17 June 2022.

B. Opening remarks

4. Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Mr. Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; and Mr. Allo'o Allo'o, speaking on behalf of the three presidents of the conferences of the Parties.

5. In her remarks, Ms. Msuya congratulated all the Parties and the Secretariat for their hard work in advancing the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions during the current unprecedented circumstances. At a time when health was a consuming concern, it was noteworthy that a quarter of the global burden of disease was related to environmental factors, including pollution. The sound management of chemicals and waste was inextricably linked to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to realizing the objectives of cleaner air, water and soil; safer working environments; healthier foods; sustainable cities; and sustainable production and consumption. Reports commissioned by the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention on Mercury demonstrated the benefits of joint action to address the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, known as the "Beyond 2020 chemicals framework", offered an opportunity to take advantage of synergies between the chemicals conventions, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the climate change agenda. The mandates of the multilateral environmental agreements could only be effectively implemented by working in coordination. It was important to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the COVID-19 pandemic to build back better and to make peace with nature. In line with its COVID-19 strategic response, UNEP had supported the legal readiness of countries to handle the additional waste generated by the pandemic and was preparing guidance on integrated waste management to help countries to minimize the impacts of waste on human health and the environment and foster better preparedness for future pandemics. UNEP would continue to support countries in strengthening policy and legal frameworks, promoting science-based action on the sound management of chemicals and waste, and using science and data to monitor progress, including through its World Environment Situation Room initiative. In conclusion, she encouraged all Member States to continue to work towards reducing pollution through the sound management of chemicals and waste, despite the delay in the "Beyond 2020" process due to the pandemic.

6. In his remarks, delivered also on his behalf by Mr. Rémi Nono Womdim, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention, Mr. Qu said that the number of hungry people around the world had been increasing since 2014 and the global COVID-19 pandemic had only aggravated that situation. Modern agri-food systems contributed to the degradation of natural resources, including through the increased use of unsafe pesticides that posed a serious threat to human health and the environment. To achieve a better future for humanity, it was of fundamental importance that the management of chemicals, pesticides and waste was aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and worked in harmony with the planet. In that regard, through the Rotterdam Convention together with UNEP, FAO focused on reducing the risks of hazardous pesticides while ensuring sufficient, healthy and affordable food for all. The recently approved FAO programme of work and budget for the period 2022–2023 ensured the availability of significant financial resources for the work of the Rotterdam Convention, demonstrating the continued commitment of FAO to the objectives of the chemicals and wastes conventions. The new FAO strategic framework would guide its work over the coming decade, including the transition to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind. It was essential for all actors to renew and strengthen their commitment to keeping chemicals, pesticides and waste high on the international agenda, and to protecting human health and the environment while transforming agri-food systems with the aim of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

7. In his remarks, Mr. Payet said that the holding of the online segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2021, followed by a face-to-face segment in 2022, was the result of the efforts made by all the Parties and their respective bureau representatives to find a way of ensuring that the meetings could go ahead. Despite the challenges created by the ongoing pandemic, much had happened since the conferences of the Parties had last met, and the implementation of the conventions had continued steadily. The amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention, known as the "plastic wastes amendments", had entered into effect in January 2021. The celebrations to mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Stockholm Convention had begun.

8. He noted that the situation with regard to arrears, which had been more positive in the first part of the biennium, had been affected by the pandemic. He thanked all the Parties for their contributions to the general trust funds and, in particular, those Parties that had made additional efforts to pay their outstanding contributions. He encouraged all the Parties with outstanding arrears to pursue efforts to make their contributions. He expressed his gratitude to the donors that had contributed to the voluntary trust funds: Australia, China, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Thanks to those contributions, the Secretariat had been able to undertake work critical to its mission.

9. In his remarks, Mr. Allo'o Allo'o said that the outbreak of COVID-19 had disrupted working habits in relation to the three conventions, but the willingness of Parties and observers to hold the present online segment was testament to their determination to pursue the fight against pollution by chemicals and waste. Although it had posed many challenges, the pandemic had not prevented the achievement of significant milestones. The plastic waste amendments to the Basel Convention had entered into effect in January 2021, and the Partnership on Plastic Waste was undertaking ambitious activities and pilot projects to improve plastic waste management at all levels. In relation to the Rotterdam Convention, Parties would consider at the present online segment the election of the very first members of the Compliance Committee established at the previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties. In terms of the Stockholm Convention, Parties would consider the election of the members of the effectiveness evaluation committee to enable the important process of assessing the effectiveness of the Convention to get under way.

10. Mr. Allo'o Allo'o recalled that discussions were planned on an interim budget for the three conventions for 2022, the adoption of which would be essential for the continuation of the implementation of the conventions, including the intersessional work that was continuing despite restrictions on travel and gatherings. He thanked donors for their generous contributions, which had allowed the present meetings and regional preparatory meetings to take place, and the Secretariat for its organization of those meetings.

C. Regional statements

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

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

12. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the following agenda for its fifteenth meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/1:

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 fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Strategic issues:
 - (i) Strategic framework;
 - (ii) Addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment;
 - (iii) Development of guidelines for environmentally sound management;
 - (b) Scientific and technical matters:
 - (i) Technical guidelines;
 - (ii) Classification and hazard characterization of wastes;
 - (iii) National reporting;
 - (iv) Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents;

- (v) Further consideration of plastic waste;
 - (vi) Waste containing nanomaterials;
 - (c) Legal, compliance and governance matters:
 - (i) Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance;
 - (ii) Providing further legal clarity;
 - (iii) National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic;
 - (iv) Proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention;
 - (d) Technical assistance;
 - (e) Basel Convention Partnership Programme;
 - (f) Financial resources;
 - (g) Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2022–2023.
5. International cooperation and coordination:
 - (a) Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
 - (b) Cooperation and coordination with other organizations.
 6. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:
 - (a) Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange;
 - (b) Mainstreaming gender;
 - (c) Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
 - (d) From science to action.
 7. Programme of work and budget.
 8. Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.
 9. Venue and date of the resumed fifteenth meeting and of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 10. Other matters.
 11. Adoption of the report.
 12. Closure of the meeting.
 13. In adopting its agenda, the Conference of the Parties agreed to consider under item 10, other matters, the admission of observers.

III. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)

A. Attendance

14. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 127 Parties: Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, European Union, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho,

Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

15. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of 34 Parties that did not submit valid credentials: Albania, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Niger, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Sudan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania.

16. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following non-Party State: United States of America.

17. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Scientific and Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility, secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP), secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, secretariat of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

18. No intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers.

19. 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 Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for CIS countries (BCRC-Russian Federation); 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-Indonesia)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Indonesia); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region (BCRC-Caribbean); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the English-speaking African countries (BCRC-South Africa)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-South Africa); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the South American Region (BCRC-Argentina); Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region integrated within the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Spain).

20. The following governmental organizations were represented as observers: German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation.

21. Non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/72–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/50–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/72).

B. Organization of work

22. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 23 to 25 below are replicated in section III C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28) and in section III C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33).

23. Taking into account the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the three conferences of the Parties agreed to conduct their meetings in two segments: an online segment of the meetings, to take place during the present week, and a face-to-face segment, which was tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva over two weeks in June 2022, in accordance with the agreement of the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The three conferences of the Parties also agreed to organize their work during the online segment of their meetings in accordance with the scenario note for that segment set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/1 and the schedule of work for that segment set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/2–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/2. Owing to the online setting and the limited time available, the bureaux had agreed that, during the online segment of their meetings, the conferences of the Parties would focus on the most time-sensitive items of their respective agendas for which decisions needed to be taken in 2021 and could not be deferred to 2022. 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.

24. In accordance with the agreed arrangements, and as described in the scenario note, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would meet for two days of joint and Convention-specific plenary sessions on 26 and 30 July 2021, conducted in the six official languages of the United Nations, and for three days of joint contact group sessions on the programmes of work and budgets on the days in between, in English only. During the joint sessions, the conferences of the Parties would discuss the agreed prioritized cross-cutting issues affecting at least two of the three conventions, namely the elections of officers under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and, under the three conventions, the programmes of work and budgets, and the venue and dates of the resumed face-to-face meetings of the conferences of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at the current online segment of its tenth meeting would hold a Convention-specific session on the financial resources and mechanisms under the Convention. 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.

25. In carrying out their work at the current online segment of the meetings, the conferences of the Parties had before them working and information documents pertaining to the prioritized items on the respective agendas for the meetings. Lists of those documents for each meeting, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, are set out in documents UNEP/CHW.15/INF/71, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/43 and UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/6.

C. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

26. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 27 to 30 below are replicated in section III D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28) and section III D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33).

27. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that during the period leading up to the 2021 meetings the bureaux of the respective meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had agreed to take the same common approach to their consideration of credentials for the current meetings as had been taken during the 2015, 2017 and 2019 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 thereof, on the understanding that, in the case of the latter, originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

28. 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 would examine the credentials of the representatives of the Parties present at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively, and that each bureau would report on the results of its examination to its Conference of the Parties on the afternoon of Friday, 30 July 2021.
29. The President added that the Parties were to submit the credentials of their representatives to the Secretariat by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 27 July 2021.
30. Also under the item it was announced that, as at the start of the 2021 meetings, there were 188 Parties to the Basel Convention, 164 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 184 Parties to the Stockholm Convention.
31. On 30 July 2021, the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at 10 a.m. that day, indicating that the Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 161 Parties to the Basel Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 126 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 26 of those 126 representatives were originals, while 100 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.
32. It was also reported that the following 35 Parties had, as at 10 a.m. that day, not submitted credentials for their representatives: Albania, Azerbaijan, Benin, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Mozambique, Niger, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Sudan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania.
33. Since the finalization of the report of the Bureau on credentials at 10 a.m. on 30 July 2021, one further Party – Latvia – had submitted its credentials for consideration. The credentials were found to be in good order. In line with previous practice, the Conference of the Parties agreed to accept the credentials submitted by Latvia.
34. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials.

IV. Programme of work and budget (agenda item 7)

35. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 36 to 44 below are replicated in section IV of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28) and in section V of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33).
36. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat began by recalling that the expiry of the Secretariat's budget on 31 December 2021 was one of the main reasons for convening the current online segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties. He then provided an overview of the combined proposal for the interim programmes of work and budgets for 2022, set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/29–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/30. He noted that the bureaux, recognizing the difficulty of conducting a full budget negotiation in an online setting, had agreed that only interim simplified budgets for 2022, designed to allow for the continued operation of the Secretariat, would be presented for consideration and possible approval at the online segment. Thus, the proposed interim budgets included only the most essential requirements for 2022. Furthermore, the Parties would have the opportunity to revisit the 2022 budget when they considered the full budget for the biennium 2022–2023 at the face-to-face segment of the meeting to be held in 2022.
37. The proposed interim budgets for 2022 had two distinct parts: an interim budget for the first year of the biennium 2022–2023 and a supplementary budget for conferences and meetings already approved for the current biennium but postponed to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interim budget was to be funded from new contributions from Parties while the supplementary budget would

be funded from projected savings arising from the postponement of activities that had not been implemented due to the pandemic. The details of the proposed interim budget were set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/68/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/48/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/70/Rev.1, which had been updated to reflect the latest bureaux decisions on proposed meetings for 2021 and 2022.

38. He also drew attention to programmatic document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/69–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/49–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/71 on modalities for continuation of the intersessional work under the three conventions in 2022. Prepared at the request of the bureaux, the document contained suggested deadlines for the provision of comments on documents prepared by subsidiary bodies, which would be completed for consideration at the face-to-face segment of the meetings.

39. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, a number of whom spoke on behalf of groups of countries, said that they generally supported the proposed interim budget for 2022, including the proposed supplementary budget. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the importance of ensuring the continued work of the Secretariat and the implementation of key activities, although one also underscored the exceptional nature of the adoption of a one-year budget due to the pandemic and the importance of retaining the practice of discussing and adopting biennial budgets in a face-to-face meeting to ensure a transparent budget process and effective planning.

40. Almost all the representatives who spoke, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, indicated their interest in pursuing the discussion in a contact group, with some citing elements for discussion or clarification, including whether another Open-ended Working Group meeting at the end of 2022 was needed; the holding of bureau meetings online rather than face to face in 2022; the proposed change of practice with respect to the waiver of programme support costs on funding to support the participation of representatives from developing countries; the maintenance of full interpretation and translation services for official meetings; consideration of International Civil Service Commission and General Assembly recommendations when determining the working conditions of Secretariat staff; a budget allowance for intersessional work on updating the Basel Convention *Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-acid Batteries*; the allocation of adequate funding for the 2022 meeting of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention; the allocation of adequate resources for the updating and implementation of national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention; and ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the meetings planned for 2022. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also called on developed countries to make resources available to enable developing countries to implement the conventions, including by means of technology transfer.

41. Responding to questions and comments, a representative of the Secretariat said that contributions for the interim budget for 2022 would be based on the United Nations scale of assessment for the years 2019 to 2021, but that the revised budget for the 2022 face-to-face segment of the meeting would be based on the new scale of assessment, which would be issued early in 2022. He also explained that the costing of activities in the interim budget for 2022 generally fell somewhere between the costs of the zero nominal growth scenario and the Executive Secretary's scenario, primarily due to the need to cover annual staff cost increases. Another representative of the Secretariat said that the savings arising from the pandemic would be reassessed at the end of the current biennium.

42. The representative of Slovenia indicated that the European Union and its member States had submitted a conference room paper setting out minor amendments to the operative paragraphs of the draft decision texts for the three conventions.

43. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on budget matters for the three conventions, to be co-chaired by Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana) and Mr. Reginald Hernaus (Netherlands). The group was asked to develop the interim programmes of work and budgets for 2022 and the related draft decisions, based on the draft texts set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/29–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/30, taking into account the conference room paper submitted and the discussion in plenary. In accordance with past practice, the contact group was also mandated to consider other decisions for adoption by the conferences of the Parties to confirm that their budgetary implications, if any, had been included in the proposed interim programmes of work and budgets for 2022.

44. Following the establishment of the contact group, there was a short discussion on whether the contact group should be open to non-Party States. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group would be open to Party representatives only.
45. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties considered a draft decision on the interim programme of work and budget of the Basel Convention for 2022, with the related budget tables, prepared by the contact group on budget matters. The draft decision contained text in square brackets on which agreement had yet to be reached.
46. Following further discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group on budget matters, as orally amended.
47. Decision BC-15/2, on the interim programme of work and budget of the Basel Convention for 2022, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.
48. Following the adoption of the decision, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the group would like to reconsider, at the face-to-face segment of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, whether it was necessary to hold a meeting of the Open-ended Working Group before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, given that the Open-ended Working Group meeting would take place in the same year as the face-to-face segment of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A number of other representatives, however, highlighted the importance of the role of the Open-ended Working Group in providing recommendations of a policy, technological and scientific nature to the Conference of the Parties and said that they considered it necessary for the Open-ended Working Group to convene during the biennium 2022–2023 in order to provide the Conference of the Parties with informed recommendations for its sixteenth meeting.
49. The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions also adopted decisions on the interim programmes of work and budgets of those conventions for 2022. Decisions RC-10/3 and SC-10/4, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33), respectively.

V. Venue and date of the resumed fifteenth meeting and of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 9)

50. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 51 to 53 below are replicated in section V of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28) and in section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33).
51. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said that, at their joint meeting held in January and February 2021, the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions had concluded that, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions on travel and gatherings, the meetings of the conferences of the Parties originally planned for 2021 would be held in two segments: the current online segment and a face-to-face segment to be held over a two-week period in 2022. He presented the proposal to hold the face-to-face segment in Geneva from 6 to 17 June 2022, with preparatory meetings on 5 June 2022, as described in document UNEP/CHW.15/30/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/27/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/32/Rev.1, on the venue and dates of the face-to-face resumed meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions in 2022.
52. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed a minor amendment to the wording of the draft decision in the document to reflect the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and the possibility that the 2022 segment of the meetings might need to be held online instead of face to face. In response, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they considered it very important to hold the resumed segment in a face-to-face format, particularly in the light of the challenges currently posed by the online format, especially for developing country Parties. One representative pointed out that the original wording of the draft decision did not prevent the bureaux from adjusting to changing circumstances as needed. Another said that the venue and date could be the subject of discussion but the modality of the

meetings could not, and a third, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stated that travel for the meetings should be governed by the same procedures as previously and not be limited by any additional restrictions.

53. The conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/30/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/27/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/32/Rev.1, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the supplementary budget for 2022.

54. Decision BC-15/1, on the venue and dates of the face-to-face resumed meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2022, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

55. The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions also adopted decisions on the venue and dates of the face-to-face resumed meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2022. Decisions RC-10/2 and SC-10/2, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33), respectively.

VI. Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

56. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat explained that, once finalized, the draft report would constitute the report of the online segment of the meeting. At the face-to-face segment of the meeting, the Conference of the Parties would be invited to consider and adopt a supplemental report reflecting the proceedings of the face-to-face segment. Together, the two reports would form the complete proceedings of the meeting.

57. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft report on the basis of the draft that had been circulated, on the understanding that the Rapporteur would be entrusted with finalizing the report of the online segment of the meeting, in cooperation with the Secretariat, under the authority of the President of the Conference of the Parties.

VII. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)

58. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the online segment of the meeting was declared closed and the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. (UTC + 2) on Friday, 30 July 2021 until the face-to-face resumed meeting to be held in 2022.

Annex**Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fifteenth meeting (online segment)**

- BC-15/1: Venue and dates of the face-to-face resumed meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2022
- BC-15/2: Interim programme of work and budget of the Basel Convention for 2022

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fifteenth meeting (online segment)

BC-15/1: Venue and dates of the face-to-face resumed meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2022

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions BC-14/27, RC-9/15 and SC-9/25, on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Conscious that the restrictions related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have not allowed the organization of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2021, as originally planned,

Noting that, instead, the meetings are to be held in two segments: an online segment to be held from 26 to 30 July 2021 and a face-to-face segment to be held over two weeks in 2022,

Decides to adjourn the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, and to resume the meetings in a face-to-face format at one of the seats of the Secretariat, in Geneva, from 6 to 17 June 2022.

BC-15/2: Interim programme of work and budget of the Basel Convention for 2022

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the financial reports on the Basel Convention trust funds for 2020 and estimated expenditures for 2021 from the trust fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention general trust fund),¹

Taking note also of the information on the modalities for the continuation of the intersessional work and processes of the Basel Convention emanating from the decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth and previous meetings, including the work of the subsidiary bodies and relevant partnerships, implementation of which will continue into 2022 and may be superseded by decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at the face-to-face segment of its fifteenth meeting, in 2022,²

I

Basel Convention general trust fund

1. *Approves*, on an exceptional basis, an interim programme budget of 4,964,844 United States dollars for the Basel Convention for the first year of the biennium 2022–2023, for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention to make commitments up to the amount of the approved interim operational budget for the first year of the biennium 2022–2023, and, within that amount, to make commitments required to implement activities planned for the second year of the biennium, in particular regarding contracting the venue for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2023, drawing upon available cash resources;
3. *Approves* the supplementary budget of 999,151 United States dollars for the Basel Convention for 2022, for the purposes set out in table 6 of the present decision;
4. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention to make commitments up to the amount of the approved supplementary budget, using, on an exceptional basis, the available cash balance in the Basel Convention general trust fund;
5. *Decides* to maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the interim operational budget for the first year of the biennium 2022–2023;
6. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the first year of the biennium 2022–2023 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 2022;
7. *Recalls* that contributions to the Basel Convention general trust fund are expected by 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, urges Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2021 for the calendar year 2022, and requests the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible;
8. *Reiterates* the ongoing concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Basel Convention general trust fund for 2020 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules, and urges Parties to pay their outstanding contributions in full as soon as possible;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to work directly with the permanent missions, ministries of foreign affairs and focal points of the Parties in that situation, so that they fully pay their arrears and assessed contributions as soon as possible, and to present at regional meetings information on the current situation³ regarding arrears and their consequences;

¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/55.

² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/69–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/49–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/71.

³ For the present decision, “current situation” 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. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to work closely with the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to improve the timely communication of information on the payment of contributions, including arrears;

11. *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 9 of decision BC-14/29, 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;

12. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers for foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, requests that this practice continue and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

13. *Adopts* the staffing table of the Secretariat for the first year of the biennium 2022–2023 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

14. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that positions remain at the same level or become lower, that the Executive Secretary remains within the overall cost for the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the first year of the biennium 2022–2023, in line with the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,⁴ and that it does not cause any additional budget obligations to be incurred beyond the first year of that biennium;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting on the level of positions filled against the approved staffing table;

II

Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions

16. *Takes note* of the funding estimates of 9,241,602 United States dollars for 2022 in table 1 of the present decision, for activities under the Convention to be financed from the trust fund to assist developing countries and other countries in need of technical assistance in the implementation of the Basel Convention (Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions), and of 1,864,420 United States dollars in table 6, to support the implementation of the meetings under the supplementary budget;

17. *Notes* that the requirements for the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions 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 Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions so as to encourage contributions from donors;

18. *Also notes* the importance of having funding available in the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions for the participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Convention;

19. *Acknowledges* the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme task force to conduct an overall review of the current methodology for calculating and allocating of programme support costs,⁵ and looks forward to its outcomes, which may be considered, once available, by the Conference of the Parties;

20. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute urgently and as early as feasible to the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed

⁴ Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at: <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.

⁵ See section II (D) of document UNEP/CHW.15/26–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/26.

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;⁶

21. *Also urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to make provisions to ensure timely voluntary contributions with a view to supporting the implementation of the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention for the period 2022–2023 following its adoption by the Conference of the Parties at the face-to-face segment of its fifteenth meeting;⁷

III

Other matters

22. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Basel Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2023, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2022–2023, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a revised proposal for the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023, including information on the savings made owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and, in full consultation with the Parties, submit a proposal on the allocation of those savings, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the face-to-face segment of its fifteenth meeting.

⁶ See section II (F) of document UNEP/CHW.15/26–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/26.

⁷ Ibid.

Table 1
Interim programme budget, reserves and financing for 2022
 (United States dollars)

Programme of work activity	Core				Voluntary ¹			
	Basel (BCL)	Rotterdam (ROL)	Stockholm (SCL)	Total	Basel (BDL)	Rotterdam (RVL)	Stockholm (SVL)	Total
1. Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP-16)	278 788			278 788	541 554			541 554
2. Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (COP-11)		278 788		278 788		541 554		541 554
3. Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP-11)			278 788	278 788			541 554	541 554
4. Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-13)	172 073			172 073	298 130			298 130
5. Chemical Review Committee (CRC-18)		237 185		237 185		43 250		43 250
6. Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC-18)			456 361	456 361			42 355	42 355
7. Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions bureaux	20 898	14 246	18 229	53 373				
10. Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC-15)	19 173			19 173	23 035			23 035
11. Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee ² (CC-1)		19 651		19 651		4 065		4 065
12. Support for scientific bodies					20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000
13. Technical assistance and capacity development					258 156	303 146	303 149	864 450
14. Basel Convention training and capacity development					2 940 047			2 940 047
15. Rotterdam Convention training and capacity development						655 000		655 000
16. Stockholm Convention training and capacity development							597 500	597 500
18. Partnerships					2 214 647			2 214 647
19. Basel and Stockholm convention support for regional centres					478 538		466 038	944 575
20. Basel Convention scientific support ³	144 688		10 000	154 688	155 000			155 000
21. Rotterdam Convention scientific support		30 000		30 000		45 000		45 000
22. Stockholm Convention scientific support			72 500	72 500			146 000	146 000
23. Stockholm effectiveness evaluation and global monitoring plan			67 500	67 500			210 000	210 000
24. Basel and Stockholm convention national reporting	20 000		35 000	55 000	67 500		5 000	72 500
25. Clearing-house mechanism	21 353	46 396	21 352	89 100	41 667	41 666	41 667	125 000
26. Publications	11 883	11 883	11 883	35 649	27 877	27 000	27 000	81 877
27. Communication, outreach and public awareness	4 417	4 417	4 417	13 250	81 000			81 000
28. Executive direction, management and administration	94 125	119 575	102 200	315 900				
29. International cooperation	1 667	1 667	1 667	5 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	6 000
30. Resource mobilization and financial mechanisms	1 500	1 500	1 500	4 500				
32. Basel Convention legal and policy activities					404 969			404 969
33. Legal and policy activities						50 000		50 000
34. Basel Convention country-led initiative (environmentally sound management and further legal clarity)					222 220			222 220
35. Office maintenance and operational services	182 023	100 128	182 023	464 175				
36. ICT services	50 000	40 000	50 000	140 000				

Programme of work activity	Core				Voluntary ¹			
	Basel (BCL)	Rotterdam (ROL)	Stockholm (SCL)	Total	Basel (BDL)	Rotterdam (RVL)	Stockholm (SVL)	Total
Non-staff costs subtotal	1 022 586	905 434	1 313 418	3 241 439	7 776 338	1 732 680	2 402 262	11 911 280
Staff costs	3 371 081	2 863 612	4 090 210	10 324 902	402 070	402 070	402 070	1 206 211
Total direct costs (excl. programme support costs)	4 393 667	3 769 046	5 403 628	13 566 341	8 178 408	2 134 750	2 804 332	13 117 491
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	571 177	489 976	702 472	1 763 624	1 063 193	277 518	364 563	1 705 274
Grand total	4 964 844	4 259 022	6 106 100	15 329 966	9 241 602	2 412 268	3 168 895	14 822 765

¹ Funding of the voluntary budget is subject to availability of resources.

² Without prejudice to any decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention during the face-to-face segment of its tenth meeting in June 2022 on the proposal by a Party to request the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements to ensure that the financing of all the activities and meetings of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee is provided only from the contributions of those Parties that have approved the compliance mechanism of the Convention.

³ Without prejudice to any decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in June 2022 on the proposal to update the *Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-acid Batteries*, funds may be allocated during the face-to-face segment of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Funding from the general trust funds for the 2022 budget (United States dollars)

	Basel Convention (BCL)	Rotterdam Convention (ROL)	Stockholm Convention (SCL)	Total
Approved interim budgets for 2022				
Direct costs for 2022	4 393 667	3 769 046	5 403 628	13 566 341
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	571 177	489 976	702 472	1 763 624
<i>Total operational budget 2022</i>	<i>4 964 844</i>	<i>4 259 022</i>	<i>6 106 100</i>	<i>15 329 966</i>
Working capital reserve (WCR)				
Current level of the WCR (15 per cent)	728 421	624 556	895 497	2 248 475
Required level of the WCR (15 per cent)	744 727	638 853	915 915	2 299 495
<i>Change in the working capital reserve</i>	<i>16 305</i>	<i>14 297</i>	<i>20 418</i>	<i>51 020</i>
Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve				
Current level of the reserve		330 318		330 318
Required level of the reserve		302 542		302 542
<i>Change in the reserve¹</i>		<i>(27 776)</i>		<i>(27 776)</i>
Total resources required for 2022	4 981 149	4 245 543	6 126 518	15 353 210
Proposed funding of the budget for 2022				
Available cash balance in the general trust funds				
Host country contributions of Switzerland (excluding the Swiss assessed contribution) ^{2,4,5,6}		351 700	982 545	1 334 245
Host country contribution of Italy ^{3,5}		703 400		703 400
Assessed contributions of Parties	4 981 149	3 190 443	5 143 972	13 315 565
Total funding	4 981 149	4 245 543	6 126 518	15 353 210

Remarks:

(1) The level of the Rotterdam Convention's special contingency reserve (established for the in-kind staff provided by FAO) has been adjusted to reflect changes in the budgeted staff costs between the bienniums 2020–2021 and 2022–2023 at the Rome duty station.

(2) Switzerland's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention is €600,000 per annum, of which 50 per cent is allocated to the general trust fund and 50 per cent is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions.

(3) Italy's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention's general trust fund is €600,000 per annum.

(4) Switzerland's host country contribution to the Stockholm Convention is CHF 2,000,000 per annum, of which CHF 1,000,000 (including Switzerland's assessed contribution) is allocated to the general trust fund and CHF 1,000,000 is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions.

(5) The host country contributions for the Rotterdam Convention are pledged in euros and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.853 euros for April 2021.

(6) The host country contributions for the Stockholm Convention are pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.943 Swiss francs for April 2021.

Table 2

Indicative assessed contributions of Parties to the general trust funds for the operational budgets for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for 2022

(United States dollars)

Party	United Nations scale of assessment – per cent		Basel Convention Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent		Rotterdam Convention Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent		Stockholm Convention Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent		Total for all three conventions
	Annual contribution	Annual contribution	Annual contribution	Annual contribution	Annual contribution	Annual contribution	Annual contribution		
Afghanistan	0.007	0.009	436	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 269	
Albania	0.008	0.010	498	0.010	320	0.011	541	1 359	
Algeria	0.138	0.173	8 595	0.173	5 520	0.182	9 340	23 455	
Andorra	0.005	0.006	311					311	
Angola	0.010	0.013	623			0.013	677	1 300	
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	125	0.010	319	0.010	514	958	
Argentina	0.915	1.144	56 991	1.147	36 601	1.204	61 928	155 520	
Armenia	0.007	0.009	436	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 269	
Australia	2.210	2.763	137 651	2.771	88 403	2.908	149 574	375 628	
Austria	0.677	0.847	42 167	0.849	27 081	0.891	45 820	115 068	
Azerbaijan	0.049	0.061	3 052			0.064	3 316	6 368	
Bahamas	0.018	0.023	1 121			0.024	1 218	2 339	
Bahrain	0.050	0.063	3 114	0.063	2 000	0.066	3 384	8 498	
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	498			0.010	514	1 012	
Barbados	0.007	0.009	436	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 269	
Belarus	0.049	0.061	3 052			0.064	3 316	6 368	
Belgium	0.821	1.027	51 136	1.029	32 841	1.080	55 566	139 543	
Belize	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895	
Benin	0.003	0.004	187	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 020	
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	62					62	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.016	0.020	997	0.020	640	0.021	1 083	2 720	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.015	747	0.015	480	0.016	812	2 039	
Botswana	0.014	0.018	872	0.018	560	0.018	948	2 380	
Brazil	2.948	3.686	183 618	3.696	117 924	3.879	199 522	501 064	
Brunei Darussalam	0.025	0.031	1 557					1 557	
Bulgaria	0.046	0.058	2 865	0.058	1 840	0.061	3 113	7 818	
Burkina Faso	0.003	0.004	187	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 020	
Burundi	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895	
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895	
Cambodia	0.006	0.008	374	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 207	
Cameroon	0.013	0.016	810	0.016	520	0.017	880	2 210	
Canada	2.734	3.419	170 289	3.428	109 364	3.597	185 038	464 691	

Party	United Nations scale of assessment – per cent	Basel Convention Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	Rotterdam Convention Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	Stockholm Convention Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	Total for all three conventions
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	62			0.010	514	576
Chad	0.004	0.005	249	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 082
Chile	0.407	0.509	25 350	0.510	16 281	0.535	27 546	69 177
China	12.005	15.011	747 738	15.052	480 216	15.795	812 504	2 040 458
Colombia	0.288	0.360	17 938	0.361	11 520	0.379	19 492	48 950
Comoros	0.001	0.001	62			0.010	514	576
Congo	0.006	0.008	374	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 207
Cook Islands		0.001	50	0.010	319	0.010	514	883
Costa Rica	0.062	0.078	3 862	0.078	2 480	0.082	4 196	10 538
Côte d'Ivoire	0.013	0.016	810	0.016	520	0.017	880	2 210
Croatia	0.077	0.096	4 796	0.097	3 080	0.101	5 211	13 087
Cuba	0.080	0.100	4 983	0.100	3 200	0.105	5 414	13 597
Cyprus	0.036	0.045	2 242	0.045	1 440	0.047	2 436	6 118
Czechia	0.311	0.389	19 371	0.390	12 440	0.409	21 049	52 860
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.006	0.008	374	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 207
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	498	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 331
Denmark	0.554	0.693	34 506	0.695	22 161	0.729	37 495	94 162
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Dominica	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Dominican Republic	0.053	0.066	3 301	0.066	2 120	0.070	3 587	9 008
Ecuador	0.080	0.100	4 983	0.100	3 200	0.105	5 414	13 597
Egypt	0.186	0.233	11 585			0.245	12 589	24 174
El Salvador	0.012	0.015	747	0.015	480	0.016	812	2 039
Equatorial Guinea	0.016	0.020	997	0.020	640	0.021	1 083	2 720
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Estonia	0.039	0.049	2 429	0.049	1 560	0.051	2 640	6 629
Eswatini	0.002	0.003	125	0.010	319	0.010	514	958
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	498	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 331
European Union		2.500	124 529	2.500	79 761	2.500	128 600	332 890
Fiji	0.003					0.010	514	514
Finland	0.421	0.526	26 222	0.528	16 841	0.554	28 493	71 556
France	4.427	5.536	275 738	5.551	177 086	5.825	299 621	752 445
Gabon	0.015	0.019	934	0.019	600	0.020	1 015	2 549
Gambia	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Georgia	0.008	0.010	498	0.010	320	0.011	541	1 359
Germany	6.090	7.615	379 319	7.636	243 608	8.013	412 174	1 035 101
Ghana	0.015	0.019	934	0.019	600	0.020	1 015	2 549
Greece	0.366	0.458	22 796	0.459	14 640	0.482	24 771	62 207
Guatemala	0.036	0.045	2 242	0.045	1 440	0.047	2 436	6 118
Guinea	0.003	0.004	187	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 020
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Guyana	0.002	0.003	125	0.010	319	0.010	514	958
Honduras	0.009	0.011	561	0.011	360	0.012	609	1 530
Hungary	0.206	0.258	12 831	0.258	8 240	0.271	13 942	35 013
Iceland	0.028	0.035	1 744			0.037	1 895	3 639
India	0.834	1.043	51 946	1.046	33 361	1.097	56 446	141 753

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessment – per cent</i>	<i>Basel Convention</i>		<i>Rotterdam Convention</i>		<i>Stockholm Convention</i>		<i>Total for all three conventions</i>
		<i>Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent</i>	<i>Annual contribution</i>	<i>Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent</i>	<i>Annual contribution</i>	<i>Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent</i>	<i>Annual contribution</i>	
Indonesia	0.543	0.679	33 821	0.681	21 721	0.714	36 750	92 292
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.398	0.498	24 790	0.499	15 921	0.524	26 937	67 648
Iraq	0.129	0.161	8 035	0.162	5 160	0.170	8 731	21 926
Ireland	0.371	0.464	23 108	0.465	14 841	0.488	25 109	63 058
Israel	0.490	0.613	30 520	0.614	19 601			50 121
Italy	3.307	4.135	205 978	4.146	132 285			338 263
Jamaica	0.008	0.010	498	0.010	320	0.011	541	1 359
Japan	8.564	10.709	533 413	10.737	342 572	11.268	579 615	1 455 600
Jordan	0.021	0.026	1 308	0.026	840	0.028	1 421	3 569
Kazakhstan	0.178	0.223	11 087	0.223	7 120	0.234	12 047	30 254
Kenya	0.024	0.030	1 495	0.030	960	0.032	1 624	4 079
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	62			0.010	514	576
Kuwait	0.252	0.315	15 696	0.316	10 080	0.332	17 055	42 831
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.003	125	0.010	319	0.010	514	958
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.005	0.006	311	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 144
Latvia	0.047	0.059	2 927	0.059	1 880	0.062	3 181	7 988
Lebanon	0.047	0.059	2 927	0.059	1 880	0.062	3 181	7 988
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Liberia	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Libya	0.030	0.038	1 869	0.038	1 200	0.039	2 030	5 099
Liechtenstein	0.009	0.011	561	0.011	360	0.012	609	1 530
Lithuania	0.071	0.089	4 422	0.089	2 840	0.093	4 805	12 067
Luxembourg	0.067	0.084	4 173	0.084	2 680	0.088	4 535	11 388
Madagascar	0.004	0.005	249	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 082
Malawi	0.002	0.003	125	0.010	319	0.010	514	958
Malaysia	0.341	0.426	21 239	0.428	13 640			34 879
Maldives	0.004	0.005	249	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 082
Mali	0.004	0.005	249	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 082
Malta	0.017	0.021	1 059	0.021	680	0.022	1 151	2 890
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Mauritania	0.002	0.003	125	0.010	319	0.010	514	958
Mauritius	0.011	0.014	685	0.014	440	0.014	744	1 869
Mexico	1.292	1.616	80 473	1.620	51 682	1.700	87 443	219 598
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	62			0.010	514	576
Monaco	0.011	0.014	685			0.014	744	1 429
Mongolia	0.005	0.006	311	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 144
Montenegro	0.004	0.005	249	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 082
Morocco	0.055	0.069	3 426	0.069	2 200	0.072	3 722	9 348
Mozambique	0.004	0.005	249	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 082
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	498			0.010	514	1 012
Namibia	0.009	0.011	561	0.011	360	0.012	609	1 530
Nauru	0.001	0.001	62			0.010	514	576
Nepal	0.007	0.009	436	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 269
Netherlands	1.356	1.696	84 459	1.700	54 242	1.784	91 775	230 476
New Zealand	0.291	0.364	18 125	0.365	11 640	0.383	19 695	49 460
Nicaragua	0.005	0.006	311	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 144
Niger	0.002	0.003	125	0.010	319	0.010	514	958

Party	United Nations scale of assessment – per cent	Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Total for all three conventions
		Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	
Niue						0.010	514	514
Nigeria	0.250	0.313	15 571	0.313	10 000	0.329	16 920	42 491
North Macedonia	0.007	0.009	436	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 269
Norway	0.754	0.943	46 963	0.945	30 161	0.992	51 031	128 155
Oman	0.115	0.144	7 163	0.144	4 600	0.151	7 783	19 546
Pakistan	0.115	0.144	7 163	0.144	4 600	0.151	7 783	19 546
Palau	0.001	0.001	62			0.010	514	576
Panama	0.045	0.056	2 803	0.056	1 800	0.059	3 046	7 649
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.013	623			0.013	677	1 300
Paraguay	0.016	0.020	997	0.020	640	0.021	1 083	2 720
Peru	0.152	0.190	9 467	0.191	6 080	0.200	10 287	25 834
Philippines	0.205	0.256	12 769	0.257	8 200	0.270	13 874	34 843
Poland	0.802	1.003	49 953	1.006	32 081	1.055	54 280	136 314
Portugal	0.350	0.438	21 800	0.439	14 000	0.461	23 688	59 488
Qatar	0.282	0.353	17 565	0.354	11 280	0.371	19 086	47 931
Republic of Korea	2.267	2.835	141 201	2.842	90 683	2.983	153 432	385 316
Republic of Moldova	0.003	0.004	187	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 020
Romania	0.198	0.248	12 333	0.248	7 920	0.261	13 401	33 654
Russian Federation	2.405	3.007	149 797	3.015	96 203	3.164	162 772	408 772
Rwanda	0.003	0.004	187	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 020
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	62			0.010	514	576
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Samoa	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Saudi Arabia	1.172	1.465	72 999	1.469	46 882	1.542	79 322	199 203
Senegal	0.007	0.009	436	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 269
Serbia	0.028	0.035	1 744	0.035	1 120	0.037	1 895	4 759
Seychelles	0.002	0.003	125			0.010	514	639
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Singapore	0.485	0.606	30 208	0.608	19 401	0.638	32 825	82 434
Slovakia	0.153	0.191	9 530	0.192	6 120	0.201	10 355	26 005
Slovenia	0.076	0.095	4 734	0.095	3 040	0.100	5 144	12 918
Solomon Islands	0.001					0.010	514	514
Somalia	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
South Africa	0.272	0.340	16 942	0.341	10 880	0.358	18 409	46 231
Spain	2.146	2.683	133 665	2.691	85 843	2.824	145 242	364 750
Sri Lanka	0.044	0.055	2 741	0.055	1 760	0.058	2 978	7 479
State of Palestine		0.001	50	0.010	319	0.010	514	883
Sudan	0.010	0.010	498	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 331
Suriname	0.005	0.006	311	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 144
Sweden	0.906	1.133	56 431	1.136	36 241	1.192	61 319	153 991
Switzerland	1.151	1.439	71 691	1.443	46 042	1.514	77 900	195 633
Syrian Arab Republic	0.011	0.014	685	0.014	440	0.014	744	1 869
Tajikistan	0.004	0.005	249			0.010	514	763
Thailand	0.307	0.384	19 122	0.385	12 280	0.404	20 778	52 180
Togo	0.002	0.003	125	0.010	319	0.010	514	958

Party	United Nations scale of assessment – per cent	Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Total for all three conventions
		Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	Adjusted scale of assessment – per cent	Annual contribution	
Tonga	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Trinidad and Tobago	0.040	0.050	2 491	0.050	1 600	0.053	2 707	6 798
Tunisia	0.025	0.031	1 557	0.031	1 000	0.033	1 692	4 249
Turkey	1.371	1.714	85 393	1.719	54 842	1.804	92 790	233 025
Turkmenistan	0.033	0.041	2 055					2 055
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Uganda	0.008	0.010	498	0.010	320	0.011	541	1 359
Ukraine	0.057	0.071	3 550	0.071	2 280	0.075	3 858	9 688
United Arab Emirates	0.616	0.770	38 368	0.772	24 641	0.810	41 691	104 700
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.567	5.711	284 458	5.726	182 686	6.009	309 097	776 241
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.013	623	0.013	400	0.013	677	1 700
Uruguay	0.087	0.109	5 419	0.109	3 480	0.114	5 888	14 787
Uzbekistan	0.032	0.040	1 993			0.042	2 166	4 159
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	62	0.010	319	0.010	514	895
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.728	0.910	45 344	0.913	29 121	0.958	49 271	123 736
Viet Nam	0.077	0.096	4 796	0.097	3 080	0.101	5 211	13 087
Yemen	0.010	0.013	623	0.013	400	0.013	677	1 700
Zambia	0.009	0.011	561	0.011	360	0.012	609	1 530
Zimbabwe	0.005	0.006	311	0.010	319	0.010	514	1 144
Total			4 981 149		3 190 443		5 143 973	13 315 565

Table 3
Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for 2022 funded from the general trust funds
(used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Approved for 2020–2021				Proposed for 2022			
	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	Programme support costs	Total	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	Programme support costs	Total
A. Professional categories								
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	7.00			7.00	7.00			7.00
P-4 level	7.00		2.00	9.00	7.00		2.00	9.00
P-3 level	16.00	1.00		17.00	16.50	1.00		17.50
P-2 level	2.00			2.00	2.00			2.00
<i>Subtotal A</i>	<i>34.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>37.25</i>	<i>34.50</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>37.75</i>
B. General Service category								
GS	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
<i>Subtotal B</i>	<i>12.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>19.25</i>	<i>12.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>19.25</i>
Total (A+B)	46.00	2.50	8.00	56.50	46.50	2.50	8.00	57.00
	(1)	(2)	(3)		(1)	(2)	(3)	

Remarks:

- (1) Core funded positions are funded from the general trust funds.
- (2) Posts provided by FAO as an in-kind contribution to the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.
- (3) Posts funded from programme support costs levied on both assessed (core) and voluntary contributions.

Table 4
Proposed indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for 2022 funded from the technical cooperation/voluntary special trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>Approved for 2020–2021 (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions)</i>			<i>Proposed for 2022 (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions)</i>		
	<i>Voluntary funded</i>	<i>Junior Professional Officers</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Voluntary funded</i>	<i>Junior Professional Officers</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. Professional categories						
D-2 level						
D-1 level						
P-5 level						
P-4 level						
P-3 level	1.00		1.00	1.00		1.00
P-2 level				1.00	1.00	2.00
<i>Subtotal A</i>	<i>1.00</i>		<i>1.00</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>1.00</i>	<i>3.00</i>
B. General Service category						
GS	3.00		3.00	5.00		5.00
<i>Subtotal B</i>	<i>3.00</i>		<i>3.00</i>	<i>5.00</i>		<i>5.00</i>
Total (A+B)	4.00		4.00	7.00	1.00	8.00

(1)

(2)

Remarks:

(1) Voluntary funded posts will only be filled if sufficient voluntary funding becomes available. Additional voluntary funded positions may be created to support the implementation of voluntary funded projects as required and subject to the availability of resources.

(2) Technical cooperation trust funds for junior professional officers are established and managed by UNEP.

Table 5
Projected staff costs for the Geneva and Rome duty stations for the biennium 2022–2023
 (United States dollars)

Duty Station: Geneva

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022–2023</i>
A. Professional categories					
D-2 level	312 640	322 020	331 681	341 632	673 313
D-1 level	312 640	322 020	331 681	341 632	673 313
P-5 level	272 888	281 075	289 508	298 194	587 702
P-4 level	230 262	237 170	244 286	251 615	495 901
P-3 level	197 064	202 976	209 066	215 338	424 404
P-2 level	168 815	173 880	179 097	184 470	363 567
B. General Service category					
GS	150 856	155 382	160 044	164 846	324 890
C. Other					
Retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs					262 931
ICSC review of entitlements					
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3)

Abbreviation: ICSC – International Civil Service Commission.

Remarks:

(1) Staff costs incurred during 2020 have been used as the basis for projecting staff costs for future years. The 2020 costs include a provision for home leave as staff have had to defer their home leave entitlement due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

(2) Staff costs for 2021, 2022 and 2023 have been estimated by incrementing the 2020 costs by 3 per cent per annum to provide for salary step increases, inflation, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on post adjustment and any other unexpected changes in staff costs.

(3) Projected costs associated with retirement/separation (e.g., repatriation, annual leave commutation) and recruitment of replacement staff (e.g., relocation costs, assignment grants) have been presented separately as they are not part of actual staff cost projections. The provisions made take into account the fact that three staff members will retire during the biennium 2022–2023. Provision has also been made to cover 50 per cent of the repatriation and annual leave commutation of three additional staff members who have the option to retire during the biennium 2022–2023 should they choose to do so. That provision may also be drawn upon to cover unplanned separations or transfers of staff.

Duty Station: Rome

Staff category and level	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022–2023
A. Professional categories					
P-5 level	260 323	268 134	276 179	284 465	560 644
P-4 level	249 722	257 215	264 932	272 880	537 812
P-3 level	185 388	190 950	196 679	202 580	399 259
P-2 level	160 016	164 817	169 762	174 855	344 617
B. General Service category					
GS	95 570	98 437	101 391	104 433	205 824
C. Other					
Retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs					
ICSC review of entitlements					
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3)

Abbreviation: ICSC – International Civil Service Commission.

Remarks:

(1) Staff costs incurred during 2020 have been used as the basis for projecting staff costs for future years. The 2020 costs include the “Improved Cost Recovery Uplift (ICRU)” charged by FAO on all staff costs as well as a provision for home leave as staff have had to defer their home leave entitlement due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

(2) Staff costs for 2021, 2022 and 2023 have been estimated by incrementing the 2020 costs by 3 per cent per annum to provide for salary step increases, inflation, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on post adjustment and any other unexpected changes in staff costs.

(3) None of the staff located in Rome are expected to retire during the biennium 2022–2023. Other possible mobility-related movements have been accounted for under the budget for staff located in Geneva.

Table 6
Supplementary budget for 2022
(United States dollars)

Programme of work activity	General trust funds			Voluntary trust funds (*)		
	Basel Convention (BCL)	Rotterdam Convention (ROL)	Stockholm Convention (SCL)	Basel Convention (BDL)	Rotterdam Convention (RVL)	Stockholm Convention (SVL)
Meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	486 586	524 962	486 586	1 173 419	1 173 419	1 173 419
1 Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP-15)	486 586			1 173 419		
2 Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (COP-10)		486 586			1 173 419	
3 Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP-10)			486 586			1 173 419
28 Staff travel		38 376				

<i>Programme of work activity</i>	<i>General trust funds</i>			<i>Voluntary trust funds (*)</i>		
	<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>	<i>Basel Convention (BDL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention (RVL)</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention (SVL)</i>
Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group	358 085			429 488		
4 Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-12)	290 045			429 488		
28 Staff travel	68 040					
Rotterdam Convention Chemical Review Committee		74 944				
5 Chemical Review Committee (CRC-17/18)		69 184				
28 Staff travel		5 760				
Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee			637 192			29 016
6 Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC-17)			637 192			29 016
Basel Implementation and Compliance Committee	39 534			47 022		
10 Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC-14)	39 534			47 022		
<i>Subtotal (excluding programme support costs)</i>	<i>884 204</i>	<i>599 906</i>	<i>1 123 778</i>	<i>1 649 929</i>	<i>1 173 419</i>	<i>1 202 435</i>
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	114 947	77 988	146 091	214 491	152 545	156 317
Total (including programme support costs)	999 151	677 893	1 269 869	1 864 420	1 325 964	1 358 752

(*) Funding of the voluntary budget is subject to availability of resources.

Funding from the general trust funds for the supplementary budget
(United States dollars)

	<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Approved supplementary budget for 2022				
Direct costs	884 204	599 906	1 123 778	2 607 888
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	114 947	77 988	146 091	339 025
Total approved supplementary budget 2022	999 151	677 893	1 269 869	2 946 913
Total resources required for the supplementary budget	999 151	677 893	1 269 869	2 946 913
Proposed funding of the supplementary budget for 2022				
Drawdown from the provisional cash balance in the general trust funds (*)	999 151	677 893	1 269 869	2 946 913
Total funded from general trust fund balance (*)	999 151	677 893	1 269 869	2 946 913

(*) The supplementary budget will be funded by the overall estimated savings in the budgets under the general trust funds in the biennium 2020–2021 resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.



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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Fifteenth meeting**

Geneva, 26–30 July 2021, Stockholm, 1 June 2022
and Geneva, 6–17 June 2022

**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 resumed fifteenth
meeting (face-to-face and high-level segments)**

Introduction

1. In the light of the exceptional circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants decided that the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention would be held in two segments: the first online from 26 to 30 July 2021 and the second face to face over a two-week period in 2022.
2. Pursuant to decisions BC-15/1, RC-10/2 and SC-10/2 on the venue and dates of the face-to-face resumed meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2022, the face-to-face resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (hereinafter “the 2022 face-to-face segment of the meetings”) were held in Geneva from 6 to 17 June 2022.
3. In addition, in furtherance to decisions BC-14/27, RC-9/15 and SC-9/25, whereby the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions decided, among other things, that the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties would include a high-level segment of no more than one day’s duration, the high-level segment of the meetings was convened in Stockholm on 1 June 2022 in connection with the international event marking the fiftieth anniversary of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” (Stockholm+50). The report of the high-level segment is set out in annex II to the present report.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 11 April 2023.

I. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

4. Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, Chief, Science and Technical Assistance Branch, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed participants to the 2022 face-to-face segment of the meetings.
5. The meetings began with a Swiss cultural musical performance followed by a video presenting the key messages of the high-level segment of the 2021/2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties held in Stockholm on 1 June 2022 in connection with Stockholm+50.

A. Opening remarks

6. Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councillor of Switzerland, Head of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications; Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP, delivered via video message; Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Rémi Nono Womdim, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention; Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility; and Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez, President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, speaking on behalf of the three presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
7. In her remarks, Ms. Sommaruga recalled that two milestones had been reached at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in 2022, namely the adoption of resolutions 5/14 and 5/8, in which the Environment Assembly had decided that an intergovernmental negotiating committee would develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; and that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution. Many Geneva-based organizations would contribute to and benefit from the science-policy panel, making it as pertinent as the Geneva-based Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and enabling it to identify global challenges and provide options on how to best address them. Turning to the subject of electronic devices, which were now an integral part of daily life, she highlighted the significance of the volume of electronic waste globally, which had reached annual levels in excess of 50 million tons and of which less than 20 per cent was documented as being managed in environmentally sound ways. Many valuable materials were therefore being lost and considerable damage was being done to the environment and to human health, not least on the continent of Africa. Ghana and Switzerland had therefore submitted a proposed amendment to the Basel Convention that was aimed at helping direct all electronic waste to state-of-the-art recovery, which would contribute to higher levels of recycling of valuable materials and better protect vulnerable countries from unwanted shipments of electronic and electrical waste (e-waste). The challenge of e-waste had been raised during the ministerial discussion at Stockholm+50, where the contribution of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to combating the illegal trade in chemicals and waste had been noted. She then provided a summary of the ministerial discussions during the high-level segment, pointing out that there was strong support for continued strengthening of the control of transboundary movements of electronic waste and plastic waste; it was widely recognized that all pollution by hazardous chemicals and wastes was a transboundary threat contributing to biodiversity loss and climate change. The high-level participants had highlighted the crucial role of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and national commitments under the Paris Agreement. Although funds allocated for the chemicals and waste focal area during the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) had increased in absolute amounts, international support for developing countries remained insufficient. Additional funds could be mobilized by, for example, fully integrating extended producer responsibility into national legislation to finance waste management systems.
8. Ms. Andersen, in her video message, said that Stockholm+50 had served as a reminder that, despite 50 years of action, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste was accelerating and that, although humanity was in danger of throwing away the development gains it had made, the global community was ready to change. The solutions required to create a sustainable future were all in place and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions continued to be essential in delivering those solutions. The growing prominence of the pollution and waste crisis had been apparent at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, with the adoption of key relevant resolutions. UNEP would work closely with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on two initiatives in particular, namely working towards the agreement of an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution, with the ambition of

completing that work by 2024, and the establishment of a new science-policy panel that, it was to be hoped, would be as effective as IPCC and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The long and fruitful cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions served as an example that joining forces provided more coherent solutions and that action in one area also provided benefits to others. The current meetings provided an opportunity to improve the sound management of chemicals and waste through effective decision-making on strategic, technical, scientific and institutional matters. UNEP would support the implementation of the decisions adopted, for example through the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, which had been extended for five years to finance the sound management of chemicals and waste.

9. Mr. Payet, in his statement, said that the visibility of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had been increased both by new Parties joining the conventions and through the work accomplished by the expert groups and subsidiary bodies under the conventions intersessionally. The expectations of the role of the conventions in addressing the triple planetary crisis had never been higher. That role had been the focus of discussion at Stockholm+50, highlighting that synergies between nature-based solutions and commitments under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should be harnessed to enable sustainable livelihoods, in line with other international regimes such as the “One Health” approach and the concept of planetary boundaries. Concerns remained, however, regarding insufficient international support for developing countries to fulfil their obligations under the conventions, in particular with regard to meeting time-bound targets, such as for the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). Turning to the historic resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its resumed fifth session, in particular those on the development of an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and the creation of a new science-policy panel, he noted that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had much to contribute to those processes, in particular with regard to plastic, electronic wastes and harmful chemicals. Thanking Parties for their contributions to the general trust funds, in particular those Parties that had paid their outstanding contributions, he invited the growing number of Parties in arrears to contact the Secretariat urgently for further information, noting that without sufficient funding it would not be possible to deliver on the mandates of the conventions. He warmly thanked Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as the Norwegian Retailers’ Environment Fund and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), for their generous contributions during the biennium 2020–2021 to the voluntary trust funds. He expressed gratitude, in particular to China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, for their generous support in funding the participation of approximately 290 representatives from eligible Parties at the current meetings.

10. In his statement, Mr. Nono Womdim, referring to the major planetary threats of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, said that all three had been caused by unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, had been aggravated by additional global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and conflicts and seriously jeopardized the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As the effects of climate change increased and intensified, a global transformation to sustainable agriculture was needed to achieve food security, protect biodiversity, safeguard vital resources and prevent further soil degradation. Emphasizing how the use of hazardous pesticides, including some agrochemicals, resulted in biodiversity loss and threatened human health and the environment, he noted that, at its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention would decide whether to include seven additional chemicals and pesticides in Annex III to the Convention. Throughout the pandemic, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention had pursued its technical assistance programme, including in relation to safer alternatives. In addition, with the support of FAO, donors and partners, activities to promote sound pesticide management continued to be carried out at the national, regional and global levels. FAO had also recently published a comprehensive report on plastic in agriculture, and related discussions aimed at promoting solutions were due to be held during the Plastics Forum that would take place in the margins of the current meetings. In closing, he reiterated that FAO and UNEP remained firmly committed to the objectives of the chemicals and waste-related conventions and joined his colleague Mr. Payet in thanking the Swiss Government and all donors and partners.

11. Mr. Rodríguez, in his opening statement, said that the high levels of funds pledged to the eighth replenishment of GEF showed that countries had recognized the threat of the triple planetary crisis and the need to prioritize policies that led to the transformation of economic systems and decision-making processes that enabled people to lead more healthy and prosperous lives.

That process required an integrated approach across the United Nations system and all relevant mechanisms. For example, greater coherence was required in the approach to the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the country level. The first year of work under the eighth replenishment of GEF had highlighted two significant areas for development for all Parties. First, there was a need for countries to determine total financial needs at the national level for chemicals and plastic waste, as currently no Party had a complete overview of the investments being made in that regard. Second, national development policies needed to be more coherent and ensure that any investments under such policies did not, in fact, aggravate the triple planetary crisis. GEF therefore acted as a catalyst for coherence in national policy and better use of funds. The eighth replenishment of GEF, covering the period 2022–2026, had seen an increase of over 30 per cent compared with the seventh replenishment and would allow for an increased focus on issues such as plastics, persistent organic pollutants, mercury and other highly toxic substances, supporting countries in reducing the use of pesticides by 8,000 tons and removing 5 million tons of toxic waste. Having witnessed himself the dire impact of the unregulated and intensive use of chemicals and plastics on both the natural world and on human lives, he said that he was proud to be leading the eighth replenishment of GEF and highlighted that GEF was available to support all countries in their ambitions relating to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

12. Mr. Álvarez-Pérez, thanking Parties for their continued support during his term of office, expressed satisfaction that the current meetings could be held in person, thus providing greater opportunities for cooperation and the exchange of ideas. He also expressed his gratitude at having had the opportunity to serve the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

B. Formal opening

13. The resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the resumed tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the resumed tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 11.10 a.m. on 6 June 2022 by Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez (Chile), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention; Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan), acting President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; and Ms. Silvija Nora Kalniņš (Latvia), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively.

C. Regional statements

14. Representatives speaking on behalf of groups of Parties made general statements and one Party exercised its right of reply.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

15. The President recalled that the agenda for the meeting had been adopted at the 2021 online segment of the meeting.

16. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention had adopted the following agenda for its fifteenth meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/1:

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 fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Strategic issues:
 - (i) Strategic framework;
 - (ii) Addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment;
 - (iii) Development of guidelines for environmentally sound management;

- (b) Scientific and technical matters:
 - (i) Technical guidelines;
 - (ii) Classification and hazard characterization of wastes;
 - (iii) National reporting;
 - (iv) Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents;
 - (v) Further consideration of plastic waste;
 - (vi) Waste containing nanomaterials;
 - (c) Legal, compliance and governance matters:
 - (i) Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance;
 - (ii) Providing further legal clarity;
 - (iii) National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic;
 - (iv) Proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention;
 - (d) Technical assistance;
 - (e) Basel Convention Partnership Programme;
 - (f) Financial resources
 - (g) Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2022–2023.
5. International cooperation and coordination:
 - (a) Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
 - (b) Cooperation and coordination with other organizations.
 6. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:
 - (a) Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange;
 - (b) Mainstreaming gender;
 - (c) Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
 - (d) From science to action.
 7. Programme of work and budget.
 8. Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.
 9. Venue and date of the resumed fifteenth meeting and of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 10. Other matters.
 11. Adoption of the report.
 12. Closure of the meeting.
 17. In adopting its agenda, the Conference of the Parties had agreed to consider under item 10, other matters, the admission of observers.

III. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)

A. Attendance

18. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 149 Parties: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

19. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of 10 Parties that did not submit valid credentials: Belarus, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Romania, Tajikistan. With regards to Myanmar, the Bureau decided to defer any action on the credentials of the representatives.

20. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following non-Party States: Holy See, United States of America.

21. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, secretariat for the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Bank Group, WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, World Health Organization.

22. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, Global Environment Facility, Scientific and Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, World Customs Organization.

23. The following Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres were represented as observers: Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and the Caribbean Region (BCCC-Uruguay)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Uruguay); Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region (BCCC-Africa); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer (BCRC-Panama)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Panama); 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 CIS Countries (BCRC-Russian Federation); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for French-speaking Countries in Africa (BCRC-Senegal)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Senegal); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Indonesia); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region (BCRC-Caribbean); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the English-speaking African countries (BCRC-South Africa)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-South Africa); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the South American Region (BCRC-Argentina); Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region integrated within the Secretariat of the

Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Spain).

24. Non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/74–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/53–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/75).

B. Election of officers

25. Introducing document UNEP/CHW.15/2 on the election of officers and drawing attention to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/3–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/3–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/3, containing the overview table of elections, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention would need to elect a president and nine vice-presidents, including one vice-president to act as rapporteur, to serve from the closure of its fifteenth meeting to the closure of its sixteenth meeting, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

26. It would also need to elect five officers, comprising two co-chairs (one with technical expertise and the other with legal/implementation expertise), two vice-chairs (one with technical expertise and the other with legal/implementation expertise) and one rapporteur, to serve as the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium.

27. The Conference of the Parties was also expected to elect five members of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.1) and nine members of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE) (UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1).

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

President: Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile)
 Vice-Presidents: Mr. Mohamed Karim Ouamane (Algeria)
 Ms. Mari-Liis Ummik (Estonia)
 Ms. Claire Gouvary (France)
 Ms. Irma Gurguliani (Georgia)
 Mr. Joseph Cantamanto Edmund (Ghana)
 Mr. Glenn Wigley (New Zealand)
 Mr. Yaser Khalil Abu Shanab (State of Palestine)
 Ms. Valentina Sierra (Uruguay)
 Mr. Ali Abdullah Al-Dobhani (Yemen)

29. Mr. Edmund was elected to serve as Rapporteur. Following the meeting, Mr. Al-Dobhani (Yemen) had been replaced by his compatriot, Mr. Ammar Al-Aulaqi, while Ms. Gouvary (France) had been replaced by her compatriot, Ms. Marie-Claire Lhenry.

30. Also in accordance with rule 21, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Bureau of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 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: Mr. Reginald Hernaus (Netherlands)
 Vice-Presidents: Mr. Karim Ouamane (Algeria)
 Mr. Artak Khachatryan (Armenia)
 Ms. Lana Barbour (Australia)
 Mr. Mohammad Amman (Bahrain)
 Mr. Miguel Eduardo Ruiz Botero (Colombia)
 Mr. Joseph Cantmanto Edmund (Ghana)
 Ms. Rosa Vivien Ratnawati (Indonesia)
 Ms. María Eugenia Gonzales Anaya (Mexico)
 Ms. Magda Gosk (Poland)

31. Ms. Gonzales Anaya was elected to serve as Rapporteur.

32. The Conference of the Parties agreed to entrust the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, with facilitating during the intersessional period preceding the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the process for nominating candidates for election. The conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions also agreed to the same arrangement with a view to ensuring consistency in approaches and, ultimately, to facilitating decision-making on elections during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2023.

C. Organization of work

33. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 34 to 36 below are replicated in section III.C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section III.C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

34. Taking into account the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, the three conferences of the Parties had agreed to conduct their meetings in two segments: an online segment of the meetings, which was held from 26 to 30 July 2021, and the present face-to-face segment, being held in Geneva from 6 to 17 June 2022, in accordance with the agreement of the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The three conferences of the Parties also agreed to organize their work during the face-to-face segment of their meetings in accordance with the scenario note for that segment set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/1/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/1/Rev.1 and the schedule of work for that segment set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/2/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/2/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/2/Rev.1. 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.

35. In accordance with the agreed arrangements, and as described in the scenario note, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would meet for 11 days of joint and Convention-specific plenary sessions from 6 and 17 June 2022, conducted in the six official languages of the United Nations. During the joint sessions, the conferences of the Parties would discuss the agreed cross-cutting issues affecting at least two of the three conventions. The conferences of the Parties also agreed that the presidents of the three conferences would take it in turn to preside over joint sessions and that each, when so presiding, would act on behalf of all three. All decisions would be adopted pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2022–2023 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

36. In carrying out their work at the current face-to-face segment of the meetings, the conferences of the Parties had before them working and information documents pertaining to the items on the respective agendas for the meetings. Lists of those documents for each meeting, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, are set out in documents UNEP/CHW.15/INF/71/Rev.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/43/Rev.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/6/Rev.1.

D. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

37. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 38 to 45 below are replicated in section III.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section III.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

38. Resuming the sub-item on credentials, the President congratulated Grenada, which had become a Party to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions since the 2021 online segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/4/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/5/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/7/Rev.1).

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

40. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat therefore said that the bureaux would examine the credentials of the representatives of the Parties present at the 2022 face-to-face segment of the meetings, and that each Bureau would report on the results of its examination to its Conference of the Parties on the afternoon of Friday, 10 June 2022. She added that the item would then be suspended until a joint session in the afternoon of Thursday, 16 June 2022, at which time consideration of the item would continue with the possible adoption of updated reports on credentials.

41. The President added that all Parties should make their best effort to submit their credentials within 24 hours of the resumption of the meetings, namely by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 7 June 2022 and that each Bureau would prepare its report based on the credentials submitted to the Secretariat at the latest by 1 p.m. on Thursday, 9 June 2022.

42. On 10 June 2022, the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at 1 p.m. on 9 June 2022, indicating that the Bureau had further examined the credentials of the representatives of the 160 Parties to the Basel Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 144 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 113 of those 144 representatives were originals, while 31 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

43. It was also reported that the Bureau had agreed to defer consideration of credentials transmitted by 1 Party, Myanmar, and that the following 15 Parties had not yet submitted credentials for their representatives: Belarus, Bhutan, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Qatar, Romania Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

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

45. On 16 June 2022, the report on credentials was updated by the Conference of the Parties based on additional original or copies of credentials received since 1 p.m. on 9 June 2022. Accordingly, of the 160 Parties to the Basel Convention that had registered for the meeting, the credentials of 149 Parties 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 127 of those 149 representatives were originals, while 22 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible. The following 10 Parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives: Belarus, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya, Mauritania, Romania, Tajikistan. Those 10 Parties, in addition to Myanmar, were therefore participating as observers in the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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

46. Introducing the sub-item, the President made general comments related to item 4 of the agenda for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. He recalled that at the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting, held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 April 2022, the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention had focused on a set of prioritized agenda items on which progress could be made before the face-to-face segment of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and had made recommendations on how the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting might proceed with them (UNEP/CHW.15/32). During the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, the following guidance documents, technical guidelines and practical manuals had been finalized and were recommended for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting: guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention on insurance, bond and guarantee; guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention on transit transboundary movements; technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds; technical guidelines on the environmentally sound incineration of hazardous wastes and other wastes as covered by disposal operations D10 and R1; and the practical manual for

stakeholders to ensure that notifications of transboundary movements meet environmentally sound management requirements. The Open-ended Working Group had also recommended that the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries should be updated.

47. In addition, the Open-ended Working Group, during the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting, had reviewed or revised the following products with a recommendation that the Conference of the Parties consider using them as the basis for its work at the current meeting: draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of plastic waste; draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste; draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of waste batteries containing lithium; technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, chlordane, chlordecone, dicofol, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, lindane, mirex, pentachlorobenzene, pentachlorophenol and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, technical endosulfan and its related isomers or toxaphene or with hexachlorobenzene as an industrial chemical; technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds; general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants; technical guidelines on the environmentally sound disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes in specially engineered landfill (D5); technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and their disposal; recommendations for possible amendments to entries A1180 and B1110 in Annexes VIII and IX to the Basel Convention; and recommendations for possible amendments to the terms of reference of the follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment for the inclusion of new types of e-waste and the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2022–2023.

48. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention agreed to consider under the relevant items of its agenda the five guidance documents, technical guidelines and practical manuals that had been finalized by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention at its twelfth meeting and were recommended for adoption at the current meeting; and agreed to use as the basis for work under the relevant agenda items the ten revised products prepared by the Open-ended Working Group for consideration at the current meeting.

A. Strategic issues

1. Strategic framework

49. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information contained in document UNEP/CHW.15/3, and drew attention to the draft report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal for 2012–2021 (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/5, annex), which had been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to decision BC-14/11, in consultation with the small intersessional working group on the strategic framework. The executive summary of the draft report was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/3/Add.1, and several of the recommendations in the draft report, which related to specific items on the agenda for the current meeting, had been reproduced in the relevant meeting documents and draft decisions. Given that the lifespan of the strategic framework had ended in 2021, the Conference of the Parties was invited to consider whether a new strategic framework or effectiveness evaluation should be developed pursuant to paragraph 7 of Article 15 of the Convention, taking into account the outcome of the discussion on that issue by the Open-ended Working Group during the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/16/Add.1), and the comments submitted by Parties and observers (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/6/Rev.1).

50. Ms. Sophie Bernier (Canada) presented the work of the small intersessional working group on the strategic framework on behalf of the group's chair, Mr. Zaghloul Samhan (State of Palestine). She said that the group had held virtual meetings from 20 to 22 April 2020, and on 22 October 2020, to revise previous versions of the draft report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework in the light of comments submitted by Parties and observers before and after the online segment of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. The report (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/5) had been prepared taking into account information provided by the Parties by means of an online survey conducted between October 2019 and January 2020, and additional information sources, including annual national reports, reviews by the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting

Implementation and Compliance with the Basel Convention, the report *Waste Without Frontiers II: Global Trends in Waste Generation and Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes*, and reports on technical assistance and activities implemented by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres. The draft report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework examined whether the objectives set out in the strategic framework had been met over the framework's lifespan, taking into account the agreed indicators and based on a comparison of data from a baseline year, 2011, and 2019 or later, where data were available. It included findings, conclusions and recommendations for each objective, as well as key overarching findings, conclusions and recommendations. Producing the report had been challenging owing to a lack of data on the agreed indicators, including a low response rate to the questionnaire sent to the Parties, and a lack of consistency between some of the objectives, goals and indicators of the framework. The draft report also contained a number of recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, should it decide to proceed with developing a new strategic framework and/or effectiveness evaluation pursuant to paragraph 7 of Article 15 of the Convention.

51. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives thanked the Secretariat and the small intersessional working group for producing the report, and the Government of Norway for supporting the work financially. The draft report provided an excellent overview of the work undertaken under the Convention over the previous decade, including implementation successes and gaps, and its recommendations and conclusions would serve to enhance the implementation of the Convention and to better assess its effectiveness. One representative drew attention to the distinction made in the draft report between the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention, required under paragraph 7 of Article 15, and the strategic framework.

52. One representative requested the Secretariat to revise the recommendation set out in paragraph 46 of the draft report, which recommended entrusting the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance with the Basel Convention with reviewing, within available resources, the implementation of the Convention by individual Parties into national law, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth and subsequent meetings, stressing that fulfilling that task could present considerable operational challenges to the Committee and might not be in line with its mandate.

53. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended the Secretariat for incorporating some of the key recommendations contained in the report in documents and draft decisions to be considered by the Conference of the Parties under various agenda items at the current meeting, stressing that this would enable the Conference of the Parties to adopt specific measures to implement such recommendations. Another representative requested the Secretariat to follow up on, and support the Parties in their efforts to implement, all the recommendations set out in the report.

54. Several representatives said that the report revealed that developing country Parties needed technical, technological and financial assistance to implement the Convention.

55. The representative of the European Union introduced a proposal, set out in a conference room paper, to launch a process to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure, which he said was fraught with delays that posed considerable challenges to all the Parties and needed to be addressed in a comprehensive manner as a matter of priority.

56. Several representatives expressed support for the proposal submitted by the European Union to improve the prior informed consent procedure, which, said one, should be made entirely electronic. Another representative suggested that the development of a new strategic framework was a possible avenue for improving the procedure.

57. On the question of whether the Parties should develop a new strategic framework or effectiveness evaluation, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that work on such a framework or evaluation should be launched at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties, given that the Parties would have to work on a wide range of other issues after the current meeting.

58. The representative of Canada introduced a conference room paper that proposed an approach to revise and improve the current strategic framework in an efficient manner, based on the main conclusions and recommendations of the draft report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework.

59. Several representatives expressed support for working during the intersessional period on the way forward for the development of a new strategic framework, or revising the current framework, stressing that strategic plans were important tools to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention. One representative welcomed the proposal to revise the current strategic framework in the

light of lessons learned from the previous framework, noting that strategic frameworks were instrumental in determining priorities and coordinating efforts to achieve commonly agreed objectives, and could thereby improve the effectiveness of the Convention.

60. A number of representatives suggested that attention should be given to new types of waste under the Convention, including waste solar panels and waste lithium and nickel batteries used in electric vehicles. One of the representatives suggested that this could be done either through the new strategic framework, or under the Basel Convention partnerships on various waste streams. Another representative said that the new strategic framework should also help to address plastic waste covered by the plastic waste amendments to the Convention adopted in 2019.

61. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a contact group on strategic matters, to be co-chaired by Mr. Yasser Abu-Shanab (State of Palestine) and Ms. Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago). The group was mandated to revise the draft decision and proposed action set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/3, taking into account the conference room papers submitted by Canada and the European Union and the discussion held in plenary.

62. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of the draft decision prepared by the contact group on strategic matters.

63. Decision BC-15/3, on the strategic framework, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment

64. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information contained in document UNEP/CHW.15/4, and the draft decision set out therein, noting that the Ban Amendment had entered into force on 5 December 2019, and that, on that day, thanks to a generous contribution by the Government of Switzerland, the Secretariat had held a ceremony to mark the event and raise awareness of the Ban Amendment. As at 12 June 2022, 101 Parties had deposited their instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance of the amendment, with the most recent being Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua and Sierra Leone.

65. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the entry into force of the Ban Amendment, which, they said, marked the successful conclusion of a long-standing item on the agenda of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the implementation of which would help to protect human health and the environment from hazardous wastes and other wastes. They urged all the Parties that had not yet ratified the amendment to do so promptly.

66. A number of representatives said that they expected their countries to ratify the Ban Amendment in the near future.

67. One representative, noting that many countries were unable to effectively control the imports of hazardous wastes and other wastes into their territories, suggested that the Conference of the Parties should reflect on how to systematically record and address violations of the Ban Amendment by Parties.

68. One representative, noting that she was cautious about the effectiveness of the Ban Amendment given that waste could be turned into useful materials, said that her Government was providing assistance to Parties on environmentally sound recycling. She sought assurances from the Legal Officer that, by calling upon the Parties that had not yet done so to ratify the Ban Amendment, the draft decision under consideration did not create a legal obligation for them to do so. The Legal Officer confirmed that it was the prerogative of each Party to determine whether it wished to be bound by the Amendment.

69. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/4.

70. Decision BC-15/4, on addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

3. Development of guidelines for environmentally sound management

71. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information contained in document UNEP/CHW.15/5, including the draft decision set out therein, recalling that, by decision BC-14/3, on developing guidelines for environmentally sound management, the Conference of the Parties had welcomed the revised draft practical manual for stakeholders to ensure that

notifications of transboundary movements met environmentally sound management requirements, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a further revised version of the manual, taking into account comments received from Parties and others, and submit it for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting. Between the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the online segment of the current meeting, the Secretariat had received successive rounds of comments on the draft manual, all of which had been taken into account in revising the manual. The further revised manual (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/5/Rev.2) had been considered by the Open-ended Working Group during the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting, held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 April 2022, and the Group had recommended its adoption by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting.

72. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives thanked the Secretariat and the expert working group on environmentally sound management for the work undertaken on the manual, stressing that it would provide useful guidance to the Parties in their efforts to ensure that the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes met the Convention's requirements of environmentally sound management. One representative thanked the Government of Norway for supporting the dissemination and translation of the manual into different languages.

73. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that technical and other support should be provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, to implement the manual and enhance national capacities to minimize waste generation and prevent the import of wastes into countries that had no capacity to manage such wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

74. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the adoption of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/5.

75. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/5.

76. Decision BC-15/5, on developing guidelines for environmentally sound management, 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 on persistent organic pollutant wastes

77. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to notes by the Secretariat presenting updated general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.1); technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds (UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.2); and technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, chlordane, chlordecone, dicofol, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, lindane, mirex, pentachlorobenzene, pentachlorophenol and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, technical endosulfan and its related isomers or toxaphene or with hexachlorobenzene as an industrial chemical (UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.3). Further information on the development of those guidelines was set out in the note by the Secretariat on the outcomes of the face-to-face segment of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (UNEP/CHW.15/32). As agreed, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention would consider, at the current meeting, the revised products of the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting, as contained in documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/7/Rev.2, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/8/Rev.2 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/9/Rev.2, as the basis for its work. The note by the Secretariat on technical guidelines (UNEP/CHW.15/6) set out proposed action for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties.

78. During the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed for the work undertaken by the Secretariat, the small intersessional working group and the Open-ended Working Group in updating the technical guidelines, which were seen as forming a strong basis for discussion at the current meetings. One representative expressed support for the proposal to extend the mandate of the

small intersessional working group established by paragraph 9 of decision OEWG-I/4 to enable it to undertake further work on the technical guidelines regarding persistent organic pollutants.

79. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the precautionary principle should be fundamental in developing, updating and finalizing the guidance documents, and urged that lower human-protective low persistent organic pollutant content values be applied in the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants. In addition, guidelines should take account of the challenges facing developing countries, including in Africa, due to illegal trade and trafficking and the lack of technology, capacity and resources for the implementation of the guidelines. Capacity-strengthening activities could include pilot projects to ensure that the guidelines were responsive to the needs of developing countries.

80. Another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that those draft guidelines that had been recommended by the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting for adoption, namely the technical guidelines on incineration and mercury waste, might not require referral to a contact group. On the matter of the timing of upcoming meetings, she said that the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group should be held following the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to allow more time for intersessional work. Another representative concurred with that approach.

81. The representative of Australia introduced a conference room paper proposing additional wording on the use of cement kilns for the destruction of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compounds, based on regulatory experience with a facility in Australia, for inclusion in the revised version of the general technical guidelines, as set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/7/Rev.2. Another representative expressed support for that proposal.

82. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention established a contact group on technical matters, to be co-chaired by Mr. Patrick McKell (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Ms. Magda Gosk (Poland). The contact group would consider the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants. The contact group was mandated to prepare revised versions of the technical guidelines, basing its work on the revised products of the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting, and the proposed text in the conference room paper presented by Australia; as well as a draft decision based on the proposed draft decision set out in paragraph 11 of document UNEP/CHW.15/6; and taking into account the discussion in plenary.

83. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision submitted by the contact group on technical matters, in which they adopted the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants; the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds; the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, chlordane, chlordecone, dicofol, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, lindane, mirex, pentachlorobenzene, pentachlorophenol and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, technical endosulfan and its related isomers or toxaphene or with hexachlorobenzene as an industrial chemical.

84. Decision BC-15/6, 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

85. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that by decision BC-14/5 the Conference of the Parties had adopted again, on an interim basis, the revised technical guidelines on e-waste initially adopted by decision BC-12/5. In decision BC-14/5, the Conference of the Parties had also extended the mandate of the expert working group established by decision BC-13/5 to further update the technical guidelines, and had acknowledged the need to advance work towards the finalization of the guidelines. Section II of the note by the Secretariat on technical guidelines (UNEP/CHW.15/6) presented two options for the future of that work for consideration by the

Conference of the Parties, by which the expert working group would either be disbanded or its mandate extended.

86. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that considerable work had been undertaken under the Basel Convention over many years to improve the control of transboundary movements of e-waste, and the proposal put forward at the present meeting by Ghana and Switzerland to amend Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention constituted another important step in that regard. The adoption of the technical guidelines at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties would assist Parties in addressing the risks associated with unwanted imports of e-waste, and experience in using the guidelines would contribute to any future review of the guidelines. Given those circumstances, there was no immediate need for the expert working group to continue its work, and it could accordingly be disbanded. Further efforts were needed, however, to properly implement the controls on the transboundary movement of e-waste, including e-waste disguised as second-hand equipment, and the Basel Convention should pursue an ambitious agenda on that matter, as exemplified by the work of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) and its follow-up partnership.

87. Many other representatives who spoke favoured the extension of the mandate of the expert working group. Many representatives said that further clarity was needed on the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention, and the expert working group could usefully continue its work on establishing definitions of those terms. Several representatives stressed the urgency of resolving the ambiguity currently surrounding the distinction between waste and non-waste, given the burgeoning challenges presented by the dumping of e-waste in developing countries, particularly in Africa. One representative said that the proposed amendment to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention, if adopted, could entail the revision of the guidelines, to which the expert working group could usefully contribute. One representative said that it might be useful to include further categories of definition, including waste, non-waste, scrap, reusable, maintenance, repair and component, each with defined criteria.

88. Following those comments, the representative who had proposed disbanding the expert working group said that the scope of the current discussion was constrained by the fact that it referred primarily to paragraph 4 of decision BC-14/5. It would be beneficial to await the outcome of the discussions at the current meeting on the amendment proposal by Ghana and Switzerland regarding e-waste under the Basel Convention, which, if adopted, might involve some extension of the mandate of the expert working group.

89. Subsequently, following the adoption by the Conference of the Parties of decision BC-15/18, on amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention, relative to electrical and electronic waste, the representative who had proposed disbanding the expert working group said that her Party saw merit in expanding the group's mandate to the updating of the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment in order to reflect the new amendments to the Convention. It was important to show that there was follow-up to such an important decision. She proposed a number of modifications to the draft decision set out as option 2 in section II of document UNEP/CHW.15/6. These related to deadlines and language choice and sought to make explicit reference to the newly adopted amendments to the Convention. She also proposed that the Secretariat be requested to report directly to the Conference of the Parties rather than first to the Open-ended Working Group.

90. While several representatives took the floor to express their support for the draft decision as orally amended, others, including one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested more time to consider the oral modifications. The representative who had proposed the changes agreed to prepare a conference room paper thereon and to pursue informal consultations with interested Parties.

91. The Conference of the Parties considered a conference room paper, submitted by the European Union and its member States, containing a revised version of the draft decision set out as option 2 in section II of document UNEP/CHW.15/6. One representative proposed further amendments to the dates therein and proposed that the Secretariat report first to the Open-ended Working Group to give the Working Group the opportunity to discuss the matter before it was considered by the Conference of the Parties.

92. Another representative said that he had appreciated the deliberations in the contact group on legal matters on the distinction between hazardous and non-hazardous electrical and electronic waste. With regard to the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, his Party had consistently been of the view that the distinction between electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment

needed to be made clear in the guidelines in order to avoid any ambiguity and to make the prior informed consent procedure for the movement of electrical and electronic waste more efficient and effective and in the best interests of the Parties concerned. He expressed the view that the mandate or scope of the expert working group included the finalization of the technical specifications and guidelines regarding the definition of both electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, noting that it was a view supported by many other Parties. It was on that understanding that he supported the adoption of the draft decision.

93. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision on the technical guidelines set out in the conference room paper, as orally amended.

94. Decision BC-15/7, 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.

(c) Technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10 and R1) and on specially engineered landfill (D5)

95. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section III of document UNEP/CHW.15/6. She recalled that, by decision BC-14/6, the Conference of the Parties had agreed that the scope of the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) should be extended to also address incineration as covered by the operation “use as a fuel (other than in direct incineration) or other means to generate energy” (R1), and as a result had extended the mandate of the small intersessional working group established in decision BC-13/6. Argentina and Canada had continued to lead the group’s work on the update of the technical guidelines on D5 operation and Canada and Japan had offered to co-lead the updating of the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10 and R1). The revised draft technical guidelines that were the outcome of the small group’s work were set out in documents UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.4 and UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.5. During the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group had finalized the technical guidelines on D10 and R1 and recommended them for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting. The Open-ended Working Group had also revised technical guidelines on D5 and recommended that the revised version be used as the basis for further discussion.

96. Speaking on behalf of all the co-leads of the work done by the small intersessional working group, the representative of Canada observed that guidelines being presented for consideration by the Conference of the Parties were the result of five years of work and many rounds of consultations, and thanked all those who had participated in the process for their contributions over the years.

97. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, thanked the small intersessional working group and welcomed the revised technical guidelines. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries specified that she supported the adoption of the revised technical guidelines on D10 and R1 as recommended by the Open-ended Working Group and supported the adoption of the D5 guidelines provided that they contain text addressing liner systems as set out in paragraph 55 of document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/12/Rev.2. Another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that the scope of relaxing land-use control in a post-closure scenario should also be looked into, as well as leach management, especially in the context of an integrated secured landfill and incinerator facility.

98. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored the need for the guidelines to be practical in terms of the challenges posed by international trade and illegal trafficking. Developing countries lacked the technology to test for chemicals in waste and needed capacity-building, including through pilot projects, to identify suitable environmentally sound management operations. He also called for the guidelines to be translated. Another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that, in line with the recommendations of the report on the evaluation of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention, any Party concerned with the updating or translation of technical guidelines should draw that fact to the attention of the Conference of the Parties.

99. The Conference of the Parties agreed to request the contact group on technical matters to prepare revised versions of the technical guidelines on D10 and R1 and D5, based on the revised versions set out in documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/11/Rev.2 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/12/Rev.2, respectively, and a draft decision, using the draft text provided in paragraph 30 of document UNEP/CHW.15/6 as the starting point for its discussion and taking into account the discussion in plenary.

100. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision submitted by the contact group on technical matters, in which the Conference of the Parties adopted the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10 and R1) and on specially engineered landfill (D5).

101. Decision BC-15/8, 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.

(d) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury

102. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section IV of document UNEP/CHW.15/6 and drew attention to the draft decision contained therein. She recalled that the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, at its second meeting, had invited the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider reviewing the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds. During the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group had finalized the technical guidelines and recommended them for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at the present meeting. The draft technical guidelines as revised by the Open-ended Working Group were set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/13/Rev.2.

103. The representative of Japan, as the lead country for updating of the technical guidelines, thanked all those who had contributed to the process and provided a brief summary thereof and resulting updates. The main changes reflected developments under the Minamata Convention. Thus, the scope of the technical guidelines had been extended to cover “mercury wastes” under the Minamata Convention and the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention had been incorporated. Guidance on the management of mercury wastes from sources controlled under the Minamata Convention had also been added. In addition to the content relevant to the Minamata Convention, specific guidance and information on collection, transportation, treatment of mercury wastes, workers’ health and communication with stakeholders had been added.

104. The representative of China introduced a conference room paper setting out a number of suggested amendments to the revised draft technical guidelines.

105. The Conference of the Parties agreed to request the contact group on technical matters to prepare a revised version of the technical guidelines, as appropriate, based on the version set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/13/Rev.2, as well as a revised draft decision, using the draft text provided in paragraph 40 of document UNEP/CHW.15/6 as the starting point for its discussion, taking into account the conference room paper submitted by China.

106. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group on technical matters, in which the Conference of the Parties adopted the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, as prepared by the contact group.

107. Decision BC-15/9, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(e) Technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and for their disposal

108. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section V of document UNEP/CHW.15/6, recalling that, in accordance with decision BC-14/13, a small intersessional working group co-led by China, Japan and the United Kingdom had prepared draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes (UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.7). During the face-to-face segment of its twelfth session, the Open-ended Working Group had considered and revised the updated technical guidelines, and recommended that the revised version of the document, set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/14/Rev.2, should be considered by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting. Accordingly, at the current meeting, the Conference of the Parties was invited to consider the revised version of the guidelines (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/14/Rev.2), as well as a draft decision, set out in paragraph 50 of document UNEP/CHW.15/6, through which the mandate of the small intersessional working group would be extended so that it could continue its work.

109. Speaking on behalf of the co-leads of the work done by the small intersessional working group, the representative of Japan provided a summary of the work carried out by the group, as described in document UNEP/CHW.15/6. She introduced a conference room paper, submitted by the group's co-lead countries, the annex to which contained a further revised version of the technical guidelines, which was based on additional comments received from Parties and observers following the face-to-face segment of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

110. At the suggestion of the President, the Conference of the Parties decided to ask the contact group on technical matters to prepare a revised draft decision and a revised version of the updated technical guidelines, as appropriate, based on, respectively, the draft decision set out in paragraph 50 of document UNEP/CHW.15/6 and the conference room paper submitted by the co-lead countries of the small intersessional working group.

111. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of the draft decision prepared by the contact group on technical matters, which extended the mandate of the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 20 of decision BC-14/13 to continue updating the technical guidelines for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

112. Decision BC-15/10, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(f) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries

113. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in section VI of document UNEP/CHW.15/6, relating to the invitation to the Conference of the Parties by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 3/9, on eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries, to consider updating the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision VI/22. The Open-ended Working Group had considered the issue at its face-to-face segment and recommended that, at its resumed fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decide to update the technical guidelines. Accordingly, the Conference was invited to consider the decision set out in paragraph 53 of document UNEP/CHW.15/6.

114. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Uruguay, welcoming the recommendation of the Open-ended Working Group, expressed interest in leading the work on updating the guidelines.

115. At the suggestion of the President, the Conference of the Parties decided to task the contact group on technical matters with the preparation of a revised draft decision based on the draft decision set out in paragraph 53 of document UNEP/CHW.15/6.

116. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision prepared by the contact group on technical matters, in which the Conference of the Parties decided to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and to develop technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste batteries other than waste lead-acid batteries.

117. Decision BC-15/11, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

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

118. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to section VII of document UNEP/CHW.15/6, which related to the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8). She recalled that, at the online segment of its twelfth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group had agreed to invite Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 November 2020, comments on whether the technical guidelines on the physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) of hazardous waste should be updated. No comments had been received to date.

119. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, given the current workload of the Convention and the lack of interest expressed in the matter, consideration of whether the technical guidelines on physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) adopted in decision BC-V/26 should be updated should not be included in the work

programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2022–2023, and suggested that the matter of whether the item should be included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group at a later date be discussed at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Several representatives expressed support for the suggested way forward.

120. The Conference of the Parties agreed not to include consideration of whether to update the technical guidelines on physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023, but to reconsider the issue at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. Classification and hazard characterization of wastes

121. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat reported that, as outlined in document UNEP/CHW.15/7, the Secretariat continued to cooperate with the World Customs Organization to facilitate the inclusion of types of waste controlled under the Basel Convention in the nomenclature of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. In decision BC-14/9, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to submit to the World Customs Organization a proposal for amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to allow for the identification of 13 types of waste. Amendments to the Harmonized System nomenclature had come into force in January 2022 that allowed for the identification under new codes of two types of waste, namely, electrical and electronic assemblies and waste lead-acid batteries.

122. Pursuant to decision BC-14/9, the Secretariat had submitted to the World Customs Organization proposals on amendments to the Harmonized System with respect to waste oils containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at a concentration level of 50 mg/kg or more and for plastic waste. The proposals were set out in annex II to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/10 and annex II to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/8, respectively, while the deliberations of the Harmonized System Review Subcommittee in considering the proposals from the Secretariat and their outcomes were summarized in annex I to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/8.

123. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for and underlined the importance of continuing cooperation between the Secretariat and the Harmonized System Committee, as well as with the relevant subcommittees of the World Customs Organization, in order to facilitate the inclusion of wastes covered by the Convention in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. One representative said that it was particularly important for the Secretariat to keep the World Customs Organization apprised regarding discussions held and decisions taken on e-waste at meetings of the Conference of the Parties so that those could then be reflected in the decisions taken by the Organization.

124. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that he supported the draft decision, but, as there were references to the Open-ended Working Group in the proposed text, the decision on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023 needed to be considered before the current draft decision could be adopted.

125. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/7, as orally amended, on the understanding that the two paragraphs related to the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group would be resolved in the light of the decision of the Conference of the Parties on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023.

126. One representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the present report, emphasized the importance of ensuring that the Secretariat shared with the World Customs Organizations all the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, both at the current meeting and at future meetings, that could have implications for the characterization of waste and for the Harmonized System.

127. Decision BC-15/12, on cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

3. National reporting

128. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.15/8 on national reporting. She recalled that the Secretariat had updated the electronic reporting system of the Convention to reflect the revisions to the reporting format that had been

adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision BC-14/10. Additional information on reporting by Parties was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/9.

129. Pursuant to decision BC-14/10, the Secretariat had prepared draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of plastic waste, on obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste and on waste batteries containing lithium. The guidance documents had been revised taking into account comments submitted following the online segment of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and during the face-to-face segment. At the face-to-face segment, the Working Group had invited Parties and others to comment on the documents. The draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of plastic waste, obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste and waste batteries containing lithium was set out in the annexes to documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/15/Rev.2, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/16/Rev.2 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/17/Rev.2, respectively. The comments that had been received from Parties and observers were available on the website of the Convention, as explained in document UNEP/CHW.15/32.

130. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had taken note of the practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries, waste oils and electrical and electronic waste. On the basis of the outcomes of pilot projects and comments received by Parties and observers on their experience in using the guidance, revised practical guidance for the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries and waste oils had been developed, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/61.

131. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed their appreciation for the work done to improve reporting and welcomed the various guidance documents.

132. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft decision, but proposed that reference be made therein to the revised practical guidance for the preparation of inventories of waste lead-acid batteries and waste oils. She and another representative had also submitted comments on the draft practical guidance set out in the annexes to documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/15/Rev.2, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/16/Rev.2 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/17/Rev.2 that would need to be incorporated into the documents.

133. Another representative proposed that Parties be invited to include information on waste generation in their national reports every year, rather than “at least once every four years” as proposed in the draft decision. Many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that it would not be possible for their Parties to report so frequently, given the onerous nature of the task. Some pointed out that the wording proposed in the draft decision would in fact permit any Party wishing to report annually to do so, without it being an obligation.

134. With regard to the preparation of inventories, one representative pointed out that waste declaration and notification systems varied from country to country and that related information was therefore inconsistent. She advocated the conduct of a comprehensive study on issues related to the lack of data with a view to unifying the inventories of Parties.

135. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries emphasized the need for additional technical assistance and training for officials, particularly given the high turnover in such posts in the region, in order to improve their understanding of Parties’ Convention-related obligations, including in terms of national reporting. Some representatives outlined the steps being taken by their Parties at the national level with a view to reinforcing national reporting.

136. The Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of plastic waste, obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste and waste batteries containing lithium, taking into account the comments submitted by Parties.

137. Subsequently, the President reported that the Secretariat had prepared revised versions of the draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of waste batteries containing lithium, the draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste, and the draft practical guidance on the development of inventories of plastic waste, taking into account the discussion in plenary. The revised documents were set out in three conference room papers.

138. The Conference of the Parties adopted the decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/8, as orally amended. In the decision, the Conference of the Parties took note of the above-mentioned three revised draft practical guidance documents produced by the Secretariat.

139. Decision BC-15/13, on national reporting, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

4. Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents

140. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.15/9 on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents. She recalled that, in decision BC-14/11 the Conference of the Parties had invited Parties and others to provide to the Secretariat information on their experiences in developing and implementing electronic systems for exchanging information on or controlling the movements of goods and waste and on experts who could contribute to consultative workshops to explore options for a system under the Basel Convention that would allow for the automation of processes and the electronic exchange of information relating to the notification and movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes. The Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to organize those workshops after the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the first consultative workshop had been held online in January 2021. The report of that workshop was available on the website of the Convention.

141. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on experiences, at the national and international levels, in developing and implementing electronic systems for exchanging information on or controlling the movements of goods and wastes and on lessons learned from such experiences. The report, as revised to take into account comments submitted by Parties and others following the online segment of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/62.

142. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed their support for an electronic approach to the notification and movement documents, noting that it would make the process more efficient and more transparent. Some representatives outlined the steps that their Parties had taken in that respect, at the national or regional levels. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was a challenge for them to create and implement such a computerized system and requested technical and financial assistance to enable them to do so. One representative stressed the importance of Parties abiding by the rules of the prior informed consent procedure regardless of the approach used to administer it.

143. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the references to the Open-ended Working Group in the draft decision might need further consideration as they would depend on the outcome of discussions by the Conference of the Parties on the timing of the thirteenth meeting of the Working Group in relation to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

144. The President underlined the fact that the draft decision provided a role for non-Parties in relation to the proposed pilot projects on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents.

145. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/9.

146. Decision BC-15/14, on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

5. Further consideration of plastic waste

147. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to a note by the Secretariat on further consideration of plastic waste (UNEP/CHW.15/10), which set out a report containing background information related to a possible future assessment of the effectiveness of the measures taken under the Basel Convention to address plastic waste and to possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/10), a report by the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions on marine litter and microplastics (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/11) and a compilation of information on certain plastic wastes referred to in entry Y48 in Annex II and entry B3011 in Annex IX to the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/12). She highlighted the resolution adopted at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to convene an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, in which process the Basel Convention was expected to play a significant role. She also summarized discussions on the issue of plastic waste that had taken place at the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, including

on whether it was timely to undertake an effectiveness evaluation of the measures taken under the Convention to address plastic waste.

148. During the ensuing discussion, many representatives highlighted the growing global need to address plastic waste, which had become one of the major environmental and human health challenges facing the planet. Many different aspects of the problem were mentioned, including marine pollution; the dumping of plastic waste or waste material containing plastics by developed countries in developing countries; the disposable characteristics of many plastic products (including single-use plastic bags); the longevity of plastics in the environment due to their low biodegradability; pollution of soil, air and water; the increasing presence of plastics and microplastics in the food chain; burning of plastics in landfills leading to emissions of harmful chemicals; and lack of awareness among the population.

149. Representatives alluded to a wide range of possible approaches to address the problem, including compiling data on the global movement of plastic waste, enhancing the role of the Basel Convention regional centres to coordinate regional responses, developing alternatives to plastics, managing plastic waste in an environmentally sound manner, and providing technical assistance and financial support to assist developing countries to strengthen border controls. Several representatives stressed the need for strong cooperation between the Basel Convention and other actors engaged in the plastic waste agenda to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of activities.

150. Several representatives summarized the activities being undertaken in their own countries to combat plastic waste pollution, including banning single-use plastic bags, engaging with the plastics industry (including in the area of extended producer responsibility), implementing legislative, fiscal and other measures to regulate plastic products across the whole life cycle, ensuring best practices in waste management, convening committees and other bodies to consider the way forward, developing national plans and strategies for managing plastic waste, implementing partnerships between the public and private sectors, applying customs tariffs for certain wastes and ensuring stringent classification of waste entering the country, and undertaking awareness-raising activities.

151. On the matter of an effectiveness evaluation of the measures taken under the Convention to address plastic waste, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was premature to undertake such a task, bearing in mind the current full agenda of activities under the Convention. With regard to launching new activities on plastic waste under the Convention, clarity was needed on how the proposed activities were linked to existing action under the Convention, and what were their objectives. It was also important to ensure consistency with other initiatives to combat plastic waste, including the convening of an intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. There was merit, however, in launching a new work stream under the Convention to address leakages of rubber and rubber waste to the environment, for example by updating the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting in decision BC-10/6, and considering how to address leakages from other sources. Another representative said that the plastic waste amendments to the Basel Convention had only become effective on 1 January 2021, so it was too early to evaluate their effectiveness. The Convention should focus on the development of operational tools for dealing with waste and helping developing countries with waste collection and recycling facilities. Another representative said that an evaluation of the efficacy of the activities of the Convention on plastic waste was within the mandate of decision BC-14/13, on further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention, and could contribute to the future debate on the proposed legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. Any such evaluation should include an assessment of the impact of entry Y48 in Annex II.

152. The Conference of the Parties agreed to refer further discussion of the matter, including proposed amendments to the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/10, to the contact group on technical matters, with a mandate to prepare a revised draft decision taking into account the proposals. He invited the Party that had made suggestions on amending the draft decision to prepare a proposal in writing for consideration by the contact group.

153. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of the draft decision prepared by the contact group on technical matters.

154. Decision BC-15/15, on further consideration of plastic waste, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

6. Waste containing nanomaterials

155. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to a note by the Secretariat on waste containing nanomaterials (UNEP/CHW.15/11), which contained a proposed draft decision on the matter, and a compilation of information received on activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials, including case studies about and best practices relating to the management of waste containing nanomaterials (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/52). That information had been compiled pursuant to decision BC-14/14, on waste containing nanomaterials.

156. In the ensuing discussion, several Parties, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended the Secretariat for its work on wastes containing nanomaterials, and welcomed the proposed action to raise awareness among Parties about activities aimed at addressing issues related to such wastes. One representative said that industrial companies and laboratories that processed nanomaterials were confronted with the challenge of disposing of nanomaterials correctly, and not all countries had the necessary information on the environmentally sound management of nanowastes.

157. The representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) said that UNITAR had been working with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on nano-safety projects for many years, and had recently updated its e-learning course on nano-safety. UNITAR had also been working with the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, to review approaches to the safe handling of waste containing nanomaterials in laboratories, with a view to supporting global approaches to managing such waste.

158. The Conference of the Parties agreed to adopt the proposed draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/11.

159. Decision BC-15/16, on waste containing nanomaterials, 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

160. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that the report on the activities of the Committee was set out in subsections II.A and II.B of document UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.2 and was supported by two addendums, document UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.2/Add.1, which set out draft guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention on insurance, bond and guarantee, and document UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.2/Add.2, which set out draft guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention, on transit transboundary movements. The two draft guidance documents had been considered by the Open-ended Working Group at the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting and the Working Group had invited the Conference of the Parties, at the current meeting, to consider using as the basis for its work the versions of the draft guidance documents that reflected the outcomes of that meeting, as set out in the annexes to documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/24/Rev.2 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/23/Rev.2.

161. She drew attention to four other documents setting out information on the work of the Committee: document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/13, on the activities of the Committee to improve timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention; document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/14, on the activities of the Committee to improve implementation and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention on preventing and combating illegal traffic; document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/16, on the activities of the Committee to improve implementation and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention on national legislation; and document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/17, on the activities of the Committee to improve implementation and compliance with Article 6 of the Convention on the control system.

162. The Chair of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, Mr. Florisvindo Furtado, made a presentation on the work of the Committee, which had benefited from the financial support of the Governments of Germany, Norway and Switzerland.

163. In relation to national reporting, he indicated trends and noted improvements in relation to reporting rates, including with regard to the on-time submission of complete reports. The Committee was recommending the setting of new such targets for 2018 and onwards; additional steps to improve reporting; and additional measures, not included under subparagraphs 20 (a) and 20 (b) of the terms of reference, in instances where a Party had not submitted its national report for four years or more, since the new reporting format had been adopted for 2016 and onwards. With regard to illegal traffic, the

Committee had also completed all the activities of its programme of work and was making recommendations that included amendments to the terms of reference of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE), with a view to strengthening the partnership. In relation to national legislation, the Committee had further completed all the activities in its programme of work and had developed recommendations regarding the activities of other entities aimed at assisting Parties in reviewing or developing legislation to implement the Convention and regarding additional activities stemming from the final evaluation of the strategic framework. Mr. Furtado also outlined the work undertaken with regard to the control system, in addition to the drafting of the two guidance documents, and enumerated progress achieved in relation to the specific submissions considered by the Committee since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

164. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, took the floor to thank the Committee for its work and to recognize the key role that it played improving implementation of the Convention. Its efforts to improve national reporting and its work on drafting the guidance were appreciated in particular, with some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, explaining how the guidance documents would help developing countries overcome challenges posed by their lack of capacity in those fields. Another representative emphasized the need for capacity-building in general to enable Parties to manage e-waste, chemicals, plastics and hazardous waste in an environmentally sound manner, stressing that developing countries were doing their best with the scarce resources they had.

165. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries acknowledged that national reporting posed a challenge for his region, noting that the problem was exacerbated by staff turnover. Together with another representative, he requested additional technical assistance to help Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under the Convention, while other representatives thanked the Secretariat for the support and assistance they had received that had enabled them to fulfil those obligations. Some representatives expressed their desire for an approach to improving national reporting and reporting rates that was supportive of countries rather than punitive.

166. With regard to illegal traffic, while acknowledging the efforts of the Committee to tackle the issue, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that more needed to be done and that the Conference of the Parties needed to put in place much stronger measures to prevent illegal traffic from developed to developing countries. Another representative said that he was in favour of modernizing the prior informed consent procedure, including making it electronic and thus more efficient.

167. While generally supportive of the draft decision, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that there were issues that merited further discussion, such as the changes to the Committee's terms of reference concerning Parties that had not submitted a report to the Convention since 2016; the role of the Committee in the review of national legislation; and the mandate of the Secretariat in relation to ENFORCE.

168. The Conference of the Parties adopted the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention on insurance, bond and guarantee, as set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/24/Rev.2, and the guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention, on transit transboundary movements, as set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/23/Rev.2.

169. Furthermore, it tasked the contact group on legal matters with the further consideration of the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.2, specifically the text set out in sections I, II and III of paragraph 36 and in paragraph 37 of the document, except for the paragraphs of the draft decision that referred to the adoption of the two guidance documents (paragraphs 47 and 48) given that the Conference of the Parties had already adopted them.

170. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of the draft decision prepared by the contact group on legal matters.

171. Decision BC-15/17, 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 present report.

2. Providing further legal clarity

172. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to a note by the Secretariat on providing further legal clarity (UNEP/CHW.15/13), including the draft decision set out therein; the recommendations by the expert working group on the review of the annexes for possible

amendment proposals to Annex IV and to entries A1180 and B1110 in Annexes VIII and IX to the Basel Convention, and findings of the expert working group on the consequential implications of the review of Annex IV to the Convention (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/18); a note by the Secretariat on the consequential implications of the review of Annex IV to the Convention (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/20); and a note by the Secretariat on the review of Annexes I and III to the Convention (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/21), providing information on the work of the expert working group in relation to the review of those annexes. She also drew attention to a proposal by the European Union to amend Annex IV and certain entries in Annexes II and IX to the Basel Convention, and a proposal by Ghana and Switzerland to amend Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention, contained, respectively, in documents UNEP/CHW.15/13/Add.1 and UNEP/CHW.15/13/Add.2. At the current meetings, the Conference of the Parties was invited to consider for possible adoption the above-mentioned draft decision, as well as the amendment proposals submitted by the European Union and by Ghana and Switzerland.

173. Ms. Mari-Liis Ummik (Estonia), co-chair of the expert working group, speaking also on behalf of co-chair Mr. Joost Meijer (Chile), gave a report on the work of the expert working group to date. Recalling that the mandate of the group had been to review Annexes I, III and IV of the Convention, the entries related to electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) in Annex VIII (entry A1180) and Annex IX (entry B1110) to the Convention, and whether any additional constituents or characteristics in relation to plastic waste should be added to Annex I or Annex III to the Convention, she said that the group had made considerable progress during its fourth meeting convened face to face from 5 to 8 November 2019, and online sessions of its fifth meeting held between October 2020 and January 2022. Specifically, the group had completed its review of Annex IV and entries A1180 and B1110, and developed recommended options for consideration by the Parties, some of which had been discussed by the Open-ended Working Group at the face-to-face segment of its twelfth session. The expert working group had also made progress with regard to its review of Annexes I and III, but further work was needed to finalize recommended options for possible amendments to those annexes.

174. The representative of Switzerland presented the proposal submitted by Ghana and Switzerland to amend Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention (UNEP/CHW.15/13/Add.2), aimed at subjecting all movements of e-waste, regardless of whether or not the e-waste was hazardous, to the prior informed consent procedure. She said that controlling all e-waste was necessary because every year more than 50 million tons of e-waste were generated, for 80 per cent of which its fate was unknown, thus posing a serious risk to human health and the environment, and only about 20 per cent of which was documented to have been disposed of properly. In addition to contributing to the protection of the environment and human health by helping developing countries to prevent unwanted e-waste imports, the proposed amendment would increase the proportion of e-waste that was disposed of properly and contribute to ensuring resource recovery and the environmentally sound recycling of e-waste. She then introduced a revised version of the amendment proposal, set out in a conference room paper, co-sponsored by Ghana, Switzerland and 17 other Parties, which took into account further work carried out by the expert working group and the Open-ended Working Group on the entries for electrical and electronic assemblies since the original amendment proposal had first been presented, including options for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting.

175. The representative of Switzerland also proposed a two-step approach to consider the proposal submitted by Ghana and Switzerland, and co-sponsored by 17 other Parties. First, the discussion should focus on the principle of the proposal to list all e-waste in Annexes II and VIII to the Convention, therefore submitting all e-waste to the prior informed consent procedure; then, once the first issue had been agreed, consideration should be given to the specific wording of the Convention's e-waste entries in the respective annexes.

176. The representative of Ghana urged all Parties to support the proposed amendment, emphasizing the importance of ensuring that non-hazardous e-waste received special consideration under the Convention. He also expressed support for the two-step approach to discussing the proposal, as suggested by Switzerland.

177. The representative of the European Union said that the amendment proposal by the European Union entailed a review of Annex IV and of certain entries in Annexes II and IX to the Convention, with the objective of improving legal clarity, establishing a common understanding and interpretation of disposal operations, strengthening the implementation of the Convention, improving the control of transboundary movements of waste, facilitating the prevention of illegal shipments, supporting the environmentally sound management of waste at the global level, and contributing to the transition towards a global circular economy. The proposal contained suggestions to amend the definition of recovery and non-recovery operations under Annex IV to the Convention, and to introduce the entries

and the rationale for the different categories proposed, building on the work of the expert working group.

178. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed their appreciation to the expert working group and the Secretariat for the work carried out in relation to the sub-item, and to the proponents of the two amendment proposals.

179. Many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for the proposal to amend the Convention submitted by Switzerland and Ghana and co-sponsored by 17 other Parties, stressing that the shipment of e-waste to countries that had very limited or no capacity to manage such waste in an environmentally sound manner was a serious environmental and human health problem that required an urgent response from the Parties to the Convention. They further suggested that the proposal would contribute to the environmentally sound management of e-waste; improve the recovery of minerals and thereby reduce the need for, and the high environmental and climate impacts of, primary mining; contribute to a circular economy; and improve transparency around transboundary movements of e-waste, thereby helping national authorities to control such movements and to prevent unwanted imports or exports of e-waste.

180. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for using the conference room paper submitted by Switzerland and others as a basis for discussion on the proposal. Another representative expressed support for discussing the proposals to provide further legal clarity on the basis of the outcomes of the face-to-face segment of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/25/Rev.2).

181. A number of representatives said that further consideration of the proposal by Ghana and Switzerland was needed.

182. One representative said that, from a practical standpoint, consideration should be given to the distinction between waste and non-waste, for instance with regard to functionality tests of used electrical and electronic equipment, in order to ensure that e-waste was not classified as non-waste as a way to circumvent the prior informed consent procedure and other Convention requirements.

183. Another representative suggested that, taking into account the experience gained with the plastic waste amendments entries, consideration should be given to the inclusion of examples of hazardous and non-hazardous e-waste in the e-waste entries in Annex VIII and Annex IX to the Convention; the issue of whether the hazardousness of a given component could lead to an entire item being considered hazardous; and the need to develop a simple and concise non-hazardous e-waste entry in Annex II, and a similar entry in Annex I for hazardous e-waste, in order to ensure that all e-waste was effectively covered under the Basel Convention.

184. Several representatives also welcomed the proposal by the European Union, noting that it would add legal clarity to the Convention, and many said that they look forward to further discussing the proposal in a contact group. One representative said that some of the proposed changes to the definitions and entries of disposal operations might create confusion in relation to the distinction between waste and non-waste, and suggested that the glossary of terms, which was not legally binding but provided clarity on that distinction, should be followed. He further suggested that all Parties should be given sufficient time to fully understand the proposed amendments and to participate in the discussion on the possible amendments to Annex IV.

185. The representative of Canada introduced a conference room paper submitted by Argentina, Canada, and Japan that brought forward the recommendations by the expert working group on the review of annexes for possible amendment proposals to Annex IV, with a view to ensuring that those recommendations were considered in conjunction with the amendment proposal submitted by the European Union. The document, which would help to define the way forward for the work to be carried out in the intersessional period, had been submitted in English, but unofficial translations into Spanish and French had been produced by the representatives of Argentina and Canada, respectively.

186. One representative said that it was important that, should the Conference of the Parties agree to amend Annex IV to the Convention, guidelines for the implementation of any such amendment should be developed prior to the amendment's entry into force.

187. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a contact group on legal matters, co-chaired by Ms. Mari-Liis Ummik (Estonia) and Mr. Florisvindo Furtado (Cabo Verde), to consider further the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/13, the amendment proposal submitted by the European Union and the amendment proposal submitted by Ghana and Switzerland and co-sponsored by 17 other Parties, as set out in the conference room paper

introduced by Switzerland, taking into account the discussion in plenary and the conference room paper submitted by Argentina, Canada and Japan.

188. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decisions prepared by the contact group on legal matters.

189. Decision BC-15/18, on amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

190. Decision BC-15/19, on providing further legal clarity, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

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

191. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to a note by the Secretariat on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic (UNEP/CHW.15/14), which presented information on the activities undertaken by the Secretariat pursuant to decision BC-14/7 and set out a draft decision for the consideration of the Parties. Other related documents before the Conference of the Parties included documents UNEP/CHW.15/24–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/24, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and waste, and UNEP/CHW.15/16–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/13, on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; and documents UNEP/CHW.15/32, on the outcomes of the face-to-face segment of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.2, on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention, and UNEP/CHW.15/INF/34, the progress report by the chair of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic. She summarized the activities the Secretariat had undertaken on the matter since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/14.

192. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, spoke of the threats posed by the illegal traffic of hazardous chemicals and wastes, including danger to human health and ecosystems due to the dumping of hazardous materials. A further risk was posed by the involvement of organized crime in fraudulent activities and illegal traffic, requiring robust national legislation, adequate equipment and storage facilities, properly trained officials at national borders, and the need to regularly transmit updated contact details of designated contacts for Parties. One representative specifically encouraged cooperation between Parties to ensure that their contacts were updated. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that efforts to combat illegal traffic required synergies and cooperation between all the relevant international organizations, and needed to take into account the work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance. Several representatives called for further financial support and technical assistance, including monitoring and surveillance systems.

193. The Conference of the Parties agreed in principle to the content of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/14, on the understanding that some adjustments might be required depending on the outcome of the consideration of the draft decision on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance and the draft decision regarding synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and waste.

194. Subsequently, the President informed the Conference of the Parties that the Secretariat had checked the consistency of the draft decision on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic with the decisions on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance and on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and waste and that no adjustment to the draft decision on national legislation was needed.

195. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic set out in paragraph 19 of document UNEP/CHW.15/14.

196. Decision BC-15/20, on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

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

197. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.15/15, which set out a proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties, and two related documents, namely UNEP/CHW.15/INF/26, containing information from the Russian Federation on its proposal, and UNEP/CHW.15/INF/27, containing a compilation of comments received on the proposal from the Russian Federation from other Parties.

198. The representative of the Russian Federation presented information on her Government's proposal, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/26.

199. Many representatives expressed support for the proposal to be referred to a contact group. Several representatives expressed support for the proposal in principle, but said that the time limit stated should be extended, for example to a period of between 60 and 90 days, to allow sufficient time to complete the necessary checks, in particular in cases where transit countries were also involved. One representative proposed using the word "timely" instead of "30 days" and several representatives noted that a time limit of 30 days could be counter-productive, as importing Parties would be forced by those circumstances to deny permission more frequently, as there would be insufficient time to ascertain the safety of the waste. A number of representatives expressed support for the proposal, with one highlighting the fact that the proposed changes would make the procedure less ambiguous and more effective and others noting that storing waste for long periods on the border was problematic. Some representatives requested further clarification on the consequences for Parties if they were not able to meet the 30-day deadline.

200. Several, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was not proportionate to change the wording of the Convention in order to improve the prior informed consent (PIC) procedure and that, in fact, the proposed changes would not provide for all required improvements to the PIC procedure. They therefore did not support the establishment of a contact group to consider changes to the Convention itself, noting that it was most appropriate to discuss improvements to the PIC procedure under other agenda items. One representative said that an agreed time limit could simply be communicated to the competent authorities.

201. A number of representatives expressed a preference for deferring consideration of improvements to the PIC procedure to a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

202. Given the discussion under the present sub-item and those under agenda item 4 (a) (i) on the strategic framework with regard to Parties' interest in considering possible ways of improving the prior informed consent procedure, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer consideration of the proposal by the Russian Federation to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention to the following meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

D. Technical assistance

203. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 205 to 221 below are replicated in section V.E of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section V.F of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

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

205. On the issue of the technical assistance in general, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.15/16–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/13, on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. More detail about the implementation of the technical assistance plan during the period 2019–2021 was provided in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/28.

206. The representative of the Secretariat thanked the Governments of Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, and the European Commission and FAO, for their voluntary contributions for the financing of technical assistance. She also thanked GEF and the Special Programme to support

institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for their support during the period 2019–2021.

207. She drew attention to the report on the technical assistance needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the technical assistance available from developed country Parties and others, which was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/30–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/30; to the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025, as proposed by the Secretariat, set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/29–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/29 and a report prepared by the Secretariat entitled “Environmental and health emergencies – the role of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in supporting Parties in prevention, preparedness, response and recovery”, which was contained in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/31–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/68.

208. On the topic of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, the representative of the Secretariat introduced documents UNEP/CHW.15/17 and UNEP/POPS/COP.10/14, outlining, respectively, the activities undertaken by the regional centres, the Secretariat and others in response to the requests made by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions in their decisions on regional centres. Document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/31 provided further information pertaining to the activities of the centres.

209. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives thanked the Secretariat, donor countries, the regional centres and relevant partners for providing technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement their obligations under the three conventions. Several of them were particularly appreciative that such support had continued despite the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many representatives provided specific examples of the assistance that they had received and of their achievements thanks to the support provided.

210. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the proposed technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025. One of those representatives said that he was glad to see that it addressed cross-cutting topics, such as the mainstreaming of chemicals and waste into national sustainable development strategies, emergency preparedness and response, the strengthening of the science-policy interface and the addressing of the gender-related dimensions of the environmentally sound management of chemical and waste. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that the plan should remain a living document and be updated regularly according to the needs of the Parties. It should be implemented subject to the availability of resources and in cooperation with the actors concerned. The monitoring and evaluation of the projects undertaken would remain important for assessing the impact of the plan’s implementation. Another representative was of the view that the regional and subregional offices of UNEP should have a greater role in implementation of the plan.

211. Despite the work that had been undertaken and that which was still to come, many representatives considered that developing countries and countries with economies in transition were still ill-equipped to deal with challenges that they faced, including emerging issues and new obligations stemming from the listing of new chemicals. Increased and intensified technical assistance was required in relation to a number of issues, including e-wastes; plastic wastes and the recycling of waste plastics; the disposal of obsolete pesticides and pesticide containers; PCBs; contaminated oil; newly listed industrial persistent organic pollutants (POPs); unintentional POPs releases; the impact of POPs and other toxic chemicals on health; assessment of the social, economic and cultural impact of POPs; links between POPs and climate change; the illegal dumping of hazardous wastes; illegal trafficking, including of hazardous wastes from developed to developing countries; the capacity-building of customs officials; labelling; regulatory measures; alternatives to listed chemicals and their use; the development of inventories, including in relation to chemicals in products; and monitoring and analysis.

212. Several representatives sought to ensure that the Secretariat had a realistic overview of Parties’ technical assistance needs. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, at the face-to-face regional preparatory meeting for the 2022 face-to-face segment of the meetings, the group had compiled its technical assistance needs and requested the Secretariat to take them into account in the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025. Another representative appealed to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to submit their needs as early as

possible for inclusion in the subsequent technical assistance plan. Several representatives urged developed countries and donor agencies to support the implementation of the plan in full. Other representatives stressed the need not only to provide technical assistance, but to strive to increase national ownership, including of technologies.

213. In relation to the proposed draft decisions on technical assistance, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, as in previous years, all relevant points concerning technical assistance should be consolidated in a single decision for each Conference of the Parties, in order to provide an appropriate overview of the various interrelated issues and to be able to focus on the priorities relevant for each Conference of the Parties. Another representative, given the effect of toxic chemicals on human health, proposed the inclusion of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the list of agencies that were to be encouraged to support institutional strengthening at the national level.

214. On the topic of increasing support, one representative requested the Secretariat additionally to support the Pacific Resilience Programme, while another representative urged Parties to support the lifting of sanctions against his country and requested donors and specialized agencies to return there to assist the Party in meeting its convention-related obligations.

215. Mr. Payet highlighted the voluntary nature of the contributions for technical assistance activities and the limited resources within the Secretariat for fundraising. Contributions had substantially increased in recent times, which had enabled the Secretariat to do more, but challenges with respect to further increasing technical assistance activities remained. He appealed to the regional centres that had not yet applied for project funding to submit their projects as soon as possible for consideration under the third round of funding. He noted, however, that there was a lack of capacity in several regions in relation to project development and management, which needed to be addressed. He also appealed to Parties to be more vocal in raising awareness of the need for support for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in other forums such as the Special Programme or the GEF Council.

216. In response to a comment by one representative seeking clarity regarding an appeal for technical assistance in his country in line with the Stockholm Convention, Mr. Payet said that, given its limited resources, the Secretariat was unable to respond to all requests for the provision of equipment. However, the representative clarified his comment, saying that his country sought advice and guidance from the Secretariat rather than material support.

217. A number of representatives stressed the important role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in providing developing countries and those with economies in transition with technical assistance and capacity-building. The regional centres were intersectoral and interdisciplinary, represented an efficient use of resources and helped avoid overlap. One representative however advocated improved information exchange and information-sharing among the centres themselves. Another representative encouraged the regional centres to consider the information provided by Parties on their needs in terms of technical assistance in order to develop relevant regional action plans. Yet another representative said that greater efforts should be made to ensure that regional centres were provided with the necessary financial and technical support to enable them to fulfil their mandates.

218. The representative of a country that hosted a regional centre expressed her country's commitment to supporting its valuable work, as evidenced by the extension of the host country agreement until at least 2029.

219. In relation to the proposed draft decisions on the regional centres, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they should be simple, rational and operational. To that end, she noted that the authorization for the Secretariat to sign framework agreements to formalize the establishment of regional centres under the Basel Convention was already set out in decision BC-14/18 and therefore did not need to be repeated. She therefore suggested that paragraph 5 of the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.15/17 be deleted.

220. Following the discussion under the sub-item, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources, to be co-chaired by Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia) and Mr. Premysl Stepanek (Czechia). The group was mandated to prepare for the consideration of the conferences of the Parties a draft decision on technical assistance for each of the conventions, using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.15/16–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/13 as a starting point and taking into account the discussion in plenary; and draft decisions on the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions using the draft decisions in documents UNEP/CHW.15/17 (with the exception of paragraph 5) and

UNEP/POPS/COP.10/14 as starting points and taking into account the discussion in plenary. The draft decision for the agenda item would be in omnibus form, with a section I on technical assistance (for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) and a section II on regional centres (for the Basel and Stockholm conventions). With regard to paragraph 5 of the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.15/17, the conferences of the Parties agreed that it would fall outside the mandate of the contact group and entrusted the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consult interested Parties thereon.

221. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a decision on technical assistance, submitted by the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources. The decision was divided into two parts and was set out in two conference room papers on, respectively, technical assistance and the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres.

222. Decision BC-15/21, on technical assistance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

223. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on technical assistance, with part I of decision RC-10/12 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention being substantially identical to part I of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, and decision SC-10/15 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention being substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-10/12 and SC-10/15, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1), respectively.

E. Basel Convention Partnership Programme

1. Follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

224. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, presenting the information pertaining to the follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment. She recalled that the Conference of the Parties, in part I of decision BC-14/19 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, had established a working group for the follow-up partnership to PACE and asked it to prepare a revised version of the terms of reference and the programme of work for the follow-up partnership. Pursuant to the same decision, the Open-ended Working, at the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting, had adopted, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, the terms of reference and programme of work for 2020–2021 for the follow-up partnership. At the same time, the Open-ended Working Group had recommended that the Conference of the Parties, at its fifteenth meeting, adopt amendments to the terms of reference for the inclusion of new types of e-waste and the proposed programme of work for the follow-up partnership for the biennium 2022–2023. Accordingly, at the current meeting, the Conference of the Parties was invited to consider the revised terms of reference and programme of work for the biennium 2022–2023, as prepared by the working group for the partnership and amended and agreed to by the Open-ended Working Group (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/37/Rev.1), as well as part I of the draft decision set out in paragraph 22 of document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1.

225. Ms. Leila Devia (Argentina), co-chair of the working group of the follow-up partnership to PACE, reported on the progress made by the working group in implementing the activities of the programme of work for the biennium 2020–2021 (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/33), with financial support from the Governments of France, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, and the European Commission. In particular, she presented the proposals to expand the scope of the partnership to cover new types of e-waste and to name the follow-up partnership to PACE the “Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste”, or PACE II.

226. During the discussion, many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, acknowledged the value of the partnership and expressed their appreciation for the activities conducted under the follow-up partnership, including the work of the Basel Convention regional centres. There was general support for the draft decision, including the proposed programme of work, amended terms of reference and new name for the partnership, although one representative suggested that the scope for e-waste and electronic equipment might benefit from a discussion in a contact group, and another cautioned that the amendments to the terms of reference should not lead to dumping of hazardous e-waste under the guise of used equipment, particularly in developing countries.

227. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries encouraged the working group to remain focused on meeting challenges, specifically those linked to the newly proposed used and e-waste streams, and to make the best possible use of the limited resources available.
228. One representative took the opportunity to announce several e-waste-related national and regional projects, including one to promote the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life mobile phones, launched pursuant to a call for proposals under the follow-up partnership to PACE.
229. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted part I of the draft decision set out in paragraph 22 of document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1. The decision text would be part I of an omnibus decision on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.
230. Part I of decision BC-15/22, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, entitled “Follow-up partnership to 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.

2. Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic

231. Introducing the matter, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to documents UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1, which contained information on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, and UNEP/CHW.15/INF/34, containing a progress report by the chair of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE). She reported that the fourth meeting of ENFORCE had been held in Geneva on 30 September and 1 October 2019, thanks to a generous financial contribution from the Government of Norway. At that meeting, Ms. Katie Olley (United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland) and Ms. Jewel Batchasingh (Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) had been elected chair and vice-chair, respectively. Two further meetings had been held online, both thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Government of France, on 26 January and 27 January 2021, and from 11 to 13 April 2022, respectively. Part II of the proposed draft decision set out in paragraph 22 of document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1 related to ENFORCE.
232. Ms. Olley, chair of ENFORCE, said that at the fourth, fifth and sixth meetings of the network, members had discussed organizational matters, presented and discussed the latest trends on the illegal traffic of hazardous wastes, exchanged information and identified opportunities for cooperation with regard to the network-related activities of the members. Members had agreed to revise a road map of activities to be undertaken by the members and observers of ENFORCE with a view to making the network more specific and action-oriented. At those meetings, members had exchanged information on completed and continuing national and regional enforcement projects and programmes, training tools and material developed in different regions and by different organizations. They had also identified activities of interest to members of ENFORCE which had potential for collaboration and allowed for capacity-building in the area of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes, including plastic waste.
233. In order to encourage information exchange among members, a number of online awareness-raising and training activities had been held by the Secretariat and the ENFORCE members since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat had developed a searchable database of all the activities included in the road map for the period 2020–2021 and the repository of activities contained in previous road maps. In 2021, ENFORCE members had completed and shared within their networks a questionnaire on enforcement and illegal traffic as one of the outputs of the project group on transboundary movements of plastic waste under the Plastic Waste Partnership, which had been an encouraging example of cooperation between the two partnerships.
234. She said that she had participated as an observer in the fourteenth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention, which had been held online in three sessions in 2020. Under its general review mandate, the Committee had considered, among other things, the activities of its work programme aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic, including the development of conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting with respect to strengthening ENFORCE.
235. ENFORCE currently had 20 members, including, since the fourth meeting, the World Customs Organization and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL), an ex-officio participant, namely the chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, and three observers. Information on the current membership was available on the website of the Basel Convention. Observers, as well as other entities with a specific mandate to deliver implementation and

enforcement capacity-building activities that could assist Parties to the Basel Convention in preventing and combating illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes, were encouraged to consider joining ENFORCE as members.

236. The representative of the World Customs Organization said that her organization regularly conducted global enforcement operations, supported by many partners including the Basel Convention Secretariat, that focused on waste and substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol. In 2021, 87 customs administrations participated in such an operation, known as “Operation Demeter VII”, over a 30-day period and had led to more than 100 seizures of waste. Her organization would continue to support its members in efforts to implement the Convention by identifying new trends, disrupting organized criminal groups, using information technology tools for information exchange and data collection, and enabling collaboration between enforcement authorities. It was therefore vital for customs and environmental authorities to cooperate in capacity-building and joint enforcement activities.

237. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted part II of the draft decision set out in paragraph 22 of document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1. The decision text would be part II of an omnibus decision on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

238. Part II of decision BC-15/22, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, entitled “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.

3. Household Waste Partnership

239. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the information set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1, pertaining to the Household Waste Partnership, recalling that, in part III of decision BC-14/19, the Conference of the Parties had requested the working group of the Household Waste Partnership to prepare a complete draft of the overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste, taking into account the discussions at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, comments received thereafter and the existing guidance under the Basel Convention. The working group had submitted the draft overall guidance document to the Open-ended Working Group at the online segment of its twelfth meeting, at which time the Open-ended Working Group had agreed to invite Parties and others to submit comments on the document. The comments received in response to that invitation had then been incorporated into a revised draft overall guidance document, which is set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1/Add.1.

240. The Open-ended Working Group had briefly considered the revised draft overall guidance document at the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting, in April 2022, and had invited Parties and observers to provide comments by 13 May 2022 and recommended that the Conference of the Parties take such comments into account when considering the guidance document at its fifteenth meeting. The comments received from Parties were posted on the Convention website¹.

241. Ms. Gabriela Medina (Uruguay), co-chair of the working group of the Household Waste Partnership, reported on progress made, with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Norway, in implementing the activities of the programme of work for the biennium 2020–2021, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/35.

242. Many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, underscored the importance of the Household Waste Partnership and expressed appreciation for the work carried out over the previous three years, including to develop the draft overall guidance document. One highlighted food waste as an important issue to be addressed under the partnership in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 1 (end poverty in all its forms everywhere) and 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns).

243. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the revised draft overall guidance document but some, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that more work was required to address overlap and duplication with other guidance documents; the representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries called for discussion on the matter in a contact group and offered to submit proposed amendments to the draft decision to the Secretariat. One representative noted that the first pilot project to test the revised draft guidance document would not be finalized until September 2022, and recommended that consideration of the

¹ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/HouseholdWastePartnership/OverallGuidanceDocument/tabid/8227/Default.aspx>

guidance be postponed until other key guidelines had been adopted and initial testing had been completed, ideally by multiple Parties. Another representative disagreed, however, saying that the guidance was important and should be adopted immediately, as it could always be updated in the future to reflect links with other documents.

244. Several representatives voiced support for continued work under the partnership. One encouraged the partnership to implement the activities planned for the upcoming biennium and to share ideas on potential additional topics for future consideration, and another reported that the testing of six of the ten modules of the guidance in her country had indicated the need for sustainable financing mechanisms and promotion of an integrated municipal solid waste management system, adding that the findings of testing would be forwarded to the Secretariat to serve as input for improving the guidelines.

245. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Parties, to prepare a revised version of part III of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

246. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of part III of the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat. The decision text would be part III of an omnibus decision on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

247. Part III of decision BC-15/22, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, entitled “Household Waste Partnership”, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

4. Plastic Waste Partnership

248. The representative of the Secretariat presented the information in document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1 pertaining to the Plastic Waste Partnership, recalling that in decision BC-14/13, the Conference of the Parties had established a working group of the partnership, adopted terms of reference for the partnership and requested the working group to implement the work plan for the biennium 2020–2021.

249. Mr. Ole Thommas Thommesen (Norway), co-chair of the working group of the Plastic Waste Partnership, reported on the activities undertaken by the working group with financial support from the European Union and the Governments of Canada, Germany, Japan, Norway and Switzerland, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/36.

250. During the discussion, several representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the progress made by the working group of the Plastic Waste Partnership. There was general support for the draft decision but several minor amendments were proposed, including reference to the project groups established by the Partnership working group.

251. Several representatives underscored the importance of providing input to the intergovernmental negotiating committee tasked with developing an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, which had a mandate to include non-governmental stakeholders in developing solutions. One also stressed the need for links among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions with the goal of covering the entire plastics life cycle in order to properly manage recycling and minimize toxicity.

252. One representative asked that consideration of future activities be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the partnership and urged Parties and observers to join the partnership, especially those from industry, who could provide valuable input.

253. The Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of part IV of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

254. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised version of part IV of the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat. The decision text would be part IV of an omnibus decision on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

255. Part IV of decision BC-15/22, on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, entitled “Plastic Waste Partnership”, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

F. Financial resources

256. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 258 and 259 below are replicated in section V.F of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section V.G of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

Financial resources under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

257. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that in line with decision SC-7/22, the Secretariat had continued to take the integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste as a reference in its mandated activities and its support for the Parties to the three conventions. The Secretariat had also continued to participate in the internal task team of the Special Programme and had attended as an observer the first and second meetings of the Executive Board of the Special Programme. A report on the implementation of the Special Programme was contained in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/38–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/38.

258. The representative of UNEP delivered a statement on the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The Special Programme had been established in 2015 as part of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste. While the Special Programme was not part of the financial mechanism under the conventions, it played a complementary role to support their implementation, while taking care to avoid the duplication of efforts and resources. Following the decision of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend its duration, the Special Programme would be open to receive voluntary contributions and applications for funding until September 2027 and to disburse funds until 2030. The Special Programme had enjoyed strong donor support and had thus far completed five rounds of funding, which had enabled it to support a wide range of projects in promoting national government ownership of the chemicals and waste management agenda. Areas addressed by the projects supported the implementation of obligations under the respective conventions, including reporting obligations, and a wide range of cross-cutting activities, including the development of legislation, stakeholder coordination and capacity-building. The sixth round of funding was currently open with a closing date of 12 August 2022, and the secretariat of the Special Programme would be conducting online webinars for prospective applicants in the coming weeks.

259. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided.

G. Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2022–2023

260. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the draft work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2022–2023, which had been prepared based on comments submitted in response to the call for information issued following the online segment of the current meeting, in July 2021, and presented as an annex to the draft decision set out in paragraph 6 of document UNEP/CHW/15/19. She indicated that the draft work programme would be revised further, as appropriate, to reflect the decisions adopted at the current meeting.

261. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries proposed that the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, which would normally be held prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, be held after the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Given the unusually short intersessional period, removing the Open-ended Working Group meeting from the schedule would leave time for more significant progress to be made on the programme of work.

262. Several representatives indicated their willingness to consider the proposal. One noted that the intersessional schedule was indeed already quite full, with two meetings of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution that some delegations would also participate in.

263. Many representatives, however, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, spoke in favour of holding the Open-ended Working Group meeting before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The reasons cited included the structural nature of Open-ended Working Group meetings, which acted as a key milestone, facilitating Parties' preparation for and participation in meetings of the Conference of the Parties; the importance of making progress on technical guidelines and other technical and strategic matters at meetings of the Open-ended Working Group; and the importance of respecting the established intersessional process in order to secure engagement and advance issues under the Convention.

264. There were also suggestions to ease the burden of holding the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group during the intersessional period by limiting the agenda to high-priority issues, using a hybrid format, making the meeting shorter than usual and holding the meeting just before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

265. Although the discussion mainly revolved around the timing of the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, one representative, in his remarks made on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the programme of work proposed for the biennium 2022–2023, and another flagged a possible need to amend the text of the work programme if the proposed amendment to the annexes of the Convention relating to e-waste were to be adopted at the current meeting.

266. The Conference of the Parties agreed to the President's proposal for him to hold consultations with representatives from the regions to determine a way forward on the matter.

267. Following discussions with the regional groups, the President proposed holding the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in Geneva, as an in-person meeting only, for a duration of three days in the week commencing 20 February 2023. The Secretariat would prepare a draft work programme for the Open-ended Working Group identifying the priority of each activity listed therein for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

268. One representative said that the Conference of the Parties should consider the option of the arrangements for the meeting in a hybrid format as, owing to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there was a possibility that the chosen delegation of a Party would not be able to attend in person. He said that all Parties should be able to participate fully and inclusively in meetings. There was some discussion regarding the cost of the online element of convening the meeting in a hybrid format.

269. The Conference of the Parties decided that the same conditions for online participation as agreed by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties for the 2022 face-to-face segment of the meeting would apply to the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, namely that online participation in the meeting would be allowed upon request to the Secretariat by a Party or an observer, in the following cases, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Registered delegates of a Party or observer organization that faced COVID-19 restrictions that prevented any representative of the Party² or organization attending the meeting in person;

(b) A registered delegate of a Party or observer tested positive for COVID-19 upon departure, arrival or during the meeting and was thus prevented from entering the venue; if he or she was the only delegate from that particular Party or observer present in the meeting.

270. Subsequently, the President invited the Conference of the Parties to consider a revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat which included a priority level for each activity in the work programme to support planning for the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, in case there was insufficient time to consider all the activities at that meeting.

271. The Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat, on the understanding that the Secretariat would finalize it and ensure that all the relevant activities set out in the decisions adopted at the current meeting would be reflected therein.

272. Decision BC-15/23, on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

273. The Conference of the Parties elected the following representatives as members of the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023:

Co-Chairs: Ms. Chenibet Hala (Algeria) (Technical)

² This does not include representatives of permanent missions in Geneva.

Mr. Nawaf Essam Bilasi (Saudi Arabia) (Legal)

Vice-Chairs: Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay) (Technical)

Mr. Patrick McKell (United Kingdom) (Legal)

Rapporteur: Ms. Katrin Kaare (Estonia)

V. International cooperation and coordination (agenda item 5)

274. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 278 to 283 and 286 to 298 below are replicated in section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

A. Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury

275. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.15/20–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/20, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The document presented information on activities undertaken in response to decisions BC-14/22, RC-9/10 and SC-9/20, and decisions MC-2/7 and MC-3/11 of the Minamata Convention, on cooperation between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention. In line with those decisions, a task force comprising the two secretariats and the Chemicals and Health Branch of UNEP had been set up to enhance cooperation and coordination, and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had provided relevant services to the Minamata Convention secretariat on a cost recovery basis. Cooperation between the two secretariats continued on programmatic, substantive and cross-cutting issues, including through the regional centres, as described in a joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/23–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/44). A report by the joint task force on programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme was available in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/67–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/46–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/43. Proposed action for consideration by each of the conferences of the Parties was set out in paragraph 11 of document UNEP/CHW.15/20–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/20.

276. Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, delivered a statement on cooperation between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention. Cooperation had increased over the previous intersessional period on a broad array of programmatic issues, including mercury waste, environmentally sound management, provision of technical assistance and financial resources, compliance, effectiveness evaluation, and legal and administrative issues, including the organization and servicing of meetings of the conferences of the Parties. Mercury wastes was an important area of collaboration, and the Minamata Convention secretariat had contributed to the process for the updating of the Basel Convention's technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds. In turn, the Basel Convention had made a valuable contribution to the work under the Minamata Convention to establish thresholds for mercury wastes. Opportunities for collaboration and linkages with the climate change and biodiversity agendas were also being explored. The implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session on the sound management of chemicals and waste and on the establishment of a science-policy panel to support action on chemicals, waste and pollution offered further opportunities for collaboration and would help raise the profile of the chemicals and waste cluster in the broader environmental agenda.

277. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives spoke of the importance and value of ensuring cooperation and collaboration between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention, and expressed appreciation for ongoing efforts to build further synergies between the conventions in a broad range of areas. A number of representatives alluded to the savings in terms of costs and resources that could be gained through such cooperation,

including in the area of shared services. Several said that collaboration would assist Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the conventions, with positive impacts on waste management, human health and environmental sustainability. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the establishment of a task force comprising the two secretariats and the Chemicals and Health Branch, which had continued its work to develop specific areas of programmatic cooperation between the three entities.

278. One representative said that benefit would be gained in extending the framework of cooperation and coordination to other relevant organizations, such as FAO and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). He also urged the Secretariat to explore linkages with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the regional centres could play a complementary role in maximizing the use of limited resources. Some representatives called for greater synergies between activities at the national level, taking advantage of lessons learned. One representative cited the Chemicals Observatory for Africa project as an example of what could be achieved through synergistic action.

279. There was support for the adoption of a draft decision on the matter, which would assist in further enhancing cooperation and making the work of the four conventions more effective. The representative of the European Union introduced a conference room paper, submitted by the European Union and its member States, Ghana, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Switzerland and Uruguay, proposing amendments to the text of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/20–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/20. The proposed amendments were aimed at reflecting recent developments, including decision MC-4/9 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention during the in-person segment of its fourth meeting, held in Bali in March 2022, which sought to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the Minamata Convention and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

280. The conferences of the Parties agreed to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/20–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/20, as amended in the conference room paper submitted by the European Union and its member States, Jordan, Ghana, Mali, Norway, Switzerland and Uruguay.

281. Decision BC-15/24, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, 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 cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-10/13 and SC-10/20, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1), respectively.

B. Cooperation and coordination with other organizations

283. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.15/21/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/17/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/21/Rev.1, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations. The document presented the activities undertaken in response to the requests set out in the 2019 decisions of the conferences of the Parties on international cooperation and coordination, including within the chemicals and waste cluster and with the broader environmental and sustainable development agendas. Further information on specific international cooperative activities was set out in various documents, including a report on cooperative activities undertaken by the Secretariat from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2021 (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45); joint studies by the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention on linkages between the conventions and biodiversity and climate change, respectively (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48 and UNEP/CHW.15/INF/45–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COPS.10/INF/49); a report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on programmatic cooperation (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/56/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/25/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/46/Rev.1); an update on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals

and waste beyond 2020 (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/43–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/47); information on the outcome of the follow-up by the United Nations Environment Programme to General Assembly resolution 73/333 (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/66–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/47–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/69); and a report by the joint task force on programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/67–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/46–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/43).

284. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination with other international organizations, and expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Secretariat in that regard. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, alluded to the benefits of such cooperation, including minimization of duplication and more efficient use of limited resources, with ultimate benefits for human health and the environment. A number of representatives expressed the hope that synergistic approaches would assist them in dealing with the pollution and waste challenges afflicting their countries. One representative said that a dedicated, sustainable, accessible, predictable and non-political mechanism for sound management was a crucial element in assisting developing countries to fulfil their commitments. One representative said that cooperation with other organizations could assist in developing methodologies for indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals.

285. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that strengthening international cooperation and coordination, particularly within the chemicals and waste cluster, was as important as that between the three conventions, and was of relevance for all organizations involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was essential that the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions participate in the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare for the intergovernmental negotiating committee to end plastic pollution and the ad hoc open-ended working group on the science-policy panel to support action on chemicals, waste and pollution launched at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, thereby providing expertise and promoting complementarity. Also of importance was the Secretariat's work to promote synergies with other policy areas, including biodiversity and climate change. Lastly, she expressed regret that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had not yet been invited to become participants in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

286. A number of other representatives supported a broad approach to cooperation, including in the areas of pollution, waste management, plastics, the science-policy interface, biodiversity, climate change, shifting production and consumption patterns, and artisanal and small-scale gold mining. Support for the ad hoc working groups on plastics and the science-policy interface was seen as crucial. Organizations and entities with which the Secretariat could beneficially engage included FAO, SAICM and WHO. One representative said that synergy between the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions could help control the dumping of hazardous wastes in Africa.

287. There was support for the adoption of a draft decision on the matter. The representative of the European Union introduced a conference room paper submitted by the European Union and its member States, Ghana, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Switzerland and Uruguay proposing amendments to the text of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/21/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/17/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/21/Rev.1.

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

289. The representative of UNEP presented the Programme's work in support of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as set out in the updated report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the conferences of the Parties (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/56/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/25/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/46/Rev.1). She highlighted the long-standing collaboration between UNEP and the Secretariat under the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership; the leadership role played by UNEP in its implementation of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT and its administration of the secretariat function for the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network; and its technical assistance and capacity-building activities for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries. Furthermore, UNEP was contributing on various fronts to the improvement of data generation, collection and use under the Stockholm Convention and to the elimination of persistent organic pollutants, including newly listed persistent organic pollutants. It was also involved in helping small island developing States to improve their chemical- and waste-management capabilities and in regional cooperation projects addressing,

for example, plastic and COVID-related wastes and persistent organic pollutants. She referred to the tools and approaches that supported the implementation of all three conventions, including the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) hosted by UNEP. She emphasized that the outcomes of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly would further facilitate implementation efforts, including through the establishment of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution; the extension of the duration of the Special Programme for a period of five years; and the future framework to address the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

290. The Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes explained that, in his 2021 report entitled “Right to science in the context of toxic substances” (A/HRC/48/61), he had analysed the critical role of science-policy interface platforms and had found that the Rotterdam Convention was failing to translate the advice of its own scientific committee into controls on hazardous substances. In his report entitled “The stages of the plastics cycle and their impacts on human rights” (see A/76/207), he had welcomed decision BC-14/12 on amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention, known as the “plastic wastes amendments”, but had highlighted some challenges to its implementation. The report had also identified serious gaps in the treatment of electronic waste under the Basel Convention. In addition, he highlighted inadequate action to address highly hazardous pesticides and illegal traffic in hazardous wastes. Recalling that, in October 2021, the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 48/13, had, for the first time at the global level, recognized the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, he advocated the use by the chemicals and waste cluster of a human-rights-based approach that both minimized the impact of and prevented exposure to hazardous substances. Within such an approach the following elements were crucial: access to information; remedy for those who had suffered harm; and the participation of civil society in the work of compliance committees.

291. The representative of the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns recalled that the aim of the Framework was to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 12 and its related targets relevant to minimizing and preventing plastic waste. He noted that the report *Global Chemicals Outlook II: From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* referred to consumer demand as a driver of change, stressing that it was in that connection that the Framework provided support to the three conventions. It fostered partnerships involving all stakeholders and brought approaches based on sustainable consumption and production and circularity to sectors such as the food industry, tourism, buildings and construction. He stressed the need, at the national level, for closer collaboration among the focal points of the three conventions and national focal points for sustainable consumption and production.

292. The representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights underscored that the most vulnerable people on the planet were disproportionately affected by the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. She recalled the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, pursuant to resolution 48/13 of the Human Rights Council, which had found echoes in the resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session and the key recommendations of Stockholm+50. Environmental action that was human-rights-based was not only an obligation under human rights law, but also a more effective approach, as had been pointed out in *Global Chemicals Outlook II*. She highlighted the close collaboration of the Office with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the publication *Human Rights and Hazardous Substances: Key Messages* and within the UNEP-OHCHR community of practice.

293. The representative of IOMC said that the Programme had taken note of the invitation, made by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to the participating organizations of IOMC to consider inviting the conventions to become members of the programme. After referring to the letter of 7 April 2022 from the chair of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention on the status of related discussions, as set out document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41/Add.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24/Add.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45/Add.1, she confirmed that the matter had been discussed at the recent IOMC meeting, where progress had been made. Additional progress was expected during the remainder of 2022, and she expressed the hope that a positive outcome would be forthcoming.

294. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on joint issues, to be co-chaired by Mr. Artak Khachatryan (Armenia) and Mr. Hassan Azhar (Maldives). The group was mandated to prepare a revised draft decision on international cooperation and

coordination with other organizations, using as a basis the text provided in the conference room paper submitted by the European Union and its member States, Ghana, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Peru, Switzerland and Uruguay, taking into account the discussion in plenary. Further mandates on joint issues might be added to the contact group as needed.

295. One representative said that his country supported the draft decision prepared by the joint contact group on joint issues but, drawing attention to the paragraph regarding the role and activities of the World Health Organization, noted that only the delegation of his country to the World Health Assembly was in a position to confirm his country's view on the role and activities of the World Health Organization.

296. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision prepared by the joint contact group on joint issues.

297. Decision BC-15/25, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, 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 international cooperation and coordination with other organizations that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-10/14 and SC-10/21, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1), respectively.

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

299. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 303 to 306, 310 to 322 and 326 to 332 below are replicated in section VII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section VII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

A. Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

300. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, in 2019, the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to continue work to implement the clearing-house strategy and the activities of the workplan for the biennium 2020–2021; the progress made by the Secretariat in that regard was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/22–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/22. New activities for the provision of access to information had been made possible thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union and Norway. Taking into account the process outlined in the clearing-house mechanism strategy, the Secretariat had prepared a workplan for the biennium 2022–2023, which was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/50.

301. Several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, took the floor to emphasize the benefits of the clearing-house mechanism, to commend the efforts of the Secretariat in implementing the strategy and to express support for the workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2022–2023. One of the representatives speaking on behalf of a group of countries stressed the importance of the mechanism and of information exchange in providing new officials in his region with a better understanding of the conventions, which in turn assisted their implementation efforts.

302. Highlighting how the mechanism promoted complementarity and prevented duplication among the three conventions, and the Minamata Convention, another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, nevertheless said that it was important to ensure a balance between the resources allocated to it and the ambitions of the planned activities. She thus agreed that it was judicious to prioritize activities focusing on the maintenance of existing systems.

303. Another representative pointed out that the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange could be effective only if Parties' risk-assessment and laboratory capacities were sufficiently developed. He therefore called for capacity-building support in that respect.

304. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/22–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/22.

305. Decision BC-15/26, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

306. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-10/15 and SC-10/22, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1), respectively.

B. Mainstreaming gender

307. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, in decisions BC-13/20, RC-8/13 and SC-8/23, on mainstreaming gender, the Secretariat had been requested to report to the conferences of the Parties, at their meetings in 2019 and at subsequent meetings, on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to continue its efforts in respect of gender mainstreaming in its activities, projects and programmes.

308. Document UNEP/CHW.15/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/23 set out information on efforts by the Secretariat to implement the Gender Action Plan and to mainstream gender in its activities, projects and programmes. Thanks to the generous financial contribution received from the Government of Sweden, the Secretariat had been able to conduct further activities under its Gender Action Plan, including training workshops, the development of case studies and the production of a documentary film. Document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/31–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/51 provided further information on the gender-related activities undertaken by the Secretariat.

309. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, took the floor to stress the importance of gender equality and gender balance for the implementation of the conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Some of them stressed that equality was a human rights issue and should be approached as such. One of them welcomed in particular the 2021 reports of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes in that regard.

310. Many representatives also welcomed the achievements of the Secretariat in implementing the Gender Action Plan and the work done to incorporate gender considerations into its activities, projects and programmes. One representative proposed the conduct of additional case studies focusing on the impact of chemicals and waste pollution according to gender. Another representative advocated the holding of training programmes and seminars on chemicals and waste that took gender-related considerations into account. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the importance of maintaining the current momentum on gender and encouraged all Parties and stakeholders to incorporate gender considerations into their implementation of the three conventions. Another representative reiterated her support for the request for the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan at the following meetings of conferences of the Parties and said that she looked forward to seeing further updates to the plan.

311. One representative noted the progress made in improving gender equality within the Secretariat itself, including the staff gender-equality training sessions and the gender balance within the Secretariat staff. She expressed the desire to see that balance extended to the participants in the meetings of the conferences of the Parties and committees.

312. The conferences of the Parties took note of the updated Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and requested the Secretariat to report on its implementation to the conferences of the Parties at their subsequent meetings.

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

313. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, at their 2019 meetings, had requested the Secretariat to develop, taking into account lessons learned from experience with the Basel Convention, a draft form and explanatory document to enable Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to voluntarily provide information about cases of trade occurring in contravention of those conventions. The revised forms for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/52.

314. Furthermore, the Secretariat had been tasked with preparing recommendations concerning opportunities for strengthened cooperation for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. An overview of the information collected from Parties and stakeholders on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes was set out in the annex to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/48–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/53. Section III of the annex provided recommendations concerning opportunities for strengthening cooperation. She then drew attention to draft decision in the note by the Secretariat on the synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and waste set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/24–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/24.

315. All the representatives who took the floor noted the fundamental importance of preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes. Several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft decision.

316. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the need for greater cooperation with other international conventions and global and regional enforcement organizations. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that the proposed decision could help achieve the objectives of the Bali declaration on combating the illegal trade in mercury, which had been adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury at the in-person segment of its fourth meeting, in April 2022. Furthermore, underlined the importance of an improved mechanism for sharing information among Parties.

317. Many representatives, noting that the illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes disproportionately affected developing countries and countries with economies in transition, emphasized the need for continuing technical and financial assistance, as well as capacity-building, to enable those countries to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade. Technical needs identified included training for customs officials and border guards, assistance in identifying chemicals and laboratory analysis at border controls, assistance in completing the proposed forms and establishing national coordination mechanisms and response plans. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that all those in the value chain needed to face the consequences of illegal traffic and trade, including the countries of origin, which were often developed countries. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the consequences for companies found to be engaging in illegal traffic and trade should be more punitive than simply listing the Parties involved on the website of the conventions.

318. One representative said that as the proposed voluntary form to be completed by Parties would likely include information on other Parties as the countries of origin or transit countries, all Parties mentioned on the form should be asked to verify the information before it was published on the website of the conventions. He looked forward to discussing the issue in the contact group.

319. The conferences of the Parties agreed to refer further discussion of the matter to the joint contact group on joint issues. The group was mandated to prepare draft decisions based on the proposed action set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/24–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/24, taking into account the discussion in plenary. Furthermore, consistency needed to be ensured with the draft decisions considered under agenda item 4 (c) (iii) of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic (UNEP/CHW.15/14), and item 5 (a) of the agenda of the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention on the status of implementation of the Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/4).

320. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision prepared by the joint contact group on joint issues.

321. Decision BC-15/27, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

322. 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, parts of which were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-10/16 and SC-10/23, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1), respectively.

D. From science to action

323. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.15/25–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/25. She recalled that, at their meetings in 2015, 2017 and 2019, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had recognized the importance of the science-policy interface for the effectiveness of the conventions and the need for greater access to scientific understanding in developing countries to enhance informed decision-making on the implementation of the conventions. At their 2019 meetings, the conferences of the Parties had taken note of the road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions and had encouraged Parties and others to initiate action that promoted the implementation of the road map.

324. The information submitted by Parties on actions being undertaken to promote the implementation of the road map was set out in annex II to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/49/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/36/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/54/Rev.1. A document prepared by the Secretariat entitled “From Science to Action under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions” was set out in annex III to the same document.

325. The representative of the Secretariat also recalled that, at its fifth session, in resolution 5/8, the United Nations Environment Assembly had decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution.

326. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, took the floor to welcome the efforts of the Secretariat, Parties and others to promote the implementation of the road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions, and to support the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/25–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/25.

327. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested the inclusion in the draft decision of a reference to Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 so that the Secretariat would be requested specifically to continue to cooperate and coordinate with UNEP in that context. The importance of the new panel was stressed by many other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of group of countries, and they expressed support for the proposal. In relation to the advent of the new panel, another representative underscored the need to respect the mandate of existing bodies, such as the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the effectiveness evaluation committee.

328. The importance of capacity-building and training was stressed by many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group, in order to enable Parties to take science-based action in the implementation the conventions. Technical assistance was requested specifically to assist Parties in the development of national action plans and in the identification of their needs in relation to increasing the availability of scientific and technical information and to strengthening their capacities to use such information for the implementation of the conventions. A number of representatives thanked the Secretariat and donors for their capacity-building efforts to date.

329. One representative requested the publication of the science to action document in Spanish so that Spanish-speaking Parties could benefit fully from it, while another representative called on the Secretariat to organize its next training session in his region.

330. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/25–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/25, as orally amended.

331. Decision BC-15/28, entitled “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.

332. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions entitled “From science to action”, which were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-10/17 and SC-10/24, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1), respectively.

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

333. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 337 to 348 below are replicated in section VIII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section VIII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

334. Introducing the item, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions recalled that, during the online segments of their current meetings, the conferences of the Parties had approved interim programmes of work and budgets for the first year of the biennium 2022–2023 and supplementary budgets to enable the convening, in 2022, of meetings of the conferences of the Parties and subsidiary bodies that had not been held during the biennium 2020–2021 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

335. In decisions BC-14/29, RC-9/17 and SC-9/27 adopted in May 2019 and decisions BC-15/02, RC-10/3 and SC-10/4 adopted at the online segment of the current meetings, in July 2021, the conferences of the Parties had requested the executive secretaries to prepare two revised budget scenarios for the biennium 2022–2023: one based on the executive secretaries’ assessment of the required changes in the operational budgets; and one that maintained the operational budget at the 2020–2021 level in nominal terms. The executive secretaries’ scenario largely represented a continuation of the programmes of work approved for the biennium 2020–2021, with the average increase across all the conventions amounting to 4.3 per cent. Under the zero nominal growth scenario, significant reductions in activities funded from the general trust fund would be required, owing to standard annual increases in staff costs.

336. The Executive Secretary reported with appreciation, however, that donors had been coming forward with additional support for voluntary funded programmes of work activities, especially for Basel Convention activities related to plastic and marine litter, thereby enabling the executive secretaries to propose increases in the budget for the voluntary funded activities in both scenarios.

337. Continuing the introduction to the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the documents relating to the programme of work had been revised following the online segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties, in order to take into account the outcomes of the segment and other relevant developments. The revised combined proposal for the programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2022–2023 for the three conventions was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/26/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/22/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/26/Rev.1, while the budget tables were presented in the document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/53/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/34/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/57/Rev.1. In addition, revised fact sheets with detailed information on programme of work activities were set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1.

338. The representative of the Secretariat recalled that, in the decisions taken at the online segments, the conferences of the Parties had requested the executive secretaries to include in the revised proposal for the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023 information on the savings made owing to the COVID-19 pandemic and, in full consultation with the Parties, to submit a proposal on the allocation of those savings for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at the 2022 face-to-face segment of their meetings. The responses from Parties to a letter thereon sent by the Secretariat were set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/71/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/50/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/73/Rev.1. The proposals regarding

the allocation of the savings were set out in documents UNEP/CHW.15/INF/55/Rev.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/37/Rev.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/59/Rev.1.

339. Giving further information about the increase in Parties' arrears, the representative of the Secretariat said that, as at 27 May 2022, the total arrears for all three conventions amounted to almost \$3.5 million from 92 Parties to the Basel Convention, 79 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 92 Parties to the Stockholm Convention, representing approximately 23 per cent of the total budget for the three conventions for 2022.

340. Drawing attention to the information on voluntary contributions to the conventions during the biennium 2020–2021, which was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/57/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/39/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/60/Rev.1, she thanked the Governments of Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, and the European Union, the Norwegian Retailers Environment Fund and FAO for their generous contributions during the biennium 2020–2021. Thanks to the contributions of China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, approximately 290 delegates had received funding to participate in the current meetings. Information on the financial and in-kind support from the FAO Regular Programme budget to the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat in 2020–2021 was contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/37/Rev.1, and information on the activities to be implemented, funded or co-funded during the biennium 2022–2023 using the FAO contribution was contained in annex IV to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/53/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/34/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/57/Rev.1.

341. It was recalled that pursuant to rule 7 of the respective financial rules of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, each Conference of the Parties had to reimburse UNEP for the services provided to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat. The charge, which was in accordance with the general policy of United Nations, took the form of a programme support cost charged at the standard rate of 13 per cent on expenditure. Income from programme support costs had fluctuated and failed to meet the level of expenses associated with the Secretariat staff salaries and with other UNEP costs for the provision of administrative and support services. That situation had placed a strain on the resources available to ensure the adequate staffing of the Secretariat's administration and hampered the ability of UNEP to meet the expenses incurred in administering the Secretariat. The conferences of the Parties would need to address the issue.

342. Finally, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to documents UNEP/CHW.15/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/28 and UNEP/CHW.15/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/3, in which, pursuant to decision BC-14/28, the Secretariat had assessed the relevance for the conventions of existing guidelines developed by the United Nations system on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors, such as private sector entities, non-governmental organizations and development banks, to inform possible future arrangements on the matter.

343. In the ensuing discussion, all those who expressed a preference for one of the two scenarios stated that they either supported the executive secretaries' scenario or a version of that scenario with some cost-saving modifications that would be discussed by the contact group. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the increasing intersessional workload under the mandates of the three conventions and their growing cooperative work with other entities needed to be funded adequately. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the economic challenges faced by many developing countries owing to the pandemic and expressed concern at the lack of financial support for the travel costs of participants from certain developing countries that were members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the ensuing detrimental effect on the principle of universality of participation. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that the level of arrears remained a concern, and one expressed regret that the arrears were currently causing a negative cash balance, despite the considerable cost savings made during the pandemic.

344. The conferences of the Parties re-established the joint contact group on budget matters for the three conventions, to be co-chaired by Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana) and Mr. Reginald Hernaes (Netherlands), which would be open to Party representatives only. The group was mandated to develop draft revised programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2022–2023 and the related draft decisions, based on the draft texts set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/26/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/22/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/26/Rev.1, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

345. The conferences of the Parties took note of the information provided on the mobilization of resources under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions from non-State actors contained in document UNEP/CHW.15/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/28.

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

347. Decision BC-15/30, on the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2022–2023, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

348. 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 2022–2023. Decisions RC-10/19 and SC-10/26, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1), respectively

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

349. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 353 to 355 below are replicated in section IX of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section IX of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

350. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said that the three memorandums of understanding had been adopted by the respective conferences of the Parties during their 2019 meetings. Pursuant to the respective memorandum of understanding, the Executive Director of UNEP and, in the case of the Rotterdam Convention, the Director-General of FAO were to submit to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding. Since the 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, the Executive Director of UNEP had approved a new delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/58–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/40–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/61. The updated report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the respective conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the implementation of the memorandums of understanding was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/63/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/44/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/65/Rev.1, while the updated report of FAO to the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/26/Rev.1. Additional relevant information was set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/26/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/22/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/26/Rev.1.

351. Following the introduction, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Secretariat, UNEP and FAO for the reports of the implementation of the memorandums of understanding. Another representative welcomed the report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the implementation of the memorandums of understanding and took note of the new delegation of authority policy and framework, expressing particular support for the proposal that the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions be involved in the decision-making and action-taking process of the Executive Director of UNEP in matters related to the policy framework or operation of the conventions or the Secretariat.

352. The conferences of the Parties took note of the updated report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the Conference of the Parties and the updated report of the Director-General of FAO to the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding, and also took note of the new delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats administered by UNEP.

IX. Venue and date of the resumed fifteenth meeting and of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 9)

353. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 357 to 362 below are replicated in section X of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section X of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

354. Introducing the item, the representative of Secretariat recalled that the rules of procedure of the three conferences of the Parties provided for their meetings to take place at the seat of the Secretariat unless other appropriate arrangements were made. In addition, the conferences of the Parties had decided in 2017 that high-level segments would occur only at every second set of meetings of the conferences of the Parties, meaning that no specific arrangements had been made regarding a high-level segment, as the 2023 meetings were not expected to feature such a segment. Although the Secretariat had begun preparations to hold the 2023 meetings in Geneva in the absence of any offers to host them, it had subsequently received an offer on 7 June 2022 from the Government of the Bahamas.

355. The representative of the Bahamas said that hosting the 2023 meetings would be a great honour for his country, in particular as the Bahamas was a small island developing State that would be marking 50 years of independence in 2023 and had hosted the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1994.

356. All the representatives who took the floor expressed support for accepting the offer of the Bahamas to host the 2023 meetings. Several representatives from the Latin American and Caribbean region, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it would be particularly pleasing if the meetings were held in their region.

357. The conferences of the Parties agreed to request that the Secretariat prepare a revised draft decision based on the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/33–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/34 and the discussion in plenary.

358. Subsequently, the conferences of the Parties adopted a draft decision prepared by the Secretariat.

359. In response to a query from one representative, the representative of the Secretariat confirmed that, although a period of at least 18 months was usually required to prepare for meetings of the conferences of the Parties, there was precedence for preparations to be achieved in a shorter time frame.

360. Decision BC-15/29, on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

361. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Decisions RC-10/18 and SC-10/25, 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 tenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1), respectively.

X. Other matters (agenda item 10)

Admission of observers

362. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 366 to 368 below are replicated in section XI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its tenth meeting

(UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/28/Add.1) and section XI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its tenth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.10/33/Add.1).

363. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the procedure by which a body or agency applied for admission as an observer to a Conference of the Parties. The lists of bodies or agencies making requests to be represented as observers in each meeting of a Conference of the Parties since the last meetings in 2019 and that met the relevant criteria were contained in, for the Basel Convention document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/70, for the Rotterdam Convention document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/38, and for the Stockholm Convention document UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/8. Following the issuance of those documents, the Secretariat had received requests from two entities that it had verified met the relevant criteria in relation to the three conventions.

364. The conferences of the Parties took note of the bodies or agencies making requests for admission as observers to each respective Convention, and requested the Secretariat to continue its current practices in that regard.

365. There were no further matters.

XI. Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

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

XII. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)

367. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 5.20 p.m. on Friday, 17 June 2022.

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting (face-to-face segment)

- BC-15/3: Strategic framework
- BC-15/4: Addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment
- BC-15/5: Developing guidelines for environmentally sound management
- BC-15/6: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants
- BC-15/7: 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-15/8: Technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5)
- BC-15/9: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds
- BC-15/10: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes
- BC-15/11: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and on other waste batteries
- BC-15/12: Cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
- BC-15/13: National reporting
- BC-15/14: Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents
- BC-15/15: Further consideration of plastic waste
- BC-15/16: Waste containing nanomaterials
- BC-15/17: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance
- BC-15/18: Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention
- BC-15/19: Providing further legal clarity
- BC-15/20: National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic
- BC-15/21: Technical assistance
- BC-15/22: Basel Convention Partnership Programme
- BC-15/23: Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023
- BC-15/24: Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- BC-15/25: International cooperation and coordination with other organizations
- BC-15/26: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange
- BC-15/27: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes
- BC-15/28: From science to action
- BC-15/29: Dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- BC-15/30: Programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2022–2023

BC-15/3: Strategic framework

The Conference of the Parties,

I

Strategic framework

Mindful that the recommendations in the report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal for the period 2012–2021¹ that pertain to specific items on the agenda of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties are addressed in the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at that meeting and reflected in the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2022–2023,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal for the period 2012–2021;²
2. *Notes* the lack of data and consequent limitations of the report mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present decision, related in particular to the low rate of response by Parties to the baseline and final evaluation questionnaires and the low level of submission to the Secretariat of annual national reports by Parties, as well as other obstacles encountered by the Secretariat and the small intersessional working group established in paragraph 6 of decision BC-13/1 in preparing the final evaluation, including the lack of consistency between the objectives, goals and indicators of the strategic framework;
3. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Secretariat and the small intersessional working group to mitigate both the impact of the lack of data and the fact that information sources were not defined at the time of the setting of the objectives, goals and indicators of the strategic framework by identifying and using additional information sources in order to obtain a more complete picture of the progress achieved under the strategic framework;
4. *Decides* to improve, as appropriate, the strategic framework for the period 2012–2021, taking into account the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework as reflected in the decisions adopted at its fifteenth meeting and on the lessons learned in the preparation of the report,³ especially those pertaining to technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer and cooperation, including through strengthened and coordinated actions of regional centres;
5. *Also decides* that the small intersessional working group will continue its work and be open to all Parties inviting representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations, and to observers, including the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;
6. *Further decides* that the small intersessional working group will hold at least one face-to-face meeting, subject to the availability of resources, and will also work by electronic means;
7. *Expresses its appreciation* to Canada for agreeing to serve as a lead country for the activities identified in paragraph 4 of the present decision;
8. *Requests* the small intersessional working group, pursuant to paragraph 4 of the present decision, to:
 - (a) Develop findings and recommendations to improve, as appropriate, the strategic framework for the period 2012–2021;
 - (b) Present a draft of its findings and recommendations for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;
 - (c) Present recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, taking into account the outcome of the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group;

¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/5, annex, and UNEP/CHW.15/3/Add.1, annex.

² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/5, annex.

³ For example, the reports of meetings of the small intersessional working group and submissions from Parties, which are available at <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/StrategicFramework/Overview/tabid/3807/Default.aspx>.

II

Work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure

9. *Recognizes* that the prior informed consent procedure has been successfully used by some Parties to the Basel Convention since its entry into force;
10. *Notes* that the Parties having used the prior informed consent procedure may, over time, have developed best practices for its use that could benefit other Parties in their implementation of the procedure;
11. *Notes with concern*, however, that challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure increasingly hinder the transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes and their environmentally sound management, for exporting, transit and importing Parties, especially for island countries and developing countries;
12. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 November 2022, information on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and on best practices, possible approaches, initiatives and views to improve the functioning of the procedure, recognizing that developing countries face increasing challenges in implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and that they need further financial and technical assistance and capacity-building to address those challenges;⁴
13. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available the information received pursuant to paragraph 12 of the present decision on the website of the Convention and to prepare a compilation and synthesis of the information received, subject to the availability of resources, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;
14. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting, on the basis of its consideration of the compilation and synthesis of information referred to in paragraph 13 of the present decision, to develop draft recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

⁴ <http://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/NeedsAssessment/tabid/4898/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

BC-15/4: Addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the entry into force of the amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, set out in decision III/1, known as the “Ban Amendment”,

1. *Calls upon* Parties that have not yet done so to ratify the Ban Amendment;
2. *Invites* Parties to continue to take action towards encouraging and assisting others to ratify and implement the Ban Amendment;
3. *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, including through the provision of technical assistance activities.

BC-15/5: Developing guidelines for environmentally sound management

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the practical manual for stakeholders to ensure that notifications of transboundary movements meet environmentally sound management requirements;⁵
2. *Invites* Parties and others to undertake activities to use, promote and disseminate the toolkit on environmentally sound management;
3. *Also invites* Parties and others to provide the Secretariat with information on the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in particular, activities, initiatives and case studies that may promote implementation and complement the toolkit on environmentally sound management, and requests the Secretariat to make such information available on the website of the Basel Convention;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to promote and disseminate the toolkit;
5. *Recalls* decision BC-13/3, in which it invited Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat further good practices and examples with regard to waste prevention and minimization, extends that invitation to 31 December 2022 and requests the Secretariat to make all information received available on the website of the Basel Convention;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and as part of its technical assistance activities on waste prevention and minimization, to work with developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to consider existing good practices and examples received in response to paragraph 5 of the present decision and to develop examples of practices that might address their particular circumstances, building on existing guidance under the Basel Convention.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.15/5/Add.1/Rev.1.

BC-15/6: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the small intersessional working group to the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;
2. *Adopts* the following technical guidelines:
 - (a) General technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;⁶
 - (b) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds;⁷
 - (c) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides aldrin, alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, beta hexachlorocyclohexane, chlordane, chlordecone, dicofol, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorobutadiene, lindane, mirex, pentachlorobenzene, pentachlorophenol and its salts, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, technical endosulfan and its related isomers or toxaphene or with hexachlorobenzene as an industrial chemical;⁸
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision to Parties and others in the six official languages of the United Nations;
4. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group established by paragraph 9 of decision OEWG-I/4 to provide that the group shall monitor and assist in the review, updating and preparation, as appropriate, of technical guidelines regarding persistent organic pollutants, working by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, through face-to-face meetings;
5. *Recognizes* that in some cases provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values have been established at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties and that in other cases knowledge limitations have posed challenges to the setting of such values;
6. *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) of the present decision, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate, before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to establishing low persistent organic pollutant content values for persistent organic pollutants for which no single value has been established;
7. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 October 2022, comments on the low persistent organic pollutant content values included in the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate, and related information, including on studies, taking into account relevant information available in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
8. *Invites* Parties and observers to provide to the Secretariat, by 30 October 2022:
 - (a) Comments on the parts enclosed in square brackets in section IV.G.2 (e) of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision on cement kiln co-incineration;
 - (b) Comments on additional guidance for section IV.G.4 of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision on other disposal methods when the persistent organic pollutant content is low;

⁶ UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.1/Rev.1.

⁷ UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.2/Rev.1.

⁸ UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.3/Rev.1.

(c) Information on further or updated examples of national legislation for inclusion in annex II to the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision, including on any concentration limits, as well as links to online sources where such legislation can be found;

9. *Decides* that the following should be considered in the updating of the general technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 (a) of the present decision and the preparation or updating of specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention by decision SC-10/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and should be included in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023:

(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;

10. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations to indicate to the Secretariat by 31 July 2022 their willingness to take the lead in updating the following technical guidelines, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the present decision:

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

(b) Technical guidelines on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, to include perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, taking into account decision SC-10/9;

11. *Invites* the lead country or countries or lead organization or organizations referred to in paragraph 10 of the present decision, or, if there is no lead country or countries or lead organization or organizations, requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare draft technical guidelines in accordance with paragraph 10 of the present decision, taking into account the comments and information provided pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the present decision, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat:

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

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

(c) To prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a short document that explains how the technical guidelines can be used at the national level, with a view to facilitating the dissemination and use of the technical guidelines, as part of its technical assistance activities;

(d) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

BC-15/7: Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the expert working group to the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention;
2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the expert working group established by paragraph 4 of decision BC-13/5;
3. *Invites* each regional group to reconsider their nomination and nominate, as appropriate, through its Bureau representatives, by 15 August 2022, members of the expert working group with relevant knowledge and expertise, and requests the Secretariat to facilitate the nomination process;
4. *Invites* Parties and others to use and/or test, on a pilot basis, the technical guidelines adopted on an interim basis by decision BC-14/5 and to submit, not later than 31 October 2022, the results of their use and/or testing of the technical guidelines to the Secretariat for the consideration of the expert working group;
5. *Requests* the expert working group, taking into account, inter alia, the comments received in accordance with paragraph 4 of the present decision, to prepare updated technical guidelines, taking into consideration the amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention adopted in decision BC-15/18 and paragraph 4 of decision BC-14/5, and to submit them for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To continue to undertake, subject to the availability of resources, technical assistance activities to support developing-country Parties and other Parties in need of assistance to use the technical guidelines adopted by decision BC-14/5, organizing such activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres or by other appropriate means;
 - (b) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

BC-15/8: Technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the Governments of Argentina, Canada and Japan, as co-lead countries, and the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 6 of decision BC-13/6, to undertake the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and the technical guidelines on specially engineered landfill (D5);

2. *Adopts* the following technical guidelines:

(a) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound incineration of hazardous wastes and other wastes as covered by disposal operations D10 and R1;⁹

(b) Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound disposal of hazardous wastes and other wastes in specially engineered landfill (D5);¹⁰

3. *Notes* that the small intersessional working group on the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5) has successfully completed its work, and decides to disband it;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To disseminate the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision to Parties and others in the six official languages of the United Nations;

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

(c) To prepare, subject to the availability of resources, short documents that explain how the technical guidelines can be used at the national level, with a view to facilitating the dissemination and use of the technical guidelines, as part of its technical assistance activities.

⁹ UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.4/Rev.1.

¹⁰ UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.5/Rev.1.

BC-15/9: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the Government of Japan, as lead country, and the small intersessional working group to the tasks pertaining to technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds;
2. *Adopts* the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds;¹¹
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To disseminate the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision to Parties and others in the six official languages of the United Nations;
 - (b) To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, technical assistance activities to support developing-country Parties and other Parties needing assistance in using the adopted technical guidelines, organizing such activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres or by other appropriate means;
 - (c) To prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a short document that explains how the technical guidelines can be used at the national level, with a view to facilitating the dissemination and use of the technical guidelines, as part of its technical assistance activities.

¹¹ UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.6/Rev.1.

BC-15/10: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contributions made by the Governments of China, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as co-lead countries, and the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 20 of decision BC-14/13 to the tasks pertaining to the technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and for their disposal;
2. *Underscores* the importance of the timely updating of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision and notes the progress achieved during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties towards their finalization, as reflected in the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes;¹²
3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the small intersessional working group established pursuant to paragraph 20 of decision BC-14/13;
4. *Invites* Parties and observers to nominate additional experts to participate in the small intersessional working group, and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations, by 31 July 2022;
5. *Also invites* Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat, by 16 September 2022, general comments and textual proposals on the draft updated technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision, referring to specific paragraphs and tables, together with related rationales, if possible, and as appropriate, and requests the Secretariat to make the general comments and the proposals available on the Convention website;
6. *Invites* the Governments of China, Japan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as co-lead countries, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare a further updated version of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes taking into account the discussion during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the general comments and textual proposals received pursuant to paragraph 5 of the present decision, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;
7. *Decides* that the small intersessional working group will operate by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, will also hold face-to-face meetings;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat to transmit the present decision, and to report on the progress regarding the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and to the intergovernmental negotiating committee established pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”;
9. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

¹² UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.7/Rev.1.

BC-15/11: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries and on other waste batteries

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the invitation of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution 3/9, on eliminating exposure to lead paint and promoting environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries, to consider revising the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries regarding the application of new technologies in different aspects of environmentally sound management systems,

1. *Recalls* decision BC-VI/22, by which it adopted the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries;¹³
2. *Decides* that the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries should be updated;
3. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer of Uruguay to act as a lead country in the updating of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision and invites other Parties to consider serving as co-lead country and to inform the Secretariat by 31 July 2022 of their willingness to do so;
4. *Decides* that technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste batteries other than waste lead-acid batteries should be developed;
5. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead country in the development of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat by 31 July 2022 of their willingness to do so;
6. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, operating by electronic means, to undertake, as a priority and a matter of urgency, the updating referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision, as well as to develop the guidelines referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision;
7. *Invites* Parties and observers to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 31 July 2022;
8. *Invites* Parties and other stakeholders to make financial and in-kind contributions to support the activities referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of the present decision;
9. *Requests* the lead country or countries, with the assistance of the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare the updated technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;
10. *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 a draft of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

¹³ UNEP/CHW.6/22, annex.

BC-15/12: Cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report on the status of work of the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System related to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;¹⁴

2. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to develop, for submission to the World Customs Organization, proposals for amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to allow the identification of the types of wastes set out in paragraph 3 (a) of decision BC-14/9 that have not already been included in a proposal;

(b) 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;

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

¹⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/10; UNEP/CHW.15/INF/8, annex I.

BC-15/13: National reporting

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note of:*

(a) The updated electronic reporting system of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;¹⁵

(b) The practical guidance on the development of inventories of plastic waste, obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste, and waste batteries containing lithium;¹⁶ and revised practical guidance for the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries and waste oils;¹⁷

2. *Encourages* Parties that have not yet done so to transmit to the Secretariat their national reports for the year 2020 and for previous years as soon as possible;

3. *Invites* Parties to include information on waste generation in their national reports at least once every four years;

4. *Invites* Parties and others to make use of the practical guidance referred to in paragraph 1 (b) of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat of their experience in doing so by 31 December 2023;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to develop the electronic reporting system and to support Parties in using it;

(b) Also to continue to develop, subject to the availability of resources, practical guidance on the development of inventories for waste streams considered to be of medium priority, in accordance with decision BC-14/10, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(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 plastic waste, obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste, and waste batteries containing lithium, referred to in paragraph 1 (b) of the present decision, 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 an inventory of plastic waste, obsolete pesticides and pesticide-container waste, and waste batteries containing lithium, and to prepare, on the basis of the outcomes of those projects and comments received by Parties and observers on their experience in using the guidance, revised practical guidance for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

(e) To widely disseminate the *Waste Without Frontiers II* report,¹⁸ subject to the availability of resources;

(f) To continue, subject to the availability of resources, to provide training to developing countries and other countries that need assistance to meet their reporting obligations, in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, and in doing so to prioritize capacity-building for Parties to develop national inventories and national legislation hand in hand, in order to build on the approach taken by the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance;¹⁹

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

¹⁵ www.basel.int/Countries/NationalReporting/tabid/3356/Default.aspx.

¹⁶ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/19/Rev.1, UNEP/CHW.15/INF/50/Rev.1 and UNEP/CHW.15/INF/51/Rev.1.

¹⁷ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/61.

¹⁸ www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/Other/tabid/2470/Default.aspx.

¹⁹ www.basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/Compliance/SpecificSubmissionsActivities/Currentsubmissions/tabid/2310/Default.aspx.

BC-15/14: Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on experiences, at the national and international levels, in developing and implementing electronic systems for exchanging information on or controlling the movements of goods and wastes, and lessons learned from such experiences,²⁰ including on relevant standards and initiatives developed by international organizations which relate to the work under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, in particular, but not limited to, the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business, the World Customs Organization data model and the Automated System for Customs Data;
2. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, operating by electronic means, to look further into electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account the report of the first consultative workshop on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents of the Basel Convention,²¹ including the elements for further discussion set out therein, and previous reports prepared on that topic;²²
3. *Invites* Parties and observers to nominate experts with relevant knowledge of and expertise in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure of the Basel Convention, and experts with experience in developing software in the areas of trade, customs or related areas, to participate in the small intersessional working group, and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 31 July 2022;
4. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead countries for the work referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat by 31 July 2022 of their willingness to do so;
5. *Requests* the lead country or countries or, if there is no lead country or countries, the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare a report with recommendations on the next steps regarding the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, including, but not limited to, the elements for further discussion referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;
6. *Invites* Parties willing to do so to work on pilot projects on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account the experiences of other Parties and of non-Parties, and the work carried out by other international organizations, and to submit their lessons learned to the Secretariat;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To organize, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, technical assistance activities and awareness-raising events in order to help Parties advance the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents of the Basel Convention;
 - (b) To make available on the website of the Convention lessons learned and information about pilot projects as referred to in paragraph 6 of the present decision;
 - (c) To report to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting on progress in the implementation of the present decision.

²⁰ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/62.

²¹ www.basel.int/Implementation/Controllingtransboundarymovements/eapproachesfornotificationandmovement/Meetings/WorkshopOnlineJan2021/tabid/8741/Default.aspx.

²² UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.2, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/21 and UNEP/CHW.15/INF/62.

BC-15/15: Further consideration of plastic waste

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the background information related to a possible future assessment of the effectiveness of the measures taken under the Basel Convention to address plastic waste and to possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention;²³ of the information on certain plastic wastes referred to in entry Y48 in Annex II and entry B3011 in Annex IX to the Convention submitted by Parties and others in response to paragraph 35 of decision BC-14/13;²⁴ and of the report by the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions on marine litter and microplastics;²⁵
2. *Recalls* decision BC-10/6, by which it adopted the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres;²⁶
3. *Decides* to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision;
4. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead countries for the updating of the guidelines and to inform the Secretariat by 31 July 2022 of their willingness to do so;
5. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, operating by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, through face-to-face meetings, to undertake the updating of the guidelines;
6. *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 July 2022;
7. *Requests* the lead country, or, in the absence of a lead country, the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare the draft updated technical guidelines in consultation with the small intersessional working group for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;
8. *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat, by 31 October 2022, on whether technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of rubber wastes (entry B3040) and waste parings and scrap of rubber (entry B3080) should be developed;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available the comments received in accordance with paragraph 8 of the present decision on the website of the Convention and to prepare a compilation of the comments for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;
10. *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat, by 31 October 2022, on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics;²⁷
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available on the website of the Convention the comments received in accordance with paragraph 10 of the present decision, and to suggest possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into consideration the comments received and the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”, as appropriate, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

²³ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/10.

²⁴ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/12.

²⁵ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/11.

²⁶ UNEP/CHW.10/6/Add.1/Rev.1, annex.

²⁷ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/10.

BC-15/16: Waste containing nanomaterials*The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by Parties and by one observer related to activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials;²⁸
2. *Invites* Parties and observers to make available to the Secretariat, by 31 December 2022, any new information related to activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials, including case studies about and best practices relating to the management of waste containing nanomaterials;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To compile the information referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting;
 - (b) To organize activities, subject to the availability of resources, to raise awareness among Parties about activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials, including the case studies about and best practices relating to the management of waste containing nanomaterials collected pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision;
 - (c) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

²⁸ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/52.

BC-15/17: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretariat on the work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance²⁹ and welcomes the work undertaken by the Committee since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

I

Specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance

2. *Welcomes* the resolution of implementation and compliance matters set out in five specific submissions;³⁰

3. *Encourages* Parties concerned with a specific submission to cooperate with the Committee with a view to resolving the matter of concern;

II

Review of general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention

National reporting: individual compliance performance

4. *Welcomes* the continued improvement in the timeliness and completeness of national reports transmitted between 2010 and 2017;

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the 44 Parties that transmitted, on time, a complete report for 2016, namely Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Iraq, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen;

6. *Also expresses its appreciation* to the 44 Parties that transmitted, on time, a complete report for 2017, namely Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, the Central African Republic, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Liberia, Mexico, Mozambique, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, the State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates;

7. *Notes* that the targets for the years 2016 and 2017 approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting have not been met, with 24 per cent of reports due for 2016 and 24 per cent of reports due for 2017 transmitted complete and on time, against a target of 25 per cent, and with 37 per cent of reports for 2016 and 35 per cent of reports for 2017 transmitted complete, whether on time or late, against a target of 50 per cent;

8. *Also notes* that the adoption, in decisions BC-12/6 and BC-13/9, of revisions to the format to be used for national reporting for the year 2016 and onwards has led to an improvement in the overall rate of transmission of national reports, with, as at 26 August 2020, 61 per cent of Parties, or 110 of the 180 Parties required to do so, having transmitted their report for 2016, and with, as at 13 November 2020, 59 per cent of Parties, or 107 of the 182 Parties required to do so, having transmitted their report for 2017, against 55 per cent of Parties in relation to the reporting for 2015;

9. *Emphasizes* the serious nature of non-reporting, incomplete reporting or late reporting, owing to the close link between the core obligations of the Convention and the obligation to transmit national reports in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention;

²⁹ UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.2.

³⁰ Submissions regarding the Bahamas, Bhutan, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sao Tome and Principe and Turkmenistan.

National reporting: targets

10. *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 targets for the reports due for 2018 and subsequent years:

- (a) 25 per cent of the reports due are transmitted complete and on time;
- (b) 50 per cent of the reports due are transmitted complete, whether on time or late;
- (c) 70 per cent of the reports due are transmitted;

National reporting: integration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework³¹

11. *Reiterates* the importance of the connection between achieving Sustainable Development Goal 12 and the transmission of national reports under the Convention;

12. *Emphasizes* the possibility that the lack of transmission of national reports under the Convention indicates an underlying need for support for the implementation of other obligations set out in the Convention, for instance in relation to the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes, minimization of the generation of wastes and the environmentally sound management of wastes;

13. *Calls on* Parties, in particular Parties with reporting needs identified through the classification of compliance performance undertaken by the Committee with respect to national reporting for the years 2016 and 2017, to integrate actions to address their needs with respect to the implementation of the Convention into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (formerly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework), in particular during the national development planning process, the agreement of Cooperation Framework outcomes and outputs and the drafting of the Cooperation Framework document;

14. *Requests* the Secretariat to include, in its technical assistance activities relating to the transmission of national reports, assistance for Parties in integrating action to address related needs into their Cooperation Framework;

15. *Also requests* the Secretariat, and invites the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities with a mandate to support Parties in the implementation of the Basel Convention, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, including in the context of relevant activities funded under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks, to work in partnership with respect to supporting Parties with national reporting needs and to liaise with the appropriate United Nations country teams and resident coordinators with a view to integrating action to address those needs into the Cooperation Frameworks of those Parties;

16. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade to consider requesting its Compliance Committee, in the context of its work programme for the biennium 2022–2023 and with a view to enabling measurement of the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 12, to monitor efforts by Parties experiencing difficulties in transmitting information pursuant to the provisions of the Convention to integrate action to address those difficulties into their Cooperation Framework and to identify best practices among such efforts, in cooperation, as appropriate, with the Committee administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance;

National reporting: activities of entities aimed at assisting Parties in transmitting national reports

17. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks:

³¹ Formerly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

(a) To cooperate with the Committee, including by replying to questionnaires seeking information to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate to improve implementation and compliance with paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention;

(b) To participate as observers in the technical assistance activities of the Secretariat (webinars, regional workshops, country-level activities) aimed at supporting Parties in the transmission of national reports;

18. *Encourages* Parties, in the context of the identification of their technical assistance needs, for instance when completing the Secretariat's questionnaire thereon, developing the business plans of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and developing their Cooperation Framework, to include, as a priority activity, the transmission of national reports;

19. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the Executive Board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as the Global Environment Facility in the context of relevant activities funded under the Stockholm Convention, to include the transmission to the Secretariat of national reports pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Basel Convention as a concrete output of their activities or to seek the inclusion of such transmission as a concrete output of activities funded by them, in order to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention;

20. *Requests* the Secretariat to include the transmission to the Secretariat of national reports pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 13 as a concrete output of its technical assistance activities or to seek the inclusion of such transmission as a concrete output of technical assistance activities funded by it, in order to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention;

National reporting: recommendations on how best to make use of the information contained in the national reports

21. *Invites* Parties to share their experiences, their use at the national level of the information transmitted on an annual basis through national reports and the benefits that they draw from the information transmitted by other Parties through the national reports, and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to prepare case studies to illustrate the feedback received;

22. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to publish on a regular basis the publication *Waste Without Frontiers* and to strengthen the electronic reporting system for querying national reports;

(b) To explore opportunities to publish on a regular basis a publication providing information on the legal and institutional trends illustrated by the information set out in the national reports and highlighting the work of the Committee in that regard;

(c) To step up its efforts to communicate more widely, to the relevant national and international stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular Goal 12, the importance of the transmission of national reports under the Basel Convention;

Illegal traffic: scoping exercise

23. *Reminds* Parties of the importance of their obligation to complete table 9 of the reporting format;

24. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme and enforcement organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization to cooperate with the Committee, including by replying to questionnaires seeking information to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate in relation to preventing and combating illegal traffic;

25. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and encourages organizations with a mandate to assist Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic, in the context of their respective activities, such as enforcement operations, to collect information based on

information provided in table 9 of the national reports on how many cases of illegal traffic there were, with respect to which wastes, in which regions and how they were resolved;

26. *Also requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to consolidate on a yearly basis and improve the visibility on its website of information on cases of illegal traffic reported by Parties, based on their national reports;

Illegal traffic: national coordination mechanisms

27. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and encourages organizations with a mandate to assist Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic to cooperate with one another, including through the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic, to undertake the joint training of the competent authorities and enforcement entities in preventing and combating illegal traffic with a view to enhancing coordination at the national level, including with regard to the formalization of national coordination mechanisms;

28. *Invites* organizations with a mandate to undertake enforcement operations to prevent and combat illegal traffic, such as the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization, to cooperate with the Secretariat with a view to promoting communication and coordination between the competent authorities and enforcement entities at the national level during preparations for, implementation of and follow-up to such operations;

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

29. *Requests* the Secretariat, in the context of its technical assistance activities, to ensure that its support to Parties, or the support provided by others through the use of financial contributions to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to assist developing countries and other countries in need of technical assistance, aims to ensure full legislative implementation of the Convention, in particular of Article 9, including any amendments to the Convention, as appropriate, such as those pursuant to decision BC-III/1 (Ban Amendment) and decision BC-14/12 (Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention, known as the “plastic wastes amendments”) and any other amendment to the annexes to the Convention;

Illegal traffic: cooperative arrangements including the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic

30. *Welcomes and encourages further* the efforts of organizations such as the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, the International Criminal Police Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization to cooperate with the Secretariat when undertaking activities to support Parties in their efforts to prevent and combat illegal traffic and requests the Secretariat, as relevant, to strengthen its efforts to cooperate with entities such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

31. *Reiterates* its invitation to the International Criminal Police Organization and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to become members of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic;

32. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and with a view to improving support for joint operations undertaken by members of the Environmental Network with enforcement authorities, particularly customs authorities:

(a) To facilitate the organization of joint inspections and enforcement operations led by members of the Environmental Network and to do so:

- (i) In close cooperation with relevant organizations, in particular the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization;
- (ii) With the participation of all relevant national authorities, including environmental inspectorates, police and customs authorities;
- (iii) Focusing, where appropriate, on particular waste streams (e.g., plastic waste and e-waste);

(b) To assist with the preparation of such joint inspections and enforcement operations by providing, in cooperation with members of the Environmental Network, training to the participating national authorities, including environmental inspectorates, police and customs authorities;

(c) To follow up the operations with sessions on lessons learned particularly with respect to planning, the methods used and how existing enforcement structures might be developed and improved;

33. *Requests* the Secretariat to communicate decisions on the prevention and combating of illegal traffic to relevant international organizations and invites those organizations to take those decisions into account in their processes;

34. *Also requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to facilitate and provide expertise to the Environmental Network and to organize annual meetings of the Network;

35. *Further requests* the Secretariat, with a view to supporting the hosting and organization of workshops or online or virtual training and information sessions, in particular for developing countries, pursuant to paragraph 4 of the terms of reference of the Environmental Network, to organize, subject to the availability of resources, joint workshops involving the members of the Environmental Network to train the competent authorities and enforcement authorities dealing with illegal traffic;

36. *Seeks* to improve the dissemination of information by the Environmental Network, pursuant to paragraph 4 of the terms of reference of the Environmental Network:

(a) By encouraging members of the Environmental Network to make available to the Secretariat, for dissemination on the website of the Convention, examples of best practices in relation to inspections of suspected illegal shipments and the enforcement of legislation prohibiting illegal shipments, including the planning and conduct of inspections and information on how the authorities deal with illegal shipments;

(b) By requesting the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to create a network of expertise among the members of the Environmental Network on the enforcement of the Convention, for instance by using the website to create a communication platform that could be used by stakeholders to contact the Environmental Network members and the Secretariat to share tips and best practices, ask questions and provide mutual support;

37. *Decides*, with a view to ensuring the sustainability of the efforts of the Environmental Network, pursuant to paragraph 4 of the terms of reference of the Environmental Network, that the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2022–2023 will provide for the separate funding of the activities of the Environmental Network, including its operational activities, its use of the Convention website to disseminate information and its training activities;

38. *Also decides*, with a view to aligning the term of office of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Environmental Network with the term of their membership, to amend paragraphs 18 and 19 of the terms of reference of the Environmental Network by deleting the text struck through below and adding the text underlined:

“18. As soon as possible following each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the members of ENFORCE will elect a chair and a vice-chair among the representatives of the members at the meeting. The election will be based, as far as possible, in a way to ensure rotation among the members of ENFORCE.

19. At the first meeting of ENFORCE, a chair and vice-chair will be elected. The chair and vice-chair will remain in office until the closure of the first meeting of ENFORCE subsequent to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The subsequent chair and vice-chair will commence their term of office at the closure of the meeting at which they are elected and will serve as chair and vice-chair until the closure of the first meeting of ENFORCE subsequent to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.”

39. *Further decides*, with a view to mitigating risks associated with the current turnover in membership of and representation within the Environmental Network, which jeopardizes the continuity, consistency in approach and retention of knowledge and practice that the Environmental Network needs if it is to become more ambitious in the scope of its activities, to amend paragraphs 9 and 10 of the terms of reference of the Environmental Network by deleting the text struck through below and adding the text underlined:

- “9. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall elect three of the five party representatives mentioned above for one term and two of the five party representatives mentioned above for two terms. The Conference of the Parties shall, at each ordinary meeting thereafter, elect for two full terms new members to replace those members whose period of office has expired or is about to expire. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. For the purposes of the present terms of reference, “term” means the period that begins at the end of one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ends at the end of the subsequent ordinary meeting of the Parties. ~~The five party representatives mentioned above shall be elected by the Conference of the Parties at each of its meetings, based on nominations from each regional group. Elected party representatives are eligible for re-election at subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.~~
10. At its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall designate two of tThe four representatives of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for one term and two of the four representatives of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for two terms. The Conference of the Parties shall, at each ordinary meeting thereafter, designate for two full terms new members to replace those members whose period of office has expired or is about to expire. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. For the purposes of the present terms of reference, “term” means the period that begins at the end of one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ends at the end of the subsequent ordinary meeting of the Parties. ~~shall be designated by the Conference of the Parties at each of its meetings, based on nominations from each regional group. The elected representatives are eligible for re-election at subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.”~~

Illegal traffic: dissemination of guidance and tools

40. *Requests* the Secretariat:
- (a) To develop and implement, subject to the availability of resources, a sustainable and effective dissemination strategy to raise awareness and improve knowledge of guidance and training tools developed under the Convention that aim to prevent and combat illegal traffic;
- (b) To translate into the six official languages of the United Nations its training tools aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic, subject to the availability of resources;
- (c) To disseminate, including through online sessions, to Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme and enforcement organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization, including as part of the activities of the Environmental Network, guidance and training tools developed under the Convention that aim to prevent and combat illegal traffic;
41. *Encourages* organizations with a mandate to assist Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic to include, on their websites, links to the Basel Convention website and to make available on their websites, disseminate and use in their enforcement and training activities, guidance and training tools developed under the Convention that aim to prevent and combat illegal traffic;
42. *Encourages* Parties to disseminate at the national level, through coordination or other communication mechanisms, to all stakeholders involved in the enforcement chain, guidance and training tools developed under the Convention that aim to prevent and combat illegal traffic;

Illegal traffic: activities of the Secretariat aimed at assisting Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic

43. *Welcomes* the provision by the Secretariat, upon request, of advice on matters pertaining to the implementation and enforcement of the Convention and its efforts to provide capacity-building and technical assistance to Parties to support their implementation and enforcement of the control regime of the Convention and to prevent and combat illegal traffic;

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

44. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks:

(a) To cooperate with the Committee, including by replying to questionnaires seeking information to enable the Committee to fulfil its mandate to improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention;

(b) To participate as observers in the technical assistance activities of the Secretariat (webinars, regional workshops, activities at the country level) aimed at supporting Parties in the development of legal frameworks implementing the Convention;

45. *Encourages* Parties, in the context of the identification of their technical assistance needs, for instance when completing the Secretariat's questionnaire thereon, when developing the business plans of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and when developing their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, to include, as a priority activity, the development of legal frameworks implementing the Convention, including any amendments thereto, as appropriate;

46. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the Executive Board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as the Global Environment Facility in the context of relevant activities funded under the Stockholm Convention, to include the development of legal frameworks implementing the Convention as a concrete output of their activities or to seek the inclusion the development thereof in activities funded by them, to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention;

Control system

47. *Adopts* the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention on insurance, bond and guarantee³² and encourages Parties and relevant stakeholders to use it;

48. *Also adopts* the guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention on transit transboundary movements³³ and encourages Parties and relevant stakeholders to use it;

49. *Takes note* of the definitions/understandings by Parties of "transit" and "State of transit" in response to questions 3 (h) (i) and 3 (h) (ii) of national reports for 2017–2019 and to the 2016 and 2021 questionnaires of the Implementation and Compliance Committee on transit transboundary movements (status as at 1 October 2021)³⁴ and requests the Secretariat to maintain on the website a list of Parties' definitions and understandings in relation to the meaning of transit;

III

Work programme for the biennium 2022–2023

50. *Approves* the work programme of the Committee for the biennium 2022–2023 set out in the annex to the present decision;

51. *Requests* the Committee:

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

(b) To consult Parties, in advance of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on a draft work programme for the biennium 2024–2025;

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

³² UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.2/Add.1/Rev.1.

³³ UNEP/CHW.15/12/Rev.2/Add.2/Rev.1.

³⁴ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/17, annex III.

IV

Election of members of the Committee

52. *Elects*, in accordance with the terms of reference of the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Basel Convention,³⁵ the following members to serve on the Committee until the close of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

African States: Ms. Patience Nambalirwa Nsereko (Uganda)

Asia-Pacific States: Mr. Satyendra Kumar (India)

Eastern European States: Ms. Tatiana Tugui (Republic of Moldova)

Latin American and Caribbean States: [Name of the designated member to be communicated by the region after the meeting]

Western European and other States: Ms. Ann De Jonghe (Belgium).

Annex to decision BC-15/17

**Work programme of the Committee Administering the
Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance for
the biennium 2022–2023**

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

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Activity</i>
1. National reporting Improve timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention	<p>(a) Classify and, as appropriate, publish information on Parties' compliance with their annual national reporting obligations for 2018 and 2019 based on the assumptions, criteria and categories adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting³⁶ and the targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;³⁷</p> <p>(b) Develop recommendations on the revision of the targets referred to in paragraph 10 of decision BC-15/17 for the reports due for 2020 and subsequent years;</p> <p>(c) In cooperation, as appropriate, with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, monitor United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes with a view to assessing the extent to which Parties with national reporting needs are including actions to address them in their Cooperation Framework, identifying best practices and, on the basis of the assessment, developing recommendations for the consideration of Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>(d) Establish a dialogue with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the Executive Board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other entities such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Bank and regional development banks on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in the implementation of their obligation to transmit national reports, and develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>(e) Consider elaborating and further assessing measures not included under paragraphs 20 (a) and (b) of the terms of reference of the Committee that may be required when a Party has not submitted its national report for two</p>

³⁵ See appendix to decision VI/12.

³⁶ Decision BC-13/9, para. 12.

³⁷ Decision BC-15/17.

Objective	Activity
	or more years since the report due in 2016, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.
2. Illegal traffic	Scoping exercise:
Prevent and combat illegal traffic	<p>(a) Review the information provided in table 9 of the national reports transmitted for the years 2018 and 2019 with a view to estimating: (i) how many cases of illegal traffic there were; (ii) with respect to which wastes; (iii) in which regions; and (iv) how they were resolved; and make recommendations based on the outcome of the review;</p> <p>(b) Review table 9 of the national reporting format to ascertain whether it would benefit from adjustments to facilitate access to and analysis of the information transmitted by Parties about cases of illegal traffic;</p> <p>(c) Identify discrepancies in the information reported by Parties on cases that could constitute illegal traffic and make recommendations based on the outcome of the review;</p> <p>(d) Review the form for reporting confirmed cases of illegal traffic to ascertain whether it would benefit from adjustments and make recommendations based on the outcome of the review;³⁸</p> <p>(e) Consider whether a review of the information provided in tables 4 and 5 of the national reports for the years 2018 and 2019 could help identify discrepancies in the information reported by Parties that may constitute cases of illegal traffic and make recommendations accordingly.</p>
	National coordination mechanisms
	<p>(a) Monitor activities undertaken by the Secretariat, the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), UNEP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and other entities that are aimed at assisting Parties in enhancing coordination between their competent authorities and enforcement entities and make recommendations based on the outcome of the monitoring;</p> <p>(b) Monitor activities undertaken by Parties to enhance coordination and increase the flow of information between their competent authorities and enforcement entities, and between themselves and the Secretariat;</p> <p>(c) Develop recommendations to improve implementation of and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention.</p>
	Responses to question 1 (c) of the reporting format
	<p>(a) Review the texts of national legislation and other measures adopted by Parties to implement and enforce the Convention and their responses to question 1 (c) of the national reports for 2019 and, using the legislator's checklist,³⁹ classify Parties' compliance performance in relation to the obligations set out in Article 9 of the Convention;</p> <p>(b) Identify best practices and case studies relating to the enforcement of legislation and punishment of illegal traffic and consider how to assess whether Parties' current efforts are on target to achieve best practice.</p>
	Dialogue
	Establish a dialogue and coordinate with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, relevant international organizations and compliance bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in preventing and combating illegal traffic and develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

³⁸ www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel%20Convention/docs/legalmatters/illegaltraffic/illegaltrafform.pdf.

³⁹ The legislator's checklist is set out in annex I to the Manual for the Implementation of the Basel Convention, available in document UNEP/CHW.12/9/Add.4/Rev.1 and adopted by decision BC-12/7. It is also available as a publication at www.basel.int/Implementation/Publications/GuidanceManuals/tabid/2364/Default.aspx.

Objective	Activity
3. National legislation Improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention	<p>Cooperative arrangements including the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)</p> <p>Maintain under review the activities of ENFORCE, particularly any developments that stem from any of the recommendations made by the Committee to the Conference of the Parties, subject to their adoption, and consider, at the next Committee meeting whether the arrangements pertaining to ENFORCE need to be strengthened further.</p> <p>Dissemination of guidance and tools</p> <p>Monitor activities undertaken by Parties, the Secretariat, the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, IMPEL, INTERPOL, UNEP, UNODC, WCO and other entities aimed at disseminating guidance and tools developed under the Convention that aim to prevent and combat illegal traffic.</p>
	<p>(a) Invite Parties to undertake a self-review of their legislation for implementing the Convention, using the legislator's checklist, and to consider general trends;</p> <p>(b) 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;</p> <p>(c) Monitor requests from Parties received by the Secretariat for information aimed at facilitating the development and review of national legal frameworks and for the technical assistance activities of the Secretariat aimed at promoting the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention;</p> <p>(d) Monitor activities undertaken by or with the support of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, UNEP and other entities aimed at assisting Parties in developing legal frameworks for the implementation of the Basel Convention;</p> <p>(e) Develop recommendations on how to improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention;</p> <p>(f) When undertaking the activities listed in subparagraphs (a) to (e) above, give adequate consideration to improving the implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention with respect to the amendments pursuant to decision BC-III/1 (Ban Amendment) and decision BC-14/12 (plastic wastes amendments);</p> <p>(g) Establish a dialogue and coordinate with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the Executive Board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, UNEP and other entities, such as FAO, GEF, UNDP, UNIDO, the World Bank and regional development banks, on their activities aimed at supporting Parties in performing their obligations related to the development of legal frameworks to implement and enforce the Convention, and develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>(h) Review, subject to the availability of resources and according to the priorities established by the Conference of the Parties for the given biennium, Parties' implementation of the Convention in national law, starting with Parties that have not yet provided information to the Secretariat as to whether they have national legislation implementing the Convention,⁴⁰ for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth and subsequent meetings.⁴¹</p>

⁴⁰ See document UNEP/CHW.15/14.

⁴¹ Appropriate allocations in the budget to provide support for the Committee to undertake this work are recommended, along with allocations in the technical assistance budget specifically to help individual Parties with implementation of the Basel Convention.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Activity</i>
4. Review and updating Generally improve the implementation of and compliance with the Convention.	(a) Regularly review the guidance developed by the Committee on the basis of periodic feedback from users and suggestions from stakeholders and in the light of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on the updating of the guidance; (b) Update, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties and subject to the availability of resources, the Guide to the Control System and the Manual for the Implementation of the Basel Convention by including, as relevant, references to Article 4A of the Convention, the plastic wastes amendments, the glossary of terms and technical guidelines and new guidance adopted since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Country contacts Improve the implementation of and compliance with Article 5 of the Convention	Review Parties' implementation of and compliance with the obligation to designate competent authorities and a focal point pursuant to Article 5, including any common difficulties or issues being faced by Parties with respect to the obligation to inform the Secretariat, within one month of the date of decision, of any changes made by them to the designation of such country contacts, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
6. Enhanced coordination with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention	Explore the possibilities for enhancing coordination with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention to facilitate compliance through, for example, the provision of joint secretariat support for the committees, facilitation of the exchange of information between the committees, including reports on the outcomes of each other's meetings, attendance by each chair at the meetings of the other committee and the appointment of committee members who have experience of the other compliance mechanism, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.
7. Integration in United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks	Provide guidance, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, on how individual Parties can integrate action to address their needs under the Basel Convention into their United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

II. Specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance

53. 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.

54. In relation to the implementation fund, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Secretary on the allocation of the available resources from the fund during the period between the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to assist Parties in the context of the facilitation procedure set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the terms of reference of the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance. The resources are intended to fund activities listed in the compliance action plans presented by Parties in relation to specific submissions and approved by the Committee.

BC-15/18: Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the proposal by the Governments of Ghana and Switzerland to amend Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,⁴²

1. *Decides* to amend Annex II to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal by adding the following entry:

Y49^{43,44}	Electrical and electronic waste: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste electrical and electronic equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, and in which none of the components (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) contain or are contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic Waste components of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. certain circuit boards, certain display devices) not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX Wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment (e.g. fractions arising from shredding or dismantling), and not containing and not contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry in Annex II or by an entry in Annex IX
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2. *Also decides* to amend Annex VIII to the Basel Convention by inserting a new entry, A1181, as follows:

A1181⁴⁵	Electrical and electronic waste (note the related entry Y49 in Annex II)⁴⁶: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste electrical and electronic equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> containing or contaminated with cadmium, lead, mercury, organohalogen compounds or other Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic, or with a component containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the component exhibits an Annex III characteristic, including but not limited to any of the following components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> glass from cathode-ray tubes included on list A a battery included on list A a switch, lamp, fluorescent tube or a display device backlight which contains mercury a capacitor containing PCBs a component containing asbestos certain circuit boards certain display devices certain plastic components containing a brominated flame retardant Waste components of electrical and electronic equipment containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste components exhibit an Annex III characteristic, unless covered by another entry on list A Wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment, and containing or contaminated with Annex I constituents to an extent that the waste exhibits an Annex III characteristic (e.g. fractions arising from shredding or dismantling), unless covered by another entry on list A
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⁴² UNEP/CHW.15/13/Add.2, annex.

⁴³ This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2025.

⁴⁴ Note the related entry on list A A1181 in Annex VIII.

⁴⁵ This entry becomes effective as of 1 January 2025.

⁴⁶ PCBs or PBBs are at a concentration level of 50 mg/kg or more in equipment, in a component, or in wastes arising from the processing of waste electrical and electronic equipment or waste components of electrical and electronic equipment.

3. *Further decides* to add a footnote to the entry A1180 in Annex VIII, as follows: “Entry A1180 is effective until 31 December 2024.”;
4. *Decides* to delete entries B1110 and B4030 in Annex IX to the Basel Convention;
5. *Requests* the Depositary to communicate the adoption of the amendments set out in the present decision to all Parties on 30 June 2024 so that the amendments will become effective on 1 January 2025 pursuant to subparagraphs (b) and (c) of paragraph 2 of Article 18 of the Convention.

BC-15/19: Providing further legal clarity

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the expert working group on the review of Annexes I, III and IV and entries A1180 in Annex VIII and B1110 in Annex IX to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;
2. *Takes note* of the information on the work of the expert working group;⁴⁷ of the group's recommendations on proposals for possible amendments to Annex IV and to entries A1180 in Annex VIII and B1110 in Annex IX to the Basel Convention and its findings on the consequential implications of the review of Annex IV to the Convention, reflecting the outcome of its fourth meeting;⁴⁸ of the draft versions of the notification document, the movement document, the instructions for completing both documents, the national reporting format and the manual for completing the format for national reporting, showing where adjustments may need to be made as a consequence of possible amendments to Annex IV;⁴⁹ and of progress made in the review of Annexes I and III;⁵⁰
3. *Recalls* the mandate of the expert working group as set out in decisions BC-13/2, BC-14/13 and BC-14/16 and decides to remove the review of entries A1180 in Annex VIII and B1110 in Annex IX from the mandate of the group;
4. *Acknowledges* the need for further discussion on amendments to Annex IV – for example, on the following issues, among others, which were discussed during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
 - (a) General introduction, captions and introductory text for sections A and B of Annex IV;
 - (b) Keeping, deleting, merging or splitting existing operations;
 - (c) Inclusion of new operations – for example, on preparing for reuse and catch-all operations;
 - (d) Consideration of non-environmentally sound management operations – for example, open burning;
 - (e) Inclusion of clarifying examples;
 - (f) Ordering and numbering of the operations;
5. *Requests* the Open-ended Working Group to consider the proposals by the European Union to amend Annex IV and certain entries in Annexes II and IX to the Basel Convention⁵¹ and the recommendations and findings of the expert working group,⁵² taking into account the discussions at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as well as the progress made in the review of Annexes I and III, and to provide recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;
6. *Requests* the regional groups that have not yet nominated 10 experts with relevant expertise to serve as members of the expert working group to nominate the remaining experts by 31 July 2022 through their Bureau representatives, and requests the Secretariat to facilitate the nomination process;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

⁴⁷ UNEP/CHW.15/13.

⁴⁸ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/18.

⁴⁹ Set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/20.

⁵⁰ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/21.

⁵¹ UNEP/CHW.15/13/Add.1.

⁵² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/18.

BC-15/20: National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting its decision BC-15/27 on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes,

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

BC-15/21: Technical assistance

I

Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report on the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance and technology transfer⁵³ as well as of the database summarizing the technical assistance needs;⁵⁴
2. *Encourages* all relevant technical assistance providers to consider the information available in that database;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare the next report on the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance and technology transfer for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its meeting in 2025;
4. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021,⁵⁵ including capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam **Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade** and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
5. *Welcomes* the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025;⁵⁶
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the plan by various means and to facilitate awareness of the plan by the relevant actors;
7. *Takes note* of the information provided in the report entitled “Environmental and health emergencies – the role of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in supporting Parties in prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery”;⁵⁷
8. *Encourages* Parties, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility, the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to take into account the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025;
9. *Encourages* relevant Parties, in line with Article 10 of the Basel Convention, Article 16 of the Rotterdam Convention and Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention, and invites others in a position to do so, to support the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025;
10. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to:
 - (a) Implement, in cooperation with relevant actors, the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in accordance with relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;
 - (b) Maintain the database referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision and ensure that it remains accessible through the websites of the conventions;
 - (c) Continue to include information on the monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken under the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the report requested in paragraph 12 of the present decision;
11. *Emphasizes* the key role of the regional centres, as described in the provisions of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, as well as the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food

⁵³ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/30–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/30.

⁵⁴ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4898.

⁵⁵ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/28.

⁵⁶ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/29–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/29.

⁵⁷ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/31–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/68.

and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering technical assistance upon request, particularly at the regional level, for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and providing capacity-building as well as facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;

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

II

Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

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

14. *Also emphasizes* the role of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Basel Convention, and invites them to cooperate and coordinate among themselves and with relevant partners in areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

15. *Takes note of:*

(a) The activity reports⁵⁸ for the period January 2019–December 2020 submitted by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the available business plans⁵⁹ for the period January 2020–December 2023;

(b) The report on the activities of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions;⁶⁰

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

(a) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2021–31 December 2022, by 31 December 2022, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(b) Their business plans for the period 1 January 2024–31 December 2027, by 30 September 2023, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

17. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(b) To prepare the draft evaluation reports on the performance and sustainability of all 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, in accordance with the interim criteria and interim methodology set out in annexes I and II to decision BC-11/13, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

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

(i) Organize two annual meetings of the coordinators of the Stockholm Convention regional centres under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the directors of the Basel Convention regional centres under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, with a view to enhancing the performance of the regional centres and fostering cooperation and collaboration among them, and attend meetings of the regional centre steering committees;

⁵⁸ www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx.

⁵⁹ www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx.

⁶⁰ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/31.

- (ii) Continue to facilitate the implementation of national, subregional and regional projects, based on the business plans or workplans of regional centres, through the Small Grants Programme;
- (iii) Foster the activities of the regional centres to increase their visibility and to support them in fulfilling their mandate;

18. *Welcomes* the signing of a framework agreement between the Secretariat and the Government of Panama for the establishment of the Basel Convention regional centre for the Central America and Mexico subregion in Panama;

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

BC-15/22: Basel Convention Partnership Programme

The Conference of the Parties

I

Follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and other members of the working group of the Follow-up Partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (hereinafter “the Partnership”) to implement its programme of work;⁶¹
2. *Adopts* the amendments to the terms of reference of the Partnership,⁶² including the new name of the Partnership, and the programme of work for the biennium 2022–2023 of the working group of the Partnership;⁶³
3. *Invites* Parties, signatories and all other stakeholders, including manufacturers, recyclers, refurbishers, academia, relevant e-waste platforms, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and former partners of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment to communicate to the Secretariat no later than 31 August 2022 their wish to be admitted as a member of the working group of the Partnership;
4. *Requests* the working group of the Partnership to implement the activities in the programme of work for the biennium 2022–2023;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

II

Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic

6. *Takes note* of decision BC-15/17 on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance;
7. *Also takes note* of the progress report of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic⁶⁴ and acknowledges the progress made by the Network since the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
8. *Invites* entities with a specific mandate to deliver implementation and enforcement capacity-building activities that could assist Parties to the Basel Convention in preventing and combating illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes to consider sending a duly motivated request to the Chair of the Network regarding admission as members of the Network;
9. *Elects* the following representatives of five Parties to the Basel Convention to serve as members of the Network:

From African States: Ms. Simeon Pulchérie (Benin), until the closure of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

From Asia-Pacific States: Mr. Norhisham Abdul Hamid (Malaysia), until the closure of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

From Latin American and Caribbean States: Ms. Lael Bertide-Josiah (Antigua and Barbuda), until the closure of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

From Western European and other States: Ms. Katie Olley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), until the closure of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

⁶¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/33.

⁶² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/39/Add.1, annex I.

⁶³ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/39/Add.1, annex II.

⁶⁴ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/34, annex.

From Eastern European States: Ms. Kristine Vardanashvili (Georgia), until the closure of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Designates* the following four representatives of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to serve as members of the Network:

From the African region: Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region located in Nigeria, until the closure of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

From the Asia-Pacific region: Basel Convention Regional Centre located in Iran (Islamic Republic of) Iran, until the closure of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

From the Eastern European region: Basel Convention Regional Centre located in Slovakia, until the closure of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

From the Latin American and Caribbean region: Basel Convention Regional Centre located in Argentina, until the closure of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

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

III

Household Waste Partnership

12. *Takes note* of the draft overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste developed by the Household Waste Partnership working group;⁶⁵

13. *Invites* Parties and others to provide further comments on the draft overall guidance document referred to in paragraph 13 of the present decision to the Secretariat by 15 October 2022;

14. *Requests* the working group to prepare, by 15 December 2022, a revised draft of the overall guidance document, taking into account (a) the comments received prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;⁶⁶ (b) the discussions at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; (c) any additional comments received by 15 October 2022 pursuant to paragraph 14 of the present decision; and (d) the outcomes of pilot projects or testing of the draft overall guidance document undertaken by Parties, and taking into careful consideration existing guidance under the Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

15. *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments on the revised draft of the overall guidance document prepared pursuant to paragraph 15 of the present decision to the Secretariat by 15 February 2023, and requests the Secretariat to publish the comments received on the Convention website and prepare a compilation of those comments for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

16. *Notes* the progress made in the implementation of the workplan of the Household Waste Partnership for the biennium 2020–2021;⁶⁷

17. *Requests* the working group to implement the following activities, which constitute the workplan of the Household Waste Partnership for the biennium 2022–2023:

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

(b) Further development of the draft overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste pursuant to paragraph 15 of the present decision;

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

⁶⁵ UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1/Add.1.

⁶⁶ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/HouseholdWastePartnership/OverallGuidanceDocument/tabid/8227/Default.aspx>.

⁶⁷ Decision BC-14/19, annex.

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

IV

Plastic Waste Partnership

19. *Welcomes* resolution 5/14 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of the workplan for the working group of the Plastic Waste Partnership for the biennium 2020–2021;⁶⁸

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

22. *Requests* the working group to continue to implement the workplan for the biennium 2020–2021⁶⁹ during the biennium 2022–2023;

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

⁶⁸ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/16/Rev.1, annex II.

⁶⁹ Decision BC-14/19, annex.

BC-15/23: Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023

The Conference of the Parties

Adopts the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023 as set out in the annex to the present decision.

Annex to decision BC-15/23

Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2022–2023

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Priority</i>
I. Strategic issues			
A. Strategic framework	Consider the draft report of findings and recommendations to improve, as appropriate, the strategic framework for the period 2012–2021.	Decision BC-15/3	High
B. Work to improve the functioning of the Prior Informed Consent procedure	1. Consider the compilation and synthesis of information on challenges in the implementation of the prior informed consent procedure and on best practices, possible approaches, initiatives and views to improve the functioning of the procedure.	Decision BC-15/3	High
	2. On the basis of its consideration of the compilation and synthesis of information referred to in paragraph 1, develop draft recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.	Decision BC-15/3	High
II. Scientific and technical matters			
A. Technical guidelines	1. Consider comments and information relating to the review of provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values in the general technical guidelines referred to in decision BC-15/6 and other technical guidelines, as appropriate.	Decision BC-15/6	High
	2. Update the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, and the technical guidelines on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, to include perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds, taking into account decision SC-10/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, including the following:	Decision BC-15/6	High

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Priority</i>
	<p>(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;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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.</p>		
	3. Consider the report on progress in the implementation of decision BC-15/7 on technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention.	Decision BC-15/7	Medium
	4. Consider the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes.	Decision BC-15/10	High
	5. Consider the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries.	Decision BC-15/11	High
	6. Consider the draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres.	Decision BC-15/15	Medium
	7. Consider whether technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of rubber wastes (entry B3040) and waste parings and scrap of rubber (entry B3080) should be developed.	Decision BC-15/15	Medium
B. Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents	Consider the report with recommendations on the next steps regarding the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents.	Decision BC-15/14	Medium
C. Further consideration of plastic waste	Consider possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics.	Decision BC-15/15	Medium

<i>Topics</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Priority</i>
D. Waste containing nanomaterials	Consider information related to activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials.	Decision BC-15/16	Medium
E. Amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX on e-waste	Consider the need to update existing guidance, technical guidelines and factsheets in order to reflect adjustments consequential to the adoption of the e-waste amendments.	Decision BC-15/18	High
F. Amendments to the annexes to the Basel Convention	Consider and review any applications for changes and any corrections to the list of wastes contained in Annexes VIII and IX to the Basel Convention.	Decision VIII/15	High
III. Legal, governance and enforcement matters			
A. Providing further legal clarity	1. Consider the proposals by the European Union to amend Annex IV and certain entries in Annexes II and IX to the Basel Convention and the recommendations and findings of the expert working group, taking into account the discussions at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and provide recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.	Decision BC-15/19	High
	2. Consider progress made in the review of Annexes I and III and provide recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.	Decision BC-15/19	High
IV. International cooperation and coordination			
A. Basel Convention Partnership Programme	1. Consider progress made in and provide guidance on the implementation of the programme of work of the working group of the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste for the biennium 2022–2023.	Decision BC-15/22	Medium
	2. Consider progress made in and provide guidance on the implementation of the workplan of the working group of the Household Waste Partnership for the biennium 2022–2023.	Decision BC-15/22	Medium
	3. Consider progress made in and provide guidance on the implementation of the workplan of the working group of the Partnership on Plastic Waste for the biennium 2022–2023.	Decision BC-15/22	Medium
B. Cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System	Consider progress made with regard to the inclusion of Basel Convention wastes in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.	Decision BC-15/12	Low

BC-15/24: Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury

The Conference of the Parties,

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

Expressing gratitude for the operative proposal of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on sharing services between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,⁷⁰

Welcoming decisions MC-3/11 and MC-4/9, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention at its third and fourth meetings, on enhanced cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

1. *Takes note* of the content of the operative proposal of the Executive Director and of the various options provided therein;
2. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2020, which contains information on its cooperative activities with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention,⁷¹ of the joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,⁷² and of the report of the joint task force between the two secretariats and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme;⁷³
3. *Affirms* the importance of continued cooperation on programmatic synergies, of the use of the task force between the two secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch, and of the possibility for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to provide secretariat support to the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of the conventions for each biennium;
4. *Welcomes* the establishment of inter-secretariat working groups to address specific aspects of relevant services, as recommended by the United Nations Environment Programme;
5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the performance of secretariat functions for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and mindful of the legal autonomy of the respective secretariats, to support the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in its efforts to enhance cooperation with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, including through the regular use of the task force comprising the two secretariats and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme as a stable framework for cooperation and the sharing of relevant secretariat services, in accordance with decisions BC-14/22, RC-9/10 and SC-9/20 of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:
 - (a) To continue, with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the programme of work and budget and to explore ways to further strengthen the cooperation and collaboration with the Minamata Convention;
 - (b) To continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium;

⁷⁰ UNEP/MC/COP.3/16.

⁷¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45.

⁷² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/23–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/44.

⁷³ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/67–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/46–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/43.

(c) To report on the implementation of the present decision, including on a stable framework for cooperation and for the sharing of services, providing an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the biennium 2024–2025, for the consideration of and, as necessary, further guidance by, the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

BC-15/25: International cooperation and coordination with other organizations

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal at its fourteenth meeting related to plastic waste, including marine plastic litter and microplastics,^{74, 75} the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2021,⁷⁶ the update provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020,⁷⁷ and the information on activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme on programmatic matters pertaining to 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;⁷⁸

2. *Welcomes* the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session, including resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”;⁷⁹ resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste;⁸⁰ and resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution;⁸¹ and notes the considerable expertise available within the Secretariat and among Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions relevant to these issues;

3. *Also welcomes* the political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme;⁸²

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to participate in the intergovernmental negotiating committee itself, mentioned in paragraph 1 of Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, and to closely cooperate and coordinate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee; and invites Parties participating in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to ensure that the international legally binding instrument is fully coherent with and complementary to the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions, that it avoids the duplication of actions set out in the relevant provisions of those conventions, and that it promotes cooperation and coordination with those conventions, and to ensure that the expertise of the Secretariat and the Parties and the experience built up in implementing the conventions is fully shared to help the intergovernmental negotiating committee in its deliberations;

5. *Encourages* the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to participate in the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and share their expertise;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to participate in the ad hoc open-ended working group mentioned in paragraph 4 of Environment Assembly resolution 5/8, to contribute to preparation of proposals for the science-policy panel mentioned in paragraph 1 of that resolution, and to cooperate closely with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the science-policy panel; and invites Parties participating in the ad hoc open-ended working group to promote coordination and cooperation; and to promote that the panel will undertake work that is complementary to and does not duplicate the work of the conventions; that the panel will cooperate closely with science-policy bodies under the conventions, as appropriate;⁸³ and that the

⁷⁴ Decisions BC-14/12, BC-14/13, BC-14/18, BC-14/21 and BC-14/23.

⁷⁵ This is only relevant for the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

⁷⁶ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45.

⁷⁷ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/43–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/47.

⁷⁸ See UNEP/CHW.15/INF/56–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/25–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/46.

⁷⁹ UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

⁸⁰ UNEP/EA.5/Res.7.

⁸¹ UNEP/EA.5/Res.8.

⁸² UNEP/EA.SS.1/4.

⁸³ See paras. 5 (c), 6 (d) and 8 of resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

extensive experience of science-based promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste is made available to the ad hoc open ended working group;

7. *Notes* the invitation by the United Nations Environment Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, for the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider further the issue of increasing levels of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes, as reported by developing countries, and draws attention to the relevant decisions adopted at past meetings of the Conference of the Parties and at its present meeting;^{84,85}

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions related to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

9. *Recalls* the provisions on programmatic cooperation of the 2019 memorandums of understanding between the respective conferences of the Parties to 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 and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and, for the Rotterdam Convention, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

10. *Welcomes* the programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on programmatic matters of mutual interest;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue such programmatic cooperation efforts;

12. *Notes* the progress achieved towards the establishment and operationalization of the e-waste coalition;

13. *Notes with concern* that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have not yet become participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

14. *Urges* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to respond to the request of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals so that the process for consideration of the membership of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions can be completed;

15. *Welcomes* the support of the United Nations Environment Programme for the full participation of the conventions in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

16. *Invites* the Inter-organization Coordinating Committee of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to respond to the request to include the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as participating organizations of the Programme as soon as possible;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue taking the necessary steps for membership and participation in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

18. *Reiterates* the requests contained in paragraphs 6 (a)–(c) of decisions BC-14/21, RC-9/9 and SC-9/19 to the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the conventions;

⁸⁴ See decisions BC-15/20 and BC-14/17 on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic, BC-14/19 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, and BC-14/24 on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.

⁸⁵ This paragraph is only relevant for the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

19. *Requests* the Secretariat and invites the relevant custodian agencies⁸⁶ to strengthen their collaboration to ensure appropriate linkages between the reporting system of the Basel Convention and that of the Sustainable Development Goals, including commonalities in terminology, in order to enable data-sharing;

20. *Recognizes* the intrinsic linkage between human health and environment, and the coordinating role of the World Health Organization with regard to health matters, and notes the importance of the continued activities of the World Health Organization in the context of that organization's chemicals road map and its global strategy on health, environment and climate change;

21. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To work closely with other international organizations, within their mandates, on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics;

(b) To enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and with other international bodies in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including in the areas and with the organizations listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2019-31 December 2021;

(c) To continue to participate as an observer, upon invitation, in relevant meetings of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, pending the outcome of the actions mentioned in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the present decision;

22. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly set out in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the annex to its resolution 73/333 on the follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277;⁸⁷

23. *Notes* that decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties over the years and at the present meeting satisfactorily address those recommendations;

24. *Welcomes* the exploratory study entitled "Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity", including its conclusions,⁸⁸ and the report entitled "Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action";⁸⁹

25. *Requests* the Secretariat to forward those reports to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, respectively, with an invitation to bring the reports to the attention of the respective conferences of the Parties to those conventions, as appropriate;

26. *Calls on* Parties to take into account the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted, in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

27. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the conventions could contribute to the post-2020 biodiversity framework, once adopted, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;

28. *Encourages* Parties and others to consider the conclusions and technical recommendations of the report entitled "Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action"⁹⁰ in their actions to address the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes and climate change mitigation;

29. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings.

⁸⁶ The United Nations Environment Programme and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

⁸⁷ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/66–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/47–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/69.

⁸⁸ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48.

⁸⁹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/45–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/49.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

BC-15/26: 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. *Takes note* of the workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the *biennium 2022–2023*;⁹¹
3. *Requests* the *Secretariat*:
 - (a) To continue the work to implement the strategy of the joint clearing-house mechanism⁹² in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
 - (b) To implement the maintenance activities outlined in section II.A of the workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2022–2023 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision, in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention, while prioritizing recurring activities, in particular with respect to the maintenance of existing systems;
 - (c) To implement, subject to the availability of resources, the activities outlined in section II.B of the workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2022–2023 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision, in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium;
4. *Also requests* the *Secretariat*:
 - (a) To continue to enhance cooperation and coordination activities with existing partners in the area of information exchange, to explore possible cooperative activities with new partners, as appropriate, and to ensure complementarity with and avoid duplication of existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
 - (b) To continue its collaboration with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to exchange information and share experiences and best practices regarding the use of existing clearing-house mechanism systems;
5. *Invites* Parties and observers to participate, as appropriate, in the implementation and further development of the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan for the biennium 2022–2023, in accordance with the present decision;
6. *Requests* the *Secretariat* to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments regarding the international agenda on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

⁹¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/50.

⁹² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

BC-15/27: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

The Conference of the Parties

I⁹³

1. *Adopts* the forms to enable Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to voluntarily provide information about cases of trade occurring in contravention of those conventions;⁹⁴
2. *Encourages* Parties to provide information about cases of trade occurring in contravention of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions using the forms mentioned in paragraph 1 of the present decision;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To collect information about confirmed cases by Parties concerned by illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes occurring in contravention of the Convention submitted by Parties on a voluntary basis, notify the Parties concerned in advance, and make such information available on the website of the Convention;
 - (b) To review existing cooperative arrangements with international organizations or entities with a mandate to prevent and combat illegal trade in hazardous chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including recommendations on strengthening such arrangements, taking into account relevant experience with the Basel Convention, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

II⁹⁵

4. *Reminds* Parties to the Basel Convention to report cases of illegal traffic to the Secretariat using the prescribed form for confirmed cases of illegal traffic⁹⁶ or through table 9 of the format for national reporting for cases of illegal traffic that have been closed in the reporting year;

III

5. *Recalls* decisions BC-14/24, RC-9/12 and SC-9/22, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, in particular paragraph 2 of those decisions,
6. *Invites* Parties to provide best practices for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including the texts of any measures that have been adopted by them for that purpose;
7. *Takes note* of the report, including recommendations, on opportunities for strengthened cooperation among organizations with relevant mandates and activities aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;⁹⁷
8. *Encourages* the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,⁹⁸ the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization and relevant global and regional enforcement networks to undertake activities aimed at assisting Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, and to inform the Secretariat thereof;

⁹³ This section is only relevant for the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

⁹⁴ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/52.

⁹⁵ This section is only relevant for the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

⁹⁶ See www.basel.int/Procedures/ReportingonIllegalTraffic/tabid/1544/Default.aspx.

⁹⁷ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/48–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/53.

⁹⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; World Health Organization; World Bank; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

9. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to provide advice and, subject to the availability of resources, undertake technical assistance activities to strengthen the capacity of Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(b) To collect best practices from Parties for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to present a compilation thereof and lessons learned therefrom for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(c) To provide Parties, upon request, with assistance in identifying cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals;

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

BC-15/28: From science to action

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the information on progress in the action by Parties and others to promote the implementation of the road map⁹⁹ for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as provided in the note by the Secretariat on “From science to action”;¹⁰⁰
2. *Encourages* Parties and others to continue to undertake action that promotes the implementation of the road map;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in taking science-based action in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme and, as appropriate, other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders towards strengthening the science-policy interface, including in the context of the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

⁹⁹ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/35–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/44.

¹⁰⁰ UNEP/CHW.15/25–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/25.

BC-15/29: Dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes* with appreciation the offer by the Government of the Bahamas to host the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2023 in the Bahamas;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to enter into consultations with the Government of the Bahamas with a view to agreeing on satisfactory arrangements and concluding a host country agreement for hosting the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties from 8 to 19 May 2023;
3. *Agrees*, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of a host country agreement between the Government of the Bahamas and the Executive Secretary on arrangements for the meetings of the conferences of the Parties, to convene these meetings back to back in the Bahamas in 2023;
4. *Decides* that the meetings will include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues and that the meetings will not include a high-level segment;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in order to assist Parties in preparing for the back-to-back meetings, to support, subject to the availability of resources, regional meetings, coordinated with other regional meetings, to assist regional preparatory processes;
6. *Invites* Parties to submit offers to host the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, if possible by 1 March 2023, for consideration during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2023.

BC-15/30: Programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2022–2023

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision BC-15/2 on the interim programme of work and budget of the Basel Convention for 2022 adopted during the online segment of its fifteenth meeting, held from 26 to 30 July 2021,

Taking note of the financial reports for 2020 and 2021 from the trust fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention general trust fund),¹⁰¹

Taking note also of the proposal by the Secretariat on the allocation of savings made owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic under the Basel Convention,¹⁰²

Recalling decision BC-14/26 on the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention,

I

Basel Convention general trust fund

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2022–2023 of 4,964,844 United States dollars for 2022 and 4,849,700 United States dollars for 2023, for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention to make commitments up to the amount of the approved operational budget, drawing upon available cash resources;
3. *Decides* to maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for the biennium 2022–2023;
4. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2022–2023 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 2023 for 2023;
5. *Recalls* that contributions to the Basel Convention general trust fund are expected by 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, *urges* Parties to pay their contributions promptly, *encourages* Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2022 for the calendar year 2023, and *requests* the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible;
6. *Reiterates* the ongoing concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Basel Convention general trust fund for 2021 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules, and *urges* Parties to pay their outstanding contributions in full as soon as possible;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to work directly with the permanent missions, ministries of foreign affairs and focal points of the Parties in that situation, so that they fully pay their arrears and assessed contributions as soon as possible, and to present at regional meetings information on the current situation regarding arrears and their consequences;
8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to work closely with the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to improve the timely communication of information on the payment of contributions, including arrears;
9. *Recognizes* the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy in general and the economies of developing countries in particular and the fact that many developing-country Parties are striving to deal with the economic impact of the pandemic;
10. *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 9 of decision BC-14/29, and *decides* to

¹⁰¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/55/Rev.1.

¹⁰² Ibid.

continue the practice that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for four or more years and that has not agreed on or is not respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of rule 5 of the financial rules shall be eligible to receive financial support for attendance at intersessional workshops or other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years must be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

11. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers for foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, *requests* that this practice continue, and *thanks* those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

12. *Adopts* the staffing table of the Secretariat for the biennium 2022–2023 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

13. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that positions remain at the same level or become lower, that the Executive Secretary remains within the overall cost for the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2022–2023, in line with the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,¹⁰³ and that the staffing does not cause any additional budget obligations to be incurred beyond that biennium;

14. *Authorizes*, on an exceptional basis, the Executive Secretary, as a last resort, to draw additional funds, not exceeding 247,179 United States dollars, from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions' three general trust funds' net balance to cover any shortfall in the approved staffing envelope for the biennium 2022–2023, 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;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting on the level of positions filled against the approved staffing table;

II

Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions

16. *Takes note* of the funding estimates of 9,241,602 United States dollars for 2022 and 9,416,836 United States dollars for 2023, in table 1 of the present decision, for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention (Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions);

17. *Notes* that the requirements for the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions presented in the budget represent the Secretariat's best efforts to be realistic and reflect priorities agreed upon by all Parties, and *urges* Parties, and *invites* non-Parties and others, to make voluntary contributions to the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions so as to encourage contributions from donors;

18. *Also notes* the importance of having funding available in the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions for the participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and of Parties with economies in transition in meetings under the Convention;

19. *Acknowledges* the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme task force to conduct an overall review of the current methodology for calculating and allocating programme support costs, and looks forward to the outcomes of its work, which may be considered, once available, by the Conference of the Parties;

20. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute, as a matter of urgency and as early as feasible, to the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and of Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

¹⁰³ Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at: <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.

III

Preparations for the next biennium

21. *Notes* the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the Secretariat and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;
22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2024–2025, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the biennium 2022–2023 in a programmatic format;
23. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a staffing table and reflect the total actual costs in the budgets of the conventions for the biennium 2024–2025;
24. *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 2024–2025 two alternative funding scenarios that take into account any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 21 of the present decision and are based on:
- (a) The Executive Secretary's assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2022–2023 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 2022–2023 level in nominal terms;
25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, at the sixteenth 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;
26. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to allocate resources to fund participants' travel from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition on the basis of the country classification lists developed by the United Nations Secretariat,¹⁰⁴ in observance of paragraph 3 (c) of rule 4 of the financial rules of the Basel Convention;
27. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the requirement for the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions for the biennium 2024–2025 presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;
28. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare for consideration at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties a report, taking into consideration possible additional costs incurred owing to contingency arrangements made to allow possible online participation in meetings of the Conference of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies, in consultation with Parties, on the available surpluses and, if appropriate, options for using surpluses to fund core activities, taking into account the need for an available cash balance;
29. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Assembly to consider the implementation of the request to waive programme support costs for voluntary contributions for participation costs pursuant to Environment Assembly resolution 2/18, including possible procedural challenges in the context of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;
30. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to comply with the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in particular with regard to core services costs to be supported by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to the annex to the Memorandum of Understanding.

¹⁰⁴ See, for example, the *World Economic Situation and Prospects* annual report.

Table 1
Programme budget, reserves and financing for the biennium 2022–2023
 (United States dollars)

	<i>General trust funds</i>				<i>Voluntary trust funds¹</i>			
	<i>Basel (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm (SCL)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Basel (BDL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam (RVL)</i>	<i>Stockholm (SVL)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP-16)	557 574	0	0	557 574	1 083 108	0	0	1 083 108
2. Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (COP-11)	0	557 574	0	557 574	0	1 083 108	0	1 083 108
3. Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (COP-11)	0	0	557 574	557 574	0	0	1 083 108	1 083 108
4. Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-13)	334 632	0	0	334 632	596 260	0	0	596 260
5. Chemical Review Committee (CRC-18 and 19)	0	503 053	0	503 053	0	86 500	0	86 500
6. Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC-18 and 19)	0	0	912 722	912 722	0	0	84 709	84 709
7. Bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions	42 834	29 199	37 363	109 396	0	0	0	0
10. Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee (ICC-15)	39 302	0	0	39 302	46 070	0	0	46 070
11. Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee (CC-1)	0	39 302	0	39 302	0	8 130	0	8 130
12. Support for scientific bodies	0	0	0	0	40 000	40 000	40 000	120 000
13. Technical assistance and capacity development	0	0	0	0	516 311	606 291	606 298	1 728 900
14. Basel Convention training and capacity development	0	0	0	0	5 880 094	0	0	5 880 094
15. Rotterdam Convention training and capacity development	0	0	0	0	0	1 310 000	0	1 310 000
16. Stockholm Convention training and capacity development	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 195 000	1 195 000
18. Partnerships	0	0	0	0	4 429 294	0	0	4 429 294
19. Basel and Stockholm convention support for regional centres	0	0	0	0	979 150	0	954 150	1 933 300
20. Basel Convention scientific support	289 375	0	20 000	309 375	390 000	0	0	390 000
21. Rotterdam Convention scientific support	0	74 000	0	74 000	0	90 000	0	90 000
22. Stockholm Convention scientific support	0	0	130 000	130 000	0	0	337 000	337 000
23. Stockholm effectiveness evaluation and global monitoring plan	0	0	135 000	135 000	0	0	420 000	420 000
24. Basel and Stockholm convention national reporting	40 000	0	70 000	110 000	135 000	0	10 000	145 000
25. Clearing-house mechanism	42 705	92 792	42 703	178 200	83 334	83 332	83 334	250 000
26. Publications	23 766	23 766	23 766	71 298	55 753	54 000	54 000	163 753
27. Communication, outreach and public awareness	8 834	8 833	8 833	26 500	162 000	0	0	162 000
28. Executive direction, management and administration	188 250	236 430	204 399	629 079	0	0	0	0
29. International cooperation	6 666	6 666	6 668	20 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	12 000
30. Resource mobilization and financial mechanisms	0	0	0	0	3 000	3 000	163 000	169 000
32. Basel Convention legal and policy activities	0	0	0	0	859 938	0	0	859 938
33. Legal and policy activities	0	0	0	0	0	100 000	0	100 000
34. Basel Convention country-led initiative (environmentally sound management and further legal clarity)	0	0	0	0	444 440	0	0	444 440
35. Office maintenance and operational services	263 330	151 665	263 330	678 325	0	0	0	0
36. Information and communications technology (ICT) services	100 000	80 000	100 000	280 000	0	0	0	0
Non-staff costs subtotal	1 937 268	1 803 280	2 512 358	6 252 906	15 707 752	3 468 361	5 034 599	24 210 712

	<i>General trust funds</i>				<i>Voluntary trust funds¹</i>			
	<i>Basel (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm (SCL)</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Basel (BDL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam (RVL)</i>	<i>Stockholm (SVL)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Staff costs	6 748 169	5 602 562	8 051 897	20 402 627	804 140	804 140	804 140	2 412 420
Total direct costs (excl. programme support costs)	8 685 437	7 405 843	10 564 255	26 655 535	16 511 892	4 272 501	5 838 739	26 623 132
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	1 129 107	962 760	1 373 353	3 465 220	2 146 546	555 425	759 036	3 461 007
Grand total	9 814 544	8 368 603	11 937 608	30 120 755	18 658 438	4 827 926	6 597 775	30 084 139

¹ Funding of the voluntary budget is subject to the availability of resources.

Funding from the general trust funds for the budget for the biennium 2022–2023

(United States dollars)

	<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Approved budgets for the biennium 2022–2023				
Direct costs for the biennium 2022–2023	8 685 437	7 405 843	10 564 255	26 655 535
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	1 129 107	962 760	1 373 353	3 465 220
<i>Total operational budget for the biennium 2022–2023</i>	9 814 544	8 368 603	11 937 608	30 120 755
Working capital reserve (WCR)				
Current level of WCR (15 per cent)	728 421	624 556	895 497	2 248 475
Required level of WCR (15 per cent)	736 091	627 645	895 321	2 259 057
<i>Change in the working capital reserve</i>	7 670	3 089	(177)	10 582
Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve				
Current level of the reserve		330 318		330 318
Required level of the reserve		298 874		298 874
<i>Change in the reserve¹</i>		(31 444)		(31 444)
Total resources required for the biennium 2022–2023	9 822 213	8 340 247	11 937 432	30 099 892
Proposed funding of the budgets for the biennium 2022–2023				
Available cash balance in the general trust funds				
Host country contribution of Switzerland (excluding the Swiss assessed contribution) ^{2,4,5,6}		626 305	1 861 813	2 488 118
Host country contribution of Italy ^{3,5}		1 252 610		1 252 610
Assessed contributions of Parties	9 822 213	6 461 333	10 075 618	26 359 165
Total funding	9 822 213	8 340 247	11 937 432	30 099 892

Remarks:

(1) The level of the Rotterdam Convention's special contingency reserve (established for the in-kind staff provided by FAO) has been adjusted to reflect changes in the budgeted staff costs between the bienniums 2020–2021 and 2022–2023 at the Rome duty station.

(2) Switzerland's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention is €600,000 per annum, of which 50 per cent is allocated to the general trust fund and 50 per cent is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions.

(3) Italy's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention's general trust fund is €600,000 per annum.

(4) Switzerland's host country contribution to the Stockholm Convention is CHF 2,000,000 per annum, of which CHF 1,000,000 (including Switzerland's assessed contribution) is allocated to the general trust fund and CHF 1,000,000 is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions.

(5) The host country contributions for the Rotterdam Convention are pledged in euros and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.958 euros for June 2022.

(6) The host country contributions for the Stockholm Convention are pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.994 Swiss francs for June 2022.

Table 2

Assessed contributions of Parties to the general trust funds for the operational budgets for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2022–2023

(United States dollars)

Party	United Nations scale of assessment (%) (1)	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention				Stockholm Convention				Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions total
		Adjusted scale (%) (2)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Adjusted scale (%) (3)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Adjusted scale (%) (3)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Contribution for 2022–2023
Afghanistan	0.006	0.008	737	436	301	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 391
Albania	0.008	0.010	983	498	485	0.010	648	320	328	0.011	1 060	541	519	2 690
Algeria	0.109	0.136	13 388	8 595	4 793	0.137	8 823	5 520	3 303	0.143	14 443	9 340	5 103	36 654
Andorra	0.005	0.006	614	311	303	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	614
Angola	0.010	0.013	1 228	623	605	–	–	–	–	0.013	1 325	677	648	2 553
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	246	125	121	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 899
Argentina	0.719	0.899	88 312	56 991	31 321	0.901	58 197	36 601	21 596	0.946	95 270	61 928	33 342	241 779
Armenia	0.007	0.009	860	436	424	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 513
Australia	2.111	2.640	259 285	137 651	121 634	2.644	170 869	88 403	82 466	2.776	279 716	149 574	130 142	709 869
Austria	0.679	0.849	83 399	42 167	41 232	0.851	54 960	27 081	27 879	0.893	89 970	45 820	44 150	228 328
Azerbaijan	0.030	0.038	3 685	3 052	633	–	–	–	–	0.039	3 975	3 316	659	7 660
Bahamas	0.019	0.024	2 334	1 121	1 213	–	–	–	–	0.025	2 518	1 218	1 300	4 851
Bahrain	0.054	0.068	6 633	3 114	3 519	0.068	4 371	2 000	2 371	0.071	7 155	3 384	3 771	18 159
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	982	498	484	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 990
Barbados	0.008	0.010	983	436	547	0.010	648	319	329	0.011	1 060	514	546	2 690
Belarus	0.041	0.051	5 036	3 052	1 984	–	–	–	–	0.054	5 433	3 316	2 117	10 469
Belgium	0.828	1.035	101 700	51 136	50 564	1.037	67 020	32 841	34 179	1.089	109 713	55 566	54 147	278 433
Belize	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Benin	0.005	0.006	614	187	427	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 268
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	123
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019	0.024	2 334	997	1 337	0.024	1 538	640	898	0.025	2 518	1 083	1 435	6 389
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.015	1 474	747	727	0.015	971	480	491	0.016	1 590	812	778	4 035
Botswana	0.015	0.019	1 842	872	970	0.019	1 214	560	654	0.020	1 988	948	1 040	5 044

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Brazil	2.013	2.517	247 248	183 618	63 630	2.522	162 937	117 924	45 013	2.647	266 730	199 522	67 208	676 915
Brunei Darussalam	0.021	0.026	2 579	1 557	1 022	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 579
Bulgaria	0.056	0.070	6 878	2 865	4 013	0.070	4 533	1 840	2 693	0.074	7 420	3 113	4 307	18 831
Burkina Faso	0.004	0.005	491	187	304	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 145
Burundi	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Cambodia	0.007	0.009	860	374	486	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 513
Cameroon	0.013	0.016	1 597	810	787	0.016	1 052	520	532	0.017	1 723	880	843	4 372
Canada	2.628	3.286	322 785	170 289	152 496	3.292	212 716	109 364	103 352	3.456	348 220	185 038	163 182	883 722
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 130
Chad	0.003	0.004	368	249	119	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 022
Chile	0.420	0.525	51 587	25 350	26 237	0.526	33 996	16 281	17 715	0.552	55 652	27 546	28 106	141 234
China	15.254	19.075	1 873 581	747 738	1 125 843	19.109	1 234 692	480 216	754 476	20.061	2 021 213	812 504	1 208 709	5 129 486
Colombia	0.246	0.308	30 215	17 938	12 277	0.308	19 912	11 520	8 392	0.324	32 596	19 492	13 104	82 723
Comoros	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 130
Congo	0.005	0.006	614	374	240	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 268
Cook Islands		0.001	98	50	48	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 752
Costa Rica	0.069	0.086	8 475	3 862	4 613	0.086	5 585	2 480	3 105	0.091	9 143	4 196	4 947	23 203
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022	0.028	2 702	810	1 892	0.028	1 781	520	1 261	0.029	2 915	880	2 035	7 398
Croatia	0.091	0.114	11 177	4 796	6 381	0.114	7 366	3 080	4 286	0.120	12 058	5 211	6 847	30 601
Cuba	0.095	0.119	11 668	4 983	6 685	0.119	7 690	3 200	4 490	0.125	12 588	5 414	7 174	31 946
Cyprus	0.036	0.045	4 422	2 242	2 180	0.045	2 914	1 440	1 474	0.047	4 770	2 436	2 334	12 106
Czechia	0.340	0.425	41 761	19 371	22 390	0.426	27 520	12 440	15 080	0.447	45 051	21 049	24 002	114 332
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	0.006	614	374	240	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 268
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	982	498	484	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 636
Denmark	0.553	0.692	67 923	34 506	33 417	0.693	44 761	22 161	22 600	0.727	73 275	37 495	35 780	185 958
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777

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Dominica	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Dominican Republic	0.067	0.084	8 229	3 301	4 928	0.084	5 423	2 120	3 303	0.088	8 878	3 587	5 291	22 530
Ecuador	0.077	0.096	9 458	4 983	4 475	0.096	6 233	3 200	3 033	0.101	10 203	5 414	4 789	25 893
Egypt	0.139	0.174	17 073	11 585	5 488	–	–	–	–	0.183	18 418	12 589	5 829	35 491
El Salvador	0.013	0.016	1 597	747	850	0.016	1 052	480	572	0.017	1 723	812	911	4 372
Equatorial Guinea	0.012	0.015	1 474	997	477	0.015	971	640	331	0.016	1 590	1 083	507	4 035
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Estonia	0.044	0.055	5 404	2 429	2 975	0.055	3 561	1 560	2 001	0.058	5 830	2 640	3 190	14 796
Eswatini	0.002	0.003	246	125	121	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 899
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	982	498	484	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 636
European Union		2.500	245 555	124 529	121 026	2.500	161 533	79 761	81 772	2.500	251 889	128 600	123 289	658 978
Fiji	0.004	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 008
Finland	0.417	0.521	51 218	26 222	24 996	0.522	33 753	16 841	16 912	0.548	55 254	28 493	26 761	140 225
France	4.318	5.400	530 361	275 738	254 623	5.409	349 508	177 086	172 422	5.679	572 152	299 621	272 531	1 452 020
Gabon	0.013	0.016	1 597	934	663	0.016	1 052	600	452	0.017	1 723	1 015	708	4 372
Gambia	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Georgia	0.008	0.010	983	498	485	0.010	648	320	328	0.011	1 060	541	519	2 690
Germany	6.111	7.642	750 587	379 319	371 268	7.655	494 638	243 608	251 030	8.037	809 731	412 174	397 557	2 054 955
Ghana	0.024	0.030	2 948	934	2 014	0.030	1 943	600	1 343	0.032	3 180	1 015	2 165	8 071
Greece	0.325	0.406	39 918	22 796	17 122	0.407	26 306	14 640	11 666	0.427	43 064	24 771	18 293	109 288
Grenada	0.001	0.001	123	123	123	0.010	646	–	646	0.010	1 008	–	1 008	1 777
Guatemala	0.041	0.051	5 036	2 242	2 794	0.051	3 319	1 440	1 879	0.054	5 433	2 436	2 997	13 787
Guinea	0.003	0.004	368	187	181	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 022
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Guyana	0.004	0.005	491	125	366	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 145
Honduras	0.009	0.011	1 105	561	544	0.011	728	360	368	0.012	1 193	609	584	3 026
Hungary	0.228	0.285	28 004	12 831	15 173	0.286	18 455	8 240	10 215	0.300	30 211	13 942	16 269	76 670
Iceland	0.036	0.045	4 422	1 744	2 678	–	–	–	–	0.047	4 770	1 895	2 875	9 192

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India	1.044	1.306	128 230	51 946	76 284	1.308	84 504	33 361	51 143	1.373	138 334	56 446	81 888	351 067
Indonesia	0.549	0.687	67 431	33 821	33 610	0.688	44 437	21 721	22 716	0.722	72 745	36 750	35 995	184 613
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371	0.464	45 568	24 790	20 778	0.465	30 030	15 921	14 109	0.488	49 159	26 937	22 222	124 757
Iraq	0.128	0.160	15 722	8 035	7 687	0.160	10 361	5 160	5 201	0.168	16 960	8 731	8 229	43 043
Ireland	0.439	0.549	53 920	23 108	30 812	0.550	35 534	14 841	20 693	0.577	58 169	25 109	33 060	147 623
Israel	0.561	0.702	68 905	30 520	38 385	0.703	45 409	19 601	25 808	–	–	–	–	114 314
Italy	3.189	3.988	391 691	205 978	185 713	3.995	258 125	132 285	125 840	–	–	–	–	649 815
Jamaica	0.008	0.010	983	498	485	0.010	648	320	328	0.011	1 060	541	519	2 690
Japan	8.033	10.045	986 658	533 413	453 245	10.063	650 208	342 572	307 636	10.564	1 064 403	579 615	484 788	2 701 269
Jordan	0.022	0.028	2 702	1 308	1 394	0.028	1 781	840	941	0.029	2 915	1 421	1 494	7 398
Kazakhstan	0.133	0.166	16 336	11 087	5 249	0.167	10 765	7 120	3 645	0.175	17 623	12 047	5 576	44 724
Kenya	0.030	0.038	3 685	1 495	2 190	0.038	2 428	960	1 468	0.039	3 975	1 624	2 351	10 088
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 130
Kuwait	0.234	0.293	28 741	15 696	13 045	0.293	18 940	10 080	8 860	0.308	31 006	17 055	13 951	78 688
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.003	246	125	121	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 899
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.007	0.009	860	311	549	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 513
Latvia	0.050	0.063	6 141	2 927	3 214	0.063	4 047	1 880	2 167	0.066	6 625	3 181	3 444	16 814
Lebanon	0.036	0.045	4 422	2 927	1 495	0.045	2 914	1 880	1 034	0.047	4 770	3 181	1 589	12 106
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Liberia	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Libya	0.018	0.023	2 211	1 869	342	0.023	1 457	1 200	257	0.024	2 385	2 030	355	6 053
Liechtenstein	0.010	0.013	1 228	561	667	0.013	809	360	449	0.013	1 325	609	716	3 363
Lithuania	0.077	0.096	9 458	4 422	5 036	0.096	6 233	2 840	3 393	0.101	10 203	4 805	5 398	25 893
Luxembourg	0.068	0.085	8 352	4 173	4 179	0.085	5 504	2 680	2 824	0.089	9 010	4 535	4 475	22 866
Madagascar	0.004	0.005	491	249	242	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 145
Malawi	0.002	0.003	246	125	121	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 899
Malaysia	0.348	0.435	42 743	21 239	21 504	0.436	28 168	13 640	14 528	–	–	–	–	70 911

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Maldives	0.004	0.005	491	249	242	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 145
Mali	0.005	0.006	614	249	365	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 268
Malta	0.019	0.024	2 334	1 059	1 275	0.024	1 538	680	858	0.025	2 518	1 151	1 367	6 389
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Mauritania	0.002	0.003	246	125	121	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 899
Mauritius	0.019	0.024	2 334	685	1 649	0.024	1 538	440	1 098	0.025	2 518	744	1 774	6 389
Mexico	1.221	1.527	149 970	80 473	69 497	1.530	98 830	51 682	47 148	1.606	161 787	87 443	74 344	410 588
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 130
Monaco	0.011	0.014	1 351	685	666	–	–	–	–	0.014	1 458	744	714	2 809
Mongolia	0.004	0.005	491	311	180	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 145
Montenegro	0.004	0.005	491	249	242	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 145
Morocco	0.055	0.069	6 755	3 426	3 329	0.069	4 452	2 200	2 252	0.072	7 288	3 722	3 566	18 495
Mozambique	0.004	0.005	491	249	242	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 145
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	982	498	484	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 990
Namibia	0.009	0.011	1 105	561	544	0.011	728	360	368	0.012	1 193	609	584	3 026
Nauru	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 130
Nepal	0.010	0.010	982	436	546	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 636
Netherlands	1.377	1.722	169 131	84 459	84 672	1.725	111 457	54 242	57 215	1.811	182 458	91 775	90 683	463 046
New Zealand	0.309	0.386	37 953	18 125	19 828	0.387	25 011	11 640	13 371	0.406	40 944	19 695	21 249	103 908
Nicaragua	0.005	0.006	614	311	303	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 268
Niger	0.003	0.004	368	125	243	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 022
Niue	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 008
Nigeria	0.182	0.228	22 354	15 571	6 783	0.228	14 731	10 000	4 731	0.239	24 116	16 920	7 196	61 201
North Macedonia	0.007	0.009	860	436	424	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 513
Norway	0.679	0.849	83 399	46 963	36 436	0.851	54 960	30 161	24 799	0.893	89 970	51 031	38 939	228 328
Oman	0.111	0.139	13 634	7 163	6 471	0.139	8 985	4 600	4 385	0.146	14 708	7 783	6 925	37 326
Pakistan	0.114	0.143	14 002	7 163	6 839	0.143	9 227	4 600	4 627	0.150	15 105	7 783	7 322	38 335

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Palau	0.001	0.001	123	62	61		–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 130
Panama	0.090	0.113	11 054	2 803	8 251	0.113	7 285	1 800	5 485	0.118	11 925	3 046	8 879	30 264
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.013	1 228	623	605		–	–	–	0.013	1 325	677	648	2 553
Paraguay	0.026	0.033	3 193	997	2 196	0.033	2 104	640	1 464	0.034	3 445	1 083	2 362	8 743
Peru	0.163	0.204	20 021	9 467	10 554	0.204	13 194	6 080	7 114	0.214	21 598	10 287	11 311	54 812
Philippines	0.212	0.265	26 039	12 769	13 270	0.266	17 160	8 200	8 960	0.279	28 091	13 874	14 217	71 290
Poland	0.837	1.047	102 805	49 953	52 852	1.049	67 749	32 081	35 668	1.101	110 906	54 280	56 626	281 459
Portugal	0.353	0.441	43 357	21 800	21 557	0.442	28 573	14 000	14 573	0.464	46 774	23 688	23 086	118 704
Qatar	0.269	0.336	33 040	17 565	15 475	0.337	21 773	11 280	10 493	0.354	35 644	19 086	16 558	90 457
Republic of Korea	2.574	3.219	316 153	141 201	174 952	3.224	208 345	90 683	117 662	3.385	341 065	153 432	187 633	865 563
Republic of Moldova	0.005	0.006	614	187	427	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 268
Romania	0.312	0.390	38 322	12 333	25 989	0.391	25 254	7 920	17 334	0.410	41 341	13 401	27 940	104 917
Russian Federation	1.866	2.333	229 192	149 797	79 395	2.338	151 038	96 203	54 835	2.454	247 252	162 772	84 480	627 483
Rwanda	0.003	0.004	368	187	181	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 022
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.002	0.003	246	62	184	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 899
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.003	246	62	184		–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 253
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Samoa	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Saudi Arabia	1.184	1.481	145 425	72 999	72 426	1.483	95 836	46 882	48 954	1.557	156 885	79 322	77 563	398 145
Senegal	0.007	0.009	860	436	424	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 513
Serbia	0.032	0.040	3 930	1 744	2 186	0.040	2 590	1 120	1 470	0.042	4 240	1 895	2 345	10 761
Seychelles	0.002	0.003	246	125	121		–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 253
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Singapore	0.504	0.630	61 904	30 208	31 696	0.631	40 795	19 401	21 394	0.663	66 782	32 825	33 957	169 481
Slovakia	0.155	0.194	19 038	9 530	9 508	0.194	12 546	6 120	6 426	0.204	20 538	10 355	10 183	52 122
Slovenia	0.079	0.099	9 703	4 734	4 969	0.099	6 394	3 040	3 354	0.104	10 468	5 144	5 324	26 565

Party	United Nations scale of assessment (%) (1)	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention				Stockholm Convention				Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions total
		Adjusted scale (%) (2)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Adjusted scale (%) (3)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Adjusted scale (%) (3)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Contribution for 2022–2023
Solomon Islands	0.001	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 008
Somalia	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
South Africa	0.244	0.305	29 969	16 942	13 027	0.306	19 750	10 880	8 870	0.321	32 331	18 409	13 922	82 050
Spain	2.134	2.669	262 110	133 665	128 445	2.673	172 731	85 843	86 888	2.806	282 763	145 242	137 521	717 603
Sri Lanka	0.045	0.056	5 527	2 741	2 786	0.056	3 642	1 760	1 882	0.059	5 963	2 978	2 985	15 132
State of Palestine		0.001	98	50	48	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 752
Sudan	0.010	0.010	982	498	484	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 636
Suriname	0.003	0.004	368	311	57	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 022
Sweden	0.871	1.089	106 981	56 431	50 550	1.091	70 501	36 241	34 260	1.145	115 411	61 319	54 092	292 892
Switzerland	1.134	1.418	139 284	71 691	67 593	1.421	91 788	46 042	45 746	1.491	150 259	77 900	72 359	381 332
Syrian Arab Republic	0.009	0.011	1 105	685	420	0.011	728	440	288	0.012	1 193	744	449	3 026
Tajikistan	0.003	0.004	368	249	119	–	–	–	–	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 376
Thailand	0.368	0.460	45 200	19 122	26 078	0.461	29 787	12 280	17 507	0.484	48 761	20 778	27 983	123 748
Togo	0.002	0.003	246	125	121	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 899
Tonga	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037	0.046	4 545	2 491	2 054	0.046	2 995	1 600	1 395	0.049	4 903	2 707	2 196	12 442
Tunisia	0.019	0.024	2 334	1 557	777	0.024	1 538	1 000	538	0.025	2 518	1 692	826	6 389
Türkiye	0.845	1.057	103 788	85 393	18 395	1.059	68 396	54 842	13 554	1.111	111 966	92 790	19 176	284 149
Turkmenistan	0.034	0.043	4 176	2 055	2 121	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4 176
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	94	1 777
Uganda	0.010	0.010	982	498	484	0.010	646	320	326	0.010	1 008	541	467	2 636
Ukraine	0.056	0.070	6 878	3 550	3 328	0.070	4 533	2 280	2 253	0.074	7 420	3 858	3 562	18 831
United Arab Emirates	0.635	0.794	77 994	38 368	39 626	0.795	51 398	24 641	26 757	0.835	84 140	41 691	42 449	213 532
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.375	5.471	537 362	284 458	252 904	5.481	354 122	182 686	171 436	5.754	579 704	309 097	270 607	1 471 188
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	982	623	359	0.010	646	400	246	0.010	1 008	677	331	2 636
Uruguay	0.092	0.115	11 300	5 419	5 881	0.115	7 447	3 480	3 967	0.121	12 190	5 888	6 302	30 937

Party	United Nations scale of assessment (%) (1)	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention				Stockholm Convention				Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions total
		Adjusted scale (%) (2)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Adjusted scale (%) (3)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Adjusted scale (%) (3)	Contribution for 2022–2023	Interim assessment for 2022	Contribution for 2023	Contribution for 2022–2023
Uzbekistan	0.027	0.034	3 316	1 993	1 323	–	–	–	–	0.036	3 578	2 166	1 412	6 894
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	123	62	61	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	1 777
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.175	0.219	21 494	45 344	(23 850)	0.219	14 165	29 121	(14 956)	0.230	23 188	49 271	(26 083)	58 848
Viet Nam	0.093	0.116	11 423	4 796	6 627	0.117	7 528	3 080	4 448	0.122	12 323	5 211	7 112	31 273
Yemen	0.008	0.010	982	623	359	0.010	646	400	246	0.010	1 008	677	331	2 636
Zambia	0.008	0.010	982	561	421	0.010	646	360	286	0.010	1 008	609	399	2 636
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.009	860	311	549	0.010	646	319	327	0.010	1 008	514	494	2 513

Notes:

(1) United Nations scale of assessment as per resolution 76/238 of 24 December 2021 adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

(2) As per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Basel Convention, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that: (i) no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total; (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total; (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(3) As per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a) of the financial rules of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that: (i) no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total; (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total; (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

Table 3
Staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2022–2023 funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>Core funded</i>	<i>In-kind by FAO</i>	<i>Programme support costs</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. Professional categories				
D-2 level	1.00	0.25		1.25
D-1 level	1.00			1.00
P-5 level	7.00			7.00
P-4 level	7.00		2.00	9.00
P-3 level	16.50	1.00		17.50
P-2 level	2.00			2.00
Subtotal A	34.50	1.25	2.00	37.75
B. General Service category				
GS	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
Subtotal B	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
Total (A+B)	46.50	2.50	8.00	57.00
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(3)	
<i>Remarks:</i>				
(1) Core funded positions are funded from the general trust funds.				
(2) Posts provided by FAO as an in-kind contribution to the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.				
(3) Posts funded from programme support costs levied on both assessed (core) and voluntary contributions.				

Table 4
Proposed indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2022–2023 funded from the technical cooperation/voluntary special trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>Voluntary funded</i>	<i>Junior Professional Officers</i>	<i>Total</i>
A. Professional categories			
D-2 level			
D-1 level			
P-5 level			
P-4 level			
P-3 level	1.00		1.00
P-2 level	1.00	2.00	3.00
Subtotal A	2.00	2.00	4.00
B. General Service category			
GS	5.00		5.00
Subtotal B	5.00		5.00
Total (A+B)	7.00	2.00	9.00
Remarks	(1)	(2)	
<i>Remarks:</i>			
(1) Voluntary funded posts will only be filled if sufficient voluntary funding becomes available. Additional voluntary funded positions may be created to support the implementation of voluntary funded projects as required and subject to the availability of resources.			
(2) Technical cooperation trust funds for junior professional officers are established and managed by UNEP.			

Table 5

Projected staff costs for the Geneva and Rome duty stations for the biennium 2022–2023
(United States dollars)

Duty station: Geneva

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022–2023</i>
A. Professional categories					
D-2 level	312 640	320 456	328 468	336 680	665 148
D-1 level	312 640	320 456	328 468	336 680	665 148
P-5 level	272 888	279 711	286 704	293 872	580 576
P-4 level	230 262	236 019	241 920	247 968	489 888
P-3 level	197 064	201 991	207 041	212 218	419 259
P-2 level	168 815	173 036	177 362	181 797	359 159
B. General Service category					
GS	150 856	154 628	158 494	162 457	320 951
C. Other					
Retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs					262 931
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3)

Remarks:

(1) Staff costs incurred during 2020 have been used as the basis for projecting staff costs for future years. The 2020 costs include a provision for home leave as staff have had to defer their home leave entitlement due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

(2) Staff costs for 2021, 2022 and 2023 have been estimated by incrementing the 2020 costs by 2.5 per cent per annum to provide for salary step increases, inflation, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on post adjustment and any other unexpected changes in staff costs. On an exceptional basis, the Executive Secretary is authorized, as a last resort, to draw additional funds, not exceeding 247,179 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 2022–2023, 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.

(3) Projected costs associated with retirement / separation (e.g., repatriation, annual leave commutation) and recruitment of replacement staff (e.g., relocation costs, assignment grants) have been presented separately as they are not part of actual staff cost projections. The provisions made take into account the fact that three staff members will retire during the biennium 2022–2023. Provision has also been made to cover 50 per cent of the repatriation and annual leave commutation of three additional staff members who have the option to retire during the biennium 2022–2023 should they choose to do so. That provision may also be drawn upon to cover unplanned separations or transfers of staff.

Duty station: Rome					
<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022–2023</i>
A. Professional categories					
P-5 level	260 323	266 832	273 503	280 341	553 844
P-4 level	249 722	255 966	262 366	268 926	531 292
P-3 level	185 388	190 023	194 774	199 644	394 418
P-2 level	160 016	164 017	168 118	172 321	340 439
B. General Service category					
GS	95 570	97 960	100 409	102 920	203 329
C. Other					
Retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs					
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3)

Remarks:

(1) Staff costs incurred during 2020 have been used as the basis for projecting staff costs for future years. The 2020 costs include the “Improved Cost Recovery Uplift (ICRU)” charged by FAO on all staff costs as well as a provision for home leave as staff have had to defer their home leave entitlement due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

(2) Staff costs for 2021, 2022 and 2023 have been estimated by incrementing the 2020 costs by 2.5 per cent per annum to provide for salary step increases, inflation, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on post adjustment and any other unexpected changes in staff costs. On an exceptional basis, the Executive Secretary is authorized, as a last resort, to draw additional funds, not exceeding 247,179 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 2022–2023, 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.

(3) None of the staff located in Rome are expected to retire during the biennium 2022–2023. Other possible mobility-related movements have been accounted for under the budget for staff located in Geneva.

Annex II

Report of the high-level segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

1. The high-level segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants took place on the afternoon of Wednesday, 1 June 2022, in connection with the international meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” held in Stockholm on June 2 and 3. The high-level segment focused on the theme “Global Agreements for a Healthy Planet: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”. The segment comprised introductory statements, three interactive ministerial sessions and closing statements.

I. Opening of the high-level segment

2. A representative of the Secretariat welcomed participants to the high-level segment. Ms. Silvija Nora Kalniņš, President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, declared open the resumed tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. On behalf of the presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, she also declared open the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and the resumed tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

3. Opening remarks were made by Ms. Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment, Sweden; Ms. Ligia Noronha, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (on behalf of Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP); and Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

4. In her opening remarks, Ms. Strandhäll welcomed participants to Stockholm, noting that the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment had taken place there 50 years previously and that the Stockholm Convention had been adopted there in 2001. She characterized the Stockholm+50 international meeting as an opportunity for co-creation and multi-stakeholder approaches to accelerate the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and action in the coming decade. She underscored the need to advance policies and partnerships for transitioning to a “new zero”, zero-pollution and nature-positive global economy.

5. Ms. Strandhäll recognized the need for strong commitment among Parties to continuously developing the three conventions and thereby addressing common challenges with regard to chemicals and waste. She called for a green transition and stressed that the sound management of chemicals and waste was necessary to achieve a non-toxic circular economy, in which she highlighted the role of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions. She said that the Basel Convention as a whole, and especially the recent amendment that clarified trade controls on plastic wastes and other tools under the Convention to support decisions by countries that did not wish to receive, or were unable to receive, imports of such waste, embodied a commitment to finding solutions to the challenges posed by global waste. She drew attention to the contributions of the Stockholm Convention to the global phase-out of the most hazardous and persistent chemicals and to its continual evolution as Parties identified and took action on more complex chemicals found in everyday products.

6. Ms. Noronha characterized the current moment as a great crisis and said that the Stockholm+50 meeting represented a time for reflecting on what steps humanity should take in order to move rapidly towards a systemic transformation to sustainability. She stressed that the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste left little room to manoeuvre. The pollution crisis could not be separated from the climate change and biodiversity

crises, as pollution was a driver of biodiversity loss and some sources of greenhouse gas emissions were common to all three crises.

7. She encouraged ministers to tap into the spirit of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, recalling that the Stockholm Declaration adopted at that conference had stated that the just struggle of the peoples of all countries against pollution should be supported. She noted that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had responded to that call, embodying the life-cycle approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste, from prevention and minimization to restrictions and environmentally sound use, to elimination, reuse and recycling. She stressed that the work of the conventions was becoming more important every day, as the production of chemicals had risen 50-fold since 1950 and was projected to triple from its current level by 2050.

8. She highlighted the resolutions recently adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly, which, she said, could encourage coordination to address the triple planetary crisis. She called for collaboration between the future science-policy interface for chemicals and waste, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. She pointed to the Basel Convention's amendments on plastic waste as an example of leveraging the framework of an existing convention to provide insights that could contribute to the development of a new legally binding instrument for plastic waste.

9. Ms. Semedo, in her remarks, said that the sustainable management of chemicals and waste was a cornerstone of the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and of the vision to achieve a healthy planet to produce healthy food and reverse the growing trend of hunger and undernourishment in a world soon to comprise 10 billion people. To do that, she said, food systems must become more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable in order to address the current global environmental, health and food security crises. She highlighted the One Health approach to achieving a healthy environment and healthy people, animals, plants and food.

10. She outlined the scale of the challenges involved in a transition to a sustainable, resilient food system. Humanity was far off track with regard to meeting several of the Sustainable Development Goals, including ending poverty and hunger, problems that continued to deepen largely because of conflict, the climate crisis, and economic fallout from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in addition to degradation of natural resources. For example, the use of agrochemicals was reportedly growing worldwide, seriously threatening human health and the environment. Up to 64 per cent of agricultural land was at risk of pesticide pollution, and 34 per cent at high risk.

11. She called for innovative approaches to reduce air, water and soil pollution; minimize negative effects from chemicals and waste; and protect human health and the environment. Those constituted the main objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; in 2021 alone, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention had provided technical assistance and information on integrated pest management alternatives to hazardous pesticides and sustainable agriculture practices to more than 140 countries. She noted that the Rotterdam Convention, jointly administered by UNEP and FAO, worked to reduce the risks of hazardous pesticides and had specifically highlighted the vulnerable situation of children, as well as gender-based risks.

12. Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, thanking the Government of Sweden and the other organizers of the Stockholm+50 international meeting for allowing the high-level segment to be held in connection with that meeting, introduced the three themes for the interactive ministerial discussions.

II. Interactive ministerial discussions

13. The high-level segment featured three interactive ministerial discussions. Some countries had provided written comments to the Secretariat for inclusion in the discussion.

14. The three themes of the discussions were:

(a) Opportunities for addressing the three planetary environmental crises of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss through the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions;

(b) Opportunities offered by the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions for moving towards managing the full life cycle of chemicals and waste;

(c) Opportunities for enhancing the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions through the promotion of new and clean technologies and innovative approaches to financing.

15. Ms. Yasmine Fouad, Minister for the Environment, Egypt, moderated the ministerial discussion on opportunities for addressing the three planetary environmental crises of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss through the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions. The panellists were Mr. Vaughn Miller, Minister for the Environment, Bahamas; Ms. Zakia Khattabi, Minister for the Climate, the Environment, Sustainable Development and the Green Deal, Belgium; Ms. Bettina Hoffmann, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany; and Ms. Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change, Pakistan. After the panellists had shared their views on the theme, other participants spoke from the floor.

16. In their interventions, the panellists and other participants drew a number of connections between climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Speakers reiterated the fundamental importance of the sound management of chemicals and waste for achieving several of the Sustainable Development Goals, and of the One Health approach. Some noted the historical inequities because of which those countries least responsible for causing the triple planetary crisis were at the greatest risk from rising seas, ecosystem degradation and plastic pollution.

17. Speakers drew attention to the impact of pollution on ecosystems and on industries, such as tourism and fisheries, that relied on healthy ecosystems. Several highlighted the effects of waste, particularly plastic waste, on coastal ecosystems and wildlife. One speaker invoked Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, which evocatively documented the effects of some hazardous pesticides on bird species. Another suggested that ecosystem-based approaches could be effective in addressing waste issues in key sectors, such as agriculture, industry and health.

18. Panellists and other participants highlighted ways in which implementing the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions could contribute to addressing those challenges. Several stressed the need for capacity-building, financial and technical support. Some noted that providing prior informed consent did not indicate a country's capacity for recycling imported waste or safely managing hazardous chemicals. One encouraged Parties to continue to propose and, upon the recommendation of relevant scientific subsidiary bodies, list chemicals in the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions. Others noted the need to redouble efforts to meet the Stockholm Convention's goals of phasing down the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) by 2025 and phasing it out by 2030. One noted that pollution, specifically as addressed by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, tended to receive less attention than climate change and biodiversity issues and called for strengthening political awareness of chemicals and waste issues.

19. Mr. Jan Dusík, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Czechia, moderated the ministerial discussion on life cycle management. The panellists were Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister for Environmental Protection and Agriculture, Georgia; Mr. Kwaku Afriyie, Minister for Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation, Ghana; Mr. Mehmet Emin Birpınar, Deputy Minister for the Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye; and Mr. Nelson Adrian Peña Robaina, Minister for the Environment, Uruguay. After initial comments by the panellists, other participants spoke from the floor.

20. The speakers identified many benefits of, and challenges to, implementing a life-cycle approach. Some drew attention to the pervasive nature of chemicals in commonly used products, which was a compelling reason for using a life-cycle approach to understand which chemicals were present in products and waste streams. One speaker gave the example of lead-acid batteries and called for capacity-building to allow for safe in-country recycling in order to avoid the need to export such batteries after their use. There was widespread agreement regarding the need for means of implementation to support life-cycle and circular economy approaches. One participant suggested that the Basel Convention should establish a life-cycle approach for specific waste streams.

21. Many speakers reported on their countries' efforts to establish a circular economy and address the full life cycle of products in order to reduce waste. Those efforts included phasing out several types of single-use plastics in the near future. Others reported targets for improving recycling rates, while some noted that recycling alone could not be the solution, given that only 30 per cent of industrial waste globally was recycled.

22. Many expressed support for tackling the problem through extended producer responsibility. Several reported that that approach had been included in their national legislation to make companies responsible for their waste. Some called for the global application of the principle in order to hold

liable those responsible for waste products that ended up on the shores of small island States and in other developing countries.

23. Many underlined the benefits of using multi-stakeholder processes to establish a life-cycle approach to chemicals and waste management. One example was multi-stakeholder technical round tables bringing together experts and practitioners in the areas of recycling and ocean waste. Several speakers underscored the need for inclusion, particularly in poor and vulnerable communities that would be most affected by a transition to a circular economy. They noted that inclusive approaches leveraged the knowledge of the many stakeholders involved in the life cycle of a product and the management of its waste.

24. Mr. Carlos-Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, moderated the ministerial discussion on new, clean technologies and innovative financing approaches to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The panellists were Mr. Pierre Hélé, Minister for the Environment, the Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development, Cameroon; Mr. Phouvong Luangxaysana, Vice-Minister for Natural Resources and the Environment, Lao People's Democratic Republic; Mr. Espen Barth Eide, Minister for Climate and the Environment, Norway; and Mr. Flavien Joubert, Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and the Environment, Seychelles. Once the panellists had spoken, other participants made interventions from the floor.

25. Speakers identified specific support needs. One observed that large-scale projects often attracted donor support more easily and drew attention to the important role of small and medium-sized enterprises in managing several waste streams. Another cited the long lifespan of chemicals and their stockpiles and called for long-term, sustained support beyond single projects with limited timelines. Several speakers called for investment in safe alternatives. The recent report on the technical assistance needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition prepared by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions was appreciated by some as a guide to future priorities.

26. Technology transfer was highlighted as a particular need. One panellist singled out technical support for implementing the Stockholm Convention through the transfer of technologies to support the identification of persistent organic pollutants, including in products. Another called for easing access to the best available techniques and best environmental practices. The role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions was acknowledged, and appreciation was expressed in particular for the value they provided through technical assistance, including workshops and other support for national and regional activities to implement the two conventions.

27. The role of the private sector as a potential source of innovative finance was highlighted. One participant described her country's experience in working in partnership with the private sector and stressed the importance of inducing the private sector to act – for example, through tax relief and other financial incentives. One panellist observed that the private sector was beginning to understand the need for greater transparency, including disclosing the chemicals used in products and any associated risks. Attention was drawn to the role of legislation, including legislative requirements for disclosure before placement on the market and enforcement of policies and laws.

III. Closure of the high-level segment

28. Mr. Payet thanked the moderators, the panellists and other participants for their contributions to the discussions and invited the moderators to make final comments.

29. Ms. Anita Breyer, President of the upcoming fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and Mr. Marcos A. Orellana, Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, were also invited to take the floor.

30. Ms. Breyer thanked ministers for their active participation and for their strong signalling of the need for ambitious global action on chemicals. She cited the value of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in establishing a global life-cycle approach to chemicals and waste management. She also recalled the recent decisions by the United Nations Environment Assembly to establish a science-policy interface for chemicals and waste and to start negotiations for a new legally binding instrument on plastics, including in the marine environment. She said that discussions for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 should build upon those foundations.

31. Mr. Orellana recalled that the Stockholm conference of 1972 had recognized the role of human rights in environmental action and observed that the legal framework for chemicals and waste did not include the principles of transparency, participation, and accountability to secure the legal right to a non-toxic environment. He expressed concern that thus far, the existing legal arrangements had not stopped the toxic tide, and he cited ongoing illegal traffic in hazardous wastes that caused environmental injustices. He called on Parties to respect the science-policy interface and to uphold the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention.

32. Mr. Payet then summarized the discussions and presented a summary of the key messages that had emerged from the interactive discussions. Those included:

(a) The need for collaboration with and among the focal points of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions, and the members of the Global Environment Facility Council;

(b) The interconnections between the three elements of the triple planetary crisis are clear, from plastics and their additives to the mutually reinforcing effects of climate change and chemicals, and pollution and biodiversity;

(c) A strong call for a toxic-free environment, and support for the One Health vision;

(d) A strong call for action on polychlorinated biphenyls to meet the 2025 and 2028 targets under the Stockholm Convention;

(e) Strong support for the life-cycle approach, supported by the best available techniques and best environmental practices;

(f) The need to transition waste from end-of-life objects to economic opportunities in the context of green jobs and environmental and social rights;

(g) Support for regional and subregional collaboration;

(h) The need to understand the impacts on the environment and supply chains throughout the life cycle of products;

(i) The need for innovative financing systems, more efforts to strengthen extended producer responsibility, and collaboration, including through the Global Environment Facility;

(j) The need for support to use the best available information and the importance of alternatives.

33. Ms. Katrin Schneeberger, State Secretary and Director, Federal Office for the Environment (Switzerland), delivering closing remarks, said that the high-level segment showed the international community's commitment to the objective of the three conventions to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of chemicals and waste. The resumed conferences of the Parties to the convention were an opportunity to translate key messages from the high-level segment into concrete actions and to proactively address transboundary trade in electronic and electrical waste by adopting the relevant proposed amendment to the Basel Convention. Regarding the Rotterdam Convention, she highlighted the opportunity to list the chemicals most recently recommended for listing by the Chemical Review Committee. A similar opportunity existed for the Stockholm Convention, given the most recent recommendations to list groups of chemicals found in a variety of products.

34. At 4.05 p.m. Ms. Kalniņa, President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, acting also on behalf of the presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, declared the meeting adjourned until its resumption in Geneva on 6 June 2022.

Appendix

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

1. On Wednesday, 1 June 2022, more than 100 high-level representatives of the Governments of more than 100 countries gathered in Stockholm for the high-level segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, held under the theme “Global Agreements for a Healthy Planet: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”. Following is a summary of the key messages emerging from this event.
2. Pollution, including by hazardous chemicals and wastes, is a transboundary planetary crisis that contributes to biodiversity loss and climate change. The implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions plays a crucial role in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and in achieving the national commitments under the Paris Agreement. Addressing pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss in an integrated manner offers win-win opportunities, optimizing the use of limited resources and achieving multiplying and accelerated solutions.
3. Synergies between nature-based solutions and the commitments under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should be harnessed to address the triple planetary crisis of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, and to enable sustainable livelihoods in line with other international regimes such as the One Health approach and the planetary boundaries concept.
4. A human-rights-based approach should be applied when addressing the triple planetary crisis. Social, gender and economic inequalities should be addressed as part of our global commitment to leave no one behind, and also because the most poor and vulnerable are most affected by environmental degradation. Chemicals safety is also a matter of environmental and social justice and is central to improving health, human well-being and prosperity for all.
5. Bearing in mind the complex interlinkages between hazardous chemicals and waste pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should be mainstreamed in a coordinated and complementary manner into national legal frameworks and national development plans. This can only be achieved through interministerial coordination and multi-stakeholder consultations.
6. A multi-stakeholder approach is necessary to implement multilateral environmental agreements and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Major groups and stakeholders should be included in the co-creation and implementation of solutions for the management of the life cycle of chemicals and wastes, and they should be empowered through awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives. The younger generations that will be left with a legacy of environmental degradation should be actively engaged.
7. The implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions provides a legally binding framework for the management of the life cycle of chemicals and waste. In accordance with the waste management hierarchy, the focus should be on preventing the generation of waste, reducing the amount of waste generated, and minimizing the content of hazardous substances in wastes, starting at the design stage. Existing mechanisms under the three conventions should be used to achieve material cycles free from persistent organic pollutants and a transition towards a circular, less wasteful economic system.
8. Funds allocated for the chemicals and waste focal area during the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility have increased, with other bilateral and multilateral funding sources also contributing to the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. However, Parties remain concerned about the insufficient international support for enabling developing countries to fulfil their obligations under the conventions, in particular meeting time-bound targets, such as those for the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls.
9. The integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste needs to be harnessed. Extended producer responsibility schemes should be applied consistently across chemicals and waste legislation to mobilize funds for waste management systems. Appropriate

economic incentives could be applied by national governments in all countries where chemicals are produced, and the revenues could be directed to new or existing international funds to support the sound management of chemicals and waste in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

10. It is essential that countries have in place adequate capacity to manage chemicals and wastes in an environmentally sound manner, including having legal, policy, governance frameworks and institutions as well as access to appropriate information for decision-making. The regional centres have been key partners in ensuring that Parties have access to the necessary tools through technical assistance and capacity-building, and the centres' technical and financial capacities should be further strengthened.

11. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have contributed to combating illegal trade in chemicals and illegal trafficking in wastes. Strong support to continue strengthening the control of transboundary movements of plastic waste and electronic waste, in particular, ensures that such movements occur only if these wastes cannot be managed in an environmentally sound manner at the national level.

12. International cooperation is a precondition as well as a means for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste, and for moving beyond the identification of shared challenges to the identification and implementation of solutions. Parties need to set more ambitious goals for tackling pollution, not only in the context of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions but also in the context of wider multilateral negotiations such as the process for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in the run-up to the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the Group of 7 Leaders' Summit 2022 and the Stockholm+50 international meeting.

13. The intergovernmental science-policy panel that the United Nations Environment Assembly, at its fifth session, decided to establish should build on and contribute to existing mechanisms under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Knowledge concerning sustainable chemistry should be shared to facilitate access to information on safer alternatives.

14. Plastic waste requires solutions for transboundary movement and disposal, for environmentally sound management at local and national levels, and for upstream measures in the life cycle to prevent and minimize the generation of plastic waste. The planned intergovernmental negotiations on a new agreement on plastic waste need to complement and strengthen existing mechanisms that address plastic pollution, such as the Basel and Stockholm conventions.