



**Basel Convention on the Control of  
Transboundary Movements of  
Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal**

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English only



**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior  
Informed Consent Procedure for  
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and  
Pesticides in International Trade**



**Stockholm Convention on  
Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and  
coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

Third meeting

Rome, 25–28 March 2008

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**Consideration of the intersessional work undertaken by the  
members of the ad hoc joint working group and by the  
Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention**

**Draft recommendations to the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel,  
Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions prepared by the Co-chairs of  
the ad hoc joint working group**

1. The first meeting of the ad hoc joint working group was held in Helsinki, Finland 26-28 March 2007 and the second meeting of the ad hoc joint working group was held in Vienna, Austria, 10 to 13 December 2007. The reports of the meetings are available in English only and are set out in documents UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.1/4 and UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.2/18 respectively.
2. At its first meeting the joint working group had before it a supplementary report prepared by Mr. N. Kiddle, as president of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention pursuant to decision SC-2/15 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.1/2). The Joint Working Group identified a non-exhaustive list of objectives and guiding principles to be applied in its future work, which is contained in annex I of the meeting report; a list of national needs, set out in annex II of the meeting report; and a table indicating areas for further cooperation and coordination, set out in Annex III of the meeting report.
3. Furthermore, the ad hoc joint working group undertook intersessional work on individual areas of future cooperation and coordination indicated in the table set out in annex III to the report of the meeting in order to prepare for its second meeting.

\* UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.3/1.

4. At its second meeting the joint working group considered thought starters prepared during the intersessional period by members of the joint working group and the secretariats, and prepared elements and rationale of draft possible recommendations to be made to the Conferences of the Parties to the three Conventions. The joint working group also agreed that in the period between its second and third meetings, the co-chairs of the group would use the elements and rationales set out in annex I to the report of its second meeting, document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.2/18, to prepare for the working group's consideration a document containing draft recommendations to the Conferences of the Parties to the three conventions, taking into account written comments submitted by members of the group and others by 8 February 2008.

5. In light of the above-mandate, the co-chairs, using the elements and rationales set out in annex I to the report of its second meeting, document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.2/18, and taking into account the written comments submitted by members and others, set out in document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.3/INF/2, prepared for consideration of the joint working group at its third meeting, draft joint recommendations to the Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, set forth in the annex to the present note.

6. The joint recommendations as adopted by the ad hoc joint working group at its third meeting will be submitted for consideration by the Conferences of the Parties of the three conventions in following sequence:

- (a) Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to be held 23-28 June 2008, in Bali, Indonesia;
- (b) Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention to be held 27 to 31 October 2008 in Rome, Italy;
- (c) Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention to be held 4 to 8 May 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **Possible action by the ad hoc joint working group**

7. The ad hoc joint working group may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the information set out in the present note, in particular the sequence in which the joint recommendations will be considered by the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,
- (b) Consider the draft decisions on enhancement of coordination and cooperation amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for consideration by the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, set forth in annex I to the present note, prepared by the co-chairs;
- (c) Consider the draft joint recommendations to the Conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, set forth in annex II to the present note, prepared by the co-chairs.

## Annex I

### Draft recommendation to be considered by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the e Basel Convention

#### **Draft decision on enhancement of coordination and cooperation amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for consideration by the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions SC-2/15 on synergies adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, RC-3/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and VIII/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention,

*Welcoming* the work of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

*Noting* the on-going United Nations reform process and World Summit Outcomes 2005 calling for reduced fragmentation on environmental issues;

*Decides to,*

*Approve* the recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions set forth in the annex to the present decision;

*Invite* the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, to consider approval of the recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of coordination and cooperation amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

*Request* the relevant action be taken by Parties, secretariats and other bodies as appropriate, to implement the recommendations within the available resources, if the said recommendations are also approved by the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

## Annex

*[Recommendation text to be inserted here]*

Decision to be considered by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention

**Draft decision on enhancement of coordination and cooperation amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for consideration by the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions SC-2/15 on synergies adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, RC-3/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and VIII/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention,

*Welcoming* the work of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

*Noting* the on-going United Nations reform process and World Summit Outcomes 2005 calling for reduced fragmentation on environmental issues;

*Decides to,*

*Approve* the recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, set forth in the annex to the present decision;

*Note* approval by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention of the recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of coordination and cooperation amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

*Invite* the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention to consider approval of the recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of coordination and cooperation amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

*Request* the relevant action be taken by Parties, secretariats and other bodies as appropriate, to implement the recommendations within the available resources, if the said recommendations are also approved by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm convention;

**Annex**

*[Recommendation text to be inserted here]*

Draft decision to be submitted to the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

**Draft decision on enhancement of coordination and cooperation amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for consideration by the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions SC-2/15 on synergies adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, RC-3/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and VIII/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention,

*Welcoming* the work of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

*Noting* the on-going United Nations reform process and World Summit Outcomes 2005 calling for reduced fragmentation on environmental issues;

*Decides to,*

*Approve* the recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, set forth in the annex to the present decision;

*Note* approval by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention of the recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of coordination and cooperation amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

*Request* the relevant action be taken by Parties, secretariats and other bodies as appropriate, to implement the recommendations within the available resources,

**Annex**

*[Recommendation text to be inserted here]*

## **Annex II**

### **Draft recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of cooperation and coordination amongst the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions**

#### **I. Organizational issues in the field**

##### **A. Coordination at the national level**

1. *Recommends*, that Parties establish national mechanisms to coordinate the activities of the national focal points on chemicals issues, including the focal points for the three Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and other relevant policy frameworks;

2. *Recommends* that Parties be invited to provide, through the joint information service referred to in paragraph 18 below, models of such coordination mechanisms as well as examples of good coordination practices from countries;

3. *Recommends* that Parties, when undertaking capacity-building or technical assistance for implementing the three conventions, cooperate and coordinate closely with relevant sectors, ministries or programmes at the national level in the following areas, among others:

- (a) Customs: combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
- (b) Protection of human health and the environment in case of accidents;
- (c) Information flow;
- (d) Transfer of know-how;
- (e) Preparation of national positions for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and other convention bodies;

4. *Recommends* that the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organizations, collaborate on the elaboration of guidance and training in the above areas;

##### **B. Programmatic cooperation in the field**

5. *Recommends* that the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working together with other bodies of the United Nations, multilateral environmental agreements and other international organizations, especially the United Nations Development Programme, be invited to develop, in the areas of customs, transport, public health and labour, among others, programmatic cooperation in the field that would support implementation of the three conventions in areas of common concern and to include such cooperation in its biennial work programme;

6. *Recommends* that Parties incorporate in their national plans and strategies measures to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in order to ensure coherence in their national priority setting and to facilitate the provision of aid by donors in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and in response to country and regional demand;

## C. Coordinated use of regional offices and centres

7. *Acknowledges* the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions in supporting Parties;

8. *Recommends* that Parties and others stakeholders promote the full and coordinated use of regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions:

9. *Recommends* that Parties consider establishing coordinating centres, subject to regional agreements, with responsibility for both chemicals and wastes management to coordinate activities in the regions and that would:

- (a) Ensure that the centres deliver their work in accordance with priorities and serve as an entry point for countries needing assistance or guidance on which centre in a region could provide assistance for a specific purpose;
- (b) Strengthen centres to enable them to exercise a more synergistic approach as delivery mechanisms under the three conventions;

10. *Recommends* that the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions initiate pilot projects to be undertaken by the regional centres on the coordinated use of centres to gain experience, by building on lessons learned from regional centres that are supporting the conventions;

11. *Recommends* that the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the regional centres exchange information about their capacities and work programmes;

12. *Recommends* that the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and others from the donor community be invited to provide the financial resources necessary to enable regional centres to carry out projects aimed at cooperation and coordination in support of the implementation of the conventions;

13. *Recommends* that Parties to the three conventions adopt a joint approach to developing and attracting financial resources and technical assistance for programmes delivered through the regional centres;<sup>1</sup>

## II. Technical substantive issues

### A. National reporting

14. *Recommends* that the Secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions:

- (a) synchronize the submission of Party reports under the two conventions in those years when the Parties to both conventions are to submit such reports;
- (b) develop joint capacity-building activities to assist Parties in coordinated data and information collection at the national level to enable them to fulfil their reporting obligations;
- (c) streamline their respective reporting formats with a view to reducing the burden of reporting and harmonizing reporting formats and processes;

### B. Compliance/Non-compliance mechanisms

15. *Recommends* that once compliance/non-compliance mechanisms are established under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions the Conferences of the Parties to all three conventions explore the possibilities for enhancing coordination among the agreed mechanisms by, for example, convening back-to-back meetings, establishing a single body to administer the three mechanisms and encouraging the appointment of members to the body or bodies to administer the mechanisms of those who have experience with other compliance mechanisms;

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<sup>1</sup> The AHJWG may wish to consider linking this recommendation to that in paragraph 23 referring to the joint resources mobilization service

16. *Requests* the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to exchange information on progress made on the operation or establishment of the compliance/non-compliance mechanisms established or under negotiation under the three conventions;

### **III. Information management and public awareness issues**

#### **A. Joint outreach and public awareness**

17. *Recommends* the development of a systematic approach to awareness-raising activities among the three conventions;

18. *Recommends* that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, establish a joint information service for the three secretariats in order to increase political awareness by sending coherent messages informing Parties, observers and stakeholders on issues relevant to the mandate and work of the three conventions;

#### **B. Information sharing among technical and scientific panels**

19. *Recommends* that the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions exchange information with each other and with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management and other relevant intergovernmental organizations on activities of the technical and scientific bodies under the three conventions, including through the maintenance of the table developed by the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions at its first meeting and set out in annex I of the report of that meeting<sup>2</sup> (UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.1/4);

#### **C. Pooling information on health and environmental impacts/clearing-house mechanism**

20. *Recommends* that Parties, in cooperation with the health sector, establish common websites containing available information on human health and environmental impacts;

21. *Recommends* that the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions elaborate a common approach to the transmission of information and data on health and environmental impacts, including, in the longer-term, the establishment of common databases for the three conventions, for the purpose of making such information and data more accessible;

#### **D. Joint input into other processes**

22. *Recommends* that the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, whenever feasible, act jointly in participating in other related processes and providing information to other related organizations;

### **IV. Administrative issues**

#### **A. Resource mobilization**

23. *Recommends* that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to establish a joint resource mobilization service of the secretariats. The service should:

- (a) Enhance mobilization of resources in support of the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to a level beyond that achievable through separate action;
- (b) Avoid competitive and uncoordinated resource demands to donors;
- (c) Promote resource mobilization for a life cycle approach to chemicals and waste management;

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<sup>2</sup> Does this refer to the correct table or the table in the thought-starter on this subject submitted to the second meeting of the AHJWG?



(d) Prioritize coordinated efforts to explore new, innovative and adequate sources of funding;

(e) Deliver to the Global Environment Facility and other international financial institutions coherent and coordinated messages from the conference of the Parties of each of the three conventions on funding for the sound management of chemicals and wastes through the implementation of the conventions;

## **B. Back-to-back meetings**

24. *Recommends* that the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions be held in a coordinated manner and be scheduled in such a way as to facilitate such coordination;

25. *Recommends* that joint meetings of the bureaus of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions be scheduled as appropriate;

26. *Recommends* that an extraordinary joint meeting of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions be held back-to-back with the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme;

## **C. Financial management and audit functions**

27. *Recommends* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to establish a joint financial unit of the secretariats and to request simultaneous joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats on a regular basis.

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