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Annex

Swiss paper on how coordinated administrative arrangements might liberate financial resources for the implementation of the three conventions

I. Introduction

During the second meeting of the Ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, it was suggested that it would be good to have additional information on how coordinated administrative arrangements might liberate financial resources for the implementation of the three conventions. Switzerland volunteered to prepare a document for the consideration of the group at its third meeting on the basis of information that UNEP had been compiling in recent months.

Switzerland is providing the following information based on the supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that UNEP has prepared, on request of the second Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, in consultation with the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. UNEP’s analysis has been presented and discussed at the third Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. The full analysis is available on the Web-site of the AHJWG (http://ahjwg.chem.unep.ch/documents/1stmeeting/supp-analysis.pdf).

II. Financial consequences of coordinated administrative arrangements

UNEP’s study analyzes two possible administrative arrangements:

Option 1: A common head and common convention support limited to core management functions: This option assumes that the three convention secretariats would be headed by a single Executive Secretary in charge of the three secretariats at a D-2 level and that there would be two Deputy Executive Secretaries at D-1 level, one for the Basel Convention Secretariat and one for the Rotterdam and the Stockholm Convention secretariat. Moreover, the three secretariats would unify their administrative, legal and financial support into a single unit servicing all three conventions.

According to UNEP’s analysis, the potential savings in terms of staff costs for this option would be US$ 315,000.

Option 1: Integrated administrative support and integrated implementation and technical assistance services: This option assumes that there would be – in addition to the single Executive Secretary, the two Deputy Executive Secretaries and the unified administrative, legal and financial support services of Option 1 – a partial amalgamation of the three convention secretariats: there would be a common management and a single support unit to
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provide all support functions that are common to the three secretariats. Thus, in addition to
the single Executive Secretary, the two Deputy Executive Secretaries and the unified
administrative, legal and financial support services, the three secretariats would benefit from
a joint information management service, a joint resource mobilization and partnership service
and a joint capacity-building and training unit.

According to UNEP’s analysis, the potential savings in terms of staff costs for this option
would be **US$ 765,000.-**.

III. Conclusions

The analysis that UNEP has undertaken on request of the second Conference of the Parties
to the Rotterdam Convention clearly shows that common administrative arrangements could
liberate significant financial resources in the range of US$ 315,000.- to 765,000.-. It must be
noted that the analysis of UNEP was undertaken in 2006. However, while some of the
specific numbers might be different today, the general conclusion that significant cost
savings are possible may still be valid.

The specific key for distribution of the costs of the joint services – and of the resulting
“savings” – between the three conventions would have to be agreed upon by the three
conventions. Moreover, it could be desirable to ensure by parallel COP decisions that the
liberated financial resources would be used for the implementation of the three conventions
and for capacity building and support of developing countries and countries with economies
in transition.