



BASEL / ROTTERDAM / STOCKHOLM
CONVENTIONS

BRS Conventions bodies

INC-3 preparatory webinar

22 August 2023

The BRS Conventions:

Three legally autonomous agreements offering a framework for Life Cycle Management



BASEL CONVENTION

Title: Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Entry into force: 5 May 1992

Number of parties: 190

Objective: To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes

Scope: Hazardous wastes and other wastes

Key provisions:

- (i) **Minimization** of generation
- (ii) Promotion of **environmentally sound management**
- (iii) Conditions and procedure for **controlling transboundary movements**



ROTTERDAM CONVENTION

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

Entry into force: 24 February 2004

Number of parties: 165

Objective: To promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts in international trade of certain chemicals

Scope: 54 banned or severely restricted chemicals and SHPFs (annex III)

Key provisions:

- (i) **Prior Informed Consent procedure for export/import** (annex III)
- (ii) **Exchange of information** on a broad range of potentially hazardous chemicals



STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

Title: Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Entry into force: 17 May 2004

Number of parties: 186

Objective: To protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants

Scope: 31 POPs

Key provisions:

- (i) **Elimination** (POPs in annex A)
- (ii) **Restriction** (POPs in annex B)
- (iii) **Reduction or elimination** (unintentionally produced POPs in annex C)

Enhancing **cooperation and coordination** among the three Conventions

Strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels

Providing **coherent** policy guidance

Enhancing **efficiency** in the provision of support to Parties, reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient **use of resources** at all levels

Synergies

Legal bases for mandates and operations



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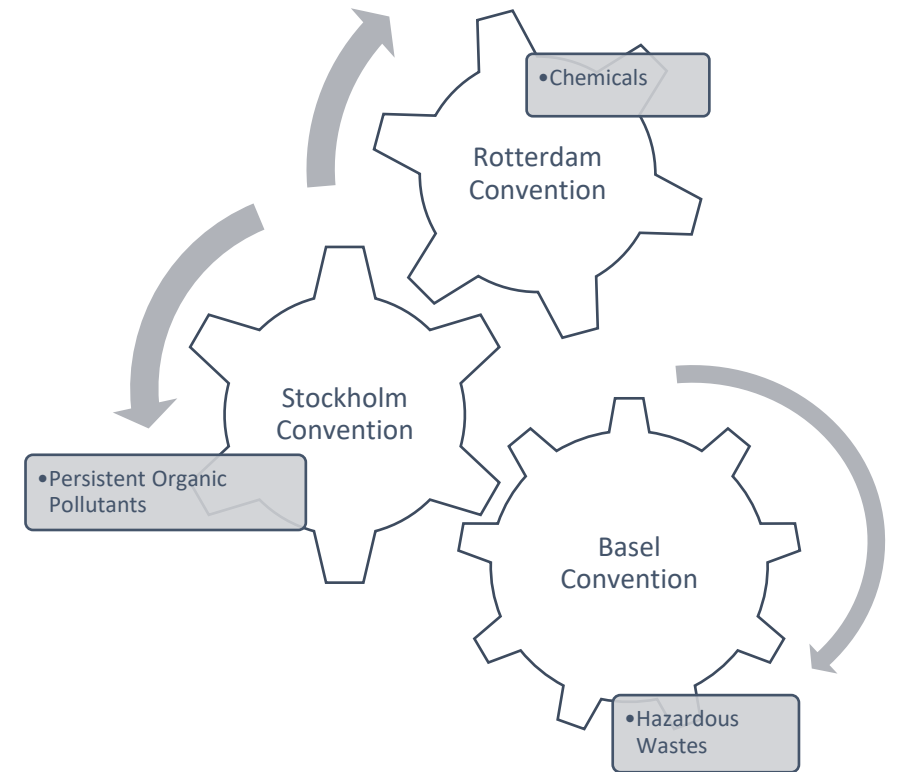
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- BRS COPs decisions
- Decisions of subsidiary bodies (limited)

Types of governing bodies



- Conference of the Parties (“COP”)
- Subsidiary bodies
 - Standing or ad hoc
 - Established by the convention text or by COP decision
 - Composition and mandate “fit for purpose”



Conference of the Parties



- Universal and open to observers
 - General functions e.g. “keep under continuous review and evaluation the effective implementation of this Convention”
 - Specific functions e.g.
 - International cooperation
 - Establishment of subsidiary bodies
 - Amendments
 - Meets ordinarily every two years with a HLS every 4 years
 - BRS COPs meet back to back with convention-specific and joint sessions
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Subsidiary bodies under the Basel Convention

- Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) :
 - Established by COP decision
 - Standing
 - Universal composition
 - Legal and technical mandate
- Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance (ICC):
 - Established by COP decision
 - Standing
 - 15 members
 - Individual and general issues of implementation and compliance
- Working groups on thematic issues
 - Established by COP decision
 - Ad hoc
 - SIWG / EWG / Partnerships working groups
 - Fit for purpose e.g. development of technical guidelines, review of Annexes, strategic framework



Subsidiary bodies under the Rotterdam Convention



- Chemical Review Committee (CRC)
 - Established by Convention, additional ToRs adopted by COP
 - Standing
 - 31 members
 - Mandate: Review notifications of final regulatory action (FRA) taken by Parties on a chemical against Annex II criteria; Review proposals for listing severely hazardous pesticide formulations (SHPF) against Annex IV criteria; Recommend to the COP the listing of chemicals that meet the Convention criteria in Annex III to the Convention; Develop draft decision guidance documents for those chemicals recommended for listing under the Convention
 - Compliance Committee (CC)
 - Established by Convention (Annex VII)
 - Standing
 - 15 members
 - Individual and general issues of implementation and compliance
 - Working groups on thematic issues
 - Established by COP decision
 - Ad hoc and limited practice
 - Fit for purpose e.g. SIWG on enhancing the effectiveness of the RC
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Subsidiary bodies under the Stockholm Convention

- Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC)
 - Established by Convention, additional ToRs adopted by COP
 - Standing
 - 31 members
 - Mandate: Review chemicals proposed for listing in Annex A, B, and/or C; Process in Article 8; information requirements/ criteria in Annex D, E, F; Make recommendations to the COP; Undertake other technical work as assigned to it by the COP
- Compliance Committee
 - Established by Convention and COP decision (ToRs)
 - Standing
 - 15 members
 - Individual and general issues of implementation and compliance
- Effectiveness Evaluation Committee
- Working groups on thematic issues, established by COP decision and “fit for purpose” (e.g. DDT, BAT/BEP)



National commitments, monitoring and effectiveness



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- Hard law (e.g. transmission of information and control of TBM) and soft law commitments (e.g. cooperation for TA, waste minimization)
 - Differentiation, financial mechanism under SC (GEF), BCRCs and SCRCs
 - Monitoring:
 - Mandatory transmission of information (e.g. country contacts, reports under BC and SC, FRAs and import responses under RC)
 - Information on websites and in reports by Secretariat to COPs
 - Compliance committees
 - Effectiveness
 - Effectiveness evaluation (SC), Strategic framework (BC), Enhancing the effectiveness of the RC
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Further development of the conventions



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- Function of the COP
 - Recommendations for listing by subsidiary bodies (CRC and POPRC)
 - Recommendations by other bodies (e.g. SC EEC, BC EWG on review of Annexes)
 - Initiated by individual Parties: amendment proposals to convention provisions or its annexes
 - Link with international cooperation mandate of the COP
 - E.g. BRS synergies, cooperation with MC, MP, INC, UNEP
 - Link with international cooperation/coordination mandate of the Secretariat
 - E.g. reports on cross linkages with other MEAs, participation in meetings, exchange of information
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Lessons

Thank you



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**environment
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