

Committee of the Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee meeting
Nairobi, 21 September 2023
10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 1 and Microsoft Teams

Agenda item 2: Briefing on the outcomes of and follow-up to the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.

This background document has been developed by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the outcomes and follow-up to the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

Following the presentation, Member States and Stakeholders are invited to engage in an exchange of views with the Secretariat.

Outcomes and follow-up to the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

I. Outcomes of the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

1. The present briefing note has been developed by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the outcomes of and follow-up to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (Basel Convention COP-16), the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (Rotterdam Convention COP-11) and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (Stockholm Convention COP-11) which were held back-to-back in Geneva, Switzerland from 1-12 May 2023.
2. The 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions were held under the theme “Accelerating action: Targets for the sound management of chemicals and waste”.
3. The meetings were attended by over 1,400 participants from 177 Parties and 165 observer entities. A total of 54 decisions were adopted on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the protection of human health and the environment, including 28 decisions adopted by the Basel Convention COP-16, 15 decisions by the Rotterdam Convention COP-11 and 27 decisions by the Stockholm Convention COP-11. Among those decisions, eight are joint to two or three of the conventions, for instance on enhanced cooperation with other bodies, technical assistance, preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade, and the clearing-house mechanism.
4. Key outcomes of the Basel Convention COP-16 include:
 - (a) Adoption of updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic wastes (UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.3/Rev.1);
 - (b) Adoption of updated technical guidelines on ESM of POPs wastes (UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.1/Rev.1 and UNEP/CHW.16/6/Add.2/Rev.1);
 - (c) Adoption of updated 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 (on interim basis) (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/10/Rev.1)
 - (d) Extension of work to develop technical guidelines on waste-lead acid batteries, on other batteries, on POPs wastes and on pneumatic tyres;
 - (e) Initiation of work to improve the functioning of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure;
 - (f) Agreement to develop a new strategic framework;
 - (g) Extension of the work on the review of annexes aimed at further clarifying the disposal operations covered under the Convention, through the development of revised amendment proposals on Annex IV, and on hazardous wastes covered under the Convention, through the development of revised recommendations on the review of annexes I and III;
 - (h) Adoption of recommendations from the Implementation and Compliance Committee to improve Parties’ compliance with a range of obligations, including progress achieved to reach national reporting targets;
 - (i) Adoption of the Implementation and Compliance Committee’s programme of work for 2024-2025, including work to integrate the Convention’s implementation in sustainable development cooperation frameworks;
 - (j) Extension of the work of the Convention’s Partnerships, namely the Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste, the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on

Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE), the Partnership on Plastic Waste (PWP) and the Household Waste Partnership (HHWP).

5. Key outcomes of the Rotterdam Convention COP-11 include:

(a) Adoption of an amendment to Annex III to the Convention to list therein the pesticide terbufos which is an extremely high hazard to terrestrial organisms. This listing will make terbufos subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure, thereby granting Parties to the Convention the right to decide on its future import. The listing will enter into force on 22 October 2023;

(b) Adoption of the Compliance Committee's programme of work for 2024-2025;

(c) Agreement on intersessional work to enhance the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention by addressing impacts regarding the listing of chemicals in Annex III and its implementation.

6. Key outcomes of the Stockholm Convention COP-11 include:

(a) Adoption of amendments to Annex A to the Convention to list three new chemicals therein, namely the pesticide methoxychlor and the industrial chemicals Dechlorane Plus and UV-328.

(b) Adoption of procedures and mechanisms on compliance, marking a historical achievement after two decades of negotiation;

(c) Completion of the second effectiveness evaluation of the Convention, concluding that the Convention provides an effective and dynamic framework for regulating POPs throughout their life cycle, and that progress occurred since the first evaluation in 2017;

(d) Welcoming of the third global monitoring report and of the conclusions and recommendations of the global coordination group in the executive summary of that report;

(e) Adoption of the report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls which urged Parties to meet their obligations towards the 2025 and 2028 deadlines under the Convention, while recognizing the specific needs and challenges of developing countries;

(f) Conclusion that there is a continued need for the use of DDT for malaria vector control in specific settings;

(g) Request to the POPs Review Committee, the scientific body under the Convention, to make recommendations regarding options for identifying POPs in stockpiles, products and articles in use and in wastes.

7. Key outcomes of the Basel Convention COP-16, the Rotterdam Convention COP-11 and the Stockholm Convention COP-11 on issues of common interest include:

(a) Strengthening of the mandate for international cooperation to address the triple planetary crisis, including with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (e.g. new plastics treaty, science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention, 10-Year Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Strategic Approach to International Chemical Management and the United Nations Environment Assembly(UNEA)), the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the participating organizations of the Inter Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC);

(b) Initiation of new activities to combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;

(c) Request to explore the development of a non-State actor resource mobilization strategy;

(d) Agreement to hold the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions from 28 April to 9 May 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, with a high-level segment.

II. Follow-up to the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

8. Information on the invitations by the conferences of the Parties for information and nominations to be put forward for consideration during the intersessional period is contained on the following webpages:

(a) Follow-up to the Basel Convention COP-16:

<https://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Callforinformation/FollowuptoCOP16/tabid/9575/Default.aspx>

(b) Follow-up to the Rotterdam Convention COP-11:

<https://www.pic.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/CallforInformation/FollowuptoCOP11/tabid/9577/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

(c) Follow-up to the Stockholm Convention COP-11:

<https://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP11/FollowuptoCOP11/tabid/9576/Default.aspx>

9. Meetings of the conventions' subsidiary bodies will take place in the intersessional period until the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2025. A number of meetings of subsidiary bodies are already scheduled as highlighted in the briefing presentation. Dates of other subsidiary bodies' meetings under the conventions will be announced in due course on the [conventions' websites](#).

III. Relevance of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to UNEA 6

10. The three conventions are geared towards protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes. The provisions of the conventions and ongoing activities under the conventions are of relevance to the implementation of numerous UNEA resolutions.

11. Focusing on the most recent resolutions, the BRS conventions have direct relevance to the following UNEA 5 resolutions:

(a) Resolution 5/7 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste;

(b) Resolution 5/14 on End plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument;

(c) Resolution 5/8 on Science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution;

(d) Resolution 5/11 on Enhancing Circular Economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production;

(e) Resolution 5/12 on Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management.

12. More details on how the conventions contribute to the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions as well as on the relevance of the conventions to new draft resolutions proposed for consideration by UNEA 6 will be provided to UNEA 6 in an information document to be submitted by the BRS Secretariat.

13. In their 2023 decisions on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, the conferences of the Parties to the BRS conventions welcomed the inclusion of a supplementary item on Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in the UNEA 6 provisional agenda.

14. In the same decisions, the conferences of the Parties welcomed programmatic cooperation between the BRS Secretariat and UNEP on matters of mutual interest, including in the UNEA context, and requested the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of UNEP in fostering the implementation of activities described in UNEA resolutions that are relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

15. In light of this mandate, the BRS Secretariat is actively cooperating with UNEP in the preparations for the discussions under the proposed supplementary item and intends to be fully engaged in the UNEA 6 deliberations and events under this item in order to highlight the importance of cooperation with UNEP and to enhance coherence between UNEA resolutions and decisions of the BRS COPs, while fully respecting the autonomy of the conventions and without introducing new and additional requirements for the Parties to the conventions.

IV. Relationship of the information provided to UNEP's Programme of Work

16. The three planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution are accelerating. These are clear signs of the need to champion environmental stewardship and cooperation across the global environment community. In light of this, the UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS 2022-25) recognizes that MEAs “are one of the foundation stones of national policymaking and the work of UNEP, and they play an indispensable role in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Further, the MTS underlines that “MEAs will be central to all actions across the UNEP subprogrammes to secure stronger synergies and enhance impact”.

V. Next steps

17. In the coming months, the BRS Secretariat will:

(a) Continue to contribute to the preparation of the discussions under the supplementary item of the provisional agenda entitled “cooperation with MEAs”, including the MEA day, upon request by UNEP;

(b) Continue to participate in meetings of the CPRs in the lead up to UNEA 6 and transmit information submissions on the work of the BRS conventions of relevance to UNEA 6 to the CPRs for consideration in due course.

VI. Recommendations/relevance for the CPR

18. The CPR Subcommittee may wish to take note of the information provided.