



*Bureau of the COP to the Bamako Convention*

**Report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa**

**Nairobi, Kenya (virtual meeting), 10 September 2020**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (Bamako convention) met virtually from 12:00 to 14:00 GMT on Thursday, 10 September 2020.

2. The meeting was attended by H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault, Minister of Tourism and Environment of Congo, President of the Bureau; H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Niger, Vice-President of the Bureau; H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment of Egypt, Vice-President of the Bureau; Mr. Faustin Munyazikwiye, representing H.E. Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment of Rwanda, Vice-President of the Bureau; and Mr. Christopher Mushava, representing H.E. Mr. Nqobizitha M. Ndlovu, Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality of Zimbabwe, Rapporteur of the Bureau.

3. Mr. Jefferson Nyandibo, the national focal point for the Bamako and Basel Conventions and representing the Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia, attended the meeting as an observer.

4. The Secretariat of the Bamako Convention was represented by Ms. Juliette Biao-Koudenoukpo, the Director and Regional Representative for Africa at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Prof. Abdouraman Bary, Regional Subprogramme Coordinator (Chemicals, Waste & Air Quality) at UNEP, and other representatives from UNEP.

5. The meeting was opened by H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault, President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention, at 12:00 GMT. In her opening remarks, the President of the Bureau welcomed all members of the Bureau to the meeting briefly reminding members of the roles and mandate of the Bureau. The President of the Bureau stated that the objective of the meeting was to take stock of the third Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention and to discuss strategic, technical (for example, waste management in the context of COVID-19), institutional and financial issues relating to the implementation of the Bamako Convention and the implementation of the decisions taken by the third Conference of the Parties. The President of the Bureau noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in the volume and diversification of waste. She stressed that the work of the Bureau is to support the Bamako Convention to move from decisions to action, despite the current pandemic, and ensure synergies and partnerships with other relevant conventions.

She also thanked the Secretariat of the Bamako Convention, led by Ms. Juliette Biao-Koudenoukpo, and African governments for their support to the Convention.

6. Ms. Juliette Biao-Koudenoukpo, Director and Regional Representative for Africa at UNEP, welcomed the Bureau to the meeting and thanked the members for their commitment to the Bamako Convention by agreeing to participate at the meeting despite their very busy schedules. She highlighted that their invaluable contribution was key for the success of the third Conference of the Parties which was held in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, from 12 to 14 February 2020. The Director requested the Bureau to continue providing leadership and encourage partnership to achieve the vision of the Bamako Convention of an African continent free from negative impacts on human health and the environment resulting from illicit trafficking exports of chemicals and hazardous waste. She also requested the Bureau to encourage States Parties that are still in arrears to pay their financial contributions to the Convention in order to allow the Secretariat of the Bamako Convention to carry out its functions effectively. At the third Conference of the Parties no Party offered to host the fourth Conference of the Parties. The Director therefore requested the Bureau to consider this issue.

7. In her introductory remarks, H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad, reminded members of the Bureau that the world is going through difficult times as a result of COVID-19, a very critical moment for Africa. She noted that COVID-19 is a clear message from nature that if we treat it properly, nature will treat us back in the same way. The lesson from COVID-19 is that we need nature and nature does not need us. It's time for Africa to exploit ways on how Bamako Convention can enhance the protection, restoration and conservation of nature. Africa has vital natural resources and should not allow hazardous wastes to be imported into the continent because the continent is not the dumpsite of the world. The Bamako Convention should be at the forefront of this discussions and efforts. The three key messages by H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad were, first, African countries need to seek ways to enhance the implementation of the Bamako Convention for the sake of our future generations, including ways on how the Bamako Convention can address waste from COVID-19-like pandemics. For this to happen, the continent needs to reinforce its capacity capacities and put in place appropriate policies and best mechanisms for coordination with other line ministers by mainstreaming ministries of environment into the work of other ministries. Second, the African continent needs to be innovative in the way it brings solutions to the challenges that face us. Thirdly, in her capacity as the President of the fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, H.E. Dr. Yasmine Fouad noted that there is a great link between hazardous waste and biodiversity. If we are not taking efforts to protect, restore and conserve our ecosystems by sustainably managing our natural resources, we will lose those resources and deprive our future generations from the benefits of these vital resources. Egypt is committed to supporting the Bamako Convention and working with the rest of Africa, the Bureau and the Secretariat to fight the COVID-19 pandemic in an environmentally sustainable way.

8. Mr. Christopher Mushava (Zimbabwe), conveyed the apologies from H.E. Mr. Nqobizitha M. Ndlovu, the Minister of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry of Zimbabwe, who could not join the Bureau meeting due to prior commitments.

9. Mr. Faustin Munyazikwiye, speaking on behalf of H.E. Dr Jeanne D'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Natural Resources, Land, Forests, Environment and Mining of Rwanda, conveyed the Minister's apologies for not attending the Bureau meeting due to prior commitments.

10. The agenda of the meeting of the Bureau is contained in the annex 1 to the present report.

11. Summary of key messages from the Bureau is contained in the annex 2.

## **2. Update on illegal trafficking of contaminated plastic waste to Liberia**

12. The President of the Bureau informed the Bureau that on September 02, 2020 she received a letter from the Secretariat of the Bamako Convention of the illegal disposal of 119,000 tonnes of contaminated plastic waste in Liberia by a company called STAVROPOULOU DIMITRA, located in Athens, Greece. The President of the Bureau reported that Liberia is a State Party to the Bamako Convention, having ratified the Convention in March 2013 and that the Convention completely prohibits, without exception, the importation of hazardous wastes into Contracting Parties, including Liberia. She reminded the Bureau that by virtue of Article 4 of the Bamako Convention, all Parties have an obligation to take appropriate legal, administrative and other measures within the area under their jurisdiction to prohibit the import of all hazardous wastes, for any reason, into Africa from non-Contracting Parties.

13. The President of the Bureau also recalled that under Article 9 of the Bamako Convention In case of a transboundary movement of hazardous wastes deemed to be illegal traffic as the result of conduct on the part of the exporter or generator, the State of export shall ensure that the wastes in question are taken back by the exporter or generator or if necessary by itself into the State of export, within 30 days from the time the State of export has been informed about the illegal traffic.

14. The representative of Liberia, Mr. Jefferson Nyandibo, while updating the Bureau about this incident, stated the waste was illicitly trafficked to Liberia in October 2019 and his country has been quiet on the issue because they tried to engage other international avenues. His country has already verified that the consignment is indeed made up of contaminated plastic waste and that the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia has made frantic efforts to repatriate the waste from the territory of Liberia without success. He further stated that the waste was illegally brought into Liberia under dubious circumstances with the shipment documents originating from the exporter suggesting that the waste was destined for Morocco. The Bureau took note of the information provided and has requested Liberia to share more information on the waste, including the shipment documents, correspondences with Greece and photos of the consignment, with the Bureau through the Secretariat of the Convention. This is to allow the Bureau take concrete actions to work with Liberian authorities and other partners to ensure that contaminated plastic waste is taken back from the Liberian territory.

15. During the discussions on this issues, Prof. Abdouraman Bary updated members of the Bureau on the action taken by the Secretariat of the Bamako Convention to support Liberia. He stated that after receiving a copy of the letter by Liberia to the Head of Delegation of the European Union of Liberia, the first thing that Secretariat did was to write a judicial note on the matter to explore the best available options. The Secretariat also conveyed a technical meeting with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions since both Liberia and Greece are members of the Basel Convention, whereas Greece is a not a member of the Bamako Convention. This technical meeting resolved that the first avenue to try and ensure the repatriation of the contaminated plastic waste out of Liberia was through diplomatic means with the European Union and Greece. In case the diplomatic solution failed, the second step would be to take the issue to the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention. It is at this level where States Parties to the Basel Convention can mobilize to support Liberia to ensure that Greece respects its treaty obligations. The third option, at the level of the Bamako Convention, the Parties can mobilize African countries to take the matter to the African Union Commission.

16. Speaking on this matter, H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development of Niger stated that the issue of illegal trafficking of contaminated plastic waste to Liberia

is alarming and the fear is that similar incidents will continue to happen in Africa, especially as a result of COVID-19. Therefore, African countries need to be firm and take such incidents to the Basel Convention while ensuring the solidarity of African countries through the African Union Commission. All States Parties to the Bamako Convention should come together and support Liberia.

17. Mr. Faustin Munyazikwiye, supported a step-by-step approach in finding a solution to this issue. First, seek audience with the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention. If this avenue does not bring convergence, the next step should be diplomacy and if this fails then the Bureau should escalate the matter to the African Union Commission.

18. Responding to a question by H.E. Mr. Almoustapha Garba who sought to know the level of contamination of the waste, the representative of Liberia stated that the consignment was discovered by the customs authority of Liberia. As soon as the consignment was offloaded, the authorities realized it was contaminated plastic waste. The representative of Liberia undertook to share with the Secretariat more information on the matter to help the Bureau in taking concrete action to resolve the matter.

### **3. Briefing on the Third Conference of the Parties**

19. Prof. Abdouraman Bary from the Secretariat introduced discussions on the third Conference of the Parties (COP3) to the Bamako Convention that was held from 12 to 14 February 2020 in Brazzaville, Congo. He explained that the meeting was a great success that was attended by more than 300 delegates and participants attended the Conference, including one non-party observer, three ambassadors, various experts representing state parties and non-state parties, United Nations entities, the African Union Commission, the Economic Community of West African States, civil society representatives, the private sector and media. He stated that of the 10 decisions that were submitted to the Conference, nine of them were adopted with the only exception being the decision regarding the date and venue of fourth Conference of the Parties since no state Party had offered to host the meeting. He further explained that nine decisions that were adopted at COP3:

- (a) Decision CB.3/1: Proposed list of hazardous substances to be considered hazardous waste under article 2, paragraph 1 (d) of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa;
- (b) Decision CB.3/2: Workplan and budget for the biennium 2020–2021;
- (c) Decision CB.3/3: Strengthening implementation and resource mobilization for the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa;
- (d) Decision CB.3/4: Arrangements for the transfer of the secretariat of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa to Bamako and for its hosting and staffing in Bamako;
- (e) Decision CB.3/5: Status of ratification, accession to and implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa;
- (f) Decision CB.3/6: Scale of contributions of parties to the general trust fund in 2020;
- (g) Decision CB.3/7: Ratification and incorporation into national law of mutually beneficial waste trade instruments: 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 Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Amendment thereto;

- (h) Decision CB.3/8: Action to prevent plastic waste pollution and its trade in and surrounding the continent of Africa;
- (i) Decision CB.3/9: Prevention of electronic hazardous waste and the import and dumping of end-of-life waste electrical and electronic equipment in Africa.

20. The representative of the Secretariat also stated that at COP3, UNEP submitted the annual financial implication for the approved program of work and transfer of Secretariat to Bamako, Mali, which requires an equal contribution of US\$29,698 by each State Party. However, the State Parties only agreed to finance the program of work with a financial commitment of US\$7,284 per year. This means that there are no funds available to transfer the Secretariat to Mali as decided by the Conference of the Parties. He also went on to explain that although during COP3 Parties requested UNEP, the Bureau and the Government of Mali to implement the decision on transfer of the Secretariat to Mali (Decision CB.3/4), UNEP would not fund this process. The implications of this are that the decision to transfer the Secretariat to Bamako, Mali stands, but the actual shift will happen when adequate resources are available.

21. The representative of the Secretariat further stated that during COP3, UNEP supported the compilation of a list of hazardous chemicals and pesticides that should be banned. Although the list was reviewed by COP3, more work still needs to be done including awareness raising, building national and regional consensus on chemicals to be banned, and following the due process for adoption of the list by the Conference of the Parties. This has cost implications that require resource mobilization.

22. Speaking on behalf of the host of the third Conference of the Parties, the National Focal Point to the Bamako Convention from Congo, Mr. Joseph Ganongo, noted that one of the lessons learnt was the third Conference of the Parties was the issue of time management. Most agenda items were not adequately discussed due to time constraints. He went on to state that the meeting was a great achievement for the Republic of the Congo because it created a platform for local and international actors to raise awareness about the sound management of waste. Another key achievement was the high level of participation, starting with the Prime Minister of Congo, H.E. Mr. Clément Mouamba, and the Minister of Tourism and Environment of Congo, H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault.

23. In his intervention on the issue of hosting the fourth Conference of the Parties and transferring the Secretariat to Bamako, Mali, Mr. Faustin Munyazikwiye stated that they will consult his country, Rwanda, to explore the possibilities of hosting the meeting. He however called upon the Secretariat and the Bureau to ensure that the Bamako Convention has sufficient funds before transferring the Secretariat to Mali.

#### **4. Status of implementation of the Bamako Convention**

24. For this agenda item a representative of the Secretariat, Prof. Abdouraman Bary, highlighted the training and capacity building activities undertaken by the Secretariat, as well the successful promotion of ratification of or accession to the Bamako Convention in Africa.

25. Article 16 (1) of the Bamako Convention mandates the Secretariat to, inter alia, receive and convey information from and to Parties on sources of technical assistance and training available technical and scientific know-how, sources of advice and expertise, and availability of resources. In pursuance of this mandate and with a view to assisting Parties to the Bamako Convention to ensure the sound management of waste in the context of COVID-19, Prof. Bary explained that the Secretariat organized and held two webinars on the “Environmentally Sound Management of Waste in the Context of COVID-19”. The first session was held on 26 May 2020 for English speakers and the second on 27 May 2020 for French speakers. A total of 183 representatives from Africa countries, international

organizations, NGOs, private sector and other stakeholders participated in these webinars. The two webinars aimed at sharing information and new innovations on the environmentally sound management of healthcare waste as well as countries' experiences and needs in dealing with healthcare waste. The webinars highlighted the waste management challenges in view of COVID-19 crisis and UNEP response in support to countries, and participants were also given an opportunity to share their countries' experiences and needs in dealing with healthcare waste. The following recommendations were made during the webinar:

- (a) In addition to the ministries of environment that UNEP usually works with, other ministries should be involved in the conversation such as ministries of health and sanitation;
- (b) Explore ways to support recycling companies and assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector;
- (c) Develop partnerships with other UN agencies and UN Resident Coordinators for a more impactful response to the crisis.

The Secretariat is planning more technical and interactive webinars to bring together various experts on waste management from across the United Nations and other partners.

26. With regard to the promotion of ratification of or accession to the Bamako Convention in Africa, Prof. Bary stated that the secretariat prepared communication materials such as banners and leaflets highlighting the challenges posed by hazardous wastes in Africa and opportunities that for combating the adverse effects of waste on health and the environment and describing the procedure for ratifying or acceding to the Bamako Convention. As a result of this, Sierra Leone is the latest African country to submit the instrument of ratification to the depository for the Bamako Convention, the Commissioner of the African Union Commissioner, and membership to the Convention is poised to increase from 29 to 30 Parties.

27. With respect to the implementation of decisions of the third Conference of the Parties, Prof. Abdouraman Bary reminded the Bureau that there is need for an Extraordinary Conference of the Parties solely to discuss and focus the decision on the list of hazardous substances. But due to lack of funds, this item may have to be postponed to the fourth Conference of the Parties.

## **5. Roles of Members of the Bureau**

28. On the issue of the roles of the members of the Bureau, Prof. Bary explained that in general, the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Bamako Convention provide the roles of the members of the Bureau are to assist the President in the general conduct of the business of the Conference of the Parties; guide the overall implementation of the convention; provide administrative and general operational directions to the secretariat between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties; provide guidance and advice to the secretariat on the preparation of agendas and other requirements for the organization of meetings and on any other matters brought to it by the Secretariat in the exercise of its functions; perform functions requested by the Conference of the Parties; report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

## **6. Action Programme and Roadmap of the Bureau towards next Conference of the Parties**

29. To comprehensively describe the roles of the members of the Bureau, Prof. Bary presented the "Workplan for the President and the Bureau" in which he explained the specific roles the Bureau, led by the President and her Vice-Presidents, would be playing to support the implementation of the Bamako Convention.

30. According to his presentation, the members of the Bureau will epitomize the image of the Bamako Convention and drive the moment for the realization of the Convention's ambitions and objectives. To achieve this, the Bureau will promote the values and agenda of the Bamako Convention within regional and sub-regional institutions in Africa, and in the world through information and advocacy. The Bureau, led by the President, will also communicate regularly with national authorities and will bring to their attention the questions relating to the risks to human health and the environment caused by the transboundary movements of hazardous waste. The Bureau will also maintain continuous dialogue with Parties with a view to sensitizing them on the need to promote the development of clean production methods, including clean technologies, for the rational management of hazardous wastes produced in Africa, in particular to avoid, minimize and eliminate the production of this type of waste. Moreover, the Bureau will promote the domestication and implementation of the Convention by stimulating the actions of the Parties to establish a framework to guide the domestication and implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat will support these efforts by preparing a regional instrument to guide Parties in the incorporation of the Convention into national legislation and its implementation.

31. Prof. Bary also added that it is the role of the Bureau to provide overall supervision of the work of the Secretariat for the effective implementation of the Convention. For this to be effective, therefore, The Secretariat will regularly update the President and the Bureau on the challenges and opportunities that arise in the implementation of the Convention to allow the President and the Bureau provide sound guidance.

32. In case of illicit transboundary movement of hazardous waste, it is the responsibility of the Bureau to inform and alert all Parties through timely communication. Besides, the Bureau is charged with the role of promoting and enhancing cooperation and partnerships between the Bamako Convention, the African Union Commission, including the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), the French government, the European Union, the Secretariat of the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and other relevant stakeholders.

33. Noting that the implementation of the Convention is being impeded by serious financial deficit, Prof. Bary requested members of the Bureau to encourage Parties in arrears to pay their financial contributions by sending reminder letters, and possibly making phone calls, to Ministers of environment from Parties (the Secretariat will send to the President the updated list of Parties, as well as the status of contributions contributions). He also requested the Bureau to encourage other African countries that are not Parties to the Convention to consider joining by sending letters to those countries and promoting the Bamako Convention at major global and regional events, including ministerial meetings of the African Union Commission and cooperative organizations (bilateral discussions with the delegations and side-events).

34. In addition to the foregoing, Prof. Bary stated that the Bureau will work together in the organization of regular meetings of the Bureau in order to analyze the state of implementation of the Convention and to develop the guidelines to be implemented by the Secretariat (including through webinars to sensitize Parties on the status of implementation of the Convention). Furthermore, the Bureau will organize the validation of the draft working documents prepared by the Secretariat for meetings of the Convention.

35. To ensure that the Bureau effectively performs its function of overseeing and encouraging the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties by all the Parties and the Secretariat, Prof. Bary stated that the Secretariat to provide technical assistance to Parties in the implementation of all decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Closely linked to the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties is the issue of environmentally sound management of waste in Africa. To address this issue, the Secretariat requested the Bureau to reach out to and encourage decision-

makers from Parties to implement the recommendations of the report “The African Waste Management Outlook. The Secretariat will make sure that the report is widely disseminated in the continent.

36. It is also the role of the Bureau to supervise the organization of work during the inter-session period. This implies that the Bureau will ensure smooth communication between the Secretariat and key partners, ensure the visibility of the Bamako Convention, encourage partnerships between the Secretariat and other stakeholders and the President, together with the rapporteur and the vice-presidents, will direct the material organization of the work of the Secretariat between sessions and during sessions.

37. Since no Party has so far volunteered to host the fourth Conference of the Parties, the Bureau is requested to organize dialogues with Parties in order to find a candidate to host the next ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, in February 2022. The President is also requested to encourage the submission by Parties of their proposals for the development of the agenda of COP4 which must reflect the concerns and priorities of Parties.

38. At the third Conference of the Parties, Parties adopted Decision CB.3/4: Arrangements for the transfer of the secretariat of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa to Bamako and for its hosting and staffing in Bamako. The decision calls for the transfer of the Secretariat and Convention to Bamako, Mali, with UNEP administering the trust funds and providing policy and administrative support. As noted by the Secretariat, this decision is impossible to implement without Parties providing the prerequisite financial support. He therefore called upon the Bureau to invite Parties to provide and mobilize the financial and other resources necessary for the transfer of the Secretariat to Mali and explore ways to attract additional, sustainable and predictable resources. He also urged the Bureau to call request Parties to start negotiating the terms and conditions of the headquarters agreement with Mali.

39. In her capacity as the President of the Bureau, Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault, committed to use sub-regional, regional and international platforms to increase the visibility and profile of the Bamako Convention.

40. In his intervention, Mr. Faustin Munyazikwiye requested the Bureau to also use the regional economic communities, such as the East African Community, to sensitive and mobilize other countries to join and honour their commitments to the Bamako Convention. This will in addition to the African Union Commission.

41. The Bureau adopted the document entitled “Workplan for the President and the Bureau”.

## **7. Any other business**

42. No other matters were discussed.

## **8. Closure of the meeting**

43. The meeting was closed at 14:00 GMT by H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault, President of the Bureau.



## ANNEX 1

### AGENDA

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
12:00 – 12:15	Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting by H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault, President <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Statement by Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director and Regional Representative, Africa Office, UNEP</li><li>- Introduction of participants</li></ul>
12:15 – 12:25	Agenda item 2: Update on illegal trafficking of contaminated plastic waste to Liberia <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- H.E. Mr. Randall M. Dobayou Acting Executive Director Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia</li><li>- Discussions</li></ul>
12:25 -12:40	Agenda item 3: Briefing on the Third Conference of the Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation by the Secretariat</li><li>- Presentation by the Republic of Congo</li><li>- Discussions</li></ul>
12:40 – 12:50	Agenda item 4: Status of implementation of the Bamako Convention <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation by the Secretariat</li><li>- Discussions</li></ul>
12:50 – 13:10	Agenda item 5: Roles of Members of the Bureau <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation by the Secretariat</li><li>- Discussions</li></ul>
13:10 – 13:45	Agenda item 6: Action Programme and Roadmap of the Bureau towards next Conference of the Parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Presentation by the Secretariat</li><li>- Discussions and adoption by the Bureau</li></ul>
13:45 – 13:50	Agenda item 7: Any other business
13:50 – 14:00	Agenda item 8: Closure of the meeting by H.E. Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonault

## ANNEX 2

### KEY MESSAGES

- States Parties that are still in arrears are required to pay their financial contributions to the Convention in order to allow the Secretariat of the Bamako Convention to carry out its functions.
- States Parties are encouraged to submit their offers to host the fourth Conference of the Parties in 2022. Rwanda to explore the possibilities of hosting COP4.
- Parties to submit their proposals for the development of the agenda of COP4 which must reflect the concerns and priorities of Parties.
- African countries need to seek ways to enhance the implementation of the Bamako Convention for the sake of our future generations, including ways on how the Bamako Convention can address waste from COVID-19-like pandemics; African continent needs to be innovative in the way it brings solutions to the challenges that face us.
- The illicit contaminated plastic waste was trafficked to Liberia in October 2019 under dubious circumstances with the shipment documents originating from the exporter suggesting that the waste was destined for Morocco. To resolve this issue, the first avenue to try and ensure the repatriation of the contaminated plastic waste out of Liberia is through diplomatic means with the European Union and Greece. If this fails, the second step would be to take the issue to the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention. The third option, at the level of the Bamako Convention, the Parties can mobilize African countries to take the matter to the African Union Commission.
- Although the decision to transfer the Secretariat to Bamako, Mali, stands, the actual shift will happen when adequate resources from Parties are available.
- For the list of hazardous chemicals and pesticides that should be banned to be adopted, more work still needs to be done including awareness raising, building national and regional consensus on chemicals to be banned, and following the due process for adoption of the list by the Conference of the Parties.
- There is need to organize an Extraordinary Conference of the Parties solely to discuss and focus the decision on the list of hazardous substances. But due to lack of funds, this item may have to be postponed to the fourth Conference of the Parties.
- African countries that are not Parties to the Convention are encouraged to consider joining.
- The African Union and the Regional economic communities are encouraged to sensitive and mobilize their members to join the Bamako Convention.