First meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

Report of the first meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

I. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

1. The President of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, H.E. Professor Kivutha Kibwana, Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources from Kenya, opened the meeting on Tuesday, 17 April 2007, and welcomed the members of the Expanded Bureau of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to their first meeting. In so doing, the President reminded the meeting of the role of the Expanded Bureau, as defined in decision VI/36 of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He further noted that, as the Open-ended Working Group would only meet once before the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9), the Expanded Bureau might be invited to provide more assistance in the preparations for COP 9 that it would previously have been requested to do.

A. Attendance

2. A list of participants is contained in the annex to the present report. A list of the Members of the Expanded Bureau who expressed their regrets is also contained therein.

3. Mr. Yusra Khan of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations in Geneva participated in the meeting as an observer, as the representative of the host country of COP 9. Mr. Marco Bulleti of the Mobile Phone Working Group was present to provide the meeting information for its consideration of the implementation of decision VIII/2 on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes. Representatives from the Governments of Côte d’Ivoire, Estonia and the Netherlands were present to provide the meeting information to facilitate its consideration of the follow-up on developments following the hazardous waste incidents in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. A list of observers present at the meeting is also contained in the annex to the present report.
II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

4. The President proposed the following agenda items to be adopted:
   1. Opening of the meeting.
   2. Adoption of the agenda.
   3. Report on the hazardous wastes incidents in Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire: Briefing on developments since the fourth meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held on 26 November 2006.
   5. Organization of the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group: Briefing on secretariat’s proposals for the organization of work on:
      (a) The implementation of decision VIII/2 on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes;
      (b) The development of guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury containing wastes with emphasis on the development of sound disposal and remediation practices;
      (c) The development of guidelines for the sound management of asbestos wastes with emphasis on measures to be taken in disaster-prone areas;
      (d) The implementation of decision VIII/30 on addressing the interpretation of paragraph 5 of article 17 of the Basel Convention;
      (e) Basel Convention Regional Centres.
   6. Administrative matters:
      (a) Arrangements for the transitional period pending the appointment of the Executive Secretary;
      (b) Report on the administrative support provided by UNEP, including update on the Administrative Service Centre and the use of the 13% programme support costs;
      (c) Report of the Executive Secretary on the dialogue with the Executive Director of UNEP regarding the use of the 13% programme support costs charged by the Programme under the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.
   7. Organization of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.
   8. Other matters.
   9. Closure of the meeting.
5. The meeting adopted the agenda as proposed.
III. Report on the hazardous waste incidents in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire: Briefing on developments since the fourth meeting of the Expanded Bureau of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held on 26 November 2006 (agenda item 3)

6. The Expanded Bureau had before it document UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/INF/1 (Implementation of decision VIII/9 on cooperation between the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organisation: comments received from the International Maritime Organisation) and UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/INF/2 (Report of the mission undertaken in Côte d’Ivoire following the incident of the Probo Koala, in the context of decision V/32).

7. Following a brief introduction by the Secretariat, representatives of the Governments of the Côte d’Ivoire, Estonia and the Netherlands were invited to update the Expanded Bureau on the steps that had been taken since the Expanded Bureau, and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8), were last provided with briefings on the follow-up to the incident which took place in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire in August 2006.

8. The representative of the Government of the Côte d’Ivoire advised the meeting on the outcome of the Secretariat’s mission to the Côte d’Ivoire, under the auspices of decision V/32. The representative of the Government of the Côte d’Ivoire commended the work of the Secretariat, and the consultant who undertook this mission, for the work done in this regard. While endorsing the recommendations contained in the mission report, the representative of the Government of the Côte d’Ivoire noted the limitations of the said mission with respect to the identification of possible violations of the Basel Convention.

9. The representative of the Government of the Côte d’Ivoire recalled that decision VIII/1, adopted by COP 8 identified certain actions for which the Côte d’Ivoire would require technical and financial assistance for the purposes of implementing its emergency plan. To this end, the representative of the Côte d’Ivoire noted that this decision formed the basis upon which it sought to continue work with the Secretariat. The representative of the Government of the Côte d’Ivoire also advised the meeting on developments with respect to compensation for damage arising out of the incident.


11. A representative from the Government of Estonia provided the meeting with an update on the criminal investigations which had been initiated in Estonia in response to this incident. The representative of the Government of Estonia identified a number of issues which should be addressed to prevent similar such incidents occurring in the future. The representative of the Government of Estonia expressed the view that there was a greater need for clarity as to the scope of Article 1, paragraph 4 of the Basel Convention. The representative from the Government of Estonia reiterated the call, made by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to Parties to cooperate with the International Maritime Organisation and other international bodies with a view to addressing the relationship between the Basel Convention and MARPOL, and proposed the preparation of a joint international baseline study.

12. The representative from the Government of the Netherlands advised that the Netherlands had made a contribution, in the amount of Euros 1 million, to the fund established by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to decision VIII/1, to be applied for capacity building activities. She also informed the meeting that considerable work was on-going at the national level to develop a national position with respect to the relationship between the Basel and MARPOL conventions. As the matter was still under consideration domestically, it was not possible to provide further information at this time, but it was anticipated that relevant information could be shared at the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

13. The Secretariat advised the meeting of the steps it had taken in response to the incident in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in answer to the request for assistance received by the
Secretariat in September 2006 and in line with decisions VIII/1 and VIII/9 adopted by the COP 8. The Secretariat indicated that a technical assistance mission had been undertaken in the district of Abidjan from 20th of November to 1st of December, whose main objectives were to evaluate the impact to health and environment of the dumping of hazardous waste from the Probo Koala and look at medium term measures to make sure that such incidents could be avoided. It had not been possible to consider the legal implications of the events in Abidjan given the scope of this mission. It was indicated that the main recommendations of the report had been endorsed by the Government of Côte d’Ivoire. On that basis, and in close collaboration with UNEP, the Secretariat is consulting with all stakeholders, including with countries in the region and donor countries, with a view to developing programmatic activities aimed mainly at strengthening the capacity of Côte d’Ivoire and the region in enforcing the provisions of the Basel Convention.

14. The Secretariat informed the Expanded Bureau of the current status of resources under the emergency mechanism established by decision V/32 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Secretariat advised that under the terms of the interim guidelines adopted by decision VI/14, and with the concurrence of the relevant donor countries, the Executive Secretary could apply an amount not exceeding 30 per cent of the amount available to assist in capacity-building activities following up from the conclusions of the mission report. The Secretariat noted that the interim guidelines required the Expanded Bureau to be consulted in the selection of capacity-building activities to be undertaken using funds from the emergency mechanism and advised, therefore, that once a project proposal had been finalized, it would be circulated to the Expanded Bureau for comment.

15. The Expanded Bureau took note of the information that had been made available to it. The Expanded Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to work closely with the Government of the Côte d’Ivoire to take concrete action to further the implementation of decision VIII/1. The Expanded Bureau also encouraged the Secretariat to work closely with the United Nations Environment Programme on this matter in order to pool financial resources and expertise so as to better address this situation.

16. The members of the Bureau sought further information as to contributions already made to assist Côte d’Ivoire and, in response to a proposal by many members of the Expanded Bureau, the President agreed to write to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to enquire as to progress made on the mobilisation of resources, and the scope of the trust fund established in accordance with decision VIII/1 of COP 8.

17. The Expanded Bureau expressed its readiness to receive a project proposal developed by the Secretariat, for funding for capacity-building assistance within scope of decision V/32, as provided in the guidelines established under decision VI/14.

18. The Secretariat briefed the meeting on the steps taken further to decision VIII/9 adopted by COP 8. The Secretariat advised that it had received information from the IMO Secretariat, responding to the request for information on: (a) the respective competencies of the Basel Convention and the International Convention for the prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978 related thereto (MARPOL 73/78) in respect of hazardous wastes and other instruments; (b) any gaps between those instruments; (c) any option for addressing those gaps. The Secretariat also reported to the Expanded Bureau that it would be preparing its own paper on these issues with a view to facilitating the discussions at the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group. The Secretariat observed that, given the complexity of the issue, it was possible that the Open-ended Working Group might not be able to complete its deliberations during the sixth session. Furthermore, the Secretariat advised that no comments had been received from Parties or other stakeholders on this issue.

19. The Expanded Bureau observed that the Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider the need to establish a mechanism for intersessional consultations, following its sixth session, so as to further consider matters related to decision VIII/9 prior to COP 9. The Expanded Bureau expressed its readiness to facilitate, as appropriate, preparations for discussions on this issue at COP 9, while noting that it was not mandated to address the substance of the issue.
IV. Cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions: Briefing on outcome of the meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, held from 26-28 March 2007 (agenda item 4)

20. The Expanded Bureau had before it an advance version of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, held from 26-28 March 2007. The Secretariat also provided an oral report on the outcome of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group.

21. The Secretariat also advised that the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group had proposed to hold a second meeting by the end of 2007. The Secretariat noted that neither the Basel, nor the Rotterdam nor the Stockholm Conventions had made budgetary provisions for more than one meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group. Accordingly, the Secretariat advised that it would undertake fundraising activities, together with the Secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

22. The Secretariat advised the meeting that COP 9 would be the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to receive the recommendations from this Ad Hoc Joint Working Group. Accordingly, the Secretariat advised that the Expanded Bureau may wish to consider how best it could assist consideration of this matter at COP 9.

23. Those members of the Bureau who were also co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group, provided the meeting with more information on the outcome of this meeting. In particular, they noted that the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group was a unique process, which could be considered a pilot for further efforts to promote coordination and cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements in other fields.

24. The Expanded Bureau took note of the report of this meeting. The Expanded Bureau decided that it may have to consider, at its next meeting which would be held before COP 9, how best to facilitate discussions on this item by the Conference of the Parties.

V. Organization of the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group: Briefing on secretariat’s proposals for the organisation of work on: (agenda item 5)

A. The implementation of decision VIII/2 on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes

25. The Expanded Bureau had before it documents UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/3 (“Implementation of decision VIII/2 on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes”), UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/3/Add.1 (“Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI): Chairman’s paper on issues raised during the discussion of the guideline on transboundary movement of used and end-of-life mobile phones”) and UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/INF/3 (Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI): Project 2.1: Chairman’s paper on issues raised during the discussion of the guideline on transboundary movement of used and end-of-life mobile phones”).

26. The Secretariat reported to the meeting on its work to date, and its proposal for activities for the implementation of decision VIII/2 adopted by COP 8 on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes. The Secretariat sought guidance on its proposals in this regard, for the purpose of presentation to the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group.

27. The Expanded Bureau took note of the Secretariat’s report, and considered that the activities proposed in this report could be reviewed to ensure coherence with the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Wastes
and decision VIII/2. The Expanded Bureau noted that such a proposal would be a sound submission to facilitate consideration on this matter by the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

28. A Bureau member raised concern on the capacity of the Secretariat to carry out the work programme given the limited resources available, noting that much of the work is focused on the use of partnerships and the implementation of the programme may be hampered if the secretariat is not provided with extra-budgetary funding for the Partnerships and Resource mobilization post.

29. The President welcomed Mr. Marco Buletti, of the Mobile Phone Working Group, and invited him to introduce a document on issues raised during discussions between members of the working group 2.1 on the transboundary movement of used and end of life mobile phones under the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/3/Add.1).

30. Mr. Buletti reported on the work of the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, and drew the meeting’s attention to document UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/INF/3, which was presented to COP 8. Mr. Buletti noted that, in light of the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Wastes and decision VIII/2, this document may be of use to the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. Mr. Buletti sought comments on the document from Parties and other stakeholders. He also encouraged wider participation in the Working Group, and sought the Expanded Bureau’s guidance thereon.

31. The Expanded Bureau took note of Mr. Buletti’s report. The members decided to refer document UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/INF/3 to their respective regional groups for comments, so as to facilitate organisation of the work of the Open-ended Working Group in providing guidance to the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to assist in transmitting this document to Parties and other stakeholders, by e-mail, and to place it on the Basel Convention website.

32. The Expanded Bureau further requested the Secretariat to renew the invitation to Parties and relevant stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, to participate in this partnership and, in so doing, transmitting document UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/INF/3 for their consideration.

B. The development of guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury containing wastes with emphasis on the development of sound disposal and remediation practices

C. The development of guidelines for the sound management of asbestos wastes with emphasis on measures to be taken in disaster-prone areas

33. The Expanded Bureau had before it documents UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/4 ("Development of guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury containing wastes with emphasis on the development of sound disposal and remediation practices") and UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/5 ("Development of guidelines for the sound management of asbestos wastes with emphasis on measures to be taken in disaster-prone areas”).

34. The Secretariat reported to the Expanded Bureau on the steps it has taken with a view to developing relevant Technical Guidelines and proposed pilot projects to address the new strategic plan focus areas on Mercury and Asbestos, as adopted by decision VIII/33 on the budget for the Basel Convention Technical Cooperation Trust Fund. In particular, the Secretariat advised that it has been working in cooperation with UNEP-Chemicals so as to jointly develop Technical Guidelines on the Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury Waste. The Secretariat sought the Expanded Bureau’s guidance on how best to structure its proposals so as to facilitate consideration by the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group.

35. A number of the members of the Expanded Bureau stressed the need for future work to be undertaken in these areas to draw upon, and complement, the substantial work already carried out in this area. To this end, one member suggested that the Secretariat consider the form of the guidance document it envisages, so as to better serve the needs of the Parties. A
number of members also recommended that the Secretariat provide more information on the scope of work envisaged in these areas.

36. The Expanded Bureau advised the Secretariat to provide the Open-ended Working Group with more detailed information on its work in this regard, including information on where existing funding is available, how this work would build upon existing material and activities, possible areas for collaborative work, opportunities for future work, and consideration of costs for such work. Upon the Secretariat’s request, the Expanded Bureau expressed its willingness to provide further guidance on this matter prior to submission to the Open-ended Working Group.

D. The implementation of decision VIII/30 on addressing the interpretation of paragraph 5 of article 17 of the Basel Convention

37. The Expanded Bureau had before it document UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/6 ("Proposed organisation of work of the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group on the implementation of decision VIII/30 on addressing the interpretation of paragraph 5 of article 17 of the Basel Convention").

38. The Secretariat reported to the meeting on the comments it had so far received from Parties and others on the interpretation of article 17(5) of the Convention, in response to decision VIII/30. The Secretariat requested the Expanded Bureau to consider how it may be able to facilitate discussions on this issue for COP 9 given the limited time available for OEWG 6 to address such a potentially complex matter, while having regard to the mandate of the Expanded Bureau.

39. The Expanded Bureau took note of this information. The Expanded Bureau observed that the work of Open-ended Working Group on this matter may be assisted by further submissions from Parties and others on the interpretation of article 17(5) of the Convention, noting that at the time of the present meeting, only three submissions had been received. The Secretariat confirmed that it could still receive comments on this issue.

40. The Expanded Bureau observed that the Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider the need to establish a mechanism for intersessional consultations, following its sixth session, to develop a decision on an agreed interpretation of article 17(5) for submission to COP 9. The Expanded Bureau expressed its readiness to facilitate, as appropriate, preparations for discussions on this issue at COP 9, while noting that it was not mandated to address the substance of the issue.

41. The Expanded Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to draw upon relevant sources so as to provide the Open-ended Working Group with the necessary guidance and information to assist the Parties’ consideration of this matter.

E. Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

42. The Secretariat recalled that decision VIII/4 adopted by COP 8 requested the Open-ended Working Group to initiate a review of the operation of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres (BCRCs), including on their relationship with the Convention bodies, including the Secretariat and other stakeholders, in order to enhance the combined effectiveness and capacity of the centres and the Secretariat. The Secretariat advised that it had sent a letter to all Parties in February 2007 requesting their views on the objectives and scope of the review of the BCRCs and to the fourteen BCRCs for onward transmission to the Focal Points of host countries, and countries served by the Centres. The Secretariat informed the meeting that it had received the comments from one Party thus far.

43. The Secretariat sought the Bureau’s guidance on how the review of the Centres could be organised at the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group, and subsequently at COP 9.

44. The Secretariat took the opportunity to report to the meeting on the progress made for strengthening the BCRCs through, inter alia, the conclusion of Framework Agreements for their formal establishment. The Secretariat advised the meeting that, thus far, agreements had been signed for the establishment of ten Regional Centres. The Secretariat also informed the meeting that considerable progress had been made for the conclusion of the Framework
Agreement for the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre in China, and expressed its gratitude to the Government of China for its collaboration in this regard. The Secretariat also advised that the Agreement establishing the Africa Institute in South Africa, which would house the Centre for English-speaking African countries, was close to entry into force, following receipt of the necessary ratifications to this end.

45. The Secretariat briefed the meeting of the activities undertaken by the BCRCs, and noted the difficulties faced by such Centres in the absence of a predictable and sustainable financing mechanism to support its work. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the BCRCs had carried out several workshops, training seminars and other capacity building activities between the seventh and eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in spite of their limited resources, and completed nearly twenty five projects under the auspices of the Strategic Plan, and on the basis of bilateral assistance. The Secretariat also advised that the fourteen BCRCs had also updated their Business Plans for the 2007-2008 period.

46. The Expanded Bureau observed that the Open-ended Working Group’s consideration of the objectives and scope for this review exercise may be assisted by further submissions from Parties and others on this matter. The Secretariat confirmed that it would renew its invitation to Parties to provide comments to this end.

47. The Expanded Bureau noted that the following issues could be included in the Secretariat’s submission to the Open-ended Working Group, with a view to facilitating the meeting’s consideration thereon: an overview of the BCRCs; an analysis on the Centres’ performance, indicating achievements, difficulties and future expectations; examples which demonstrate the value and unique nature of the BCRCs in facilitating implementation of the Convention; and a report on the financial situation of the BCRCs, noting in particular the support given by the host countries. The Expanded Bureau also encouraged the Secretariat to work in close collaboration with the BCRCs in developing its submission on this matter.

48. The Expanded Bureau expressed its concern over the perennial lack of funding available to support the activities of the BCRCs, and advised the Secretariat of a variety of ways by which fundraising efforts could be strengthened.

49. Several members also sought information from the Secretariat on the selection of the regional and sub-regional centres under the Stockholm Convention, which would be taken up at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in April-May 2007.

VI. Administrative matters (agenda item 6)

A. Arrangements for the transitional period pending the appointment of the Executive Secretary

50. The Executive Secretary advised the meeting on the progress made by UNEP for the purpose of the appointment of the new Executive Secretary, and the arrangements for the transitional period, between Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto’s departure from this position at the end of April 2007 and the formal appointment of a successor. The Executive Secretary noted that the Executive Director was committed to filling the position as rapidly as possible.

51. The Expanded Bureau took note of this information.

B. Report on the administrative support provided by UNEP, including update on the Administrative Service Centre and the use of 13% programme support costs

52. The Secretariat reminded the meeting of the work of the Expanded Bureau with respect to proposals for the establishment of an Administrative Services Centre by UNEP.

53. The Executive Secretary indicated the process currently being initiated by the Executive Director of UNEP for the purpose of examining the costs and services met from programme support costs charged by. The Executive Director was in the process of establishing a task force that would look at this matter as a whole and develop recommendations to be submitted to the Executive Director.
54. The Secretariat advised that while it had hoped to provide further information on this matter from UNEP, it was unable to do so and, accordingly, document UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/8/1/7 ("Report on the administrative support provided by UNEP, including update on the Administrative Service Centre and the use of the 13% programme support costs") was unavailable for the present meeting’s consideration.

55. The Expanded Bureau requested the President to communicate with the Executive Director of UNEP for the purpose of seeking further information on this matter.

C. Report of the Executive Secretary on dialogue with the Executive Director of UNEP regarding the use of the 13% programme support costs charged by the Programme under the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund

56. The Executive Secretary reported to the meeting of the steps taken for the purpose of entering into dialogue with the Executive Director of UNEP regarding the use of the 13% programme support costs charged to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, as required by decision VIII/33.

57. The Executive Secretary advised that the Executive Director intended to consider this matter in the context of his process for the wider consideration of the programme support costs charged by UNEP as a whole, which would include consideration of both the Basel Convention Trust Fund and the Basel Convention Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.

58. The Executive Secretary advised that the Executive Director took note of the need to report to COP 9 on this matter and noted that UNEP would be encouraged to provide information on this issue to the Open-ended Working Group.

59. The Expanded Bureau took note of this information, and encouraged the Secretariat’s continued efforts in this regard.

VII. Organization of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (agenda item 7)

60. The Secretariat reported to the meeting on the status of consultations with the Government of Indonesia for the purpose of preparing for COP 9 due to take place in 2008. During the course of the meeting, the Secretariat received confirmation from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations in Geneva that the venue for COP 9 is Bali, and information that consultations were ongoing with the Office of the President of the Republic of Indonesia regarding the dates of the meeting. The Secretariat advised the meeting that dates in late June 2008 were being considered. The Expanded Bureau expressed its gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for the steps it had taken in preparing for this meeting.

61. The Secretariat sought the Expanded Bureau’s guidance on whether COP 9 could serve as a review conference, as envisaged by article 15, paragraph 7, of the Convention. The Secretariat considered that such a review conference may prove timely, particularly in light of the nature of the matters to be discussed by this meeting including the review of the BCRCs, and the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Cooperation and Coordination. It was noted that, to date, no formal review conference had been held under article 15, paragraph 7.

62. The Expanded Bureau considered this matter, and encouraged the Secretariat to discuss this proposal with the Government of Indonesia, as the host country of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Some members of the Expanded Bureau noted that, within the context of a review conference, themes addressing specific issues could be identified. Another member of the Bureau suggested that a review conference would provide an opportunity to assess how effective the Convention had been to date, addressing, for example, the Regional Centres, as well as compliance and enforcement issues.

63. The Expanded Bureau also noted that there was a need for consideration as to how the preparations for such a review conference could be organised. The Expanded Bureau decided it would consider this at its next meeting, and observed that there would need to be careful inter-action between the Expanded Bureau and the Open-ended Working Group in considering
the organization of COP 9. One possible option briefly raised by the Expanded Bureau was whether further work by the Open-ended Working Group could be facilitated would be by suspending the OEWG 6 meeting on its last September meeting day, and OEWG reconvening briefly at the start of COP 9 as has been done elsewhere.

VIII. Other matters (agenda item 8)

64. The Secretariat invited any questions on the current status of funding for the Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Programme, and the post of the Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships Officer.

65. One member of the Expanded Bureau sought information as to how the Partnership Programme would be addressed during the intervening period between the current Executive-Secretary’s departure and the appointment of a successor.

66. The Executive Secretary advised that she has been consulting with possible interested donors for the purpose of funding the future work of this programme and has contacted all donor countries for possible support. She has also indicated that the efforts to secure further funding will be continued in the interim period by the officer in charge to be designated.

67. The Expanded Bureau recommended that the Secretariat widen its efforts to secure funding for the post of the Resource Mobilisation and Partnerships Officer, and to consider other means of supporting the post from sources other than the Parties themselves. The Expanded Bureau recommended that, if possible, this matter be resolved by the end of June 2007, so as to enable the Open-ended Working Group to consider the matter at its next meeting.

68. One member suggested that an additional agenda item be added to the agenda of the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group to discuss the matter of the Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Post.

69. The President, and the members of the Expanded Bureau, took the opportunity to express their gratitude to the Executive Secretary for her significant contribution to the work of the Convention, and wished her every success in her future assignment.

70. The members of the Expanded Bureau also expressed their gratitude to the President for having chaired the meeting, and for his valuable personal involvement in the work of the Basel Convention.

71. With regard to its next meeting, the Expanded Bureau agreed that this should follow the final meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working on Cooperation and Coordination (expected to take place in March 2008), but timed so as to allow sufficient time to properly consider and provide guidance, as appropriate, on the organisation of COP 9. The Secretariat would consult the President and other members of the Bureau, with a view to identifying a suitable date.

IX. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 9)

72. The meeting was closed at 1.25pm on Wednesday, 18 April 2007.
## Annex

### List of participants

**COP 8 Bureau**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KENYA (President)</td>
<td>Minister K. Kibwana</td>
<td>Honourable Minister of Environment &amp; Natural Resources</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment &amp; Natural Resources, Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H.E. Professor M. Nzomo</td>
<td>Permanent Representative</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the UN at Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. F. Kihumba</td>
<td>Ministry of Environment &amp; Natural Resources</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILE (Vice-President)</td>
<td>Mr. O. Alvarez</td>
<td>Second Secretary</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN at Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINA (Vice-President)</td>
<td>Mr. Yue Ruisheng</td>
<td>Deputy Director-General</td>
<td>Department of International Co-operation, State Environmental Protection Administration, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN &amp; NORTHERN IRELAND (Vice-President)</td>
<td>Mr. R. Watkinson</td>
<td>Senior Policy Specialist</td>
<td>Department for Environment Food &amp; Rural Affairs, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Ms. P. Davies</td>
<td>Second Secretary</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN at Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TANZANIA (Vice-President)</td>
<td>Mr. D.B. Kaganda</td>
<td>Second Secretary</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tanzania to the UN at Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIA (Rapporteur)</td>
<td>Dr. Barry Reville (Participation via telephone link-up)</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
<td>Department of the Environment &amp; Heritage</td>
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### Observers and invited guests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CÔTE D’IVOIRE (For agenda item 3)</td>
<td>Mr. F.Y.K. Glegaud</td>
<td>First Councillor</td>
<td>Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Ivory Coast to the UN at Geneva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position and Additional Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESTONIA</td>
<td>Ms. T. Vares</td>
<td>Counsellor Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the UN at Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>NETHERLANDS</td>
<td>Ms. L. Van Tongeren</td>
<td>Assistant Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN at Geneva</td>
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<tr>
<td>INDONESIA</td>
<td>Mr. Y. Khan</td>
<td>Counsellor (Economic Affairs) Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN at Geneva</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAIR OF MPWG</td>
<td>Mr. M. Buletti</td>
<td>Deputy Head of Section Department for the Environment, Transport, Energy &amp; Communications Federal Office for the Environment Bern, Switzerland</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOUTH AFRICA</td>
<td>Ms. S. Chung</td>
<td>Second Secretary Permanent Mission of South Africa to the UN at Geneva</td>
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**Regrets**

**COP 8 Bureau**

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<tr>
<td>THE FORMER YUGOSLAV</td>
<td>Mr. Sokol Klinaroff</td>
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<tr>
<td>REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA</td>
<td>(Rapporteur)</td>
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**COP 7 Bureau**

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<th>Country</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAKISTAN</td>
<td>Mr. K.H. Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Vice-President)</td>
<td>Joint Secretary (International Co-operation) Ministry of Environment, Pakistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLAND</td>
<td>Ms. K. Panek-Gondek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Vice-President)</td>
<td>Director of the International Co-operation Dept. Inspectorate for Environmental Protection</td>
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**Co-Chairs of the OEWG**

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<tr>
<td>OEWG (Legal)</td>
<td>Mr. M.M. Al Mahmood (Bahrain)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OEWG Co-Chair (Technical)</td>
<td>Mr. P. Eek (Estonia)</td>
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