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**Second meeting of the Expanded Bureau
of the ninth meeting of the Conference
of the Parties to the Basel Convention**

Geneva, 24-25 March 2011

Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Status of preparations for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:
update from, and guidance to the Secretariat on:
the negotiation and conclusion of the Host Country Agreement**

The negotiation and conclusion of the Host Country Agreement

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. By its decision IX/33, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties decided that the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall be convened in 2011, the dates to be determined by the Secretariat in consultation with the Expanded Bureau; and mandated the Executive Secretary, subject to the approval of the Expanded Bureau, to enter into consultations with a Party that expresses interest in hosting the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with a view to agreeing on satisfactory arrangements and concluding a host country agreement for hosting the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

I. Implementation

2. The Expanded Bureau at its first meeting held on 23-24 June 2009 noted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Colombia to host the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 10) and approved the mandate to the Executive Secretary to enter into consultations with the Republic of Colombia to conclude a host country agreement to that end.

3. The Secretariat sent the text of the draft Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the Annexes A, B and C to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Colombia on 5 July 2010. A revised text of Annex C was sent by the Secretariat on 16 July 2010. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent the revised text of the HCA with comments on 5 October 2010.

4. Following extensive consultations between the entities concerned, the HCA was concluded and signed on 1 December 2010.

5. An Annex D to the HCA on the security arrangements for COP 10 is being finalized. At the time of preparation of this document, Annex D is under review by UN Security.

6. An exploratory mission to Colombia by staff of the Secretariat, the Division of Conference Services, the Security and Safety Service, both of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the Joint Convention Services, Geneva is scheduled to take place from 31 January to 3 February 2011.

* UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/9/2/1.

7. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held on 17 to 21 October 2011 in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, at the Cartagena de Indias Convention Centre.

II. Possible action by the Expanded Bureau

8. The Expanded Bureau may wish to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat and express its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Colombia for agreeing on satisfactory arrangements and concluding a host country agreement for hosting the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.
