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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 (c) 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:  
main issues for discussion by the Conference of the Parties**

## **Main issues for discussion by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **Introduction**

1. Main issues to be considered by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties include the new Strategic Framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the strengthening of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the outcomes of the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2012-2013, and financial matters.
2. The theme of the tenth meeting will be "Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Wastes". The additional important issues that are expected to be examined by the tenth meeting are outlined in the relevant documents and in particular in the annotated provisional agenda.

### **I. Implementation**

#### **A. New Strategic Framework**

3. Based on the comments and inputs received, and in accordance with decision IX/3 whereby a new strategic framework for the implementation of the Convention is required for a 10-year period so that the Convention would promote the environmentally sound management of waste and play a decisive role in highlighting the links between waste management and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and human health and livelihood, the Secretariat published a first draft of a new strategic framework on the website in September 2009. Based on further comments received, a revised version was made available in November 2009.
4. A consultative meeting attended by 25 experts representing all United Nations regions, including the Basel Convention regional centres, to discuss the first draft of the new strategic framework prepared by the Secretariat was held on 7 and 8 December 2009 in Geneva. Following further comments and inputs from all stakeholders, a revised version of the new strategic framework

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

was prepared by the Secretariat. This was made available on the website on 31 January 2010 and was presented as document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/INF/3 to the Open-ended Working Group at its seventh session in May 2010.

5. The new strategic framework was also reviewed by an open-ended coordination group, established in accordance with decision IX/3, operating within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group. At its meeting, which was held back-to-back with the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group, this group provided advice on and prepared elements for a new strategic framework, based on the Secretariat's work and the consultative process mandated by decision IX/3.

6. At the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group, the meeting considered the draft strategic framework and agreed on the following elements of a new strategic framework:

- (a) Vision;
- (b) Guiding principles;
- (c) Strategic Goals and Objectives.

7. Further, based on operational paragraph 2(b) of decision OEWG-VII/I by the Open-ended Working Group, the Secretariat developed the draft document on the means of implementation and a set of indicators, which was published on the Basel Convention website on 9 July 2010 for comments by Parties and other stakeholders. Based on these comments, a revised draft of the means of implementation and a set of indicators was published on the Basel Convention website in January 2011. A consultative meeting attended by 40 experts representing all United Nations regions, including the Basel Convention regional centres, to discuss the draft new strategic framework including means of implementation and a set of indicators will be held on 8 and 9 February 2011 in Geneva.

8. The outputs from the consultative meeting and further comments will form the basis for a revised new strategic framework to be presented for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

## **B. Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres**

9. The Secretariat prepared the following four documents requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision IX/4 and published them on its website on 30 November 2009 for consideration by Parties, signatories and the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres:

- (a) Draft workplan for the strengthening of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, taking into account the catalogue of actions set out in section 3 of the report by the Secretariat;
- (b) Detailed list of the necessary elements for the performance of the core functions based on appendices I and II to decision VI/3;
- (c) Draft strategic framework for the financial sustainability of the centres that would assist the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in developing strategies for their financial sustainability, including exploring the use of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Technical Cooperation Trust Fund);
- (d) Set of indicators to measure performance and impediments in relation to the functions and impacts of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres.

10. These four documents are available in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/INF/4.

11. Comments by Argentina, China, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay received by 30 April 2010 are made available in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/INF/4/Add.1.

12. Parties, signatories and Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres were invited to provide further comments to the Secretariat by 15 November 2010 as per decision OEWG-VII/2 of the Open-ended Working Group.

13. Further comments were received from Barbados, the European Union, Japan, Trinidad and Tobago and the Basel Convention regional centres located in China, Slovakia and Tehran. These comments are published on the website of the Basel Convention at the following address: <http://www.basel.int/centers/bcrc-review/comments/index.html>

14. The Secretariat will finalize, taking into account the discussions at the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group and on the basis of comments mentioned above, the draft workplan for the strengthening of the centres for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

### **C. Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention**

15. By its decision IX/26, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention acknowledged the President's statement on the possible way forward on the Ban Amendment and invited Parties to take that proposed way forward into consideration wherever possible.

16. In his statement, the President sought to launch a process to reaffirm the Amendment's objectives and to explore means by which they might be achieved. The President called upon all Parties to create enabling conditions, through, among other measures, country-led initiatives conducive to the attainment of those objectives.

17. Based on that statement, the Governments of Indonesia and Switzerland announced their readiness to organize a country-led initiative to discuss in an informal, dynamic and non-dogmatic manner those issues related to the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, which run contrary to the Amendment's overarching objectives.

18. Three physical meetings, supported by the Secretariat and consultants, were held as part of the initiative. The first meeting took place from 15 to 17 June 2009 in Bali, Indonesia; the second from 12 to 15 January 2010 in Wildhaus, Switzerland; and the third meeting took place from 20 to 24 September 2010 in Hilterfingen, Switzerland.

19. The meetings were intended as fora to identify, analyse and enhance the understanding of the problem; to continue this analysis and to develop options and solutions; and to formulate recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. A way forward was thus to be devised to ensure that transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, are managed in an environmentally sound manner, as required under the Convention.

20. The documentation and outcomes of meetings under this initiative were circulated regularly throughout the process of this initiative to Parties and other stakeholders by e-mail and through the Basel Convention website: <http://www.basel.int/convention/cli/index.html>. Parties and stakeholders not attending the meetings were afforded the opportunity to comment on the issues to be discussed.

21. The first and second meetings gave rise to an analysis of possible reasons for the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes where environmentally sound management could not be ensured. That analysis was made available to all Parties and stakeholders for comments. Another paper, on the impacts on human health and the environment of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, was made available to Parties and stakeholders for comments following the second meeting.

22. The report of the second meeting and its annexes, setting out a list of elements for inclusion in a possible way forward and detailing how the initiative process developed, can be found in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/INF/8.

23. Furthermore, by its decision OEWG-VII/4, the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention welcomed the initiative and acknowledged the progress made to date on analysing why transboundary movements of hazardous wastes occur, especially to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, where environmentally sound management cannot be assured.

24. Following the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group, the third meeting met to review and discuss the elements that could be included in a proposal for a draft decision to be forwarded to tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. On the basis of the input provided by meeting participants and other stakeholders prior to, during and further to the meeting, Indonesia and Switzerland prepared revised documentation to be transmitted to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration. This documentation includes a draft decision and explanatory note to explain the ideas and discussions behind the proposals included in the draft decision. Background information was also gathered during and through the CLI process including the issues included in the abovementioned 'reasons paper' and the 'magnitude paper'.

25. These documents are available on the Basel Convention website at <http://www.basel.int/convention/cli/index.html>.

#### **D. Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2012-2013**

26. A preliminary draft work programme for 2012–2013 was submitted for consideration and review by the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group, based on the provisions of decision IX/32.

27. The Open-ended Working Group, in its decision OEWG-VII/18, stressed the need to ensure that the work programme builds on the Strategic Framework and is consistent with the programme budget.

28. The Secretariat will prepare and make available to Parties on the website of the Basel Convention by 15 May 2011 a revised draft work programme for 2012–2013.

29. The Secretariat will prepare a draft decision on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2012–2013, taking into account the outcome of the seventh session and the comments by Parties on the revised draft work programme, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

#### **E. Financial matters**

30. As requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision IX/31, the Secretariat will prepare a programme budget for the biennium 2012–2013 with two alternatives for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting, explaining the key principles and assumptions on which the budget is based.

31. In the preparation of the programme budget the Secretariat will use the measurable indicators of achievement and performance noted by the seventh session of the Open-ended Working Group in the annex III to the decision OEWG-VII/17.

32. The information on the income and expenditures for the year 2010 for both Basel Convention Trust Funds and the certified accounts for the Basel Convention Trust Funds for the biennium 2008-2009 is presented in document UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/9/2/INF/1.

## **II. Possible action by the Expanded Bureau**

33. The Expanded Bureau may wish to take note of the progress made concerning the five items mentioned above and provide guidance as to the preparation of the relevant documents for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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