



Distr.: General
20 June 2011

Original: English

**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Tenth meeting**

Cartagena, Colombia, 17–21 October 2011

Item 3 (b) (iii) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
scientific and technical matters: classification and
hazard characterization of wastes**

Classification and hazard characterization of wastes

Note by the Secretariat

**I. Review of work on the guidance papers on H10 and H11 pursuant
to decision IX/18**

A. Implementation

1. By paragraph 2 of its decision IX/18 on the review of work on the guidance papers on H10 and H11 pursuant to decision VIII/21, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal invited parties and other stakeholders, by 31 January 2009, to provide comments to the Secretariat on the guidance paper on H11 and, in particular, the proposal by the United States of America for a framework for developing de minimis values for hazard characteristic H11.

2. At the time of preparation of the present note, the Secretariat had received no such comments.

B. Proposed action

3. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions VIII/21 on classification and hazard characterization of wastes and IX/18 on the review of work on the guidance papers on H10 and H11 pursuant to decision VIII/21,

1. *Invites* parties in a position to do so to take the lead in finalizing work on the guidance papers on H10 and H11 or to contribute financially to the process;

2. *Invites* parties and other stakeholders, by 31 January 2012, to provide comments to the Secretariat on the guidance paper on H11 and, in particular, the proposal by the United States of America for a framework for developing de minimis values for hazard characteristic H11;¹

* UNEP/CHW.10/1.

1 UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/INF/5.

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of comments received pursuant to the invitation in paragraph 2 above and to transmit that compilation to the Open-ended Working Group at its eighth session for its consideration;

4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the guidance paper on H11 and to transmit it to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting for its consideration.

II. Review of cooperation with the World Customs Organization and its Harmonized System Committee pursuant to decision IX/19

A. Implementation

4. The Secretariat compiled an analysis of work that it had undertaken based on the request made by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 3 of decision IX/19, which it submitted to the Open-ended Working Group at its seventh session for its consideration (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/7/9/Add.1).

5. Since parties have made no new requests for lists of wastes covered under the Basel Convention to be submitted for consideration for inclusion in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, the Secretariat has made no new submissions to the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization.

B. Proposed action

6. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to pursue its cooperation with the World Customs Organization secretariat, the Harmonized System Committee, the Harmonized System Review Subcommittee and the Scientific Subcommittee of the World Customs Organization;

2. *Invites* parties to submit to the Secretariat lists of wastes covered under the Basel Convention for consideration by the secretariat of the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to move forward, under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group, with the issue of identifying the wastes covered by the Basel Convention in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System and to report regularly to the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties on progress.

III. Harmonization and coordination pursuant to decision IX/20

A. Implementation

7. By paragraphs 1 and 2 of its decision IX/20, the Conference of the Parties invited the Joint Correspondence Group, established pursuant to decision OEWG-IV/13, to fulfil its mandate as soon as possible and, as a first step in that regard, invited the nomination by interested parties and the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals of individuals to assume the chair of the Joint Correspondence Group by 30 November 2008. By decision OEWG-VII/10, the Open-ended Working Group, among other things, invited nominations of individuals to assume the chairship of the Joint Correspondence Group.

8. At the time of preparation of the present note, the Secretariat had received no communications of nominations of individuals to assume the chairship of the Joint Correspondence Group.

B. Proposed action

9. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* the Joint Correspondence Group established pursuant to decision OEWG-IV/13 to fulfil its mandate as soon as possible;

2. *Invites*, as a first step to fulfilling its mandate, the nomination by interested parties and the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System

of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals of individuals to assume the chairship of the Joint Correspondence Group by 31 December 2011;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the outcome of the work of the Joint Correspondence Group to the Open-ended Working Group at its eighth session and the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

IV. National classification and control procedures for the import of wastes contained in Annex IX pursuant to decision IX/21

A. Implementation

10. The information received from parties pursuant to decision VII/20 on national classification and control procedures for the import of wastes contained in Annex IX is available on the Convention website for information purposes. By paragraph 1 of decision IX/21, the Conference of the Parties encouraged those parties experiencing difficulties with such national classification or control procedures that had not provided the Secretariat with information on those difficulties to complete the questionnaire developed for reporting such difficulties and return it to the Secretariat, if possible by 31 December 2008. No new information was received by the Secretariat, although requests were received for clarification of the interpretation of Annex IX and for assistance in controlling wastes listed in Annex IX from some industries, for example those originating in Israel, Morocco and Pakistan.

B. Proposed action

11. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Invites* parties experiencing difficulties with national classification or control procedures relating to the import of wastes contained in Annex IX to report that information to the Secretariat;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat regularly to collate the information submitted by parties with a view to keeping the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties apprised of the situation.
