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**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 (e) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: capacity-building**

## **Capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel Convention**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **Introduction**

1. By its decision IX/31 on the programme budget for the period 2009–2011, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal approved the programme activities for the period, including activities to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan focal areas.
2. By its decision IX/6 on the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste, the Conference of the Parties invited parties, the Basel Convention regional centres and relevant stakeholders to continue work on the development of pilot projects in support of the Nairobi Declaration, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It also adopted a workplan for the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste (e-waste) and requested the Secretariat to continue to facilitate work and activities on the environmentally sound management of e-waste and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

#### **I. Implementation**

3. During the reporting period, the Secretariat implemented the activities under the programme to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan focal areas insofar as the extrabudgetary funds made available by donors allowed. None of the activities were supported by funds from the regular budget, with the exception of those under the focal area on ship dismantling, which were partly supported by funds for staff travel and training activities.
4. Reports on capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the Convention and on the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration are provided in documents UNEP/CHW.10/INF/28 and UNEP/CHW.10/INF/29, respectively.
5. The Secretariat continued to support the development and promotion of the use of technical guidelines, enforcement and compliance manuals, and national reporting guidelines to strengthen legal systems, enforcement and competent authorities at the regional and national levels, including through

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\* UNEP/CHW.10/1.

joint programmes with the secretariats of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The use of operational guidelines, and guidelines and tools related to hazardous substances and waste streams, was promoted in cooperation with partners. The Secretariat took the lead only in overall approaches and coordination, with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres leading at the regional and subregional levels.

6. Over the past triennium, the Secretariat has increasingly focused on facilitating and supporting project work carried out by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and other partners, rather than taking a lead role itself. The Secretariat has engaged only in pilot projects of strategic interest to the Convention as defined under the programme to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan focal areas, i.e., where there was a need for Secretariat support in management of priority waste streams, enforcement and compliance activities, testing of new guidelines, and synergy projects with the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

7. While the Secretariat is reducing its involvement in direct project implementation, efforts are being stepped up to develop cooperation with international organizations to strengthen collaboration with key partners that are directly or indirectly dealing with waste disposal or waste minimization issues, and to facilitate cooperation between parties and Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and global, regional and bilateral funding institutions. Further information on resource mobilization can be found in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/32. Details of cooperation with the International Telecommunication Union on avoiding or minimizing e-waste in the information and communication technology sector are provided in document UNEP/CHW.10/INF/30.

## II. Proposed action

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

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision IX/31, by which it approved the programme activities for the period 2009–2011, including activities under the programme to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan focal areas,

*Recalling also* its decision IX/6 on the Nairobi Declaration on the Environmentally Sound Management of Electrical and Electronic Waste,

*Welcoming* the progress made with capacity-building activities under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and in conjunction with the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

*Welcoming also* the progress made by several Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in managing projects with direct donor funding, including full-size projects under the Global Environment Facility and bilateral funding,

*Acknowledging* the efforts made by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres further to build their capacity to develop and manage projects for the implementation of the Convention,

1. *Takes note* of the progress made with activities under the programme to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan focal areas;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue facilitating capacity-building activities and pilot projects in focal areas, subject to the availability of funds, including activities for the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic waste;

(b) To continue efforts to strengthen further the independent operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres by assisting them to develop their capacity and capability to act as efficient project-implementing institutions;

(c) To increase efforts to link the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to processes to develop project proposals under multilateral agencies such as the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, regional development banks and bilateral donors; to replicate concepts and tools developed under the Convention; and to act

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independently to support and, where feasible, execute projects at the regional, subregional and national levels;

(d) To increase efforts to develop cooperation and strengthen collaboration with international organizations and key partners that are directly or indirectly dealing with waste disposal or waste minimization issues, such as the partner organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and the International Telecommunication Union;

(e) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting on the progress made in facilitating capacity-building activities for priority waste streams, the implementation of tools related to the Convention to strengthen the legal system, enforcement and competent authorities at the regional and national levels, and cooperation with other international organizations that are directly or indirectly dealing with waste disposal or waste minimization issues, such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Telecommunication Union;

3. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to engage in capacity-building activities and collaboration related to the implementation of the Convention, as appropriate, in their regions;

4. *Urges* parties, signatories and all stakeholders in a position to do so to provide financial and in kind support for capacity-building activities at the regional and national levels through bilateral programmes and the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, as appropriate;

5. *Invites* international organizations, development banks and donor agencies to strengthen their collaboration with the Secretariat and the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, as appropriate, on waste disposal and waste minimization activities under the Convention.