

BASEL DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT

We, the Ministers and other heads of delegation from States,

Having met in Basel, Switzerland, from 6 to 10 December 1999, on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Basel Convention,

Concerned about the continuing risk of damage to the environment and of harmful effects on human health caused by the environmentally unsound management of hazardous wastes,

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the concerted efforts made during the first decade of the Basel Convention, hazardous waste generation has continued to grow at the global level and transboundary movements of hazardous wastes are still a matter for concern,

Further recognizing the importance of partnership with the private sector and non-governmental organizations,

Building on the achievements of the first decade of the Convention,

1. Assert a vision that the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes is accessible to all Parties, emphasizing the minimization of such wastes and the strengthening of capacity-building;

2. Conclude that, having reviewed progress in the implementation and further development of the Basel Convention during its first decade, significant achievements have been made, such as the development and adoption of the control system for transboundary movements; the waste lists and model legislation; the adoption of the ban amendment; and the establishment of regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer and also note with satisfaction that the number of Parties has greatly increased since the entry into force of the Convention;

3. Reaffirm the fundamental aims of the Basel Convention, namely, the reduction of transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, the prevention and minimization of their generation, the environmentally sound management of such wastes and the active promotion of the transfer and use of cleaner technologies;

4. Reiterate our commitment to sustainable development and full support for the implementation of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the programme for its further implementation adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997;

5. Undertake to make all possible efforts to ensure the universality of the Convention by promoting the ratification of or accession to the Convention and its amendments and by ensuring effective implementation of and compliance with its obligations;

6. Recognize the need to focus our activities within the next decade on specific actions to promote the implementation of the Convention and its amendments worldwide, at all levels, and, to this end, agree to enhance and strengthen our efforts and cooperation to achieve environmentally sound management in the following fields:

(a) Prevention, minimization, recycling, recovery and disposal of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, taking into account social, technological and economic concerns;

(b) Active promotion and use of cleaner technologies and production, with the aim of the prevention and

minimization of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention;

(c) Further reduction of transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, taking into account the need for efficient management, the principles of self-sufficiency and proximity and the priority requirement of recovery and recycling;

(d) Prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic;

(e) Improvement and promotion of institutional and technical capacity-building, as well as the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

(f) Further development of regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer;

(g) Enhancement of information exchange, education and awareness-raising in all sectors of society;

(h) Cooperation and partnership at all levels between countries, public authorities, international organizations, the industry sector, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions;

(i) Development of mechanisms for compliance with and for the monitoring and effective implementation of the Convention and its amendments;

7. Support the development of pilot projects on state-of-the-art or best available technologies to demonstrate the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and their minimization, including those financed by public or private partnership, in selected countries or regions, taking into account the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises, and agree that these pilot projects will take into consideration issues related to the environmentally sound disposal of stockpiles of hazardous wastes;

8. Recognize the need for a sound financial basis for the effective implementation of these activities and for increased efforts to gain access to all sources of funding, including international financial institutions, and recognize, in addition, the need to develop strategies that will harness market forces to promote waste minimization and environmentally sound management and to provide opportunities for investment in this field;

9. Agree that decision V/33 of the Conference of the Parties constitutes our agenda for the next decade on environmentally sound management.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT

The Conference, Welcoming the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and reaffirming the objectives set out therein,

1. Decides that, for the next decade of the Basel Convention, the following activities should be undertaken to achieve the objectives of environmentally sound management in the following fields: (a) Prevention, minimization, recycling, recovery and disposal of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, taking into account social, technological and economic concerns:

Elaboration of a concept and a programme for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, with an emphasis on waste prevention and minimization, taking into account the different regional and sectoral capabilities or specificities; promotion of initiatives in all States and at all levels to encourage environmentally sound waste management, in partnership with government authorities at all levels and with stakeholders, including capacity-building, awareness-raising and education;

Promotion of financial and other economic instruments or concepts, with a view to identifying sustainable and self-sufficient solutions for the minimization and environmentally sound and efficient management of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, bearing in mind that such instruments should be affordable

and socially acceptable, as well as economically viable; and the exchange of information on such instruments and their application;

(b)Active promotion and use of cleaner technologies with the aim of the prevention and minimization of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention:

Cooperation of the regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer with cleaner production centres and similar institutions having experience and expertise in areas related to the minimization and management of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, for the purpose of sharing information and knowledge and streamlining activities;

(c)Further reduction of the transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, taking into account the need for efficient management, the principles of self-sufficiency and proximity and the priority requirements for recovery and recycling:

Consistent with the technological needs of the Parties, promotion of initiatives aimed at reducing transboundary movements to the minimum, taking into account the environmentally sound management of the wastes, the protection of human health, the principles of proximity and self-sufficiency and the priority requirement of recovery and recycling;

(d)Prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic:

Continued cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization, in particular, in the training of customs and enforcement officers in order to identify, monitor and prevent illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention;

Adoption of procedures to address alleged cases of illegal traffic and to assist Parties in preventing, identifying, monitoring and resolving illegal traffic;

Institutional strengthening of the regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer, to enable Parties to prevent and monitor illegal traffic;

(e)Improvement and promotion of institutional and technical capacity-building, and development, and of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition:

With regard to capacity-building and assistance in legal and institutional matters, the development and effective implementation of legal instruments, building and strengthening of institutional infrastructures for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention and their minimization and the control of their transboundary movements;

With regard to capacity-building and assistance in technical matters, assisting in building and improving installations for the treatment of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention and the transfer of know-how and technology; and the advancement and improvement of strategies for the practical implementation of the minimization and environmentally sound management of both domestically generated wastes and wastes subject to transboundary movements that would include appropriate tools, measures and incentives especially for use by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, taking into account the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f)Further development of regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer:

Establishment or strengthening of the activities of regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer, to ensure their important role in the implementation of the Basel Convention and of minimization methods and the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, aiming at financial self-sufficiency, bearing in mind that the role and activities of different regional centres in information exchange are to be consolidated and made available to all stakeholders and that regional

centres should progressively become involved in activities related to training, public awareness and the exchange of information on waste minimization and environmentally sound technology and expertise;

Collection and dissemination of information on existing examples, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, of best practices in waste management;

Facilitation of different partnerships where so required, including partnerships with industry, for the development of minimization methods and environmentally sound waste-management solutions;

(g) Enhancement of information exchange, education and awareness-raising in all sectors of society:

Enhancement of the existing information system developed by the secretariat, including improved access, in order to disseminate the knowledge and experience gained in the implementation of the Basel Convention;

Development and operation of a worldwide information system to provide information on available expertise and solutions for waste-related problems and to strengthen the role of the regional centres in these efforts;

Training of the staff of competent authorities, enforcement officers and other key actors (e.g., generators, transporters, disposers, recyclers), where needed, bearing in mind that such training is required to implement the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, in particular, controls for transboundary movements, and the monitoring and prevention of illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes and that it could include, inter alia, in-house training in partnership between government authorities and industry, as well as practice-oriented seminars and workshops, and that the capacities and experience of the regional centres for training and technology transfer should be fully utilized and enhanced;

Promotion of public education and awareness on waste-related issues, in particular at the regional, subregional and local levels, involving all stakeholders, as well as educational institutions, bearing in mind that such efforts may include information campaigns related to waste minimization and the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention;

(h) Cooperation and partnership at all levels between countries, public authorities, international organizations, the industry sector, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions:

Enhancement of partnership with all stakeholders, to include the various experiences, needs and interests of different regions and sectors for the implementation of the Basel Convention; encouragement of and provision of incentives to the private and public sectors to cooperate with other stakeholders and to contribute experience and expertise in the management of hazardous and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention, including the application of cleaner technologies;

Enhancement of cooperation between the secretariat and international organizations active in areas relevant to the implementation of the Basel Convention and its amendments, bearing in mind that this is to include cooperation with United Nations bodies active in the field of sustainable development, to encourage the incorporation of policies on the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in Parties' national environmental management and sustainable development plans and cooperation with the relevant programmes on cleaner production, such as with the joint programme on cleaner production of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; launching of joint activities and projects in cooperation with organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in areas of common interest, in particular, on persistent organic pollutants, waste pesticides and other chemical wastes;

(i) Development of mechanisms for compliance with and the monitoring and effective implementation of the Convention and its amendments: Promotion of the effective implementation of and compliance with the obligations of the Convention and its amendments and the provision of assistance to the Parties as required;

Completion of work on mechanisms designed to facilitate and monitor compliance and implementation of the Convention, bearing in mind that this is to include a mechanism for compliance monitoring, procedures for

dispute settlement and guidelines to assist States to prevent, identify and resolve cases of illegal traffic, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

2. Requests the Technical Working Group to work on the selection of waste streams in countries or regions, for the purpose of developing pilot projects on the state of the art in the field of cleaner production and the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, including the development of contingency emergency plans;

3. Further decides that, in order to implement these activities, access to financial resources and mechanisms is essential and that, accordingly, the following activities should be undertaken:

(a) Development of projects in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme for funding by international entities such as the Global Environment Facility and the facilitation of access to other international financial mechanisms;

(b) Encouragement of the development of financial strategies that will harness market forces to promote environmentally sound management and waste minimization and provide opportunities for investment in this field;

(c) Development of a financial strategy for the operations and activities of the Convention, including innovative methods of fund-raising;

4. Requests the subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties, under the guidance of the Expanded Bureau, further to elaborate and to prioritize the activities for the years 2000-2002 listed in the annex to the present decision and to start working towards implementing the above objectives as soon as feasible, pending the elaboration and adoption of the work programme;

5. Also requests the subsidiary bodies to prepare a strategic plan, including an indicative work programme, for the period to the year 2010, to address the objectives set forth in the present decision, and to develop a work programme by areas of work based on the present decision for the years 2003-2004, for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting;

6. Requests the subsidiary bodies to provide periodic information to the Conference of the Parties on the progress of implementation of the agenda for the next decade on environmentally sound management;

7. Requests the secretariat to collect and disseminate the information needed for the tasks set out above and to coordinate the contacts with the partners involved;

8. Invites Parties to provide comments to the secretariat on the attached annex by the end of February 2000.

ANNEX

Table

PROPOSED PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

	Proposal	Objective	Method	Outcome
(a)	Dakar II (2000)	<p>To further define the concept of, and identify opportunities for, environmentally sound management in the areas of waste minimization, reduction, recycling and disposal,</p> <p>To provide a forum that will facilitate exchange of information and experience on environmentally sound management.</p> <p>To enhance partnership with all stakeholders</p>	An international conference hosted by the Government of Senegal and the subregional centre for training and technology transfer in Dakar to bring together key stakeholders, such as Governments, industry, civil society and intergovernmental agencies	<p>C Exchange of information and experience on the practical implementation of the concept of environmentally sound management</p> <p>C To act as a basis for the further development of other workshops as given in (b)</p>
(b)	<p>International workshops (2000-2002) on:</p> <p>(i) hazardous waste minimization initiatives</p> <p>(ii) environmentally sound recovery/recycling</p>	To build on outcome from Dakar II	Workshops to bring together key stakeholders and experts to highlight best practice through, for example, the identification of appropriate technologies, including site visits, information exchange and case studies	C Exchange of information and experience on the practical implementation of the concept of environmentally sound management with focus on each of the themes identified
(c)	Development of methodologies for environmentally sound management	Develop methods for the environmentally sound management of specific waste streams.	The methods will be developed through the establishment of five case studies, information exchange in the form of questionnaires, and in cooperation with Parties and intergovernmental organizations	<p>C Methodologies for environmentally sound management for specific waste streams developed</p> <p>C Dissemination of these methodologies to Parties</p>
(d)	Economic	To find out how economic instruments	In cooperation with Parties,	C Provide reference

			<p>elements of environmentally sound management through:</p> <p>C Stimulating waste minimization;</p> <p>C Increasing collection and environmental sound treatment of waste;</p> <p>C Promoting recycling over disposal</p>	
(e)	Cooperation with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental organizations	To continue to develop and/or enhance synergies with each partner for a more efficient use of resources and to share experiences on environmentally sound management and cleaner technology	<p>Develop joint activities in full collaboration with Parties</p> <p>Periodic assessment of accomplishments to date on these initiatives and identification of new ones</p>	<p>C Concrete outputs for use by Governments, the private sector and non-governmental organizations</p> <p>C More efficient use of resources</p> <p>C Sharing of experiences and enhancement of outputs with respect to their quality and effectiveness</p>
(f)	Electronic information systems	To develop electronic information systems on environmentally sound management to help Parties gain access to information	<p>Enhancement of existing information systems to highlight environmentally sound management</p> <p>Provision of the necessary technologies and access to these systems</p>	<p>C Access to electronic information systems</p> <p>C Information transfer and exchange</p> <p>C Increased awareness of issues</p>
(g)	Institutional and technological capacity-building	To build up institutional and technological capacity	<p>C Carrying out of an inventory of institutional and technological needs of Parties</p> <p>C Training and making available expertise by the Secretariat to the Parties, for example, through particular expertise of regional centres</p>	<p>C Report on institutional and technological needs of Parties</p> <p>C Improved institutional capacity</p> <p>C Improved technological capacity</p>
(h)	Training of enforcement officers	To provide training for customs and other enforcement officers	Cooperation with Parties, INTERPOL, WCO and other international organizations working in this field, to develop training materials, establish training programmes and raise awareness which would be implemented through three workshops	<p>C Appropriately trained customs and enforcement officers</p> <p>C Prevention of illegal traffic in hazardous waste</p> <p>C Improved control of the transboundary movement of</p>

(i)	Inventory of generation and stockpiles of hazardous waste	To develop inventories of hazardous waste to establish a baseline in what is generated and what is stockpiled	Assistance to conduct inventories to assist Parties in the development of these inventories	<p>C Inventories</p> <p>C Baselines</p> <p>C Prioritization</p> <p>C Information base/expertise to be used to develop management plans/strategies</p>
(j)	Cooperation and partnership	To enhance partnership arrangements with the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, and local communities for the promotion of environmentally sound management	Development of information resource networks	<p>C Resource material</p> <p>C Better informed partners</p> <p>C Information exchange and increased awareness of issues</p>
(k)	Strengthening of regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer	To support training and technology transfer activities at regional and subregional levels for environmentally sound management	<p>Involvement and participation in activities designed to promote the objectives of the regional and subregional centres</p> <p>These activities are to be developed in full collaboration with the Parties in the region and/or subregion</p>	<p>C Development of, and increase in, knowledge base</p> <p>C Transfer of technology</p> <p>C Training to improve control of the transboundary movement of hazardous waste</p> <p>C Waste minimization</p>
