



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CHW.6/32/Add.1
31 October 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL
CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF
HAZARDOUS WASTES AND
THEIR DISPOSAL

Sixth meeting
Geneva, 9-13 December 2002

Item 6 (g)(ii) of the provisional agenda*

PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY

Elements of a framework for cooperation with industry

Note by the secretariat

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its sixth meeting on 23 September 2002, the Expanded Bureau requested the secretariat to prepare, as a supplement to document UNEP/CHW.6/32, a comprehensive paper on partnership with industry for the consideration of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Expanded Bureau proposed that this comprehensive paper be developed to contain the following points:

- Reference to decisions of the Conference of the Parties, outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and cooperation with other MEAs
- Elements of a framework for building partnership with industry in the context of the Basel Convention.

2. The Expanded Bureau also requested the secretariat to prepare a draft decision for the consideration of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on framework for partnership with industry, including the possible tasks of the advisory committee on partnership with industry established by the Expanded Bureau at its fifth meeting in June 2001; the committee was not, however, constituted.

* UNEP/CHW.6/1

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II. IMPLEMENTATION

3. As requested the secretariat has prepared an additional paper on partnership with industry that is contained in annex I to the present note. This paper is divided into three sections. The first section provides background to the issue. The second section contains references to the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties. References to the recent World Summit on Sustainable Development is contained in a separate paper entitled "Review of and possible action on the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development" (document UNEP/CHW.6/39). The last section of the paper identifies some elements of a framework for cooperation with industry.

III. PROPOSED ACTION

4. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties may wish to consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

The Conference,

Recalling the various decisions of the Conference of the Parties inviting industry to cooperate in and support the implementation of the Basel Convention,

Further recalling the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management,

Welcoming the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in respect to partnership with industry,

Referring to the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention,

Referring also to its decision VI/___ on Cooperation with environmental non-governmental organizations and with the industry and business sectors,

Convinced that the active involvement and support of industry is necessary to achieve the aims of the Basel Convention,

Having considered the paper prepared by the secretariat in document UNEP/CHW.6/32/Add.1 on Partnership with industry,

Noting the elements of a framework for cooperation with industry as contained in Annex I to the present decision,

Also noting the tasks to be performed by the advisory committee on partnership with industry as contained in annex II to the present decision,

1. Requests the secretariat to circulate these elements to the relevant industry sectors with a view to seeking their views and input on their operationalization;

2. Invites Parties, Signatories and other Governments to promote partnership with industry using the approved elements of a framework for cooperation as appropriate;

3. Encourages the Basel Convention Regional Centres to consider opportunities for partnership with industry and promote such partnership using, as appropriate, the approved elements of a framework for cooperation;

4. Requests the secretariat to keep the Advisory Committee on Partnership with Industry informed of development and to seek its guidance on matters pertaining to cooperation with industry;

5. ~~Further requests~~ the secretariat to report on progress on the cooperation with industry to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and to any other appropriate subsidiary bodies.

Annex I

Elements of a framework for cooperation with industry

The following non-inclusive elements could form part of the framework for cooperation with industry:

(a) Identification of key stakeholders in selected industry sectors dealing or having a responsibility in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste streams (eg: corporate foundations, industry associations, multinational companies, companies operating at the national level);

(b) Initiation of scoping dialogue with the key stakeholders of selected industry sectors in the context of the life-cycle approach of materials;

(c) Development of strategic partnership in the priority fields identified in the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and in the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention taking into account regional specificities;

(d) Development and implementation of joint activities with stakeholders of selected industry sectors to improve environmental performance of companies dealing or having a responsibility in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste streams, encompassing the minimization of these wastes, the strengthening of capacity-building and access to sound technologies or processes;

(e) Involvement of the Basel Convention Regional Training Centres in providing training, with support of industry, to small- and medium-sized enterprises in the domains of environmentally sound management, prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

Annex II

Tasks of the Advisory Committee on Partnership with Industry

1. The Expanded Bureau established an Advisory Committee on Partnership with Industry to assist the secretariat in developing cooperation with industry.
2. The Advisory Committee's tasks would be to:
 - (a) Provide, upon request, advice and guidance on the initiation or development of partnership with different industry sectors;
 - (b) Guide the secretariat in selecting areas of cooperation with industry;
 - (c) Review outcomes or steps taken in the development of joint activities between the secretariat and industry;
 - (d) Provide advice and guidance to the Basel Convention Regional Centres, as appropriate, on matters pertaining to cooperation with industry.

Appendix

PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY

Elements of a framework for cooperation

I. BACKGROUND

1. One of the main objectives of fostering partnership with industry is to launch initiatives and implement activities to improve the environmental performance of selected industry sectors and enhance their contribution to sustainable development by aiming at the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.
2. The challenge is to respond effectively to the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention through enhanced and higher levels of partnership with industry. Such partnership should be in line with the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in August/September 2002.
3. A broader participation of different industry sectors in support of the aims of the Basel Convention is seen as essential to develop environmentally sound activities concerning hazardous and other wastes as a transition to sustainable development.
4. Taking into account the life-cycle approach of materials, the perspective of industry on how they see their contribution and their relationship, in certain cases, to the informal sectors, requires extensive, regular and pro-active exchange of information, experience and know-how among all concerned stakeholders.
5. More work is required on the socio-economic dimension of hazardous and other waste management at the national or regional level including consideration of shifts in waste policy such as producers' responsibility. De-coupling waste generation from economic growth requires integrated waste policies able to influence the present patterns of production, distribution, consumption and management of wastes.
6. A structured dialogue among the wide range of industry sectors and between industry and the Parties to the Basel Convention is needed to deal in a comprehensive, step-wise and constructive manner with the life-cycle approach of materials to minimize environmental and health burdens from wastes.
7. A key factor of a successful partnership would be to develop cooperation with industry in different regions of the world with the aim of facilitating access to environmentally sound technologies, processes and practices, and know-how, including access to cleaner production technologies or processes.
8. A framework for cooperation with industry requires the building of joint activities in support of the aims of the Basel Convention and in the spirit of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management. Concretely, many Parties to the Basel Convention want to examine appropriate, sound and proven technologies or processes that meet the requirements of environmentally sound management and, as needed, to be able to use them.
9. The strengthening and promotion of the industry-regulator interface needs to be well articulated to attract fuller participation of all relevant public and private stakeholders and consequently requires a more systematic and organized approach (framework). In this context, it is pertinent to distinguish between broad industry concerns, such as those expressed by the International Chamber of Commerce, from activities directly targeted at a specific industry sector. Also, making a distinction between an industrial versus a waste policy agenda is important to provide a clear message; taking into account that environmentally sound management means and addresses different things for different people. A common understanding of what implementation of environmentally sound management means among all concerned partners is a necessary step in building partnership.

10. A framework for cooperation with industry would provide the scope of environmentally sound management activities and their practicalities. The scoping debate should take place with each relevant industry sector and approaches like waste minimization, waste reduction, waste prevention or cleaner production should be considered. Also, terminologies like environmentally sound technologies, optimal sustainable technologies or best available technologies would need clarifications. Finally, in addition to developing a framework for cooperation, there is a need to put in place a proper mechanism to support a continuing dialogue among the stakeholders. The advisory committee on partnership with industry established by the Expanded Bureau could assist in this domain.

II. REFERENCES

11. At the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in December 1999, the Secretary-General of the United Nations delivered a message in which he said:

“The Basel Convention, in its first ten years, has succeeded in putting hazardous wastes and the implications of their indiscriminate disposal on the global agenda. The second decade must be one of implementation. That means that the Parties to the Convention will need to strengthen old alliances and create new ones. You will need to think beyond traditional domains, and reach out to non-governmental organizations, industries and others who possess the knowledge, technology and financial resources needed for building and improving capacity to manage wastes, especially in the developing world”.

12. The Conference of the Parties has adopted several decisions in which it calls upon the participation of industry to support the implementation of the Basel Convention. In particular such cooperation is called for in the domains of the prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic (decisions II/4 and IV/12), of the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes destined for recovery operations (decision II/14), of the establishment and operation of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (decisions II/19, IV/4 and V/5) and of capacity-building (decision V/7). In addition, the Conference of the Parties has adopted decision V/13 on Cooperation with environmental non-governmental organizations and with the industry and business sectors and decision V/33 on environmentally sound management that contain specific reference to cooperation with industry.

13. The Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management as well as the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention contain explicit references to cooperation with and participation of industry and detail concrete activities industry could support to achieve environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes.

III. ELEMENTS OF A FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY

14. The following non-inclusive elements could form part of the framework for cooperation with industry:

(a) Identification of key stakeholders in selected industry sectors dealing or having a responsibility in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste streams (eg: corporate foundations, industry associations, multinational companies, companies operating at the national level);

(b) Initiation of scoping dialogue with the key stakeholders of selected industry sectors in the context of the life-cycle approach of materials;

(c) Development of strategic partnership in the priority fields identified in the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and in the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention taking into account regional specificities;

(d) Development and implementation of joint activities with stakeholders of selected industry sectors to improve environmental performance of companies dealing or having a responsibility in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste streams, encompassing the minimization of these wastes, the strengthening of capacity-building and access to sound technologies or processes;

(e) Involvement of the Basel Convention Regional Training Centres in providing training, with support of industry, to small- and medium-sized enterprises in the domains of environmentally sound management, prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes and other wastes.
