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

Seventh meeting

Geneva, 25-29 October 2004

Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

**Report on the implementation of the decisions adopted  
by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting**

**Strategic plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention:  
capacity-building**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. Reference is made to Conference of the Parties decision VI/11 on capacity-building.

**II. Implementation**

2. A report on activities relating to training, capacity-building, and the promotion of public awareness since the sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties was submitted to the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention at its third session, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 April 2004 (UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/4).
3. In addition, the following activities relating to training, capacity-building and the promotion of public awareness have been carried out since March 2004:
  - (a) A thematic workshop on synergies for capacity-building under international agreements addressing chemicals and waste management from 30 March to 2 April 2004 in Geneva. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Geneva Environment Network (GEN), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). The meeting was held within the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation and OPCW. The meeting participants discussed in particular the importance for an integrated national framework for implementing international

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agreements and the importance of potential benefits from synergies between the different multilateral environmental agreements;

(b) Regional workshops for the promotion of the ratification of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation in Buenos Aires from 22 to 25 June 2004, in San Salvador from 28 June to 1 July, and in Addis Ababa from 30 August to 2 September (as described in document UNEP/CHW.7/INF/11);

(c) The first regional workshop under the aegis of the project "Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB containing equipment in Central America", from 7 to 9 July 2004, in San Salvador. The workshop was organized by the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas on behalf of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The workshop constituted the kick-off meeting for the PCB project in Central America, which is financed by the Government of the United States of America, the Government of Finland and the Basel Convention Trust Fund (with a total budget of \$ 648,000) and coordinated jointly between the Secretariat and UNEP Chemicals. The project has a duration of 15 months;

(d) A workshop on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in countries of the Middle East and North Africa, in Damascus from 19 to 21 July 2004. The workshop was the last of a series of regional workshops on the theme, organized by GEN with financial support from Switzerland;

(e) A subregional workshop on action Plans for PCBs and PCDD/F in the context of national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention, from 19 to 23 July 2004 in Santiago de Chile. The workshop was organized by the National Commission for the Environment, Government of Chile (CONAMA) in close cooperation with UNEP Chemicals. The meeting was financed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH and the Canadian POPs Fund. All Basel Convention focal points from the subregion were invited to the meeting.

4. Project activities with municipalities are in the preparatory stage. Two projects in Ecuador and South Africa are being developed in consultation with the local authorities in the city of Guayaquil and the city of Johannesburg, the private sector, Basel Convention regional centres and the UNITAR Decentralized Cooperation Programme. The purpose of these projects is to launch demonstration activities for facilitating the signing of public-private partnership agreements (type II) for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other waste as a follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development. At the time of the preparation of this document, the two agreements for launching the two projects are being developed.

5. A number of training and guidance manuals and other publications have been or are being prepared, including the following:

(a) Guidance manual for the preparation of health-care waste management plans in sub-Saharan Africa, prepared jointly by the Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO) – finalized (English);

(b) Training manual for the preparation of used lead-acid battery management plans, prepared jointly by the Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Lead Management Centre (ILMC) and the University of the West Indies – being finalized (English);

(c) Training manual for the preparation of a national environmentally sound management plan for PCBs and PCB containing equipment (now also available in Spanish).

### **III. Proposed action**

6. Please refer to document UNEP/CHW.7/2 on the compilation of the draft decisions forwarded by the Open-ended Working Group to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and possible adoption.

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