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**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

Third session

Geneva, 26–30 April 2004

Item 16 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Preparation of draft decisions for consideration by the
Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting: international
cooperation, including cooperation with the World Trade Organization
and the Global Environmental Facility**

**International cooperation, including cooperation with the World
Trade Organization and the Global Environmental Facility**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Reference is made to Conference of the Parties decision VI/29 on international cooperation and decision VI/30 on cooperation with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

II. Implementation

2. The Secretariat will prepare a comprehensive report on international cooperation for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. The report will contain sections on cooperation with the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and with other multilateral environmental agreements. It will describe cooperation between the Basel Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Health Organization, WTO, the World Customs Organization and several other international and regional intergovernmental organizations, including the regional seas conventions and action plans.

III. Proposed action

3. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to submit a draft decision along the following lines to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting:

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/1.

The Conference,

Recalling its decisions VI/29 and VI/30 on international cooperation and cooperation with the World Trade Organization, respectively,

Mindful of the increased level of cooperation with United Nations bodies, other international and regional intergovernmental organizations and multilateral environmental agreements,

Conscious of the importance of developing cooperative links in domains of relevance to the implementation of the Basel Convention,

Also conscious of the limited resources available to the Secretariat to discharge its functions,

Noting the tasks contained in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2005-2006 of relevance to international cooperation,

Considering the report on international cooperation prepared by the Secretariat as contained in document UNEP/CHW.7/[...];

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to further strengthen its cooperation in the areas and with the organizations listed below:

Persistent organic pollutants

(a) The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the issue of the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;

Toxic chemicals

(b) The Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade regarding joint efforts in training and capacity-building, involving the Basel Convention regional centres, with a view to enhancing implementation;

Strategic approach to international chemicals management

(c) UNEP and other intergovernmental organizations or bodies such as the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the OSPAR Commission of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, with a view to enhancing synergies and complementarities between chemicals and waste issues;

Enforcement

(d) UNEP, the World Customs Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), relevant multilateral environmental agreements like the chemicals-related conventions, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna and biosafety-related conventions or protocols;

Transport and classification

(e) The United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, that committee's Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals and the World Health Organization regarding the development of criteria for the hazardous characteristics of Annex III to the Convention and the transport of infectious substances;

Identification of wastes in the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and coding System

(f) The secretariat, the Harmonized System Committee and Subcommittee and the Scientific Sub-Committee of the World Customs Organization;

Dismantling of ships

(g) The secretariats of the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (London Convention 1972), the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and UNEP;

2. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue its cooperation on critical areas for the effective implementation of the Basel Convention, its protocol and amendments with relevant organizations, including the following:

- (a) The World Bank;
- (b) The Global Environment Facility;
- (c) The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development;
- (d) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
- (e) The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- (f) The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- (g) United Nations regional economic commissions;
- (h) The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea;
- (i) The World Trade Organization;
- (j) The regional seas conventions and action plans;
- (k) The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;
- (l) The African Union, as secretariat of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa;
- (m) The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment;
- (n) The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, as secretariat of the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention);
- (o) The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(p) The International Energy Agency;

3. *Further requests* the Secretariat to report on cooperation to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

4. *Encourages* Parties and others to support the cooperative efforts of the Secretariat.
