

## **Teleconference of the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention**

Monday 3 September 2012, 2:00 – 3:00 pm (CEST)

- 1. Participants:** Ms. Jimena Nieto Carrasco (Co-Chair, Colombia), Mr. Luay S. Al-Mukhtar (Co-Chair, Iraq), Mr. James Mulolo (Vice-Chair, Zambia), Mr. Tuomas Aarnio (Rapporteur, Finland)  
Secretariat: Mr. David Ogden, Ms. Kei Ohno, Ms. Andrea Warmuth
  
- 2. OEWG8 logistics:**
  - As of 3 September 2012, 281 participants had registered for OEWG-8, representing 130 party countries, 8 non-parties, 8 Intergovernmental Organizations, 7 Non-governmental Organizations, 3 United Nations bodies and 9 others.
  - Confirmation letters were sent on 14 August 2012.
  
- 3. Meeting documents**
  - The remaining meeting documents: UNEP/CHW/OEWG/8/INF/2 (tentative schedule of the meeting) will be finalized based on discussions at this teleconference and will be published by 11 September; UNEP/CHW/OEWG/8/INF/23 (Implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes) will be published by 10 September; UNEP/CHW/OEWG/8/INF/4 (Additional information on the review and strengthening of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres) requires few more days.
  - Document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/8/INF/3 (Development of a baseline for mid-term and final evaluations of the strategic framework) has been cancelled. The document was supposed to contain a format for reporting to facilitate the collection of information from parties related to the indicators for measuring achievement and performance of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012-2021. Funds were received from the European Union to support the hiring of a consultant to develop the reporting format. However, due to internal administrative procedures, the receipt of funds by the Secretariat was delayed and the consultant could not be hired on time to complete the work on the document before OEWG-8.
  - A set of printed meeting documents would be made available at the request of the Co-Chairs at OEWG-8.
  
- 4. Tentative schedule of the meeting**
  - The tentative schedule of the meeting will be made available as UNEP/CHW/OEWG/8/INF/2. The Bureau agreed on the draft of the tentative schedule, with one modification: The Secretariat would indicate expected contact groups in a footnote of INF/2, to give delegations a general idea of the number and content of potential contact groups.
  - The schedule can be revised during the meeting as necessary. The Bureau will review the schedule every morning.
  - Ms. Nieto suggested that informal consultations on cooperative arrangements could be held during OEWG-8. It was agreed that the topic would not be put on the agenda, but that Ms. Nieto would inform interested delegates about such consultations prior to the meeting and that she would announce them during the meeting<sup>1</sup>.

### Contact groups

- So far, the potential need for three contact groups has been identified: (1) A contact group on technical issues, to deal with the technical guidelines and applications for new entries to Annex IX to the Basel

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<sup>1</sup> After the teleconference, Ms. Nieto informed the Secretariat that, following consultations with other members of the ICC, consultations will take place but only on a bilateral basis with Parties or others that have provided comments on the terms of reference with the aim of seeking clarifications on such comments, when needed.

Convention; (2) a contact group on legal clarity to consider the report on the interpretation of certain terminology as well as the study on used and end-of-life goods and prepare a draft decision on this topic; and (3) a contact group on cooperation between the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other related issues as necessary.

- Upon the question from a Bureau member whether the contact group on cooperation between the Basel Convention and the IMO was indeed necessary, it was noted that some countries had expressed particular interest in that contact group and that it might be suggested to broaden its mandate.
- In addition, the European Union had indicated that the issue of developing guidelines for environmentally sound management might be necessary to be discussed in a contact group. However, a meeting of the Technical Expert Group to discuss this matter was to take place immediately following OEWG-8, from 30 September to 2 October 2012. The Bureau members agreed that further consultations with the European Union were required to define whether there was really a need for such a contact group.
- Potential (co-)chairs for the contact groups have not yet been identified. Delegates who had chaired similar contact groups in the past could be potential co-chairs for the technical contact group and the contact group on cooperation between the Basel Convention and the IMO. For the contact group on legal clarity, it was suggested that Switzerland and Indonesia, as the founding members of the country-led initiative, could be approached. The Secretariat was asked to contact these delegates. The Bureau members would consult with their constituencies in order to come up with further proposals. There is no particular deadline for nominating co-chairs, but they have to be identified by the time the contact group is established.
- The Bureau agreed to make all efforts not to have too many contact groups working at the same time to allow smaller delegations to participate in the various discussions.
- The Bureau additionally suggested meeting in plenary and hearing reports on progress from the contact groups only as necessary. If there was no particular need for convening in plenary, priority would be given to allowing the contact groups to continue their deliberations.

#### Side events and reception

- A reception will be hosted by Switzerland on Tuesday evening at 18:15. If required, contact groups could convene after the reception.

### **5. Information about Monday pre-meeting**

#### SIWG's meeting

- The members of the small intersessional working group on technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste (e-waste), in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste, will meet on Monday, 24 September 2012, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The invitation to participate in this meeting was sent to SIWG members. It is also open to observers.

#### Bureau meeting

- The Bureau will meet on Monday from 2:00 to 3:00 pm and from Wednesday to Friday from 8:00 to 9:00 am.
- In addition, the Co-Chairs agreed to meet with the Secretariat on Monday at 11:00 am, to prepare the running of the meeting and to discuss the opening speeches.

#### Regional meeting

- The regional groups will meet on Monday from 3:00 – 6:00 pm and from Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 to 10:00 am.
- All participants have been informed in the confirmation letters about the regional meetings on Monday. Rooms for those meetings will be advertised at the meeting venue. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to publish the rooms also in advance on the OEWG-8 webpage, if possible. The Co-Chairs offered to attend the meetings of all regional groups for a few minutes to share their expectations vis-à-vis OEWG-8 with them. The Bureau members would convey this offer to their regional groups.

## **6. Other matters**

- The Bureau discussed the number of decisions to be taken by the OEWG. The Secretariat explained that most meeting documents contained for convenience a draft decision for consideration by the OEWG in the section “Proposed action”. If the meeting however felt that it was sufficient to simply take note of the results of the discussions in the report of the meeting, this could be done instead of taking a decision. This would in particular be the case if the OEWG just took note of the progress of the work and ask the Secretariat to continue implementing the requests from COP-10.
  - Ms. Nieto asked the Secretariat to replace the name of the Co-Chair from Colombia on the OEWG website, following a change in representative.
  - After OEWG-8, the Secretariat will revise the draft work programme, in consultation with the Bureau of the OEWG and the Expanded Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and taking into account the discussions at the OEWG8, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.
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