

1st session of the Working Group for Implementation. 29 May 2002

The first day of the meeting of the Working Group for Implementation was chaired by Donald Cooper of the Bahamas and Mamadou Cham of the Gambia. The Executive Secretary, Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto in her opening remarks said that there were three main issues to be considered by the Working Group: the budget, the Basel Convention Regional Centers (BCRCs) and the draft decisions to be submitted to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for approval.

The meeting addressed matters related to the budget for the 2003-2004 biennium. The main issues highlighted by the delegates include the following:

- Use of surplus
- Translation of documents as well as interpretation at meetings
- Frequency of meetings of working groups
- Personnel component
- Financial support for the BCRCs
- New UN scale of assessment

A budget subcommittee was set up under the leadership of the Bahamas and was asked to look in detail at the new budget proposal and all related issues.

Other main discussion of the day concentrated on the Basel Convention Regional Centres. The report of the Cairo meeting on the framework agreement and new proposals for formal establishment of BCRCs in India and Senegal was presented to the meeting. The delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran also presented for consideration a new proposal for similar a centre in Iran. Most of the delegates who took the floor emphasized the important role of the BCRCs in the implementation of the Basel Convention and the Strategic Plan at regional level. However, the delegates recognized that these centres should have a sustainable financial structure. Australia suggested that the BCRCs develop synergies with other stakeholders, in particular with industry. Linkage may also include working with the National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) and universities. Uruguay and Nigeria underscored the need for clearly defining the role of coordination centres. The Secretariat was requested to provide guidelines for the preparation of a business plan for the BCRCs. A working group was formed to deliberate issues related to the establishment and functioning of the BCRCs.