

Draft tentative schedule of work of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2019

(Version of 26 April 2018)

1. At their meetings in 2017, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions decided to hold their next meetings in Geneva from 29 April to 10 May 2019 in a format similar to that of the 2017 meetings, with joint sessions covering matters of relevance to at least two of the three conventions and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the three conferences of the Parties. They also decided that the 2019 meetings would not feature a high-level segment and that such segments would occur only at every second set of meetings of the conferences of the Parties.
2. In December 2017, the bureaux of the three conferences of the Parties were consulted by email and agreed on the process for preparing the organization of work of the 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties. The process, which is set out in annex III to the present document, involves the development of the present tentative schedule of work for the meetings. This tentative schedule includes all items from the proposed provisional agendas of the meetings and takes into account key considerations experienced from the organization of previous meetings, which are set out in annex II to the present document. The schedule of work which will be agreed by the conferences of the Parties on the first day of their meetings may be adjusted in consultation with the Bureau(x) over the course of the two weeks based on the progress of the negotiations.
3. In accordance with the agreed process, the current version of the tentative schedule of work has been consulted with the Presidents of the conferences of the Parties.
4. The main features of the proposed organization of work of the meetings in 2019 include the following:
 - (a) Opening of the meetings and adoption of the agendas:
 - (i) Sequential openings of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties and adoptions of the agendas would take place on the morning of Monday, 29 April 2019;
 - (b) Plenary sessions:
 - (i) Joint sessions of the meetings would be held on Monday, 29 April 2019 and the morning of Tuesday, 30 April 2019 to address cross-cutting items that are on the agendas of at least two of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties. These joint introductions and considerations will enable the strengthening of cooperation and coordination among the conventions with a view to adopting coherent and consistent decisions that would enhance implementation across the three conventions;
 - (ii) The sessions of the individual meetings of the conferences of the Parties to each Convention would be grouped into blocks of sessions following a similar approach, format and order as the 2015 and 2017 meetings to address the agenda items not covered during the joint sessions. As there is no high-level segment, additional time is available for Convention-specific sessions in the second week. The early Rotterdam Convention-specific session that was held on the first week during the 2017 meetings to allow for sufficient time to consider the intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention as well as chemicals for inclusion in Annex III to the Convention, is proposed to be moved to early in the second week;
 - (iii) Every morning, the three conferences of the Parties would meet jointly to hear reports of contact groups;

- (iv) Draft decisions that are convention-specific would be considered by plenary during the timeframe allocated to the convention-specific sessions;
 - (v) Harmonized draft decisions on cross-cutting issues would be considered for adoption by the three conferences of the Parties at the latest in a joint session on the afternoon of Thursday, 9 May 2019, or if items on cross-cutting issues do not require further discussion, the conferences of the Parties would conclude consideration of them and adopt related decisions during the joint session they are being consider at;
 - (vi) All decisions would be adopted pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2020–2021 or that they would have no budgetary implications;
 - (vii) In the afternoon of 10 May 2019, sequential sessions of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties would be convened to adopt their respective budget decisions, after which, the meetings of the conferences of the Parties would be closed;
- (c) Contact groups:
- (i) Each Conference of the Parties could establish convention-specific contact groups which would meet during the timeframe allocated to the convention-specific sessions. If established during the joint sessions, convention-specific contact groups could start their work before the convention-specific sessions they relate to;
 - (ii) During the joint sessions, the conference(s) of the Parties could establish joint contact groups which would meet as needed throughout the two weeks;
- (d) Other arrangements for the meetings:
- (i) Pre-meetings would be organized on Sunday, 28 April 2019, including a joint meeting of the bureaux and regional group meetings;
 - (ii) Each morning from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., the bureaux would meet to, among other things, agree on the order of business for the day. The Secretariat will post the order of business on the intranet site for the meetings before the start of plenary;
 - (iii) No formal meetings are scheduled for Sunday, 5 May 2019.

Annex I: Tentative schedule of work of the 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions¹

| | Mon, 29 April 2019 | Tue, 30 April 2019 | Wed, 1 May 2019 | Thu, 2 May 2019 | Fri, 3 May 2019 | Sat, 4 May 2019 |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|
| Morning session 10 a.m.– 1 p.m. | BC Item 1: Opening of the BC meeting BC Item 2: Adoption of the agenda | <i>Reports of contact groups</i> | <i>Reports of contact groups</i> | <i>Reports of contact groups</i> | <i>Reports of contact groups</i> | <i>Reports of contact groups</i> |
| | RC Item 1: Opening of the RC meeting RC Item 2: Adoption of the agenda | Joint sessions of the COPs: BC Item 5; RC Item 6; SC Item 6: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (a) International cooperation and coordination; (b) Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange; (c) Mainstreaming gender; (d) Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and waste; (e) From science to action. BC Item 7; RC Item 8; SC Item 8: MOU between UNEP and BC COP; MOU between FAO, UNEP and RC COP; MOU between UNEP and SC COP BC Item 8; RC Item 9; SC Item 9: Venue and date of the next COPs BC Item 9; RC Item 10; SC Item 10: Other matters (only admission of observers) | Session of SC COP-9: Item 5 (cont.) (a) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use: (ii) DDT; (iii) Polychlorinated biphenyls; (iv) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride; | Session of SC COP-9: <i>Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions</i> Item 5 (cont.) (i) Effectiveness evaluation; (a) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use: (v) Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2(b) of Article 3. | Session of BC COP-14: Item 4 (cont.) (b) Scientific and technical matters: (i) Technical guidelines (cont.) (excluding POPs wastes) (a) Strategic issues: (i) Strategic framework (ii) Addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment; (iii) Development of guidelines for environmentally sound management; (iv) Cartagena Declaration (c) Legal, compliance and governance matters: (ii) Providing further legal clarity; | Session of BC COP-14: Item 4 (cont.) (b) Scientific and technical matters (cont.): (iv) Electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents; (v) Marine plastic litter and microplastics; (vi) Waste containing nanomaterials. (e) Basel Convention Partnership Programme |
| | SC Item 1: Opening of the SC meeting SC Item 2: Adoption of the agenda | | | | | |
| | Joint sessions of the COPs: BC Item 3; RC Item 3; SC Item 3: Organizational matters (b) Organization of work (a) Election of officers (c) Credentials BC Item 4: Matters related to the implementation of the Convention (d) Technical assistance RC Item 5: Matters related to the implementation of the Convention (e) Technical assistance SC Item 5: Matters related to the implementation of the Convention (f) Technical assistance BC Item 4 (cont.) (f) Financial resources RC Item 5 (cont.) (f) Financial resources SC Item 5 (cont.) (g) Financial resources and mechanisms | | | | | |
| Afternoon session 3–6 p.m. | Joint sessions of the COPs: BC item 4 (cont.) (c) Legal, compliance and governance matters: (i) Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention RC Item 5 (cont.) (d) Compliance SC Item 5 (cont.) (j) Compliance BC Item 4 (cont.) (b) Scientific and technical matters: (i) Technical guidelines (only POPs wastes) SC Item 5 (cont.) (c) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes BC Item 6; RC Item 7; SC Item 7: Programme of work and budget | Session of SC COP-9: Item 4: Rules of procedure Item 5 (cont.) (e) Listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention; (a) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use: (i) Exemptions; | Session of SC COP-9: Item 5 (cont.) (b) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production; (d) Implementation plans; (h) Reporting pursuant to Article 15; | Session of SC COP-9: <i>Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions</i> Item 10 (cont.) (excluding admission of observers) | Session of SC COP-9: <i>Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions</i> Item 11: Adoption of the report Joint sessions of the COPs: <i>Adoption of the sections of the reports on the joint sessions of the meetings of the COPs²</i> | Session of BC COP-14: Item 4 (cont.) (b) Scientific and technical matters (cont.): (ii) Classification and hazard characterization of wastes; (iii) National reporting; (c) Legal, compliance and governance matters (cont.): (iii) National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic |

¹ Items listed in the tentative schedule are from the provisional agendas of the meetings (UNEP/CHW.14/1; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/1; UNEP/POPS/COP.9/1).

² The conferences of the Parties are scheduled to meet in joint sessions to adopt the section of their report covering the joint sessions held on Monday, 29 April 2019 and on the morning of Tuesday, 30 April 2019.

| | Sun, 5 May 2019 | Mon, 6 May 2019 | Tue, 7 May 2019 | Wed, 8 May 2019 | Thu, 9 May 2019 | Fri, 10 May 2019 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Morning session 10 a.m.– 1 p.m. | No formal meetings | Reports of contact groups | Reports of contact groups | Reports of contact groups | Reports of contact groups | Reports of contact groups |
| | | Session of BC COP-14: Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions Item 4 (cont.) (g) Work programme of the OEWG for 2020–2021 Item 9 (cont.) (excluding admission of observers) | Session of RC COP-9: Item 5 (cont.) (c) Enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention; (b) Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention; | Session of RC COP-9: Item 5 (cont.) (b) Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention (cont.); Item 4: Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties Item 5 (cont.) (a) Status of implementation | Session of RC COP-9: Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions | Session of RC COP-9: Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions Item 11: Adoption of the report |
| Afternoon session 3–6 p.m. | No formal meetings | Session of BC COP-14: Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions | Session of BC COP-14: Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions Item 10: Adoption of the report | Session of RC COP-9: Item 9 (cont.) (excluding admission of observers) Consideration of the outcomes of the contact groups and draft decisions | Joint sessions of the COPs: Consideration of the outcomes of the joint contact groups and adoption of outstanding decisions | Adoption of BC budget decision |
| | | | | | | Adoption of RC budget decision |
| | | | | | | Adoption of SC budget decision |
| | | | | | | BC Item 11; RC Item 12; SC Item 12: Closure of the meetings |

| | |
|--|--|
| Stockholm Convention Conference of the Parties (SC COP) | |
| Basel Convention Conference of the Parties (BC COP) | |
| Rotterdam Convention Conference of the Parties (RC COP) | |
| Joint sessions of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties | |

Annex II: Summary of key considerations for organizing the work of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties

I. Making the most of the synergized meetings

1. The joint sessions of the three conferences¹ allow for joint introductions and considerations of issues that are on the agendas of at least two of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties. They enable cross-fertilization during the deliberations, thereby strengthening cooperation and coordination among the conventions and enhancing policy coherence. They also improve efficiency in the running of the meetings. The legal autonomy of each Convention is maintained through the adoption of harmonized but separate decisions by each Conference of the Parties. For the joint issues that require further consideration, the conference(s) of the Parties may establish either joint contact groups or convention-specific contact groups.

II. Adequate use of time for the substantive work of the conventions

2. The organization of work of the back to back meetings of the conferences of the Parties should provide flexibility in allocating time and planning discussion on important technical work to be completed under each Convention. Early consideration of items, that are identified as requiring significant negotiation time or substantive technical work, offers a two-week timeframe for discussions extending the time beyond what was available at a separate meeting of a Conference of the Parties.

III. Number of contact groups running in parallel

3. Special attention is given to limiting the number of groups working in parallel to ensure that there is adequate opportunity for the interests of all delegations to be factored into the discussions. To ensure progress in deliberations, smaller groups may be established for more detailed consideration. Decisions concerning the number and nature of the groups required and the organization of their work are made in consultation with the Bureau(x) throughout the meetings as progress is made on each issue.

IV. Last day of the meetings

4. It is important to organize the work adequately over the two-week period so that the meetings complete their work on the last day within the official meeting timeframes with interpretation, as successfully experienced at the 2017 meetings. To this end, convention-specific decisions should be adopted during the timeframe allocated to the convention-specific sessions which ensures that progress is made throughout the meetings. The sequence of separate sessions of the conferences of the Parties on the last day allows for the adoption of the harmonized budgets.

V. Aiming for clear planning based on past experience

5. Delegates have gathered experience with and have got used to the organization of work of the previous triple meetings of the conferences of the Parties. Nevertheless, as meetings held concurrently may result in complex undertakings, with numerous events and interactions taking place in parallel, further efforts will be made to make the meetings easy to follow for delegates, such as communicating well in advance on the structure of the meetings as well as on any preparatory work that can be undertaken to speed up decision making during the meetings (e.g. at the regional preparatory meetings) and clearly announcing daily schedules on the intranet and through the bureaux.

¹ The criteria used by the bureaux in identifying previous joint sessions were as follows: i) Benefits expected from dealing with issues jointly in terms of cross-fertilization of ideas, sharing of best practices, and identification of future synergies among the three conventions; ii) Advantages of taking harmonized decisions across the three conventions on similar issues and of taking into account each others' decisions; iii) Gains expected in terms of effectiveness and efficiency of the meetings when dealing with similar issues once instead of three times.

VI. Participation of delegates from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition

6. Fund raising efforts aim at ensuring the participation of one representative per eligible country per Convention to which the country is a Party, to a maximum of three representatives per country, for the full two-week duration of the meetings. This contributes to facilitating the full and active participation of experts from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in meetings of the conferences of the Parties. Funding for eligible meeting delegates is allocated in accordance with the adopted procedures set out respectively in BC-10/28, RC-5/1 and SC-5/2.

Annex III: Process for preparing the tentative schedule of work of the 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The conferences of the Parties decided to hold their next meetings in Geneva from 29 April to 10 May 2019 in a format similar to that of the 2017 meetings, with joint sessions covering matters of relevance to at least two of the three conventions and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the three conferences of the Parties. They also decided that the 2019 meetings would not feature a high-level segment and that such segments would occur only at every second set of meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

Following past practice, the tentative schedule of work of the 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties will be developed in cooperation with the Presidents and the bureaux members as follows, building on lessons learned and feedback received from Parties on previous meetings:

- March 2018: The Secretariat prepares a first draft of the tentative schedule of work for discussion with the Presidents;
 - May 2018: The tentative schedule of work is revised based on comments from the Presidents and shared with the bureaux for discussion at their individual bureaux meetings in June/July 2018;
 - August 2018: A revised tentative schedule of work that reflects the discussions by the bureaux is sent to the Presidents;
 - September 2018: A further revised version of the tentative schedule of work based on feedback from the Presidents is presented to the bureaux at their joint meeting in November 2018 for further consideration and approval;
 - November 2018: The approved final tentative schedule of work is posted on the conventions websites.
-