

IV/4. Establishment of regional or subregional centres for training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation

The Conference

1. Takes note of the progress in the establishment of regional and subregional centres for training and technology transfer and of the existing and proposed organizational arrangements, as well as of the funding situation of the respective centres;
2. Welcomes the financial support provided by the Government of Switzerland for the establishment and initiation of activities at the Regional Centre in Bratislava for Central and Eastern Europe for a two-year period and the contribution in kind (staff, logistics, utilities, administrative and organizational arrangements) provided by the Government of Slovakia;
3. Welcomes the financial support provided by:
  - (a) The Government of Canada, for the initiation of the activities at the Coordinating Centre in Uruguay;
  - (b) The Government of Germany (GTZ) for the undertaking of a feasibility study for the establishment of a subregional centre for English-speaking countries in Africa;
  - (c) The United Nations Environment Programme, through its Swedish Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, for the undertaking of feasibility studies for the establishment of subregional centres for Arabic-speaking and French-speaking African countries;
  - (d) The Government of Australia, for the holding of a regional meeting in China to discuss the outcome of the feasibility study for the establishment of centres in the Asia and Pacific region and for support to a second meeting in this region to be held in Indonesia to agree on arrangements and activities in the Indonesian Regional Centre as well as its interaction and relation with other centres in the region;
4. Takes note of the fact that the contribution in kind for core activities of the Centre by the host Government (Slovakia), in addition to the contribution by the Government of Switzerland, facilitated and speeded up the initiation of activities at the Centre for Central and Eastern Europe;
5. Further takes note of the efforts made by other host countries to provide in-kind contributions for the establishment and activities of the centres;
6. Recommends that, as far as possible, the same approach be adopted by host Governments in all regions for the regional and subregional centres, by providing for the core staff and activities of the centres as a contribution in kind;
7. Requests the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to continue to explore areas of cooperation with other international conventions and agencies of the United Nations system on sustainable development in the question of the establishment of regional technology centres and encourages networking to maximize interlinkages, and to avoid duplication of efforts;
8. Also requests the Secretariat to collaborate with the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) for the Gulf region, located in Kuwait, as well as with the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme, in relation to the provision of training and technology transfer in the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and the transboundary movement of such wastes for the countries in the ROPME sea region;
9. Urges all Parties and non-Parties in a position to do so, as well as international organizations, including development banks, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, including industry, to make financial or in-kind contributions to allow all centres to become operational as soon as possible and to support their activities;

10. Urges the Parties to have as a goal the long-term sustainability of the centres and to ensure that various options are being thoroughly considered in order to achieve this goal;
11. Urges all designated host Governments, as soon as regional and subregional meetings have been held to discuss the outcome of the feasibility studies, to prepare concrete project proposals for the establishment of their respective centres, with detailed budgets to be sent to donors for funding and with feasible action plans for the centres to become financially self-sufficient within a specific time-frame;
12. Requests the Secretariat to convene regional and subregional meetings to discuss the outcome of the feasibility studies not yet addressed by such meetings, in order to accelerate the establishment of centres in those regions;
13. Further urges Parties, especially those which are future hosts of regional and subregional centres, to include the above project proposals as priority activities in their development plans, in order to enable donor agencies to consider providing financial support in connection with the regularly organized United Nations Development Programme round-table donors' meetings;
14. Requests the Secretariat to continue to report to future sessions of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee on progress made in the establishment of regional centres on training and technology transfer.