

VI/32. Partnership with environmental non-governmental organizations and with the industry and business sectors

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision V/13 on cooperation with environmental non-governmental organizations and with the industry and business sectors,

Taking note of the activities undertaken by the secretariat to develop partnership with the industry and business sectors and with environmental non-governmental organizations and other organizations,

Welcoming the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in respect to partnership,

Welcoming also the contribution of Switzerland to assist the secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal in increasing effective cooperation and partnership with industry,

Welcoming further the increased participation of industry organizations as well as environmental and development non-governmental organizations in concrete project activities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes,

Recalling the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management, and referring to the strategic plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention,

Convinced that the active involvement and support of industry and business organizations and non-governmental organizations is necessary to achieve the aims of the Basel Convention,

Noting the draft elements for cooperation with industry as contained in the appendix to the present decision,

1. Encourages industry or business organizations, as well as environmental and development non-governmental organizations, to get involved in concrete activities at the regional and national levels in support of the aims of the Basel Convention;

2. Invites, in the spirit of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management, relevant industry and business organizations as well as individual companies and non-governmental organizations, to get involved in supporting environmentally sound management projects, in particular at the regional level using for that purpose the Basel Convention Regional Centres;

3. Requests the secretariat to prepare, for adoption by the Open-Ended Working Group, a work programme for cooperation with the industry and business sectors and non-governmental organizations with the aim of developing strategic partnership in domains of relevance to the implementation of the Basel Convention and its amendments and protocols, taking into account activities for 2003-2004 supporting the aims of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management, and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;

4. Requests the secretariat to initiate and implement the work programme in consultation with the Open-Ended Working Group,

5. Also requests the secretariat to develop further the draft elements of a framework for cooperation with industry contained in the appendix to the present decision for adoption by the Open-ended Working Group, taking into account the “Guiding Principles for Partnerships for Sustainable Development” proposed by the Vice Chairs at the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Bali in May/June 2002 (the Bali guidelines);

6. Further Requests the secretariat to circulate the draft elements to the relevant industry sectors with a view to seeking their views and input on their operationalization;

7. Requests the secretariat to report on progress on developing cooperation with the industry and business sectors and non-governmental organizations to the Open-ended Working Group and to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

8. Invites Parties, Signatories and other Governments to promote partnership with the industry and business sectors and non-governmental organizations;

9. Encourages the Basel Convention Regional Centres to consider opportunities for partnership with the industry and business sectors and non-governmental organizations, and to promote such partnership.

Appendix

DRAFT ELEMENTS OF A FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY

The following non-exclusive elements could form part of the work programme for cooperation with industry:

(a) Identification of key stakeholders in selected industry and business sectors dealing with or having a responsibility in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste streams (such as corporate foundations, industry associations, multi-national companies, and companies operating at the national level);

(b) Initiation of scoping dialogue with the key stakeholders of selected industry sectors in the context of the life-cycle approach of materials;

(c) Development of strategic partnership in the priority fields identified in the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and in the strategic plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, taking into account regional specificities;

(d) Development and implementation of joint activities with stakeholders of selected industry sectors to improve environmental performance of companies dealing with or having a responsibility in the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other waste streams, encompassing minimization of those wastes, strengthening capacity-building, and access to sound technologies or processes;

(e) Involvement of the Basel Convention Regional Centres in providing training, with support from industry sector, to small- and medium-sized enterprises in the domains of environmentally sound management and prevention and minimization of hazardous wastes and other wastes.