

VIII/4: Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 14 of the Convention, by which Parties agreed that, according to the specific needs of different regions and subregions, regional or subregional centres for training and technology transfers regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimization of their generation should be established and, further, that the Parties shall decide on the establishment of appropriate funding mechanisms of a voluntary nature,

Also recalling its decision VI/3 on the establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention regional centres on training and technology transfer,

Recognizing the importance and usefulness of coordinating and enhancing the effectiveness of the work of Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres among themselves and with the Secretariat in assisting Parties in the implementation of the Basel Convention, including developing and executing projects in the context of the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010, particularly with respect to regional facilitation and capacity-building programmes,

Concerned by the difficulties experienced by Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres owing to a lack of sustainable funding,

Committed to improving cooperation and coordination between the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and other relevant instruments and programmes through the work of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and recognizing the need for coordination between the Secretariat and the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in that regard,

1. *Invites* Parties, especially donor countries, to support and utilize the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including for projects in support of training and technology transfer on the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, taking into account a life-cycle approach to such wastes;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, as appropriate, to guide and assist the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in the development of projects to assist Parties in the implementation of the Strategic Plan focus areas, building on the existing work on resource mobilization under the Basel Convention;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat and Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, subject to the availability of voluntary contributions and in consultation with relevant international organizations such as the Global Environment Facility, to conduct training activities in the regional centres and with countries within the regions to enhance their capacity to gain access to the Global Environment Facility and other financing mechanisms;

4. *Encourages* Parties and others to provide support, financial or in-kind, including through the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention, to enable the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

5. *Encourages* Parties and other entities in a position to do so to consider collaborating with the host Governments with a view to increasing contributions to the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;

6. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to use the guidance materials prepared by the Secretariat for improving the administration,

governance and operational effectiveness of the centres and to report thereon, through the Secretariat, to the Open-ended Working Group at its next session;

7. *Requests* the Open Ended Working Group to initiate at its sixth session a review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, including their relationship with Convention bodies, including the Secretariat, and other stakeholders, in order to enhance the combined effectiveness and capacity of the centres and the Secretariat;

8. *Invites* Parties to submit views on the objectives and scope of the review for consideration and action at the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report for the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group on the review and, in the light of the discussion at that meeting, to prepare a similar report for the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

10. *Urges* Parties, relevant global and regional agreements and programmes to make full use of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to enhance international and regional cooperation and coordination on relevant issues and to explore mutually cost-effective approaches to promoting their respective goals and objectives.