

**1st Teleconference of the Informal Group on Household Waste
05 November 2015, 14:00 – 16:30h (Geneva time)**

Summary of the meeting

Participants:

Ms Gabriela Medina, Uruguay (Co- Chair)	Mr. Prakash Kowlessar, Mauritius (Co- Chair)
Mr Alberto Capra, Argentina	Mr Ahmad Khan, BCRC Trinidad and Tobago
Mr Carlos Thompson, Honduras	Ms Alida Spadafora, Municipality of Panama
Ms Dana Lapesova, BCRC Slovakia	Mr Dharmesh Shah, IPEN
Mr Joachim Wuttke, Germany	Mr Kessel Rosales Menjivar, Honduras
Ms Leila Devia, BCRC Argentina	Ms Louise Zuilen, Suriname
Mr Dong Qinyin, BCRC China	Ms Jitendra Sharma, SCRC India
Mr Ross Bartley, BIR	Mr Shunichi Honda, UNEP IETC
Ms Shweta Narayan, IPEN	Mr Jean-Paul Leglise, ISWA
Mr Yorg Aerts, OVAM Belgium	Mr Otto Simonett, ZOI Environment
Mr Matthias Kern, BRS Secretariat	Ms Andrea Lechner, BRS Secretariat
Mr Alexander Mangwiro BRS Secretariat	Ms Key Ohno-Woodall, BRS Secretariat
Ms Susan Wingfield, BRS Secretariat	Mr Patrick Micheli, BRS Secretariat

Regrets:

Ms Susan Krause, Germany	Mr Graham Alabaster, UN-Habitat
Ms Elisabetta Tagliati, FAO-SRC	Mr Eric Harris, ISRI
Mr Miguel Araujo, BCRC El Salvador	Mr Richard Gutierrez, BAN Toxics
Mr Mostafa Kamel, BCRC Egypt	

Item 1 – Opening of the Meeting

- The Secretariat opened the meeting indicating that the Informal Group on Household Waste was set up by the Basel Convention COP12 in May 2015 by decision BC-12/13. Following the request for indication of interest, the Secretariat received nominations from 11 governments, 2 IGOs, 12 Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres, 6 industry associations and public-interest NGOs, and 2 observers.

Item 2 – Introduction of participants

- All participants were invited to introduce themselves with name and institution.

Item 3 – Confirmation of co-chairs of the Informal Group

- The Secretariat mentioned that it had consultations with various stakeholders and received indication from the two lead sponsors of this initiative Mauritius and Uruguay to be available as co-chairs.
- Ms Gabriela Medina, Uruguay and Mr Prakash Kowlessar, Mauritius were confirmed as co-chairs of the Informal Group on Household Waste.

Item 4 – Adoption of the agenda

- Co-chair Ms. Medina thanked the members of the Informal Group for their support to the co-chairs to lead the work as co-chairs.
- The co-chair reminded that the Informal Group has the mandate to develop a work plan on the environmentally sound management of household waste as well as a

concept for a partnership to assist municipalities for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group. The teleconference was called in to initiate the work of the Informal Group.

- The proposed agenda was adopted without any change.

Item 5 – Draft household waste partnership concept note

- The co-chair indicated that based on the discussion at COP12 and initial input from interested stakeholders, the two lead sponsors with support from the Secretariat drafted a concept note which was then circulated to all members of the Informal Group for comments. The comments received were compiled into the draft concept note document and shared for the preparation of this teleconference.
- The draft concept note was reviewed and the input and comments discussed section by section.
- Several text changes were proposed: In the “Introduction”, it was suggested to include “small island development states (SIDS)”; to maintain “storage” due to particular situation, for example in SIDS; to add “volumes” of household wastes and to mention the increase of the costs of household waste management; to add a reference to the work of UNEP IETC; to include the different processing of treatment and not only disposal.
- While reviewing the “Scope”, the question of the necessity to define “household waste” was raised, while it was highlighted that the definition is different from one country to another. However, it was agreed to have a restricted view as waste from household and to include a reference to the Basel Convention definition of hazardous wastes. It was suggested to include the task of the definition to Project Group 1. The Secretariat indicated that the concept note can be kept broad and should include the tasks the group wants to achieve. When the Terms of Reference will be developed, more details on what is meant by household wastes will be needed.
- On the “Partnership objectives”, the notion of “Formalize” or “Inclusion” of the informal sector was discussed. It was suggested to refer to the work and wording of ILO on that matter.
- On the “Working Structure”, it was suggested that “business models” should be more in Project Group 2 than Project Group 1; and in general, the section should be more harmonized.
- The new section on “Potential partners” was approved with additions.
- Concerning the “Financial arrangement”, it was suggested to align the sliding scale of “Business Associations” with “public-interest NGOs”.
- On the “Work programme 2018 – 2019”, the question was raised if the work plan could include the revision of the guideline, as it is up to the OEWG to decide. It was agreed to reformulate and combine section a. and b. based on the decision BC12/13, making sure that there is no overlap between a. and b. and the Informal Group does not step beyond the given mandate.
- The next steps for further developing the concept note was discussed under agenda item 6.

Item 6 – Preparation of documents for the 10th meeting of the Basel Convention Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG10) in May 2016

- The co-chair reminded that Decision BC-12/13 requests the Informal Group to develop a work plan for consideration by the Open-Ended Working Group at its tenth meeting in May 2016. The Secretariat indicated that the deadline for submission of pre-session documents is 1 December 2015 and for INF documents is 1 March 2016.

- Due to the short deadline of less than a month to finalize the pre-session document, it was suggested that the pre-session document including the summary of the progress made and the request for consideration of the revised concept note to be drafted by the Secretariat, and then circulated to the group members for comments and cleared by the co-chairs before 1 December 2015. The OEWG10 will be asked to give the mandate to the Informal Group to further develop the work plan and draft Terms of Reference for the Household Waste Partnership for submission to COP13.
- The concept note will be revised by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussion in this teleconference and will be sent to all members for final comments, clarification and clearance through e-mail exchange. The final concept note will be submitted to the OEWG10 for consideration as INF document before 1 March 2016.
- It was reminded that submitting the concept note as INF document allows the Informal Group to work until February 2016 on the document. The pre-session document will ensure that the OEWG10 will be asked to consider the concept note.
- The Secretariat will draft the pre-session document. After clearance by the co-chairs, the draft pre-session document will be sent to all members for final comments no later than 13 November 2015. Comments to be sent to the Secretariat by 25 November 2015.
- The Secretariat will revise the draft concept note based on the discussion today. After clearance by the co-chairs, the revised draft will be sent to all members no later than 20 November 2015. Comments to be sent to the Secretariat by 31 January 2016.
- The Secretariat will draft a first Terms of Reference for the Household Waste Partnership no later than 27 November 2015. Comments to be sent to the Secretariat by 31 January 2016.
- All comments received will be made available to the Informal Group members.
- Another teleconference will be called in by the co-chairs as needed.

Item 7 – First face-to-face meeting of the Informal Group

- The Secretariat reminded that the Informal Group has received with appreciation a generous pledge from the Government of Japan of USD 40,000 in support of the first face-to-face meeting of the group. However, the Secretariat is still looking for additional funding, as it is estimated that the group will need at least USD 70,000 to organize the meeting. Members were also asked if any additional funds could be provided, noting that any pledge can be submitted at any moment.
- It was agreed to hold a first 3-day face-to-face meeting of the Informal Group mid-end February 2016, tentatively scheduled for the week of 22-26 February 2016, to finalize the concept note and move forward the work on the Terms of Reference.
- Ms. Medina indicated interest in hosting the meeting in Montevideo and will check the possibilities.

Item 8 – Other matters

- No other matters were raised.

Item 9 – Closure of the meeting

- The co-chair thanked all participants to this teleconference for their concentrated and constructive contributions.