

Summary of the meeting

Participants:

Ms. Gabriela Medina, Uruguay (Co-chair)	Mr. Prakash Kowlessar, Mauritius (Co-chair)
Ms. Anne Vandeputte, Mr. Yorg Aerts, Belgium	Ms. Dana Lapesova, Mr. Markus Jakus, BCRC Slovakia
Mr. Emanuel Dubois, Antigua and Barbuda	Ms. Leila Devia, BCRC Argentina
Ms. Maria Candela, Argentina	Mr. Qingyin Dong, BCRC China
Ms. Jewel Batchasingh, BCRC Trinidad and Tobago	Mr. Livinus Nnamdi, Mr. John Adefemi, Nigeria
Mr. Ross Bartley, BIR	Ms. Susann Krause, Germany
Mr. Shunichi Honda, UNEP IETC	Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, SCRC India
Mr. Damesh Shah, IPEN	Mr. Yannick Beaudoin, GRID Arendal
Mr. Matthias Kern, Mr. Alexander Mangwiro, Ms. Susan Wingfield, BRS Secretariat	

Regrets:

Haydi J. Berrenstein, Suriname	Mr. Otto Simmonett, ZOI Environment
Mr. Jordi Pon, UNEP ROLAC	Mr. Marco Buletti, Switzerland

1. Opening of the meeting

The teleconference was opened by Co-chair Ms. Medina, who welcomed all participants to the third teleconference of the Informal Group on Household Waste. She mentioned that the main objective of the teleconference was to discuss the revised concept note and terms of reference for the Household Waste Partnership, and to finalize the decision document that will be submitted to the Basel Convention COP 13.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

3. Outcome from the 1st face-to-face meeting of the informal group held in Montevideo, Uruguay from 2-4 August 2016

Co-chair Ms. Medina indicated that the group had a very constructive and forward looking face-to-face meeting from 2-4 August in Montevideo, Uruguay. She thanked all participants who had come to Montevideo and also thanked again the donors Switzerland and Japan for their financial contribution that allowed the group to meet in Uruguay.

The report of the meeting was already finalized and distributed. The main outcomes of the meeting were:

- A list of expected outcomes from the Household Waste Partnership;
- A detailed description of the proposed organization of the project groups with tasks, process of implementation and expected outputs; and
- A revised Partnership Work Plan for 2018-2019.

The Co-chair invited general comments on the meeting and its report but reminded the group that there was going to be a detailed discussion under agenda item 4 on the components developed at the meeting and how they will be compiled into the documents to be submitted to the COP13.

The other co-chair, Mr. Kowlessar, thanked again the Regional Centre in Uruguay, Ms. Medina and her team, for the excellent organization of the meeting.

4. Discussion of documents for submission to COP 13:

Co-chair Mr. Kowlessar introduced the agenda item by reminding participants that the group had to finalize the following documents for submission to the COP13 for consideration:

- The decision document with the draft decision on the establishment of the Household Waste Partnership and its work plan for 2018-2019, and

- The information (INF) document with the concept note (annex I) and the terms of reference (annex II) which is referred to in the decision document.

The group had received drafts of both documents in preparation of this meeting.

The co-chair suggested that the group should focus on the decision document, because this has to be ready already by 9 November 2016. The group could still work on the details in the INF document until 17 January 2017.

The Secretariat explained that the decision document will be translated into all 6 UN languages and that, to keep the translation costs to a minimum and within the limits of the translation budget, it should be short and contain only the proposed decision text and the work plan for 2018-2019. The concept note and terms of reference would be referenced in the decision document, and submitted as an INF document with two annexes and would be available in English only.

The co-chair indicated that the two documents were interlinked and the decision document referred to the INF document. Therefore, the group should have a clear understanding about the content of the concept note and terms of reference in the INF document. He suggested that the group starts with discussing the draft concept note and terms of reference as revised after the Montevideo meeting, and thereafter discusses and finalizes the decision document.

a. Revised draft household waste partnership concept note

The group had before it the revised draft concept note in the annex I of the INF document. Co-chair Mr. Kowlesser asked the Secretariat to explain the changes made to the draft concept note that the group had submitted to the OEWG10. The Secretariat indicated that the document was based on the concept note submitted to the OEWG10, but it was revised according to the texts concluded at the Montevideo meeting and additional comments received up to 15 September 2016 from Switzerland, Germany, the EU and its Member States, IETC and BIR. The Secretariat had also made some editorial changes.

The co-chair invited comments on the overall structure and content of the concept note, so that the group could move forward to another round of comments on the details as necessary. He indicated that the group would have time to finalize the document up to January.

Several members of the group indicated that the concept note still needed a clearer structure and more precise wording. Specific comments included:

- The texts in paragraph 10 (expected outcome) sub-paragraphs may have to move to other sections like objectives, aim, output or measures as appropriate; the same applies to the texts under paragraph 11 (key partnership objectives) sub-paragraphs;
- Sub-paragraph 10 (e) is unclear and needs rewording.

A member requested clarification of the calculation of financial needs for face-to-face meetings in paragraph 21 under section VIII. (financial arrangements). The Secretariat and co-chair Ms. Medina explained that the amount was calculated based on the number of expected partnership members from developing countries and CEIT. The experience from the Montevideo meeting was that, when there were less funds available, several requests for support from the developing countries and CEIT group members could not be accommodated. Other participants wanted the budget to be revised upwards, stating that there should be enough funds to sponsor all requests from the developing countries and CEITs.

A member asked whether the funding for the face-to-face meetings would be met solely by the funds contributed by the partners. The secretariat responded that funding of operational activities of the partnership would have to come from voluntary partner and donor contributions.

The comments made were noted and the Secretariat was asked to reflect them in the next revised version which would be sent to all group members for additional comments (for details see agenda item 5.).

b. Revised draft terms of reference for the household waste partnership

The group had before it the revised draft terms of reference in the annex II of the INF document. Co-chair Mr. Kowlesser asked the Secretariat to introduce the document. The Secretariat indicated that the draft terms of reference were revised according to the discussion at the

meeting in Montevideo and additional comments received up to 15 September 2016. The Secretariat also had made some editorial changes.

The co-chair invited comments on the overall structure and content of the terms of reference, so that the group could move forward to another round of comments on the details as necessary. He indicated that, similar to the concept note, the group will have time to finalize the document up to January.

Several members of the group indicated that the terms of reference needed a structure and text better aligned to the concept note. Specific comments included:

- The order of the sections should be revised, i.e. mission statement first, then objectives;
- The text of the objectives should be revised once the respective text in the concept note is revised;
- Duplication of texts in the two documents concept note and terms of reference should be avoided.

A member of the group explained the rationale for the proposed new sliding scale for individual companies and producer responsibility organizations. The revised scale of assets and expected annual contributions was based on one hand on the current available statistics for waste management companies; on the other hand there was the need to have fees that were attractive for companies and associations to join the partnership.

The comments made were noted and the Secretariat was asked to reflect them in the next revised version which would be sent to all group members for additional comments (for details see agenda item 5.).

c. Draft COP 13 pre-session document on household waste

Co-chair Mr. Kowlessor asked the Secretariat to introduce the draft decision document (also called pre-session document) on household waste. The Secretariat indicated that the structure of the document followed the common structure of all decision documents for the COPs with sections on introduction, implementation and proposed action and included in the annex the draft household waste partnership work plan for 2018-2019.

The co-chair opened the floor for comments on the draft decision document.

A member of the group queried why the group recommended in paragraph 11 not to revise the technical guidelines on wastes collected from households¹ but to recognize that these technical guidelines were outdated and should be replaced by a more comprehensive guidance document to be developed by the household waste partnership. It was indicated that the group had discussed this issue at the meeting in Montevideo which is also reflected in the report of the meeting. A member explained that whatever the group produced could only be supplementary to the Basel Technical Guidelines and not replace them. Guidance documents and technical Guidelines have very different formats. It was agreed to exchange in paragraph 11 the word “replace” with “supplement” to reflect more accurately the mandate and role of the informal group and proposed partnership.

It was indicated that the partnership work plan 2018-2019 in the annex to the document reflects the outcome from the discussion at the meeting in Montevideo. A member of the group indicated that paragraph “(e) Bring orientation for programmes, management plans and strategies at national level including waste prevention and minimization programmes” described rather an outcome and not a task to be undertaken by the partnership and should be moved to the concept note document. It was agreed to delete Annex paragraph 1.(e) from the decision document and to include the deleted text at an appropriate place in the draft concept note.

The question was raised why pilot projects and the development of lessons learnt were not included in the work plan for 2018-2019. The co-chair indicated that this was discussed at the meeting in Montevideo and the group had decided to include these activities under Project Group 3 on awareness raising and piloting in section VI Working Structure of the concept note, but that these activities will be initiated only when Project Groups 1 and 2 have developed substantive output. It was agreed to include these activities and request for respective budget in the work plan for the next biennium 2020-2021.

¹ <http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel%20Convention/docs/meetings/sbc/workdoc/old%20docs/tech-y46.pdf>

The Secretariat was asked to make the agreed changes to the decision document and initiate the process for translation, editing and submission to the COP13.

5. Next meeting

It was agreed that the Secretariat will revise the draft INF document with the concept note and the terms of reference to reflect the changes made and proposed at this meeting and send it to all group members within the next 2-3 weeks for written comments.

The co-chairs suggested that the group should try to finalize the concept note and terms of reference by written procedure, i.e. all group members would have time to comment on the revised version that will be sent out after this teleconference. The co-chairs would then try to accommodate all comments and propose a final text. Only if there is need for further discussion, the co-chairs would organize another teleconference before the end of this year.

6. Other matters

A member of the group highlighted the importance of having municipalities as partners in the partnership. It was indicated that the proposed partnership was open to municipalities and hoped that they would actively cooperate in the respective Project Groups once the partnership is established by the COP.

The proposal was made to organize a household waste partnership side event at the COP13. It was indicated that the co-chairs were considering different formats for a side event and this would be further discussed in the group in due time.

7. Closure of the meeting

The co-chair Ms. Medina thanked all members of the group for their constructive contributions during this meeting. The group made good progress in moving ahead with the process of finalizing the documents that the group would submit to the COP13.