

**4th Teleconference of the Informal Group on Household Waste
16th February 2017, 15:00 – 15.50 (Geneva time)**

Summary of the meeting

Participants:

Ms. Gabriela Medina, Uruguay (Co- Chair)	Mr. Prakash Kowlessar, Mauritius (Co- Chair)
Ms. Maria Candela, Argentina	Mr. Dharmesh Shah, IPEN
Ms. Anne Vandeputte, Mr. Yorg Aerts, Belgium	Ms. Dana Lapesova, Mr. Markus Jakus, BCRC Slovakia
Ms. Lesya Nikolayeva, ZOI Environment	Mr. Marco Buletti, Switzerland
Ms. Susann Krause, Germany	Mr. Ross Bartley, BIR
Ms. Adina Adler, ISRI	Mr. Jean-Paul Leglise, ISWA

Mr. Alexander Mangwiro; Ms. Kei Ohno-Woodall; Mr. Matthias Kern; Mr. Patrick Micheli (BRS Secretariat).

Regrets: Ms. Maria Ines Esquivel, SCRC Panama; Mr. Jordi Pon, UNEP ROLAC; Mr. Shunishi Honda, UNEP IETC; Ms. Leila Devia, BCRC Argentina; Mr. Otto Simonett, ZOI Environment; Mr. Dong Qinyin, BCRC China; Mr. Emanuel Dubois, Antigua and Barbuda; Ms. Signo Bom Jesus Quaresma, Sao Tome and Principe; Ms. Alida Spadafora, Municipality of Panama; Mr. Taelo Letsela, BCRC South Africa; Ms. Haydi Berrenstein, Suriname; Mr. Yannick Beaudoin, Ms. Ieva Rucevska, and Mr. Joan Fabres, GRID Arendal.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The teleconference was opened by one of the Co-chairs, Mr. Kowlessar, who welcomed all participants to the fourth teleconference of the Informal Group on Household Waste. He stated that the main objective for the teleconference was to prepare for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP13). He also wanted to initiate the discussion on the way forward after COP13.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Basel Convention 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP13)

a. Discussion at plenary

Co-chair Mr. Kowlessar indicated that the Household Waste pre-session document UNEP/CHW.13/15 was already available on the 2017 COPs website. The information document with the draft concept note and terms of reference for the Household Waste Partnership had already been finalized and would be published on the COPs website within a week.

The Co-chair added that the household waste documents will be discussed in plenary on Monday, the 1st of May, in the morning session. He summarized the key points of the draft decision as submitted in the pre-session document. Because there was overall strong support for the initiative at the Open-ended Working Group meeting in Nairobi in June 2016, no controversial discussion was expected at COP13.

Based on a suggestion from several group members, it was agreed to add a paragraph to the draft decision inviting Parties and others to become partners in the Partnership. Since the pre-session document was prepared in November 2016 and is already available on the COP13 website, the Co-Chairs will introduce to the COP13 in plenary a respective paragraph for inclusion in the decision.

It was agreed that the co-chairs and all current members of the Partnership, should be prepared to clarify that the tasks and expected outputs from the Project Groups as outlined in the concept note would be further refined by the Partnership members once it was established and the terms of reference for its operation were accepted by the COP.

b. Side event on Household Waste Partnership

The Secretariat informed the group that a time slot had been requested from the conference organizers to hold the household waste side event during the days when the Basel Convention issues were being discussed during the COPs. The Room and logistics (laptop, projector, screen) for the side event in the conference centre would be free of charge. Nevertheless, the Secretariat was currently seeking funds for catering.¹ There might be a possibility to organize the event during the planned Technology Fair, which may increase visibility and recognition of the proposed Household Waste Partnership. However, the detailed planning for the side events and Technology Fair would start only after the 3rd of March.²

After the presentation of the draft agenda, the participants highlighted the importance of having an attractive side event to convince and attract new members. To that end, it was suggested to have some presentations from different stakeholders, who would present concrete and attractive examples. There should be enough time allocated for some discussion, exchange and questions/answers at the end.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would finalize the agenda based on inputs provided and have it circulated to the group members for further comments and approval.

4. Way forward after the COP13

¹ The Secretariat received confirmation in March that Switzerland will provide funds for catering for the household waste side event.

² In March, the conference organizers confirmed the time slot for the household waste side event on Friday, 28 April, lunchtime.

The Co-chair Mr. Kowlessor opened the discussion by reminding the members of ideas presented in Montevideo and over the last few months on the concrete activities which the Household Waste Partnership will tackle. He stated that the Partnership would have to develop an overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste. This would involve the compilation of the key outcomes and recommendations resulting from the work of the Project Groups on:

- Best practices related to the environmentally sound management of household waste;
- Mechanical biological treatment, energy recovery, management of sanitary landfills and compartmentalization to deal with various waste streams;
- Assessment of current waste management systems, decision-making and ensuring the environmentally sound management of household waste.

It was mentioned that a big portion of household waste was organic waste and one of the partnership's priorities could be to guide municipalities and local governments on how to handle organic waste. Already existing technologies and related documentation could be reflected in the manuals and guidance to be developed by the partnership.

The Secretariat recalled that the partnership's work-plan depended on its adoption by the COP. Activities had been planned and proposals made to include extra budgetary funds for face-to-face meetings and consultancies to help in the drafting of guidance documents. Once the partnership was adopted by the COP, the next step would be to raise the funds and decide on how to implement the workplan.

5. Other matters

The Secretariat would assist the Co-chairs in organizing an informal meeting with the group members attending the COP and will circulate the date of the side event once it had been confirmed.³

6. Closure of the meeting

The co-chair thanked all participants to the teleconference and for their constructive contributions and the good progress made in moving ahead with the preparations for the COP13 and beyond.

³ See footnote 2