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**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Eleventh meeting**

Geneva, 3–6 September 2018

Item 3 (b) (iv) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the work programme of the
Open-ended Working Group for 2018–2019:
scientific and technical matters: marine plastic
litter and microplastics**

**Report on possible options available under the Basel
Convention to further address marine plastic litter and
microplastics**

**Activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics undertaken by
the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm
Convention regional and subregional centres**

Note by the Secretariat

As referred to in the note by the Secretariat on marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/7), the annex to the present note sets out information on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics undertaken by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/1.

Annex

Activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics undertaken by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
Technical assistance and capacity building		
Prevention		
Partnership of the State Environmental Agency/SCRC Brazil and the Brazilian Packaging Association (ABRE) to help industry to reduce and redesign packaging. Deliverables include a design guide for packaging, “Sustainability and Packaging: challenges and recommendations within the Circular Economy context” (http://www.abre.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/embalagem_sustentabilidade.pdf) and a game, “Infinite Game” (http://www.jogodoinfinito.com.br/Login).	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Ongoing
Technical assistance in the implementation of the Uruguayan Decree 260/007 on packaging. http://www.mvotma.gub.uy/portal/ciudadania/biblioteca/marco-legal/item/10004900-decreto-260-007-envases.html .	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay)	Accomplished
Technical assistance in the development of the InterregMed Act4litter project. The SCRC Spain has identified more than 100 measures to prevent and minimize environmental and health impacts and quantities of plastic waste and microplastics that could become plastic marine litter (ML). A Decision-Making tool (DMT) developed within the project allows one to select the most effective and feasible measure for a Mediterranean specific context. The DMT will be tested in 10 pilot Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in the Mediterranean. The Act4litter project aims also at: (a) Building the capacities of MPA managers on how to monitor ML on beaches through 2 webinars; (b) Organizing a coordinated ML watch month, where MPA managers will be mobilized to carry out beach litter surveys in a harmonized way; (c) Developing a snapshot assessment report on ML found on beaches in Mediterranean MPAs. The information provided will support directly ongoing processes such as: Marine Strategy Framework Directive implementation; Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management (Barcelona Convention); UNEP/MAP Ecosystem Approach process; and European Environment Agency Marine Litter Watch.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP	Ongoing
Development of the SwitchMed project, including the publication of: (a) 25 existing eco-innovative solutions to prevent the generation of plastics ending up as marine litter, which could be replicated in the Mediterranean Region by companies and Civil Society Organizations; (b) 20 existing innovative solutions to prevent the use of toxic chemicals (PBT, EDC, vPvB, CMR) in products, which could be replicated in the Mediterranean Region by companies; (c) “The Switchers” initiative: a community of entrepreneurs and changemakers providing eco-innovative solutions to emerging environmental challenges including marine litter. Active in a	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP	Ongoing

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
variety of fields, members benefit from a number of resources within our network, such as networking opportunities, specialized training sessions, business development and more.		
Translation of Ellen Macarthur Foundation Report “The new plastics economy – catalyzing action” into French and preparation of a specific introductory chapter on the Mediterranean context and challenges. The publication will be disseminated to raise awareness on the need to rethink the entire plastic value chain.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP	Ongoing
Eco-design: Dissemination of information on plastics and the creation of a new design in plastic products.	Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America in Argentina (BCRC South America)	Ongoing
Education and outreach, including economic incentives to reduce single use plastic containers, bags, food and beverage containers and packaging.	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Ongoing
Cooperation with relevant institutions and experts from Black Sea and Baltic region.	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Planned
Organizing prevention day to sensitize stakeholders and companies about plastic waste that could become marine litter.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	Planned
Education and outreach to reduce consumption and create disincentives for single-use plastic bags, food or beverage containers and packaging.	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States in Egypt (BCRC Egypt)	Planned
Development of a Conservation Management Measure (CMM) for MARPOL compliance, enforcement and monitoring.	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	Accomplished
Declaration by Pacific leaders to ban the use of single-use plastics, Styrofoam and plastic packaging at the 2017 Pacific Forum Leaders Meeting in Apia, Samoa.	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	Accomplished
Declaration by Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP Member countries to ban the use of products containing microbeads.	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	Accomplished
Minimization (plastic waste recycling and recovery)		
Technical assistance to the Sao Paulo Environmental Secretary and Agency in developing a pioneer strategy to implement extended producer responsibility (EPR)-like initiatives within the State. The strategy begins with voluntary agreements for 14 industry sectors, which now started to encompass retailers and municipalities under discussion, and a second phase just started aiming to request collecting targets at the permitting process for industry.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Ongoing
Technical assistance to the State of Sao Paulo to establish a WEEE reverse logistics project and its implementation.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Ongoing
Technical assistance for the implementation of “Campo Limpo System”, reverse logistics for empty containers of crop protection products established in the frame of the Brazilian National Solid Waste Policy.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Accomplished
Elaborated guidelines to prevent littering behavior in Argentina for consumers, public procurement, shipping sector by improving waste management onboard.	Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America in	Ongoing

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
	Argentina (BCRC South America)	
Development of take back schemes and measures to reduce, reuse or recycle plastic products.	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Ongoing
Establishment of evaluation audits, environmental studies, impact studies and risk' studies for industries including a part of plastic wastes: (a) Establishment of a plastic waste management plan; (b) Orientation for recycling certified organism; (c) Establishment of plastic wastes inventories.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	Accomplished
Environmentally sound final disposal of plastic waste		
Technical assistance to develop Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Areas Quality Indicator (IQR) in the Sao Paulo State. Sao Paulo State produces about 40,000 tons of municipal solid waste per day. The SCRC Brazil has promoted an integrated management of municipal solid waste, based on source reduction and minimization techniques and technologies and it counts with the participation of stakeholders such as non-governmental organizations, recycling businesses and industrial associations. The quality of urban solid waste disposal areas is classified by an index called IQR - solid waste disposal areas quality indicator, presented in the Sao Paulo State Inventory of Urban Solid Waste. The number of the municipalities of the Sao Paulo State with appropriate municipal solid waste disposal increased from 27 to 422, respectively in 1997 and 2016.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Accomplished
Technical assistance to industries on plastic waste management in particular through the publication of a Manual for the Delegate of Environment, organization of training and capacity building workshops and providing technical assistance to industrial companies as well as putting them in contact with the international regulatory and supervisory bodies.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	Ongoing
Benefitting from the SWIM-H2020 support mechanism project funded by the European Commission with the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy of Algeria with the theme of marine waste assessment in the Algerian coast, for POPs in General.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	Ongoing
Implementation of the PacWaste Plus project and JICA J-PRISM Plus projects that address and implement holistic approaches to waste management that also addresses the proper disposal of plastic waste.	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	Ongoing
Monitoring		
Monitoring of plastics and microplastics in marine environment. SCRC Brazil carries out coastal water and beach water quality monitoring programs, that evaluates 165 sites of 149 beaches in 427 kilometers of coastline, covering 15 counties.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Planned
Research project "Monitoring of organic pollutants (PAHs, n-alkanes, hopanes and PCBs) on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea with an emphasis on the use of pellets, fragments and sediments" in cooperation with the Marine Pollution Investigation Bureau in the Department of Environment in Iran and Tarbiyat Modares University.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Iran (BCRC/SCRC Iran)	Planned, pending financing
Monitoring of POPs in plastic's waste used for recycling. The Centre has been responsible for the sampling, survey and selection of the expert international laboratory, waste shipment and tracking.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay)	Accomplished

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
Awareness raising		
Reporting to media on the impacts of plastics and microplastics to the environment and how this affects human health, in the frame of discussions on the law related to the prohibition of the use of plastic bags in Panama.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Panama (SCRC Panama)	Accomplished
Educational programmes on recycling, eco design for consumers, the fishing sector.	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Planned
Education campaign on plastic bags reduction. https://envasesuy.wordpress.com/tag/saca-la-bolsa-del-medio/	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay)	Accomplished
Public awareness activities and programmes on the Environmentally Sound Management of hazardous and other wastes to include campaigns on marine litter.	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Planned
Organization of capacity building trainings on environmental regulations, including taxation on plastic bags packaging.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	Accomplished for some and ongoing for others
Awareness raising programme on the impacts of plastics and microplastics on the environment and how this affects human health.	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States in Egypt (BCRC Egypt)	Planned
Regional node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	Ongoing
Technical assistance to national awareness programmes that involve the sporting sectors such as rugby in Fiji, game fishing in Marshall Islands.	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	Ongoing
Policy		
Assistance to the Department of Environment of Islamic Republic of Iran in the drafting regulation on "The Environmental Criteria for Reducing the Consumption of Plastic Bags". Under this regulation: Manufacturers and importers of plastic bags are obliged to pay 0.5 per thousand of their sales or imports to the National Environmental Fund. Plastic bags manufacturers are required to reduce their production 10% annually and replace them with environmentally friendly products. Within two years of the adoption of this regulation, chain stores and other stores are required to reduce their plastic bags by 50% or replace them with environmentally friendly products. The Ministry of Industry, Mining and Commerce is required to report to the Department of Environment, on the import, production, supply, percentage of reduction and rate of phase out of plastic bags annually.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Iran (BCRC/SCRC Iran)	Accomplished
Provision of scientific arguments to the deputies of the National Assembly of Panama to support the prohibition of the use of plastic bags due to the impact of the environment and the consequent harmful effect on human health.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Panama (SCRC Panama)	Accomplished
Assistance in the development of the Green and Blue Municipality (Local Authorities) Program, launched in 2007 by the Government of the State of São Paulo and SCRC Brazil to stimulate and assist the city governments in the elaboration and execution of their strategic	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Accomplished

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
<p>public policies for the sustainable development of the state of São Paulo. The actions proposed by the Program comprise the ten Guiding Directives of the local environmental agenda, including sewage treatment and solid Waste.</p> <p>Assistance in the development of the Coastal Management National Policy, Coastal Management National Plan, Coastal Management Policy of Sao Paulo State/SCRC Brazil, Coastal Management Plan of Sao Paulo State/SCRC Brazil.</p> <p>Assistance in the drafting of the law for the control of industrial chemical substances, including chemical in plastics. This law will be a milestone for the adequate management of chemical substances in Brazil.</p>		
<p>Collecting of regulatory texts regarding POPs in general including PCBs which can contain plastics wastes:</p> <p>Phase 1: Collection of regulatory texts concerning some of the countries that are served by the Stockholm Convention Regional Center</p> <p>Phase 2: Analysis and recommendation to enhance regulatory texts.</p>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Algeria (SCRC Algeria)</p>	<p>Phase 1: Ongoing</p> <p>Phase 2: Planned</p>
<p>Assistance in the development of Uruguayan policies on plastic and packaging issues.</p>	<p>Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay)</p>	<p>Accomplished</p>
<p>Contribution to the development of the Mediterranean Marine Litter Regional Plan, which provides for the following measures to reduce the production, use and disposal of plastic ending up as marine litter:</p> <p>(a) Extended Producer Responsibility strategy by making the producers, manufacturer brand owners and first importers responsible for the entire life-cycle of the product with measures prioritizing the hierarchy of waste management in order to encourage companies to design products with long durability for reuse, recycling and materials reduction in weight and toxicity;</p> <p>(b) Establish procedures and manufacturing methodologies together with plastic industry, in order to minimize the decomposition characteristics of plastic, to reduce microplastic.</p>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP</p>	<p>Accomplished</p>
<p>Promotion of national level bans of single use of plastic bags and the reduction of plastics production and use in packaging and other main uses (for sectors and services) in the Mediterranean Region.</p> <p>SCRC Spain is currently running an EU-funded Marine Litter-Med project that includes:</p> <p>(a) Assessment of national regulatory frameworks in five countries and development where appropriate of the required legal and regulatory framework to introduce the non-single use of plastic bags and EPR for plastic bags;</p> <p>(b) To organize national meetings to raise awareness on prevention of ML and the need to promote EPR with regards to plastic and microplastic production and consumption as well as circular economy;</p> <p>(c) To organize a regional/sub-regional workshop to share best practices addressing EPR and non-single use of plastic bags based on Mediterranean experiences;</p> <p>(d) To produce a guidelines manual on best approaches to reduce single-use plastic bags and promotion of EPR, offering step-by-step options and capturing experiences within Marine Litter Med project;</p>	<p>Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
(e) The Marine Litter-Med project contributes to the implementation of Art. 9 of the Marine Litter Action Plan and the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, which was recently adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, particularly, Action 15 of that regional plan provides for the promotion, use and development of tools such as eco-design and Life Cycle Management to facilitate the sustainable design and production of manufactured goods.		
Facilitation of a Regional Centres Working Group on marine litter plastics and microplastics and its POPs and EDC components: challenges and measures to tackle the issue. The working group proved instrumental in ensuring that during the last Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions (April-May 2017, Geneva), marine litter was discussed as an important new area of work under the conventions.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP	Accomplished
Promoting the collaboration between BRS and Barcelona Conventions by convening a joint event on marine litter (Barcelona, 8 November 2017). This meeting served to share experience by the referred conventions and foster synergies and common work.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with BRS Secretariat	Accomplished
Assistance to the Uruguayan Delegation during the negotiation of the decisions on marine litter at the last BRS COP.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay)	Accomplished
Development of policies for take back schemes, including plastics wastes.	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Planned
Development of standards for recycling facilities, including plastics recycling.	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Planned
Cooperation on plastics waste management in the framework of Uruguay NIP updating.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay)	Ongoing
Promotion of solid waste law using the extended producer responsibility		
Proposal to include marine litter under the new partnership on household waste approved at the thirteenth meeting of the Basel COP at a global level.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay) with the Government of Uruguay	Planned
Implementation of two projects of law: (a) To reduce the impacts of waste plastics; (b) To promote the extended producer responsibility, helping industry to reconvert the plastics production.	Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America in Argentina (BCRC South America)	Ongoing
Assess the regulatory impact of the approved law, by monitoring extended producer responsibility.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Panama (SCRC Panama)	Planned

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
<p>Implementation of the International Chemical Management Training: GRULAC Region and Brazilian States, 2018.</p> <p>Improving the regional/national knowledge on the sound management of chemicals, contributing to improve the national capacity to plan, implement, enforce and evaluate the core activities to the sound management of chemicals, including chemical in plastics.</p>	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Accomplished
Assistance in the development of policies on plastic waste management and packaging issues, introducing Environmental Criteria for Reducing the Consumption of Plastic Bags.	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States in Egypt (BCRC Egypt)	Planned
Technical assistance provided to Vanuatu for the ban on single-use plastic bag policy commencing January 2018.	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	Ongoing
Research and technology transfer		
<p>InterregMed “Plastic Busters: preserving biodiversity from plastics in Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Plastic Busters MPAs” project.</p> <p>Within this project, the SCRC Spain will supervise and coordinate the communication work package, which includes dissemination of the findings of researches, studies and pilot actions on ecological impact and monitoring of marine litter.</p>	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP	Planned
Development of sound technologies for the region in cooperation the Plastic Centre in the National Institute for Industrial Technologies (INTI).	Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America in Argentina (BCRC South America)	Ongoing
Research to identify and quantify the types and amounts of plastics in the different environmental compartments (waste, biota, soil, sediments); and research to study the absorption of micro plastics to the potential transfer of it into the food chain and the impacts on the environment and human health.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) in Spain	Ongoing
<p>Research to update technologies based on the experience of e-waste treatment;</p> <p>Research to assess the impact of the recycler industry and potential risks from the use of recycled products;</p> <p>Research to collaborate with the authorities in the application of extended producer responsibility in packaging waste.</p>	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in China (BCRC/SCRC China)	Ongoing
To focus in future projects in connection with the material flow of microplastics and plastics waste.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in China (BCRC/SCRC China)	Planned
Research to use analytical approaches and quantified toxic chemicals and to bio-monitor the level of pollutants at the river.	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Kenya (SCRC Kenya)	Ongoing
Research to: use insects to destroy plastic (project).	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Kenya (SCRC Kenya)	Planned
Research to collect plastic waste to analyse POPs in plastic waste and also in plastics recycling waste.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay) with Consejo Superior de Investigaciones	Ongoing

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
	Científicas (CSIC) in Spain	
Cooperation on research on new plastics with relevant research institutes and with Slovak Technical University.	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Ongoing
Research project into the impact of plastic on fish in the South Pacific in collaboration between Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP and the University of Auckland.	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	Ongoing
Stakeholder involvement		
<p>The Green and Blue Municipality Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) WEEE reverse logistics project and its implementation in the State of Sao Paulo State; (b) Campo Limpo System: Reverse logistics for empty containers of crop protection products; (c) Partnership of the State Environmental Agency/SCRC Brazil and the Brazilian Packaging Association (ABRE); (d) Implementing the International Chemical Management Training: GRULAC Region and Brazilian States sound management of chemicals, contributing to improve the national capacity to plan, implement, enforce and evaluate the core activities to the sound management of chemicals, including chemical in plastics. 	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Accomplished
Green and blue municipal programme.	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in South Africa (BCRC/SCRC South Africa)	
<p>Sustainable Consumption and Production Network and Green Impact Investment Network.</p> <p>Through the SwitchMed Project, SCRC Spain is supporting Mediterranean countries to prevent pollution through the shift to sustainable patterns of consumption and production, specifically through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The dissemination, through the SwitchMed website, the SCP action network with more than 1,000 members and multi-stakeholders' events like the SwitchMed connect, bringing together about 400 stakeholders from Mediterranean countries; (b) The establishment of a Green Impact Investment Network bringing together financial agents and businesses that are keen in the establishment of financial mechanisms through which SMEs and entrepreneurs can access funding to implement eco-design and eco-innovation. This promotes in the Mediterranean countries the inter linkages and complementarities between the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the EC Circular Economy Package involving the DG environment and DG Growth. 	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP	Ongoing
Regional platform on marine litter, with the objective of identifying and involving the stakeholders at the national, regional and international level to support and strengthen the policy and regulatory framework, sharing information, common data, and the best practices, looking for innovation. The platform also focuses on the different forms the monitoring, samples, etc., indicators for assessment of the litter quantity on the beaches, assessment of plastics in birds. The platform serves to collect information data on marine litter. The first	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain) with UNEP/MAP	Ongoing

Description of the activity	Regional/coordinating centres involved	Status
<p>phase is the collection of data through two factsheets: on marine litter and on marine litter impact.</p> <p>The second phase is to assess the data and produce a report for the decision makers and society in general.</p>		
<p>To introduce in the agenda of the regional centre and ECOWAS member states the problem of plastic wastes and the need for a synergy in action, since they are classified as hazardous and other wastes under the Basel Convention. The ECOWAS Commission is invited to continue the ongoing efforts at the level of the region with the other partners for the validation of a regional strategy on plastic wastes.</p>	<p>Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with other partners including Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Senegal (BCRC/SCRC Senegal)</p>	<p>Planned</p>