



UNEP/CHW.13/22  
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**Basel Convention on the Control of  
Transboundary Movements of  
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior  
Informed Consent Procedure for  
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and  
Pesticides in International Trade**



**Stockholm Convention on Persistent  
Organic Pollutants**

**Conference of the Parties to the  
Basel Convention on the Control  
of Transboundary Movements  
of Hazardous Wastes and  
Their Disposal  
Thirteenth meeting**  
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Enhancing cooperation and  
coordination among the Basel,  
Rotterdam and Stockholm  
conventions**

**Conference of the Parties to the  
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior  
Informed Consent Procedure for  
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and  
Pesticides in International Trade  
Eighth meeting**  
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017  
Item 6 of the provisional agenda\*\*  
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Persistent Organic Pollutants  
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**Enhancing cooperation and  
coordination among the Basel,  
Rotterdam and Stockholm  
conventions**

**Reviews of the synergies arrangements for the Basel, Rotterdam  
and Stockholm conventions**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. At the 2015 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions adopted decisions BC-12/20, RC-7/10 and SC-7/28, respectively, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the conventions. Through these decisions, the conferences of the Parties, among other things, mandated three reviews:

\* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

\*\* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/1.

\*\*\* UNEP/POPS/COP.8/1.

(a) A review of the matrix-based management approach and organization (paragraph 2 of each decision), to be undertaken by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(b) A review of the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO to enhance synergies arrangements<sup>1</sup> (paragraph 3 of each decision), to be undertaken by the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) A review of the synergies arrangements (paragraph 5 and the annex of each decision), including a review of the implementation and impact at all levels of joint activities and joint managerial functions and the overall impact of the synergies arrangements.

2. With regard to the review of the synergies arrangements, the conferences of the Parties in the same decisions adopted terms of reference for the review and requested the Secretariat to submit a report on the review by an independent assessor and to make proposals for follow-up actions in response to the conclusions and recommendations of the review for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2017.

## II. Implementation

3. A steering committee, comprising the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties, the executive secretaries and Deputy Executive Secretary of the three conventions, Corporate Services Division of UNEP and the Evaluation Office of UNEP, oversaw the three reviews. Following consultations with the steering committee and in agreement with the Executive Director of UNEP in consultation with the Director-General of FAO, the three reviews were undertaken by an independent assessor, Moore Stephens, a consultancy company retained in January 2016 following a competitive recruitment process.

4. From February to September 2016, the assessor gathered quantitative and qualitative data for the reviews from Parties to the three conventions, convention bodies, the bureaux of the three conventions, Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, partners such as UNEP and FAO and Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm convention Secretariat staff in Geneva and Rome. Data was collected through targeted interviews and surveys sent to each stakeholder group. With regard to the review of the matrix-based management approach and organization, UNEP was consulted throughout the process.

5. A total of 100 stakeholders were interviewed, and approximately 150 responses to the online surveys were received. Twenty of the 25 members of the three bureaux were interviewed.

6. The reviews resulted in 40 recommendations on various thematic issues directed to various audiences. On 29 September 2016, the steering committee agreed to the release of the reports on the three reviews, subject to minor technical and editorial changes to improve them. Upon releasing the reports, the steering committee suggested that the recommendations from the reviews be clustered and tabulated to assist the Secretariat in developing a list of proposed actions. The Committee also recommended that the resulting table of recommendations and proposed actions be shared with the bureaux at their joint meeting on 3 and 4 November 2016 and that the Secretariat and, as appropriate, the Executive Director of UNEP in consultation with the Director General of FAO and the Executive Secretaries, develop, taking into account the advice received from the bureaux, a meeting document and draft decisions for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2017.

7. The report on the overall review of the synergies arrangements is set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46,<sup>2</sup> the report on the review of the matrix-based management approach and organization is set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/44-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/30-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/47 and the report on the review of the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO to enhance synergies arrangements is set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/48. A table compiling the recommendations resulting from the three reviews and proposals for follow-up actions developed by the Secretariat, and as appropriate the Executive Director of UNEP in consultation with the Director General of FAO, the Executive Secretaries, the

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9.

<sup>2</sup> This report is available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

Steering Committee on the reviews of the synergies arrangements and the bureaux of the three conventions, is set out in the addendum to the present note (UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1).

### III. Proposed action

8. Each of the three conferences of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Mindful* of the legal autonomy of, respectively, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

*Reaffirming* that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance and enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to Parties with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels,

*Mindful* that several of the follow-up actions to the recommendations presented in the reports on the reviews called for in decisions BC-12/20, RC-7/10 and SC-7/28<sup>3</sup> are addressed in decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings;

1. *Welcomes* the report on the further review of the synergies arrangements;<sup>4</sup>
2. *Welcomes also* the report on the review of the matrix-based management approach and organization<sup>5</sup> undertaken by the Executive Director in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
3. *Welcomes further* the report on the review of the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to enhance synergies arrangements;<sup>6</sup>
4. *Encourages* the Secretariat to implement the follow-up actions relevant to it, subject to the availability of resources, as appropriate.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46, annex.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/44-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/30-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/47, annex.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/48, annex.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1, annex.