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**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 4 (a) (iii) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:  
strategic issues: Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention,  
Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and  
Other Wastes**

## **Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. By paragraph 1 of its decision BC-12/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal adopted the road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes set out in the annex to that decision. By paragraph 2 of the same decision the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and other stakeholders to undertake activities to implement the road map and to provide information on such activities to the Secretariat.
2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties mandated the expert working group on environmentally sound management<sup>1</sup> to develop guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and invited Parties to consider serving as lead country in the work on the development of the guidance.
3. To that end, in paragraph 7 of decision BC-12/1, the Conference of the Parties requested each regional group to nominate through its Bureau representative, by 31 July 2015, one expert with specific knowledge and expertise in the field of waste prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes, bringing the total membership of the expert working group on environmentally sound management to 30 members.

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\* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

<sup>1</sup> Further information on the activities of the expert working group on environmentally sound management is set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/4.

4. In paragraph 4 of decision BC-12/2, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to submit a report on progress made in the implementation of the road map to the Open-ended Working Group for consideration at its tenth meeting and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties for consideration and possible adoption at its thirteenth meeting.

## **II. Implementation**

### **A. Guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes**

5. In accordance with the request in paragraph 7 of decision BC-12/1, the Secretariat received nominations from three regional groups to the expert working group on environmentally sound management for experts with specific knowledge and expertise in the field of waste prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes. As at 21 September 2016, nominations were yet to be received from the Central and Eastern European States and the Western European and other States.

6. The expert working group met in San Francisco, United States of America, from 10 to 12 November 2015. At the meeting, the group initiated its work on the development of guidance to assist Parties, as appropriate, in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal. The group took into account the work it had already undertaken to develop a draft practical manual on prevention (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.1). The group developed a draft outline for the guidance, which was further worked on intersessionally and submitted to the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting for its consideration (see UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/5).

7. At its tenth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group further refined the draft outline developed by the expert working group. In addition, in its decision OEWG-10/3 the Working Group, among other things, welcomed the work undertaken by the expert working group to develop the draft outline, requested the expert working group to continue its work to develop the draft guidance on the basis of the outline as revised by the Working Group and to make it available by 31 October 2016 for comment by Parties and others and invited Parties and others to submit comments to the Secretariat no later than 15 December 2016.

8. Subsequently, the fifth meeting of the expert working group was held in Bratislava from 13 to 15 July 2016. At that meeting, the group further developed the draft guidance on the basis of the outline as revised by the Open-ended Working Group and agreed to work intersessionally to finalize a draft of the guidance for circulation to Parties and others by 31 October 2016.

9. The sixth meeting of the expert working group will be held in Mechelen, Belgium, from 17 to 19 January 2017. At that meeting, the group will further develop the draft guidance taking into account the comments received from Parties and others. The draft guidance will then be made available for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/11.

### **B. Progress made in implementation of the road map**

10. By the time of the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, one Party had submitted information on activities undertaken to implement the road map to the Secretariat in response to the invitation in paragraph 2 of decision BC-12/2. At its tenth meeting, the Working Group reviewed the progress that Parties and others had made in the implementation of the road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration. In its decision OEWG-10/3, the Working Group, among other things, encouraged Parties and other stakeholders to continue to undertake activities to implement the road map and to provide information on such activities to the Secretariat. As at 21 September 2016, the Secretariat had not received any further such information. As a result, the Secretariat was not in a position to prepare a report on progress made in implementation of the road map for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting. The information received and any other information that may be received subsequent to the date of preparation of the present note will be made available on the website of the Basel Convention.<sup>2</sup>

11. In decision OEWG-10/3, the Working Group also invited the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting to consider the outcome of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in particular the resolutions on the sound management of chemicals and waste, sustainable consumption and production, marine plastic litter and microplastics and delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, insofar as they were relevant to waste prevention and the

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.basel.int>.

minimization and recovery of hazardous wastes and other wastes. An overview of the resolutions of the second session of the Environment Assembly as they relate to the Convention (as well as to 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), is provided in the note by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination (UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24) and associated documents cited therein.

### III. Proposed action

12. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having* considered the outcome of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in particular the resolutions on the sound management of chemicals and waste, sustainable consumption and production, marine plastic litter and microplastics and delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>3</sup> insofar as they are relevant to waste prevention, minimization and recovery of hazardous wastes and other wastes,

1. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the Basel Convention on environmentally sound management and the prevention of waste generation in ensuring the full integration of the environmentally sound management of waste in the programme-wide strategies and policies of the United Nations Environment Programme;<sup>4</sup>
2. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to continue to undertake activities to implement the road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes and to provide information on such activities to the Secretariat;
3. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the expert working group on environmentally sound management to develop draft guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal;
4. *Takes note* of the draft guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal;<sup>5</sup>
5. *Requests* the expert working group on environmentally sound management to continue its work to develop the draft guidance referred to in paragraph 4 above taking into account the deliberations of the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting and to make a revised version of the draft guidance available on the website of the Basel Convention by 30 September 2017 for comment by Parties and others;
6. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments on the revised draft guidance referred to in paragraph 5 above, including any experience in using the draft guidance, to the Secretariat by 30 November 2017;
7. *Requests* the expert working group on environmentally sound management:
  - (a) To further revise the draft guidance referred to in paragraph 5 above, taking into account the comments received pursuant to paragraph 6 above;
  - (b) To submit the further revised draft guidance to the Open-ended Working Group for consideration at its eleventh meeting and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting for consideration and possible adoption.

<sup>3</sup> See UNEP/EA.2/19, annex. Also available from: <http://web.unep.org/unea/list-resolutions-adopted-unea-2>.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7 on sound management of chemicals and waste, para. 11.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF.11.