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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 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda[[2]](#footnote-2)\*\*

Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:   
scientific and technical matters: technical guidelines

Results of the online survey to consider whether the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), on specially engineered landfill (D5) and on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) should be updated

Note by the Secretariat

As referred to in the note by the Secretariat on technical guidelines (UNEP/CHW.13/6), the annex to the present note sets out the results of an online survey to assess whether the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), on specially engineered landfill (D5), and on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) should be updated. The results referred to above have been taken from the report on the responses to the online survey to assess the relevance and utility of the Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9). The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

Annex

Results of the online survey to consider whether the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), on specially engineered landfill (D5) and on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) should be updated

# I. Introduction

1. In the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2016–2017 (decision BC-12/19, annex), the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention included consideration of whether the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), the technical guidelines on specially engineered landfill (D5) and the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) should be updated.
2. Additionally, by decision BC-12/1, on the follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to undertake an inventory and categorize existing Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management, under the guidance of the expert working group on environmentally sound management, for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting.
3. In response to decision BC-12/1, the Secretariat developed an inventory and categorization of existing Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management and submitted it to the expert working group for comment. In parallel, the Government of Canada offered to develop further the inventory and categorization, taking into account the comments received by the expert working group, and to produce an analysis on that basis. The inventory, categorization and analysis were submitted to the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting, at which the Working Group in its decision OEWG-10/2 requested the Secretariat to develop an online survey to assess the relevance and utility of the Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management and to prepare a report on the survey results for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.
4. At its tenth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group agreed that the survey mentioned in paragraph 3 above would contain questions on which technical guidelines under the Basel Convention should be updated or not, including those mentioned in decision BC-12/19, i.e., technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), on specially engineered landfill (D5), and on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8), and recommended that the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting consider the possible updating of the guidelines, taking into account the survey responses.
5. The full report with the responses to the survey is set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9. As indicated in that report, the Secretariat received 46 responses to the online survey: 45 from Parties to the Basel Convention and one from a non-governmental organization. The rate of responses received from Parties was thus approximately 25%. The present note presents the results relevant to the updates of technical guidelines only.

# II. Responses on the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), on specially engineered landfill (D5), and on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8)

1. The survey’s responses, as shown in paragraphs 6 to 12 of document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9, refer to the use and required update of technical guidelines. The responses indicate that:
   1. Sixty-five (65%) of respondents have used the technical guidelines to support one or several activities;
   2. For those respondents that have used the documents to support one or several activities, the main purposes for which are, as a basis for awareness-raising, to draft training materials and “other”. “Other” reasons provided include for development cooperation purposes and to update regional or national guidelines. Many stated that because a number of the guidelines date back to the 1990s, it was difficult to provide an answer to such a question;
   3. A minority of respondents use the documents on a monthly/yearly basis. For those responding “other” to this question, it was shown that this meant on an “as needed” basis;
   4. When asked whether the documents were (partially) outdated or neither outdated nor obsolete, 67% of the respondents viewed the documents as being (partially) outdated, with the remainder finding them neither outdated nor obsolete. Those guidelines that were deemed to be (partially) outdated include the technical guidelines on ULAB, healthcare waste, household waste, waste oils, plastic waste and certain POPs guidelines; and those dealing with disposal operations, namely on specially engineered landfill (D5), physico-chemical (D9) and biological treatment (D8) and incineration on land (D10);
   5. For those respondents that have read the documents, but never used them to support any activities, the predominant reasons were:
      1. The issue is appropriately covered by national legislation/policy;
      2. The information is (partially) outdated or obsolete;
   6. For those respondents who have never read the documents, over 90% had not done so because they were not aware of the documents’ existence.
2. Additionally, one question of the survey asked Parties to list three of the documents included in the survey that they would prioritize for update or review. Paragraph 31 and table 1 (ESM documents to be prioritized for update or review) of document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/9, indicate that, among the technical guidelines to be considered to be updated, the following scored higher points in the survey:
   1. Specially Engineered Landfill (D5);
   2. Incineration of Land (D10).
3. The technical guidelines on physico-chemical (D9) and biological treatment (D8) scored fewer points than other documents covered by the survey.

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1. \* Reissued for technical reasons on 6 March 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \*\* UNEP/CHW.13/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)