



**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements
of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Sixteenth meeting**

Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Agenda item 4 (b) (v)

**Matters related to the implementation of
the Convention: scientific and technical
matters: further consideration of
plastic waste**

**Compilation of inputs from Parties at the sixteenth meeting of the
Conference of the Parties on possible further activities that could
be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to
developments in scientific knowledge and environmental
information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source
of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics**

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a compilation of written inputs submitted by Parties during the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics, on the basis of document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/18. Inputs have been compiled as submitted by Parties. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

Annex

Compilation of inputs from Parties at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics

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Australia	<p>Australia would like to propose the following highlighted addition to the list from INF.18 (6) (a) (i), noting that not every item in this list should be transmitted (as an all or nothing response)</p> <p>(i) Invite Parties, on a voluntary basis, to collect and transmit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information on the generation, management of plastic waste; b. Information on the trade of plastic waste covered by entries A3210 and Y48 and of plastic waste covered by entry B3011; c. Information on the capacities of importing countries to deal with imported plastic waste; d. Information on illegal traffic and mismanagement of plastic waste; e. Information on potential challenges in the application and implementation of the existing provisions, such as determining which types of plastic waste are covered by the various entries in the Basel Convention and distinction between waste and non-waste in relation to plastics; f. The extent to which the above-mentioned entries on plastic waste have contributed to protecting human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from the generation and management of plastic wastes; g. Any other information parties are willing to share that relate to plastic waste. <p>Noting there was no support for progressing this work at the Open-ended Working Group before the INC Plastics Treaty is finalised, we would like to propose the following text for decision.</p> <p>The Conference of the Parties</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Takes note</i> of the draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics; 2. <i>Invites</i> parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 28 February 2024, information on further activities that could be considered, taking into account the progress and outcomes of the negotiations of the intergovernmental negotiating committee referred to in paragraph 1 of the resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly; 3. <i>Requests</i> the Secretariat to make available the information received pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision on the website of the Convention, and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. 5. <i>Requests</i> the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting, on the basis of its consideration of the information provided by parties referred to in

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	paragraph 2 of the present decision, to develop draft recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.
Canada	<p>Canadian proposals on actions for possible further actions on plastic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Invite Parties, on a voluntary basis, to collect and transmit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information on their generation and management of plastic waste; Information on the trade of plastic waste covered by entry B3011; b. Information on their capacity to deal with imported plastic waste; c. Information on plastic waste not being managed in an environmentally sound manner or in accordance with national legislation, and actions taken in this regard Information on potential challenges in the application and implementation of the existing provisions, such as determining which types of plastic waste are covered by the various entries in the Basel Convention and distinction between waste and non-waste in relation to plastics; d. The extent to which the above-mentioned entries on plastic waste have contributed to protecting human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from the generation and management of plastic wastes; (ii) Request the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support Parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To quantify or estimate the quantities of plastic waste generated, managed, exported and imported, recycled and disposed of, including through the development of plastic waste inventories, to inform national action plans addressing minimization, environmentally sound management and control of transboundary movements of plastic waste; b. To quantify or estimate the quantities of plastic waste leaked into the environment and to identify priority areas for reducing such leakage; c. To disseminate the information referred to in subparagraph 6 (a) (i) above through the clearing-house mechanism; (iii) Invite the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for training and technology transfer and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to continue their activities relevant to addressing plastic pollution.
Ecuador	<p>Text proposals made by Ecuador regarding Further consideration of plastic waste.</p> <p>1. Reflecting on recent developments in scientific knowledge and environmental, and human health information and taking into account the activities conducted under the Basel Convention, including the Plastic Waste Partnership and by other international and regional entities, it is suggested that further activities be considered under the Basel Convention. The activities should prioritize those that support the implementation of the Plastic Waste Amendments, and they should complement the new international legally</p>

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	<p>binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment,¹ as well as the science-policy panel for chemicals, waste and pollution prevention² that are currently under development. These activities are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (b) Information collection, monitoring and reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Invite Parties, on a voluntary basis, to collect and transmit the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Information on the generation, management of plastic waste; b. Information on the trade of plastic waste covered by entries A3210 and Y48 and of plastic waste covered by entry B3011; c. Information on the capacities of exporting and importing countries to deal with imported plastic waste; d. Information on illegal traffic and mismanagement of plastic waste; e. Information on potential challenges in the application and implementation of the existing provisions, such as determining which types of plastic waste are covered by the various entries in the Basel Convention and distinction between waste and non-waste in relation to plastics; f. The extent to which the above-mentioned entries on plastic waste have contributed to protecting human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from the generation and management of plastic wastes; (ii) Invite Parties, on a voluntary basis, to adopt the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A procedure for reducing plastic discharges into the environment by supporting civil society organizations and consulting firms specializing in environmental pollution, human health, innovation, energy and climate change through a financing fund; b. A regulation and accountability system for private sector with an aim of enhancing the safe and sound management of plastic waste; c. Promotion of the installation of plastic waste recovery units using local resources, and specialized state-affiliated structures; d. Promotion of the sorting of plastic waste in households; (iii) Request the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support Parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. To quantify or estimate the quantities of plastic waste generated, managed, exported and imported, recycled and disposed of, including through the development of plastic waste inventories, to inform

¹ UNEA Resolution 5/14.

² UNEA Resolution 5/8.

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	<p>national action plans addressing minimization, environmentally sound management and control of transboundary movements of plastic waste;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. To quantify or estimate the quantities of plastic waste leaked into the environment and to identify priority areas for reducing such leakage; f. To disseminate the information referred to in subparagraph 6 (a) (i) above through the clearing-house mechanism; <p>(c) Support for the implementation of the Basel Convention provisions relevant to plastic waste:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Conduct an assessment based on the existing practical guidance and activities under the Convention, notably the practical guidance available in the ESM toolkit, activities under the Plastic Waste Partnership, practical guidance for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the provisions within the Convention and its technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prevention and minimization of plastic waste and its hazardous constituents; b. Safe and Environmentally sound management of specific waste streams where plastic is relevant; c. Technologies for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of plastic waste, *including, where possible, their harmonized system codes; d. Transboundary movements of plastic waste, including information on illegal traffic; e. Financing the safe and environmentally sound management of plastic waste, e.g. through extended producer responsibility; (ii) Invite the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for training and technology transfer and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to continue their activities relevant to addressing plastic pollution.
European Union and its Member States	<p>Comments on the draft decision on Further considerations on plastic waste from the EU and its Member States:</p> <p>2. Requests the Secretariat to collect from Parties and observers, through a survey, the following information, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) How global plastic waste trade has changed (e.g. on data on the trade of plastic waste covered by entries A3210, Y48 and B3011), and what are the capacities of importing countries to deal with imported plastic waste, etc; (b) Potential challenges in the application and implementation of the plastic waste amendments, such as determining which types of plastic waste are covered by the entries A3210, Y48 and B3011, and distinction between waste and non-waste in relation to plastic; (c) The extent to which the entries on plastic waste have contributed to protect human health and the environment against adverse

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	effects which may result from the generation and management of plastic wastes;
New Zealand	<p>Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments. We're concerned about the limited resource a number of delegations will have in terms of the work load to provide more information on plastics waste, while concentrating on the INC plastics negotiations. Apologies if this information has already been collated, but we wondered if the Secretariat could use the existing reporting to form a picture of how implementation of the 2019 plastics amendments are going.</p> <p>On that basis New Zealand would like to propose the following:</p> <p><i>The Conference of the Parties</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Takes note</i> of the draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics; 2. <i>Decides to undertake the following activities: [to be inserted];</i> Requests the Secretariat to collate information on the trade of plastic waste covered by entries A3210 and Y48 and of plastic waste covered by entry B3011, and any information on the generation and management of plastic waste, as provided by the Parties through the annual national reports [this isn't in BC convention speak sorry]; 3. <i>Decides to include in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2024-2025, under topic II D on further consideration of plastic waste, the consideration of further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste, as well as in the consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly.</i> Also requests the Secretariat to report on this compilation of information to the Open-ended Working Group at its fourteenth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting.
Saudi Arabia	<p>Regarding further dissection on Para 2 of the draft decision " Decides to undertake the following activities: [to be inserted]:</p> <p>We would like to add the followings activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of the historical illegal plastic waste dumping that created plastic pollution in many developing countries, • Capacity building, technical assistance, and technology transfer are needed to be facilitated to provide countries with means of implementation • Report examines the total GHG contribution of plastics versus its alternatives, including product life cycle (cradle to grave) and impact of use.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	<p>Please see below for UK comments on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention on plastic waste.</p> <p>As a general point on the approach suggested by the EU and attempting to distil down the very long list in INF-18 into three points, we think this is in principle a promising approach. This is because many points in the list in INF-18 are already happening and/or we cannot see how they would be evidenced in a useful and consistent manner. We think it would be useful for the group</p>

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	<p>for the EU to confirm which points from the INF-18 list they are combining in their three new points.</p> <p>On the points in INF-18, our comments in red</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Information collection, monitoring and reporting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invite Parties, on a voluntary basis, to collect and transmit the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Information on the generation, management of plastic waste; SUPPORT INCLUSION ii. Information on the trade of plastic waste covered by entries A3210 and Y48 and of plastic waste covered by entry B3011; SUPPORT INCLUSION, BUT IT WOULD NEED TO BE MADE CLEAR WHICH CODES ARE IN SCOPE FOR EACH COUNTRY TO ENSURE THAT THE DATA CAN BE COMPARED. iii. Information on the capacities of importing countries to deal with imported plastic waste; DO NOT SUPPORT iv. Information on illegal traffic and mismanagement of plastic waste; DO NOT SUPPORT AS THIS CAN ALREADY BE TAKEN FROM NATIONAL REPORTS v. Information on potential challenges in the application and implementation of the existing provisions, such as determining which types of plastic waste are covered by the various entries in the Basel Convention and distinction between waste and non-waste in relation to plastics; SUPPORT INCLUSION, BUT WOULD SUGGEST ADDING A REFERENCE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF POLYMER TYPES AND THE METHODOLOGIES FOR SAMPLING. GUIDANCE FROM IMPEL HAS BEEN SENT THROUGH AS AN EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE AND COULD BE EXPANDED UPON HERE vi. The extent to which the above-mentioned entries on plastic waste have contributed to protecting human health and the environment against adverse effects which may result from the generation and management of plastic wastes; DO NOT SUPPORT – VERY DIFFICULT TO USEFULLY MEASURE <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Invite Parties, on a voluntary basis, to adopt the following measures: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. A procedure for reducing plastic discharges into the environment by supporting civil society organizations and consulting firms specializing in environmental pollution, innovation, energy and climate change through a financing fund; FLEXIBLE, BUT SEEMS SIMILAR TO EPR APPROACHES ii. A regulation and accountability system for private sector with an aim of enhancing the sound management of plastic waste; SUPPORT INCLUSION AND CAN INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM A UK PERSPECTIVE iii. Promotion of the installation of plastic waste recovery units using local resources, and specialized state-affiliated structures; DO NOT SUPPORT iv. Promotion of the sorting of plastic waste in households; DO NOT SUPPORT AS DUPLICATIVE OF OTHER WORK <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Request the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to support Parties: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. To quantify or estimate the quantities of plastic waste generated, managed, exported and imported, recycled and disposed of, including through the development of plastic waste inventories, to inform

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	<p>national action plans addressing minimization, environmentally sound management and control of transboundary movements of plastic waste; FLEXIBLE - LIKELY TO BE DUPLICATED IN THE PLASTIC POLLUTION TREATY BUT THIS MAY BE SOME WAY OFF SO COULD BE STARTED UNDER BC.</p> <p>ii. To quantify or estimate the quantities of plastic waste leaked into the environment and to identify priority areas for reducing such leakage; DO NOT SUPPORT – VERY DIFFICULT TO MEANINGFULLY MEASURE</p> <p>iii. To disseminate the information referred to in subparagraph 6 (a) (i) above through the clearing-house mechanism;</p> <p>2. Support for the implementation of the Basel Convention provisions relevant to plastic waste:</p> <p>i. Conduct an assessment based on the existing practical guidance and activities under the Convention, notably the practical guidance available in the ESM toolkit, activities under the Plastic Waste Partnership, practical guidance for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the provisions within the Convention and its technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, on the following:</p> <p>a. Prevention and minimization of plastic waste and its hazardous constituents; DO NOT SUPPORT – ALREADY BEING DONE UNDER THE PWP</p> <p>b. Environmentally sound management of specific waste streams where plastic is relevant; SUPPORT INCLUSION</p> <p>c. Technologies for the recycling of plastic waste; DO NOT SUPPORT, ALREADY COVERED IN THE TGs</p> <p>d. Transboundary movements of plastic waste, including information on illegal traffic; DO NOT SUPPORT, ALREADY COVERED BY NATIONAL REPORTING AND ENFORCE</p> <p>e. Financing the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, e.g. through extended producer responsibility; DO NOT SUPPORT, ALREADY COVERED IN THE PRACTICAL MANUAL</p> <p>i. Invite the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for training and technology transfer and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and transfer of technology to continue their activities relevant to addressing plastic pollution. DO NOT SUPPORT, ALREADY COVERED BY THE PWP AND SHOULD CONTINUE THERE</p> <p>As general points, the UK welcomes initiatives to collect relevant and useful data, but we would be keen to seek clarity on the rationale for any potential data request, what the specific outputs and impacts of the proposed new activities are and to make sure there is not already existing data that covers these suggestions. In addition, we note that the new plastic pollution treaty will potentially have National Action Plans and monitoring and reporting requirements, including around plastic waste, and we are keen to avoid duplication, promote complementarity of action and avoid additional requests for information on Parties that do not add value to the work of the Convention.</p>