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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL
CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF
TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS OF
HAZARDOUS WASTES AND
THEIR DISPOSAL

Sixth meeting
Geneva, 9-13 December 2002

Item 6 (e)(ii) of the provisional agenda*

**DRAFT TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE RECYCLING/
RECLAMATION OF METALS AND METAL COMPOUNDS (R4)**

1. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted decision V/26 on the Work Programme of the Technical Working Group and endorsed the need for the preparation of technical guidelines on the recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds (R4).
2. At its sixteenth session in April 2000 the expert from Australia informed the meeting that Australia was already working on the preparation of the technical guidelines. At the seventeenth session in October 2000, Australia introduced a preliminary draft and invited comments from the Technical Working Group. Some experts provided a number of observations including the use of indicators of potential hazards to human health and the environment, the relationship between the guidelines and the work underway regarding hazards characteristics H12 and H13, the classification used in relation to the Annex VIII and IX of the Convention, the need to further elaborate on waste avoidance and cleaner production and technology innovations. The Chairman invited comments from Parties by 31 January 2001 with the view of assisting Australia in this task.
3. At its eighteenth session in June 2001, a number of technical comments were made by experts, including regarding the formation of dioxins during some recovery process. At its nineteenth session in January 2002, some revisions were made to the draft guidelines designed to improve the text, including the definitions of recycling, recovery and reclamation; treatment technologies; issues of logistics and collection of materials; stricter language on open burning; references to webpages; and by-product pollutants arising

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from metal processing plants. A dateline for further comments on a revised text was also agreed by the Group.

4. At its twentieth session in May 2002, the Technical Working Group set up a small working group to consider remaining issues which were produced as a non-paper by Australia. The Group agreed to change the title of the guidelines, to introduce paragraphs defining their scope, to tighten the text and to introduce Internet links to resources providing certain information such as on occupational safety and health. Some work remained to be done on the draft such as summary texts on hazardous metals, phase-out of use and problems posed by dioxins at recycling facilities and a number of sections of the documents required further elaboration. It was agreed that the improved draft should be placed on the Basel Convention website for further comments until 30 September 2002. It was also agreed that the finalization of this technical guidelines will be included in the work programme of the Technical Working Group after the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Canada, Chile, the United States of America and the International Council on Mining and Metals provided comments.
