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on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

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**Report on the implementation of the decisions adopted
by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting**

**The Basel Convention's contribution to the sound
management of chemicals and sustainable development**

Attached is an information paper prepared by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention which was submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee for Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), 4-8 October 2004, Nairobi, Kenya. This paper is presented for the information of the meeting.

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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
COP	Conference of the Parties
ESM	Environmentally Sound Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCCC	Framework Convention on Climate Change
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHS	Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
IFCS	International Forum on Chemical Safety
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SMC	Sound Management of Chemicals
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WHO	World Health Organization
WCO	World Customs Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002)

The Basel Convention's contribution to the sound management of chemicals

1.0 Introduction

1. The *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal* requires that each Party take appropriate measures relative to the environmentally sound management (ESM) of hazardous and other wastes. As the Convention's title implies, it includes provisions for prohibiting or reducing to a minimum transboundary movement of wastes (import, export, transit), together with obligations regarding their environmentally sound management. Less well known, but of equal importance, the Convention, in Article 2, includes measures for the ESM of domestic wastes, including a requirement that each Party take appropriate measures to ensure that generation of wastes is reduced to a minimum, taking into account social, technological and economic aspects. Wastes addressed by the Convention include those derived from chemical processes and/or containing chemicals. Hence, the Basel Convention is a key pillar of the sound management of chemicals (SMC).
2. The Secretariat to the Basel Convention submits this information document to the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom2) of the Strategic Approaches to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) as a means of informing the SAICM of the distinctive contributions of the Basel Convention to SMC.
3. The paper provides an overview of the Convention's purpose and scope, progress made in implementing the Convention, and strategic priorities for the Convention's implementation through 2010. Additionally, the paper describes the Convention's synergies with other multilateral environmental conventions (MEAs) on chemicals and international chemical organizations, and cooperative activities among international chemical MEA secretariats and organizations in which the Basel Secretariat is involved.

2.0 The Basel Convention: An overview

4. The Basel Convention was adopted by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries (COP) on 22 March 1989 and entered into force 5 May 1992. It is one of the largest multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), with 162 Parties as of 12 July 2004.
5. The Basel Convention's ultimate objective is protection of human health and the environment against the adverse effects that result from exposure to contaminants in wastes, or mismanagement of such wastes.
6. While the Basel Convention is not limited to a focus on chemical wastes, it applies to an extensive list of wastes for which hazardous chemicals are the primary or an important constituent.
7. Hazardous wastes include end-of-life products and articles that contain hazardous chemicals that can cause adverse health effects to people and to flora and fauna. Examples of hazardous chemical wastes include organic solvents, pesticides that are by their nature intended to be toxic, and certain "heavy metals" (e.g., lead, mercury, cadmium, and copper) that, while derived from natural elements, are generated as a result of human activity.
8. The Convention's listed wastes encompass 1000s of hazardous substances and chemicals in wastes that are toxic, poisonous, explosive, corrosive, flammable, ecotoxic and/or infectious (e.g., biomedical wastes). It also applies to waste stream categories that are inclusive not only of hazardous substances, *per se*, but of materials contaminated by contact with wastes, such as contaminated waste products, contaminated packaging and storage materials, and wastes leftover from industrial, commercial, electrical and metallurgical processes, including wastes from pollution control devices (e.g., scrap materials, dusts and residues, fly ash, spent activated carbon, waste sludge). The Convention addresses hazardous wastes generated as a result of a wide variety of human activities and sectors, including industrial processes, mining, electrical generation, pharmaceutical production, preparation and use; and medical, dental and veterinary clinical and related wastes.
9. Hazardous wastes, in addition to those listed in annexes to the Convention, include wastes defined as, or are considered to be, hazardous wastes by the domestic legislation of the Party of export, import or transit as per Art. 1 (1) (b).
10. To achieve its objectives, the Convention promotes an integrated life-cycle approach to environmentally sound management (ESM) of wastes. The Convention (paragraph 8) defines environmentally sound management

of hazardous wastes or other wastes as “taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes.” ESM therefore includes an emphasis on policies and practices aimed at prevention, waste minimization, recycling, recovery, treatment and destruction/disposal of existing wastes. The Convention’s general obligations and their implementation include:

- Prevention of waste generation through emphasis on the front-end of processes (e.g., product design) and waste minimization, with the objective of making the end-of-life products more recyclable, non-hazardous and ideally, degradable, and reducing *the overall quantity of hazardous and other wastes* generated;
- For hazardous and other wastes already in circulation, including stockpiles, the availability of adequate treatment, recovery, recycling and disposal facilities meeting ESM criteria; and
- Provisions for reduction of transboundary movement of wastes. These provisions provide an incentive for reduction in the overall volume of wastes transboundary movement of wastes, including through creation of adequate national infrastructure for environmentally sound waste disposal. In the absence of such infrastructure, movement of wastes and their ultimate disposal must occur in an environmentally sound manner.

11. The Convention’s framework and provisions give it a breadth and scope that exceeds other MEAs regarding environmentally sound management of wastes. Consequently, the Basel Convention is one of the key global chemical conventions (even though its scope extends beyond this chemicals emphasis).

12. The Basel Convention is a broadly participatory MEA, including with respect to senior-level decision-making. To this end, the Conference of the Parties (COP) is composed of representatives of all Parties so as to ensure that implementation is an inclusive process with a high level of global “buy-in” for implementation strategies. It is also attended by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations including industry and business.

13. The Basel Convention is legally binding for those Parties that have ratified it. The Convention includes measures for prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic that are backed up by articles that oblige Parties to take appropriate measures to implement and enforce its provisions. Parties in contravention of the Convention may face punitive measures. During COP VI (December 2002), Parties established a Compliance Mechanism that will be used to improve compliance with the Convention’s obligations.

3.0 Implementing the Basel Convention

3.1 The first ten years: emphasis on transboundary movement

14. Within the first decade of the Basel Convention’s entry into force, priority was placed upon its transboundary movement provisions. This priority reflected the initial impetus for creation of the Basel Convention as a response by the international community to the problems caused by the annual worldwide production of millions of tonnes of hazardous wastes and their indiscriminate transboundary movement to developing countries that were the least capable of dealing with these wastes.

15. The transboundary provisions of the Convention are broadly implemented, and, in 1995, Parties have adopted an amendment that further restricts exports of hazardous waste from developed (Annex VII) to developing countries (non Annex VII). Entry into force of the 1995 Ban Amendment to the Convention will further strengthen this aspect of the Convention. The Ban Amendment calls for prohibiting exports of hazardous wastes *for any purpose* from countries listed in a proposed new annex to the Convention (Annex VII Parties that are members of the EU, OECD, Liechtenstein) to all other Parties to the Convention.

16. The Convention has largely addressed prior informed consent aspects relative to transboundary movement. This progress is being complemented by implementation of the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention, which entered into force 24 February 2004. However, hazardous wastes and transboundary movement will remain central pillars of the Convention as full implementation globally of these provisions is pursued.

3.2 The path forward: Strengthening national capacity for ESM of wastes

17. In 1999, with the adoption of the *Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management*, the ministers and heads of delegation asserted their vision for building on achievements of the first decade of the Convention such that “environmentally sound management is accessible to all Parties, emphasizing the minimization of such wastes and the strengthening of capacity building.”

18. The Basel Convention’s emphasis on building capacities for the ESM of hazardous wastes is also indicative of the key role that the Convention must play in fulfilling *Vision 2020* of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD).¹

19. Additionally, the Sixth COP in December 2002 adopted a *Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention (to 2010)*. The Strategic Plan emphasizes the following:

- **Cooperation and partnership.** Priority will be given to activities that promote partnerships at all levels (among international organizations; between countries; among ministries and other public authorities within countries; among industry sectors; NGOs and academia). The aim of these partnerships is to promote regional delivery of the Basel Convention, as well as related chemicals conventions (e.g., via finance leveraging activities that can support activities, via reinforcement and involvement of the Basel Convention in relevant MEA activities such as Stockholm national implementation plans, Programme of Action for Africa (Africa Stockpiles Programme), and through identification of implementation activities for priority waste streams²;
- **Life-cycle ESM of wastes.** For example, capacity building projects will emphasize institutional strengthening, development of frameworks, integration of policy and management within and among institutions; assistance with national legislation; technology transfer, enhanced information exchange, education and public awareness; development/improvements to inventory systems for hazardous wastes, hazardous waste management and emergency plans; prevention practices that reduce volume of wastes generated; waste minimization; and infrastructure and training relative to disposal (i.e., long-term storage and destruction as appropriate to the waste stream/substance(s));
- **Contribution of the Basel Convention Regional Centers.** These centers are dedicated to building capacity building for prevention and minimization, and for the environmentally sound disposal of waste, e.g., through training and outreach activities and technology transfer, including via 21 pilot projects on waste prevention and minimization; and partnering initiatives. To date, 13 centers have been established in Africa, Central and South America, Asia and the Pacific, and Eastern Europe;
- **Enhanced information exchange, education and awareness raising** among all sectors of society relative to ESM of wastes; and
- **Development of mechanisms for prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic.**

20. The Basel Convention Secretariat works to promote the Action Plan for Convention implementation, including through training it provides via workshops (often in co-sponsorship with other MEA Secretariats and international organizations), and in the projects it supports for funding.

21. The Basel Declaration and the Strategic Plan signal the Convention’s initiation of a new implementation phase, now underway, which focuses on strengthening capacity for *domestic waste management* (e.g., with respect to legal frameworks; labelling, awareness raising; collection; creation of temporary and long-term storage

¹ For example, paragraph 23 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation calls upon nations to “Renew the commitment, as advanced in Agenda 21, to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment, *inter alia*, aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, using transparent science-based risk assessment procedures and science-based risk management procedures, taking into account the precautionary approach, as set out in principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance.”

² While the emphasis is on waste streams, such as electronic waste, obsolete pesticides, and lead acid batteries, the objective is not just to work on disposal at end-of-life, but on life-cycle approaches through partnerships that engage producers, downstream users and consumers. For example, under the Secretariat’s current pilot project with the mobile phone industry, network providers, recyclers, and other life-cycle stakeholders guidelines will be developed that encourage ESM for these wastes, e.g., improved product design relative to hazardous components, such as metals, collection and disposal activities appropriate to a nation’s capacity, and attendant awareness raising strategies.

facilities; transport and infrastructure for disposal, etc.). The focus on domestic waste management includes an emphasis on life-cycle aspects of waste management (as per above) and is intended to advance the Declaration's vision that ESM of hazardous wastes should be accessible to all Parties.

22. The Basel Declaration's emphasis on ESM of wastes at the domestic level recognizes that lack of capacity to implement ESM of wastes has contributed to many of the legacy issues that the world is struggling with today. These include polluted groundwater and reservoirs, lakes and streams that limit access to or compromise drinking water sources; polluted oceans, including coastal waters, that contribute to degradation of inland and ocean fisheries that are important to national economies and on which more than a billion people depend for their food and livelihood; degraded land otherwise available for tillage or other productive uses; and large tracts of land left uninhabitable for people or animals. Lack of capacity for ESM of waste also places populations at increased risk of health problems, in particular children (owing to their physiology and habits) and the poor. These problems are most severe in developing nations where the risks are compounded by lack of waste, sanitation and water infrastructure generally. Full implementation of ESM of wastes would have a major impact on improving human and ecosystem health and conserving resources.

23. This need to strengthen domestic capacity has become even more acute in light of emerging production and consumption trends in the global chemicals sector, with developing nations taking on a more central role in this growth sector as their overall economies expand and become more modernized. For instance, changing trends in chemicals production and consumption are placing new stresses on the capacity of developing nations to manage growth in a sustainable manner. Global output of chemicals by 2020 is anticipated to increase by 85 percent over 1995 levels. Concordant with this trend, developing nations are expected to lead the world in growth rates for high-volume industrial chemicals (i.e., those produced at more than 1000 tones per year), increasing their share of world chemicals production to 31 percent (OECD Environmental Outlook, 2001).

24. The increased production of large-volume industrial chemicals by developing nations has implications for generation of contaminants (e.g., during production, subsequent use of products and when products become wastes), and for volume of wastes generated. Enhancing domestic capacity for cleaner production (e.g., via production design, development and use of safer chemicals in processes, etc.) will therefore be an important component of waste prevention and minimization strategies that are themselves a part of planning for sustainable economic growth in developing nations.

25. Chemical consumption is anticipated to grow much faster in developing nations. Non-OECD nations are projected to more than double their demand for chemicals over 1995 levels by 2020 and could account for a third of global consumption by 2020 (OECD Environmental Outlook, 2001). This demand will intensify the challenges developing nations face with respect to capacity for ESM of hazardous chemical wastes.

26. Hence, the Basel Convention's emphasis on ESM as a priority should translate into significant support for SMC efforts globally as applicable to a wide range of hazardous chemical substances that the Basel Convention addresses, and taking into account opportunities for cooperative efforts and partnerships (see below).

4.0 Synergies with other Chemical MEAs

27. The Convention's comprehensive and integrated approach for realizing waste management objectives is supportive of and consistent with the implementation of other MEAs (e.g., the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Climate Change Conventions).

4.1 Synergies with the Stockholm Convention

28. The Convention's provisions for waste prevention, minimization and end-of-life destruction and long-term storage are applicable to persistent organic pollutants (POPs). It therefore is directly applicable to the 12 POPs listed in the *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*, as well as to other POPs that might one day be additions to the Stockholm Convention.³ In recognition of the close linkages that exist between the Basel and

³ For example, the Basel Convention lists halogenated organic solvents; wastes from the production, formulation and use of biocides and phytopharmaceuticals, including waste pesticides and herbicides which are off-specification, outdated (unused within the period recommended by the manufacturer), or unfit for their originally intended use; wastes that contain, consist of or are contaminated with any of the polychlorinated dibenzo-furan and polychlorinated dibenzo-dioxin congeners; and waste substances and articles containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); waste electrical and electronic assemblies or scrap (excluding those from electric power generation) containing components that include PCB-capacitors.

Stockholm Conventions, cooperation on provisions relating to disposal of wastes of the 12 POPs is formalized as a provision within the Stockholm Convention.

29. Provisions for management of POPs wastes in the Stockholm Convention are described in Article 6, “Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes.” Art. 6.2 calls upon the Stockholm Conference of the Parties to cooperate closely with the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention to, *inter alia*:

- (a) Establish levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to ensure that the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants are not exhibited;
- (b) Determine what they consider to be the methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal referred to above; and
- (c) Work to establish, as appropriate, the concentration levels of the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and C in order to define the low persistent organic pollutant content.

30. The Basel Convention COP in its Decision VI/23 of December 2002 likewise supports preparation of such guidelines, calling for their completion by the end of 2004. To this end, an Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, with input from Stockholm Secretariat, in 2003 initiated work on development of a *General Technical Guideline for Environmentally Sound Management of Wastes Consisting of, Containing or Contaminated with Persistent Organic Pollutants*, together with companion guidance on classes of POPs—PCBs,⁴ dioxins and furans, DDT, pesticides and HCB. For more information on the draft guidance, see the section on “technical matters” in the Basel Convention website at <http://www.basel.int/>.

31. At the institutional level, the two secretariats participate in regular coordination meetings, on newsletters and other publications, and collaborate on jointly managed capacity-building projects. Examples of such collaboration include joint publication of an inventory of worldwide PCB destruction capacity, and Central America and Southern Africa projects for the environmentally sound management of PCBs. Both secretariats, along with other relevant parties, are involved in the African Stockpiles Programme for the disposal of obsolete pesticides and other unwanted chemicals.

32. At the regional level, several Basel Convention Regional Centres are involved in projects and workshops that have aspects relevant to the Stockholm Convention.

33. Subject to endorsement by the respective governing bodies, there is scope to intensify this cooperation in the future.

4.2 Synergies with the Rotterdam Convention

34. The Basel Secretariat and the interim secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention have co-sponsored workshops to raise awareness and promote capacity building activities as part of on-going cooperation that is expected to continue with the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention on 24 February 2004. Synergies include development of guidance, training and reporting relative to hazard information with respect to listed chemicals, of which there are currently 37 subject to the PIC procedure (22 pesticides, 9 industrial chemicals and 6 severely hazardous pesticide formulations).

35. The Convention’s prior informed consent procedure and its provisions relative to hazard communication also entail approaches that have direct synergies with the *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade*.

4.3 Synergies with the Framework Convention on Climate Change

36. The Convention’s provisions relative to ESM waste infrastructure have linkages to the *Framework Convention on Climate Change*, in that engineered landfills designed to recapture methane resulting from waste decomposition will reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, and can contribute to economical generation of energy for use by communities. ESM of wastes offers an important avenue by which developing

⁴ The Basel Convention draft guidance on PCBs also addresses Polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) and Polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) as a class or category of substances owing to similarities in the physico-chemical and toxicological properties of these substances (and once approved will supersede the Basel Convention’s *Technical Guidelines on Wastes Comprising or Containing PCB, PCT and PBB (Y10)*, February 1997).

nations that are most at risk from the effects of climate change can contribute to greenhouse gas reduction efforts, while strengthening ESM waste infrastructure generally.

4.4 Synergies with MEAs addressing land and water

37. Wastes that are not managed in an environmentally sound manner have the potential to contaminate inland and marine water bodies, and groundwater. These polluted waters then become a pathway of exposure for animals and people. For example, storage of hazardous wastes under inadequate conditions (e.g., with respect to containers, labelling, design and location of storage facilities) has led to massive contamination of soil, groundwater, watersheds, and marine waters. Such contamination occurs via direct discharges and runoff, through leaching, including from landfills, as the result of spills and catastrophic events, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods, and in the absence of legislative controls/effective enforcement for polluting activities (e.g., mining, shipping, and heavy industry). Legacy issues, such as contaminated sites, obsolete stockpiles and dumps typically represent active sources of releases to land, water and air that can continue for decades, also with the potential to contaminate food (e.g. crops, fisheries and wildlife).

4.5 Synergies with MEAs on worker safety and accident prevention

38. ESM of hazardous wastes contributes to worker safety because under conditions of ESM the likelihood of worker exposure to toxic wastes is greatly reduced. ESM management applies not only to proper identification, handling, storage and transport of wastes, but also to waste prevention practices that reduce risks at the end-of-life of products. Similarly, best practices for ESM of wastes at the facility level include measures aimed at accident prevention and best practices for responding to spills so as to minimize exposure to workers and the environment.

4.6 Synergies with regional agreements

39. A number of regional conventions promote, incorporate, or draw upon provisions of the Basel Convention, highlighting their recognition that regional cooperation is important to advancing objectives for environmentally sound management of wastes. Examples include the 1998 *Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS)* to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)'s 1979 Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), which includes provisions calling on the Parties to implement provisions of the Basel Convention; the 1991 *Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes within Africa*; and the 1995 *Waigani Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region*.

5.0 Synergies with poverty reduction

40. Although the developing world produces and uses fewer chemicals, hence generates fewer toxic and hazardous wastes than developed nations, weak capacity to manage chemical (and also solid) wastes has resulted in disproportionate burden in effects on people in developing countries. The poor are particularly affected both because developing nations have many more people who live under the poverty line and also because of how the poor live and are situated. Poor people are most affected by accidents and waste discharges because they typically live closer to chemical manufacturing/formulating and industrial facilities such as tanneries that generate chemical wastes. The make-shift housing from which many of the large slums in large urban areas in developing countries are constructed are made from cardboard and scrap materials that may have been exposed to or which contain contaminants. In some nations, from 20 percent to 50 percent of the housing stock in large cities is constructed from such materials (UNDP, 1998). Poor people more often must rely on food and water contaminated by wastes, and scavenge, including by children, materials from open landfills and dumps. The rate of re-use of used waste containers is also higher in developing countries. The illiterate poor are at greater risk of exposure from improper re-use of wastes that contained toxic and hazardous materials, for example use of former pesticide containers for transporting water.

6.0 Synergies with sustainable development

41. The Basel Convention has direct linkages with many key facets of sustainable development. ESM of wastes is a precondition for healthy environments for human settlement, and for the physical well being of general and vulnerable populations, including the poor, workers, children, women, and indigenous people. In particular, ESM of wastes has a key role to play with respect to provision of safe drinking water and air, and ecosystem health,

including protection of groundwater, reservoirs, inland watersheds, marine resources, and land from degradation caused by contamination from hazardous and other wastes. Recovery of methane from engineered landfills as one component of the ESM of waste can also provide a significant contribution to the global effort to reduce the amount of fugitive greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, while providing a source of energy (although in this instance, the emphasis is on ESM of non-hazardous wastes).

7.0 Cooperative activities to advance sound management of chemicals

7.1 Cooperation with other international chemical bodies

42. At the Secretariat level, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention works with the secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and with other organizations and secretariats on critical areas for effective and concrete implementation of the Basel Convention (e.g., the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matters, regional seas conventions and action plans, and the Bamako and Waigani Conventions).

7.2 Emphasizing partnerships

43. The Basel Secretariat, as called for in the Basel Declaration and its Strategic Plan, is working to promote and more effectively utilize partnerships as one approach to advancing Convention implementation. The Secretariat recognizes that growth in partnerships has been hindered by a broad perception that the Basel Convention deals only with the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes. As a near-term priority, the Basel Convention is seeking to reorient this perception. For instance, the Convention is seeking to engage industry via its new Basel Convention Partnership Programme in considering life-cycle strategies for products that, while not hazardous as articles in commerce, pose risks to humans and the environment at their end-of-life (waste) stage. Recent examples include the following:

- A Sustainable Partnership on Environmentally Sound Management of End-of-life Mobile Phones;
- A project aimed at funding new partnerships with municipalities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in urban areas.

44. Cooperative activities are and will be targeted at making significant contributions to improving the environment and human health in areas of common interest among international environmental organizations, including the sound management of chemicals, and sustainable development generally in areas that can be positively impacted by environmentally sound waste management.

7.3 Integration and mainstreaming efforts

45. The Parties and the Basel Secretariat through their cooperative activities are working to maximize human and financial resources and reduce transactional costs to countries with respect to their implementation activities under the Basel Convention and other, closely related chemical MEAs. Examples of activities that are aimed at achieving greater integration of effort and promoting mainstreaming of ESM of wastes include the following:

- Production in 2001, in conjunction with the Rotterdam and Stockholm Secretariats, of a paper on opportunities for “clustering” measures, and joint pilot projects aimed at capacity building, science and technology, legal affairs, institutional matters, monitoring and reporting information, awareness raising and programme support services. The UNEP Government Council approved the paper in February 2002. It is anticipated that the outcome of this cooperation will be more integrated approaches to delivery on SMC, inclusive of life-cycle ESM of wastes, achieved with greater efficiencies with respect to both Secretariats and Parties, while projects will also benefit from pooling of expertise.
- Cooperation between the Basel Secretariat and Stockholm COP on development of technical guidance relative to Stockholm provisions for ESM of POPs wastes.
- Work with the FAO, along with other entities, on the African Stockpiles Programme (ASP) for disposal and prevention of accumulated obsolete stocks of pesticides in Africa, and with FAO on a range of other pesticide waste-related activities;
- Support for implementation of the Programme of Action for Africa on the environmentally sound management of unwanted stocks of hazardous wastes and their prevention (First Continental Conference, Rabat, 2001) in the implementation of international initiatives (i.e.: Africa Stockpiles Programme);

- Serving as the lead for a project with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on Environmentally Sound Management of Used Lead-Acid Batteries in the Caribbean and Central America so as to assist nine nations in the region to assess their needs for managing this issue in the context of regional cooperation.
- Cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and International Maritime Organisation (IMO) on ship dismantling issues with the aim of developing and implementing strategies for compliance and reducing risks posed to the environment and to workers from hazardous and toxic wastes that these ships contain (e.g., lead-based paint, PCB contaminated oil, etc. Work with other organizations on harmonization of classification schemes used internationally for hazard characteristics, e.g., between the Basel Convention's Open-Ended Working Group and the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UNSCE/GHS) on criteria for a Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals;
- Cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO) on harmonization and enforcement of customs codes for wastes under the WCO Harmonized System;
- Cooperation on initiatives and programmes in which the waste dimension needs to be adequately taken into account as part of goals for international chemicals management. Organizations with which the Basel Convention is actively engaged include the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC);
- Collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) on development of guidelines for biomedical and healthcare wastes.

46. At the regional and sub-regional level, the Basel Convention Regional Centers, through their provision of capacity-building assistance, play an important role in strengthening national capacity for the sound management of chemicals. Some of these activities are reflected in the annex to the present paper.

47. The Basel Secretariat is emphasizing the importance of considering environmentally sound management of wastes in the wider discussions about the life-cycle management of chemicals as these discussions evolve within the SAICM context.

48. The Basel Convention is also working to develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy for raising awareness among donors and financial institutions of ESM of wastes as a critical contributor to sustainable development, with respect to Convention support proper, and in relation to opportunities for mainstreaming ESM of waste with other activities.

49. Currently, the Basel Convention observes that the Operational Programme on Persistent Organic Pollutants (OP#14) of the Global Environment Facility, aimed at provision of assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to reduce and eliminate releases of POPs into the environment, includes support for building capacity for environmentally sound management of stockpiles and wastes containing POPs. Similarly, the GEF's Contaminant-based Operational Program (OP #10) of the International Waters focal area aims to utilize demonstrations to overcome barriers to adoption of best practices, waste minimization strategies, and pollution prevention measures. Regional financial institutions, through their environmental programmes, support for Conventions, and sustainable development generally, also provide an avenue for support of Basel Convention capacity building and implementation activities in cooperation with our partners.

Annex

Activities of the Basel Convention Regional Centres in the Field of Chemical and Hazardous Waste Management

1. Several projects and activities funded in the context of the Strategic Plan as approved by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session are directly supportive of the specific objectives of the Basel Convention Regional Centres. These projects here-below are clustered in accordance with their relevance to the priority actions identified in section 22 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation concerning the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes. These projects represent two fifth of the total number of projects that received funding under the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention and 40 % of the funds allowed by the parties for the Strategic Plan at the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

(a) Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste

- Workshop on the strengthening of cooperation between the chemical and hazardous waste conventions (Slovakia-BCRC);
- Regional workshop for the preparation of a regional approach for the environmentally sound management of POPs as wastes in selected Central and Eastern European countries (Slovakia-BCRC);

(b) Encourage partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste, and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data

- A new Partnership with Local Authorities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in urban areas (China);
- Preparation of a regional strategy for the environmentally sound management of used lead-acid batteries in Central America and the Caribbean (Salvador-BCRC and Trinidad & Tobago-BCRC);
- Hazardous waste management in Small Medium Enterprise (SME) in the context of Integrated Life Cycle Management of Materials (Jordan);
- “Implementation of waste minimization – cleaner production project” – training (Uruguay-BCRC);
- Pilot program for the minimization of impacts generated by hazardous waste;
- Regional workshop on successful case studies of recycling, reuse and recovery methods towards the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and implementation of the Basel Convention in Africa (Nigeria-BCRC);

(c) Promote efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;

- Implementation of the control, detection and prevention of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes (Argentina-BCRC).

2. Almost all Business Plans of the BCRCs for 2003 and 2004 contained activities and projects of relevance to the objectives of the WSSD in the field of chemicals and hazardous wastes. The main areas of relevance included, the prevention of illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous waste, the promotion of ratification and implementation of relevant MEAs, the enhancement of partnerships to enhance environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes and, the development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals and waste. These planned activities represented only a limited part of the Business Plans which, for an important part of them, were not fully implemented because of financial constraints.