

**MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES
TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS**

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

9 MAY 2012

Meeting report

I. Opening of the meeting

The Presidents of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal met on Wednesday 9 May 2012 at the International Environment House, Geneva.

The Presidents adopted the agenda for the meeting.

II. Objective

The meeting was organized to discuss:

- the implementation of the decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (the “2011 decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination”)¹;
- how to hold, in 2013, the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Geneva in accordance with the mandates from the fifth meetings of the conferences of the parties of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention, taking into account synergies; and
- the status of preparations for the joint meeting of the bureaux to be held from 13 to 14 December 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland.

III. Secretariat arrangements relating to implementation of the 2011 decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination

The Executive Secretary provided the meeting with an overview of the status of implementation of the decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination. He described the subsequent re-organization of the Secretariat into a matrix structure; further to which some comments had been received and made available on the Conventions websites. The Executive Secretary also reported on reporting under the review arrangements, with some discussions ensuing about the re-allocation of costs savings from implementation of these decisions.

IV. Proposal for the coordinated organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2013

Discussions on this agenda item were based on the Executive Secretary’s proposal for the coordinated organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. This proposal had been developed in accordance with paragraphs 17 and 18 of the 2011 decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination and was consulted with the FAO-part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.

¹ Decision BC-10/29 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention ; Decision RC-5/12 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; Decision SC-5/27 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

The Presidents agreed with the Executive Secretary's proposal, with the understanding that further details need to be developed. This could be done, for example, through the preparation of a scenario note for the meetings.

Mandates from the meetings of the conferences of the parties held in 2011

The Presidents took note that the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention agreed that its sixth meeting would take place from 6 to 10 May 2013 in Geneva, while the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention agreed that its eleventh meeting would take place in Switzerland in 2013 at a time and location to be determined by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau. The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention endorsed holding its sixth meeting at the FAO-Headquarters in Rome, subject to any decision that might be taken by the bureau.

With this in mind, the Presidents recognised the need to maintain balanced visibility and engagement of both Rome- and Geneva-based Secretariat operations. If a decision is taken to hold the meetings of the conferences of the parties back-to-back in Geneva, they agreed it may be useful to consider actions to redress any potential imbalance.

Involvement of the bureaux

Support of the bureaux is essential in ensuring the success of these meetings in 2013. The Presidents highlighted the importance of providing sufficient information to enable the bureaux to make informed decisions relating to the Executive Secretary's proposal on holding these meetings. Taking into account the abovementioned mandate from the 2011 meetings of the conferences of the parties, it was strongly felt that there is a need to involve the bureaux of all three conventions in the same manner to ensure consistency and transparency.

The Presidents also discussed that planning and organization of the meetings in 2013 would be undertaken in such a manner as to take into consideration issues common to all three conventions, as well as addressing any concerns that may have been raised by Parties and maximise benefits to Parties through organizing the meetings in this manner.

Consultations with and support of the bureaux

The Executive Secretary's proposal was considered in further detail and amended to reflect the discussions at the joint meeting of the Presidents. There was agreement that the Presidents would circulate to all bureaux members the proposal as amended at this meeting. The bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention was scheduled to meet from 10 to 11 May 2012, therefore it would take the opportunity to consult on this issue at that meeting. The bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam and Basel conventions are not scheduled to take place for several months, therefore consultations would take place electronically and, if requested, through teleconferencing, with those bureaux members. The Presidents will be seeking agreement from their bureaux members to this proposal by 1 June 2012.

There will be further opportunities to discuss the specific daily programmes of the meetings in the individual bureau meetings, as well as at the joint meeting of the bureaux, to be held from 13 to 14 December 2012 in Geneva.

V. Status of preparations for the joint meeting of the bureaux

The Secretariat requested guidance of the Presidents regarding the draft agenda for the joint meeting of the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Some comments were provided, which the Secretariat shall incorporate into the draft agenda accordingly. It was noted that the joint meeting of the bureaux would be largely organizational as most of the proposed agenda items were set under the "decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination", therefore could not be amended.

The Presidents' meeting also discussed and agreed on the draft provisional agenda of the joint bureaux meeting, which is contained in the Annex to this report.

VI. Other Matters

Due to lack of time, the meeting did not discuss other matters.

Annex:

**Joint meeting of the bureaux of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

13 -14 December 2012

Geneva, Switzerland

Draft provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Matters for consideration or action by the extraordinary meeting of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions:
 - (i) Review arrangements;
 - (ii) Proposal for the organization of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
 - (iii) Joint activities for the biennium 2014–2015;
 - (iv) Budget for joint activities and possible necessary amendments to the budget of the three conventions for the biennium 2014–2015;
 - (v) Reports or information received from the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the outcome of the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes.
 4. Organization of work of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.
 5. Update by UNEP on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and sessions of the intergovernmental negotiation committee (INC) to prepare a globally binding instrument on Mercury.
 6. Communication and consultation with regions.
 7. Other matters.
 8. Closure of the meeting.
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