

Revised draft proposal for the organization of the high-level segment of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2017

(Version of 3 October 2016)

1. During their meetings held in June and July 2016, the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions considered a draft proposal for the organization of the high-level segment of the meetings of the conferences of the parties in 2017¹.
2. The three bureaux generally expressed support for the main features of the high-level segment including the ministerial round-tables and the high-level discussion in plenary. Several bureaux members noted that the high-level segment should be organized within one calendar day. Different views were expressed on items such as the timing of the high-level segment; the level of representation by Parties; and the possible outcomes of the high-level segment. The reports of the meetings² reflect the discussions of the three bureaux on the draft proposal.
3. The bureaux requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the draft proposal, taking into account their discussions for consideration and approval by the three bureaux at their joint meeting on 3 and 4 November 2016, in accordance with the agreed process for preparing the organization of the high-level segment of the 2017 meetings³.
4. In response to this request, the Secretariat prepared a revised proposal, taking into account the discussions by the three bureaux. This proposal was subsequently consulted with the three Presidents in August 2016. The draft proposal contained in the annex to the present note constitutes the revised text as developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the three Presidents.
5. The bureaux are invited to consider the revised draft proposal and agree on the organization of the high-level segment.

¹ Document 4 of the bureaux meetings available at: <http://www.basel.int/?tabid=5086>; <http://www.pic.int/?tabid=5126>; <http://chm.pops.int/?tabid=5094>.

² Available at: <http://www.basel.int/?tabid=5086>; <http://www.pic.int/?tabid=5126>; <http://chm.pops.int/?tabid=5094>.

³ As contained in document 4 of the three bureaux meetings.

Annex: Revised draft proposal for the organization of the high-level segment of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2017

Objective

The objective of the high-level segment is to provide an interactive, dynamic and inclusive platform for ministers and other high-level delegates to exchange experiences and to provide political leadership for renewed commitment towards the implementation of the conventions. In doing so, the high-level segment aims to raise political awareness of and support for the conventions, as well as promote a dialogue among ministers, and between ministers and other high-level delegates.

Theme

The 2017 meetings of the conferences of the parties and the high-level segment will focus on the theme: “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”, as decided by the three Presidents of the conferences of the parties in consultation with the bureaux. The theme should facilitate exchanges and discussions around the objectives set for the event and contribute to relevant tangible outcomes.

Outcomes

There could be a range of possible outcomes of the high-level segment. Proceedings of the high-level segment and a summary of the key messages from the round-table discussion will be covered in the meeting reports.

It is to be considered whether to include also other outcomes, such as a communiqué, or a ministerial statement or declaration.

A ministerial statement or declaration would require a Party/Parties take the lead in developing a proposal and consulting with Parties in advance of the meetings in order to reach agreement in preparation for the meetings of the conferences of the parties.

Main features of the high-level segment

The main features of the high-level segment would include the following: Opening, introduction to the theme, moderated ministerial roundtables operating concurrently and organized by language preference (no interpretation), synthesis of the key messages from the roundtables, high-level discussion, possible communiqué or ministerial statement or declaration and closure.

The secretariat will make logistical arrangements to facilitate bilateral discussions among ministers as well as organize a ministerial group photo.

To assist ministers and other high-level delegates in engaging in the high-level segment, a briefing note, comprising a programme, an explanation of the theme and information aimed at guiding ministers in the discussion, would be developed.

Scheduling

Two possible scenarios for holding the high-level segment either at the end or beginning of the meetings of the conferences of the parties are presented below. In both cases, the high-level segment could be held within one calendar day, or, if organized at the end of the meetings, in two half days spread over two calendar days. It is to be considered whether:

- the high-level segment should be held at the end of the meetings

or

- it should be held at the beginning of the meetings.

Scenario 1: Tentative schedule for the high-level segment taking place at the end of the meetings of the conferences of the parties

	Friday, 5 May	
Morning session 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Opening of the high-level segment and introduction to the theme	
	Ministerial round-table discussions	Adoption of BC budget decision
		Adoption of RC budget decision
		Adoption of SC budget decision
Afternoon session 3-6 p.m.	Synthesis of the key messages from the round tables High-level discussion Possible ministerial statement or declaration Closing of the high-level segment	
TBD	High-level dinner	

Note: Another option would be to organize the high-level segment on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

Scenario 2: Tentative schedule for the high-level segment taking place at the beginning of the meetings of the conferences of the parties

	Monday, 24 April	
Morning session 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	(Opening of the meetings of the conferences of the parties)	
	Opening of the high-level segment and introduction to the theme	
	Ministerial round-table discussions	Parallel joint sessions of the three COPs
Afternoon session 3-6 p.m.	Synthesis of the key messages from the round tables High-level discussion Possible ministerial statement or declaration Closing of the high-level segment	
TBD	High-level dinner	

Note: The high-level dinner could also be organized on Sunday evening, 23 April 2016.

Participation

The opening, introduction to the theme and the high-level discussion of the high-level segment would be open to all participants of the meetings of the conferences of the parties.

It is to be considered whether:

- the ministerial round-tables and participation in the high-level discussions would be limited to ministers and deputy ministers (or their equivalents)

or

- An opportunity should be provided for participation of delegations not represented by a minister or deputy minister (or their equivalents), such as ambassadors, secretaries of state or heads of delegations.

One or more representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations could be invited to contribute to the discussions of the high-level segment.

High-level dinner

A high-level dinner will be hosted by the Government of Switzerland.

Financial support for high-level participation

Fund-raising efforts will be undertaken to facilitate the participation of ministers and deputy ministers at the high-level segment, as well as any additional envisaged activities.