

# Small intersessional working group on e-approaches to the notification and movement documents of the Basel Convention



B A S E L  
C O N V E N T I O N

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Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, UNEP

16 October 2023

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# Suggested points for today's discussion

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1. Welcome to new colleagues (Parties and Observers)
2. Meetings and informal consultations under the Basel Convention (BC)
3. Recap of what has been done so far
4. Recall mandate from COP-16
5. Discuss next steps
6. Any other business

# SIWG – as of October 2023

- Parties:

- Argentina
- Belgium
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Canada
- China
- European Union
- France
- Germany
- Iran
- Japan
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Mali
- Portugal
- Saudi Arabia
- Sri Lanka
- Sweden
- UK
- Zimbabwe

- Observers:

- Japan – METI
- USA
- CITES Secretariat
- EuRIC
- FEAD
- Green Cognition
- Hazardous Waste Europe
- ILA
- Intensive Energy – software development (Malaysia)
- ITI
- SIMS
- TES AMM
- UNCTAD (Asycuda)
- WCO Secretariat (Data Model/Single Window)
- WV Metalle

# Meetings and informal consultations under BC



- Meetings of SIWGs:
  - formal events (online, hybrid or face-to-face)
  - one/two Party(ies) co-chair the event
  - decision making process, e.g., negotiation on text, products
  - Parties speak first, Parties make final decisions
  - Observers are welcome to share views, experience and provide inputs as well
  - Text proposals from Observers need to have the support of at least one Party
- Informal consultations (online): to agree on basic steps (e.g., workplan, need to hire consultants, to share views)

# Recap of what has been done so far

- Implementation and Compliance Committee prepared a report with related initiatives in 2016
- Survey on electronic approaches (2018) and different rounds of comments provided by Parties and Observers (2019, 2020, 2023)
- One consultative workshop (in 2021) where Parties and Observers shared experiences
- SIWG established by COP-15 in 2022
- Two reports were prepared in the recent years (2022 on experiences at all levels, recommendations on next steps – COP-16 INF document 17 - 2023)
- Another SIWG was established in 2023 on improving the PIC procedure

<https://www.basel.int/Implementation/Controllingtransboundarymovements/eapproachesfornotificationandmovement/Overview/tabid/7375/Default.aspx>

# Mandate from decision BC-16/10 on e-approaches

**(i) Reiterates** its invitation to **Parties and observers willing to do so to work on pilot projects** on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account the experiences of other Parties and of non-Parties, and the work carried out by other international organizations, and to submit their lessons learned to the Secretariat;

**Invites Parties to consider serving as lead countries** for the work referred to in paragraph 5 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat by 31 July 2023 of their willingness to do so;

**(ii) Requests** the lead country or countries or, if there is no lead country or countries, the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the **small intersessional working group**, to advance the work and **to prepare a report with further recommendations** on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, taking into account... (e.g., *work done before, experiences, pilot projects, etc*);

**(iii) Requests the Secretariat: (a)** to organize, subject to the availability of resources, and **in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, technical assistance activities and awareness-raising events** in order to help Parties advance the work on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents of the Basel Convention; **(c)** report back to the OEWG-14 (in 2024) and COP-17 (in 2025);

# Next steps

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## (i) Work on pilot projects

- Secretariat to fund raise and seed funds are available
- Minimum two countries to be involved
- Focus on the project: «proof of concept»
- Guidance from the SIWG (or sub-group)

## (ii) SIWG report to COP-17: work on «building blocks» to advance the theme

- System architecture, interoperability, harmonization of data model, security, adaptation required from paper to electronic format, considerations for a hybrid scenario (Parties with solutions in place, Parties without any solution, Parties with other systems in place, etc)
  - E.g., deeper analysis, with advantages and disadvantages of alternatives, costs, technical requirements, etc
- Possibility to organize a face-to-face of the SIWG in 2024

## (iii) Technical assistance and awareness-raising events

- Suggestions/ideas

# Any other business

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- Next informal consultation
- Hiring of consultant to assist the Secretariat / sub-group under the SIWG
  
- Milestones for submission of documents/reports:
  - OEWG-14 (June 2024)
    - pre-session docs early Feb 2024; INF docs early April 2024
  - COP-17 (April 2025)
    - pre-session docs Nov 2024; INF docs Jan 2025