

Small Intersessional Working Group (SIWG) on Waste Batteries Technical Guidelines

Informal Online Consultation

11 June 2025

Two co-chairs of the SIWG on Waste Batteries Technical Guidelines (SIWG on waste batteries), Judith Torres, from Uruguay and Chiel Berends, from the European Commission, welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda of the online consultation, which was agreed by the participants without changes.

1 Introduction

Judith Torres, in the introduction, shared the objectives of the consultation which were to discuss the tentative schedule of work of the SIWG on waste batteries, until the Basel Convention Conference of the Parties in 2027 (COP18), and to informally discuss the re-organization of the TGs on Other Waste Batteries (OWBs).

2 Decision BC-17/5

The Secretariat introduced the main action paragraphs of decision BC-17/5 on Technical Guidelines on Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead Acid Batteries and Other waste batteries and in particular the invitation by the Conference of the Parties to nominate experts in the SIWG, the deadline for receiving comments on the outcome documents of the COP17, by 31 August 2025, and the mandate to the SIWG on waste batteries to continue the preparation of the two TGs.

3 Tentative schedule of work and next steps

The Secretariat introduced the tentative schedule of work until BC COP18 and this was changed, after the discussion, to introduce some additional steps:

- To include an invitation to members to submit textual proposals for the two Technical Guidelines (TGs) to the Secretariat prior to the third meeting of the SIWG with the objective of preparing the work at the face-to-face meeting and
- to include the option of keeping the third meeting of the SIWG open after the face-to-face meeting to leave the possibility for online negotiations on outstanding text, with the objective of submitting, to the extent possible, a clean text of the two TGs to OEWG15.

These suggestions are reflected in the tentative schedule of work in annex to these notes.

The group considered three potential weeks for the organization of the third meeting of the SIWG, in Geneva:

- the last week of November,
- the first and,
- the third week of December.

Some members supported the idea of organizing the SIWG meeting back-to-back with other meetings under the Basel Convention, to save travel costs and time. The last week of November was not suitable for one of the consultants. It was agreed that the Secretariat would reach out to other officers in the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions Secretariat to seek opportunities for organizing the SIWG meeting before or after another technical meeting under the Basel Convention and would communicate the final dates to the SIWG group by email.

4 Informal exchange on the organization of the TGs on Other Waste Batteries

Chiel Berends, co-lead for the TGs on OWBs, introduced the re-organization of sections of PARTIII of these TGs, as presented at COP17, and asked if suggestions or other ideas could be shared on how to continue to re-organize these TGs, taking into consideration that the current proposal would entail the preparation of a long document.

Members mentioned that, to limit the length of the document, when the draft is more mature, it could be considered to merge information on the environmentally sound disposal of specific battery types in case there are strong similarities.

5 Any other business

Since no other business was proposed, Chiel Berends summarized the main action points agreed and the two co-chairs, Judith Torres and Chiel Berends, thanked the participants and closed the consultation.

Annex - Tentative Schedule

Tentative schedule for the work of the SIWG on the technical guidelines (TGs) on the ESM of waste batteries - between BC COP-17 and BC COP-18

(Revised on 11 June 2025)

Activity	Deadline	Responsible person/organization	Status/Note
Parties and others are invited to nominate additional experts to participate in the small Intersessional working group for the technical guidelines on ESM of WLAB and Other waste batteries (para 4, decision BC-17/5)	From 9 May to 31 August 2025	Parties and Others	
Invitation to send comments to the Secretariat on the outcome documents of COP17 (para 5 decision BC-17/5)	From 9 May to 31 August 2025	Parties and Others	
1st Online informal consultation, after COP17, on the tentative schedule of work and organization of the TGs on OWBs	11 June 2025	SIWG	
Secretariat to hire consultants to work on the TGs on the ESM of WLAB and ESM of OWBs	Tentatively by 30 June 2025 for the OWBs TGS and 31 August 2025 for the WLAB TGs	Secretariat	Ongoing
2nd Online informal consultation, after COP17, in preparation of the face-to-face meeting	September 2025	Secretariat	To be confirmed
Secretariat to circulate the revised version of the TGs on WLAB and OWBs, prepared, taking into consideration the comments received by 31 August	15 October or 31 October 2025 (tbc.)	Secretariat/co-chairs/consultants	
SIWG members and observers to send to the Secretariat text proposals on both TGs on WLAB and OWBs in preparation of the face-to-face meeting	Two weeks before the meeting	SIWG members and observers	
Third meeting of the SIWG on waste batteries	First or third week of December 2025	Secretariat	Geneva

Activity	Deadline	Responsible person/organization	Status/Note
Possible continuation of the third meeting of the SIWG with online negotiation sessions to resolve outstanding brackets and to prepare a version of the Two TGs for the OEWG15 with clean text, to the extent possible	February 2026	Secretariat/SIWG	Online
Secretariat to circulate among SIWG group a version of the TGs on ESM of WLAB and OWBs prepared after SIWG_WB_3, and eventual online negotiations, for consideration of the OEWG15, for SIWG comments/additional information	15 March 2026	Secretariat/consultants/SIWG	
Secretariat to submit the two TGs for consideration of OEWG15, including the comments/additional information received from SIWG by 15 March	30 March 2026	Secretariat, co-chairs/consultants	
OEWG-15 meeting	June 2026	Secretariat	Geneva
Public consultation (All Parties and observers) to send comments on the version of the TGs on WLAB and OWBs discussed at OEWG15	31 August 2026	Parties/others	
3rd Online informal consultation, after COP17, in preparation of the face-to-face meeting	September 2026	Secretariat	To be confirmed
Secretariat to prepare a new version of the TGs on WLAB and OWBs, including comments received by 31 August 2026	September 2026	Secretariat/co-chairs/consultants	
4th Face-to-face meeting of the SIWG on Waste Batteries	October 2026	Secretariat	Tentatively in Geneva
Secretariat to include additional information received by SIWG and prepare the TGs on WLAB and OWBs for submission to COP18 (deadline for translation of COP documents)	November 2026	Secretariat	

Activity	Deadline	Responsible person/organization	Status/Note
Public consultation to receive comments on the WLAB and OWBs TGs prepared for adoption at COP18, comments to be made available on the web pages of the SIWG	February 2027	Secretariat	
BC COP-18	19 to 30 April 2027	Secretariat	Panama (tbc.)