
Geneva, 23 May 2014

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee,

Re: Submission by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting the Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention regarding Afghanistan (CHW/CC/9c/2014/3)

I am writing with reference to paragraph 9 (c) of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention whereby the Secretariat may make a submission to the Committee administering the Mechanism “if, while acting pursuant to its functions under Articles 13 and 16, it becomes aware of possible difficulties of any Party in complying with its reporting obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 3, paragraph 1 of Article 4, Article 5 and paragraphs 2 and 3 Article 13 of the Convention, provided that the matter has not been resolved within three months by consultation with the Party concerned”.

With this letter, the Secretariat respectfully makes a submission to the Committee, on the basis of the aforementioned paragraph 9 (c), with respect to Afghanistan. As a Party to the Basel Convention since 2013, Afghanistan is among the Parties to the Convention that have not designated a focal point and one or more competent authorities as required under Article 5 of the Basel Convention.

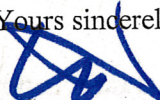
On 15 January 2014, the Secretariat initiated consultations with Afghanistan, through the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva in an effort to identify whether this Party was facing difficulties in complying with its obligation to designate a focal point and one or more competent authorities as required under the Convention and to possibly resolve the matter by 15 April 2014. This letter is attached for your convenience. Reminders were sent by email on 20 March, 7 April and 2 May 2014.

Members of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting the Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention

On 16 May, a further email was sent to Afghanistan through its National Environmental Protection Agency with whom the Secretariat had exchanged communications in the context of the steps taken by Afghanistan to ratify the Convention. However the Secretariat has not received further information from Afghanistan with respect to this matter that, as a consequence, remains unresolved. The Secretariat trusts that Afghanistan may be facing possible difficulties in complying with its obligation under Article 5 of the Convention to designate a focal point and one or more competent authorities.

The Secretariat thanks the Committee for its consideration of this submission and remains at the disposal of the Committee for further information.

Yours sincerely,



Kerstin Stendahl
Executive Secretary *ad interim*

Cc: Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva; Email: mission.afghanistan@bluewin.ch
Mr. Gholam Ali Yaqubi, Research & Policy Deputy Director, National Environmental Protection Agency Kabul – Afghanistan; Email: a.yaqubi@nepa.gov.af; Yaqubi57@Yahoo.com