

Agreement by the Bureau of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-12) for organizing OEWG-12

Thursday, 9 July 2020

Note by the Secretariat

At the OEWG-12 Bureau meeting on 2 July 2020, the four members of the Bureau attending that meeting agreed to the approach for organizing OEWG-12 as set out in the annex to the report of that meeting, pending confirmation that the approach was also acceptable to the African region.

Subsequent to the 2 July Bureau meeting, the fifth Bureau member confirmed by email that the approach was acceptable to the African region, with a number of modifications.

The approach for organizing OEWG-12, as modified based on the suggestions from the African region and agreed by all five Bureau members through subsequent email procedure, is set out in the annex to the present note.

Annex

Approach for organizing OEWG-12

The twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-12) will be composed of 2 components: an online segment and a face to face segment.

Online segment:

2 online sessions will be held in the first week of September (31 August – 4 September 2020) with a duration of three hours each. The sessions will consist of technical briefings and run through the entire OEWG-12 agenda in a consecutive manner. The online segment will benefit from interpretation into all six official languages of the United Nations.

During these technical briefing sessions, the Secretariat, as well as the chairs of intersessional working groups and subsidiary bodies, will provide oral reports on the progress of their work. Parties and observers will be able to provide oral or written statements and/or comments on topics and products of the intersessional processes (e.g., draft reports, manuals, technical guidelines, guidance, recommendations, etc.) in front of OEWG-12 during the online segment in any of the six official languages of the United Nations. Also, Parties and observers will be able to provide written comments on the products, in any of the six official languages of the United Nations, preferably in English, after the meeting as follows:

- by 15 September 2020 at the latest on documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/4, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/7-9, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/10, annex III, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/11-17, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/23-26, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/28 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/14;
- by 30 September 2020 at the latest on documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/20, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/29 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/32, annexes I and II.;
- by 30 October 2020 at the latest on document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/5 and on the use and testing of the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, as well as the results of such use and testing,
- by 30 November 2020 at the latest on documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/18, UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/11 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/19, as well as on whether the technical guidelines on hazardous waste physico-chemical treatment (D9) and biological treatment (D8) and the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries should be updated; as well as on further information concerning activities aimed at addressing issues related to waste containing nanomaterials, including case studies about and best practices pertaining to the management of waste containing nanomaterials.

The Secretariat will compile those comments and submit them for consideration by the various intersessional working groups, subsidiary bodies, or the Secretariat, as applicable. No substantive decisions will be adopted during the online sessions and no negotiations on products of the intersessional processes will take place.

OEWG-12 will be suspended at the end of the three-hour session on 4 September 2020 and reconvene during face to face sessions in 2021, subject to the availability of resources, a positive development of the COVID-19 situation, as well as the availability of a suitable meeting venue.

Face to face segment:

An up to 4-day face to face meeting of the OEWG-12 will be held in March 2021, in Nairobi, Kenya, back to back with UNEA-5, subject to the availability of resources, a positive development of the COVID-19 situation, as well as the availability of the meeting venue. Support for the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition will be provided for one participant per eligible Party, as per usual practice for OEWG meetings and subject to the availability of resources.

The meeting will have in front of it the same products prepared by the various intersessional working groups, subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat, as finalized and submitted to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) as advance English versions¹. During the face to face segment, the OEWG will consider the various products, and, on this occasion, work on negotiating and revising them (including in contact groups).

The outcomes of the deliberations of the OEWG, including possible revised versions of products, will be transmitted by OEWG to COP-15 for its possible consideration. The Secretariat is invited to raise funds in order to allow for those revised products to be made available to COP-15 in the six languages of the United

¹ This is the usual arrangements for products being considered by OEWG, as they are not considered for adoption by the OEWG but by the COP.

Nations, as applicable. It has to be understood that these documents will unlikely be available 2 months ahead of COP-15, but they will be made available as soon as possible as translated information documents.

COP-15 will thus have in front of it one set of working documents in all six official languages of the United Nations for its consideration, as well as additional versions of products, reflecting the suggested changes coming out of the OEWG-12, which will be set out in information documents.

At its face to face segment, the OEWG-12 could furthermore adopt decisions within its remit, for example decisions forwarding the revised products to the COP-15 for information and, if so decided by the COP, consideration; and a decision adopting the terms of reference and work programme of the follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment.

Funding:

As per decision BC-13/17, two days of plenary sessions are to be provided for the OEWG-12 meeting with simultaneous interpretation, plus one additional day of plenary sessions with interpretation provided subject to the availability of resources, to be applied flexibly by the Executive Secretary. The funding approved by COP-15 for the OEWG-12 meeting applies to the entire meeting, namely both its online and face to face segments, and in relation to a meeting convened in Geneva.

Financial resources as approved by COP-15 for OEWG-12, including core funding, are sufficient to cover the online segment of OEWG-12. Additional funds needed are roughly estimated around USD 190,000 and will need to be raised to cover Conference Service costs of the face to face segment (interpretation, translation, report writing, meeting venue, etc.). The Secretariat will be contacting potential donors to seek their interest in providing financial support.

It could also be expected that additional fund raising efforts may be needed to fully secure participants' travel costs for the face to face segment which are estimated at USD 475,728 for Nairobi, Kenya.

The additional financial implications to cover the travelling costs of Secretariat's staff are estimated roughly at USD 80,000.
