

Online meeting of the Bureau of the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-13)

Tuesday, 31 January 2023 (1 p.m. – 3 p.m.) (CET)

Participants:

Mr. Karim Ouamane (Algeria) (Technical co-chair); Mr. Nawaf Essam Bilasi (Saudi Arabia) (Legal co-chair); Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay) (Technical vice co-chair); Mr. Patrick McKell (United Kingdom) (Legal vice co-chair); Ms. Katrin Kaare (Estonia) (Rapporteur)

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The co-chair opened the meeting, welcoming all Bureau members. He noted that the format for the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-13) would be similar to that of the twelfth meeting, whereby it would take place over three days, would consider a set of prioritised agenda items from its work programme, would feature discussions predominantly in a contact group setting and would transmit its outcomes directly to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
2. The Bureau agreed to the proposed agenda for its meeting as follows: update on the meeting organization, consideration of the prioritized agenda items, in-session arrangements, any other matters.

II. Update on the meeting organisation

3. The co-chair requested the Secretariat to provide an update on the meeting organisation. The Secretariat advised that registrations for the meeting were officially closed, although registrations from non-funded and observer participants were still being processed. As at 31 January 2023, the Secretariat had registered a total of 265 representatives from 99 Parties and 39 observers. She noted that preparations for the meeting were in their final stages, with most meeting documents available on the Convention website (www.basel.int/oewg13). There were a number of information documents still outstanding, but these would be posted as the intersessional processes wrapped up their work.
4. Turning to the scheduling of the meeting, the Secretariat noted that on 12 November 2022, the Bureau had agreed by electronic means to the tentative schedule (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/2) which outlines the scheduling of the consideration of the proposed prioritized agenda items. Each of the prioritized agenda items would be introduced in plenary on Tuesday, 21 February, with contact groups to continue discussions on certain items expected to commence in the evening. Contact group work would continue until Thursday lunchtime, after which plenary would resume to hear oral reports of the remaining agenda items and to consider reports back from contact groups and agree on conclusions for the meeting.

III. Consideration of the prioritized agenda items

5. The co-chair introduced the agenda item, noting that regional statements of no longer than 3 minutes would be welcomed during the opening of the meeting. Any additional statements by Parties or observers would be placed on the password protected intranet site if so requested. Following the opening, the meeting would be asked to adopt its agenda (item 2(a)) and agree on its organisation of work (item 2(b)).
6. Turning to the prioritized agenda items for the meeting, the co-chair advised that there were two main channels for prioritized items to be discussed at the meeting. First, there were those items that would be discussed in plenary and a note of the discussions recorded in the report of the meeting for transmission to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. Such items could include the technical guidelines on transboundary movements of e-waste, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention; consideration of whether to develop technical guidelines on the environmentally

sound management of rubber wastes (entry B3040) and waste parings and scrap of rubber (entry B3080); electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents; waste containing nanomaterials; the Basel Convention Partnership Programme; cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System; and the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2024–2025.

7. Second, there were those items that would benefit from further discussion in a contact group, which could include: for strategic matters, the strategic framework and work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure; for technical matters, the technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), plastic waste, waste lead-acid batteries, used and waste pneumatic tyres, further consideration of plastic waste and the amendments to annexes II, VIII and IX on e-waste; and for legal matters, the agenda item on providing further legal clarity. These agenda items could be assigned to one of three contact groups anticipated (on strategic matters, technical matters and legal matters). For such items, it was suggested in the scenario note for the meeting (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/1) that COP-16 consider using OEWG-13 outcomes as a basis for its discussion. For some items, OEWG-13 might wish to invite comments from Parties and observers in advance of COP-16. The co-chair advised that on the last day of the meeting (Thursday afternoon), contact groups would report back their outcomes and conclusions and the Secretariat would advise how these would be reported on to COP-16.

8. Following conclusion of consideration of all substantive items, the meeting report from the first day would be considered, as introduced by the rapporteur. Due to the length of the meeting, the in-session report would only be available in English only, although once the report was finalized post-session, it would be made available in all UN languages. The co-chair advised that it is expected that the meeting would close by 6 p.m. on Thursday 23 February.

IV. In-session arrangements

9. Under in-session arrangements, the Secretariat advised of the expected timing of Bureau and regional meetings to take place from Monday, 20 February to Thursday, 23 February. A Bureau meeting had been scheduled for 12 p.m. on Monday, 20 February, thereafter regional meetings were expected to convene from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. For each day of the meeting (21 to 23 February), provision was made for the Bureau to meet, as needed, each morning at 8 a.m. Regional meetings would be scheduled each morning, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The Secretariat advised that no requests for side events had been received for the meeting.

V. Any other matters

10. No other matters were raised under this last agenda item. The co-chair drew the online meeting to a close, requesting the Secretariat to circulate a note of the proceedings.
