

# **Online meeting of the Bureau of the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-14)**

**Thursday, 11 January 2024 (12.30 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.) (CET)**

**Participants:** Ms. Judith Torres (Uruguay) (Co-chair, Technical); Ms. Lendita Dika (North Macedonia) (Co-chair, Legal); Ms. Nancy Allimadi (Uganda) (Vice-chair, Technical); Mr. Stéphane Bernaudon (France) (Vice-chair, Legal); Mr. Mohamed Aman (Bahrain) (Rapporteur)

## **I. Welcome and introductions**

1. The co-chair opened the meeting, welcomed all Bureau members and asked them to introduce themselves. This constituted the first meeting of the Bureau for the fourteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-14). An additional meeting of the Bureau would be scheduled prior to OEWG-14 and the Bureau would also have the opportunity to meet throughout the OEWG-14 meeting.

2. The Bureau agreed to the proposed agenda for its meeting as follows: information on meeting organisation, walk through of the provisional agenda and tentative schedule, discussion on in-session arrangements and any other matters.

## **II. Information on meeting organisation**

3. Introducing the agenda item, the co-chair advised that the OEWG-14 meeting would be held from Tuesday, 25 to Friday, 28 June 2024, at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), 17 rue de Varembe, Geneva, Switzerland. Pre-meetings (Bureau and regional meetings) would be held on Monday, 24 June, also at CICG. OEWG-14 would be held back to back with the following Basel Convention meetings:

- a. Regional Centres Directors' meeting (21 and 22 June);
- b. Sixteenth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee (23 and 24 June, and 29 June to 2 July);
- c. Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (29 June).

4. OEWG-14 would also be back to back with the third meeting of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention (17 to 21 June). The Secretariat advised it was liaising with the SPP Secretariat to facilitate arrangements for participants of the meetings.

5. OEWG-14 would be held over four days: two days of plenary sessions with simultaneous interpretation provided in the six UN languages, plus one additional day of plenary sessions with interpretation provided, subject to the availability of resources. The Secretariat advised that it had embarked on fundraising efforts to support both the travel of eligible participants to the meeting and the additional day of interpretation. The Secretariat also provided information on key dates in relation to the meeting. Meeting invitations would be dispatched to Parties and a notification to observers during the week commencing 29 January. Registration for the meeting, in particular for those seeking travel support, would be in early March. Meeting documents would be made available on the website for the meeting ([www.basel.int/oewg14](http://www.basel.int/oewg14)) from 25 April, 8 weeks prior to the meeting.

### **III. Walk through of provisional agenda and in-session arrangements**

6. The co-chair made reference to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.14/1, the provisional agenda, and forthcoming document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.14/INF/2, the draft tentative schedule, and requested the Secretariat to introduce both. The Secretariat advised that the provisional agenda had been developed on the basis of the work programme for the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2024/2025 and would be made to available to all Parties and observers at the time of invitation dispatch. The tentative schedule, she advised, was still in its draft form: the Bureau members may wish for additional time to consider the draft and to consult with their regions. Ultimately, agreement on the tentative schedule would be sought from the Bureau prior to issuing document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.14/INF/2.

7. The draft tentative schedule had been developed taking into account both the provisional agenda and the progress expected on each agenda item during the meeting. It was recommended that agenda items for which more in-depth discussions would be required, including in a contact group setting, be introduced in plenary in the first 1.5 days of the meeting. Time could then possibly be allocated to contact group discussions starting as early as the evening of the first day of the meeting and extending over the next days. On the Friday, 25 June, the final day of the meeting, it was suggested that plenary resume with consideration of the remaining agenda items as indicated on the draft tentative schedule. Following this, the Working Group would hear reports back from contact group discussions, adopt any decisions and the report of the meeting.

8. A Bureau member enquired as to which contact groups would be expected to be established. In response, the Secretariat explained that three potential contact groups could be expected, on technical, strategic and legal and compliance matters. Two co-chairs would be selected for each contact group, ensuring both geographical and gender balance, and would be consulted on with the Bureau. Care would be taken to ensure that no more than two groups would meet in parallel at any time.

9. The Bureau took note of the information, requesting additional time to consider the draft tentative schedule. Comments on the draft tentative schedule would be welcomed by close of business on Wednesday, 31 January, after which, the Bureau would be asked to signal its approval.

### **IV. 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.

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