

Online meeting of the Bureau of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (OEWG-12)

Monday, 21 March 2022 (2 p.m. – 3 p.m.) (CET)

Participants:

Ms. Stina Andersson (Sweden) (Technical), Ms. Kristine Vardanashvili (Georgia) (Legal)

Apologies:

Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) (Legal), Mr. Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan) (Technical), Ms. Hlobisile Sikhosana (Eswatini)

I. Update on the meeting organisation

1. The co-chair opened the meeting, noting that whilst many of the Bureau members were unable to attend, a note of the discussions would be prepared for circulation thereafter.
2. 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, participating online or in-person, were still being processed. As at 21 March 2022, the Secretariat had registered a total of 301 participants for the meeting. Of which there were 232 representatives from 91 Parties; and 69 representatives from 41 observer entities. In total, 149 participants had registered to attend the meeting in person, whilst the remaining 152 participants would attend online. The Secretariat brought to the attention of the Bureau that one of the co-chairs would be participating online and therefore co-chairing the meeting remotely.
3. The Secretariat further noted that the Government of Kenya had issued new guidance on 11 March 2022 for international travellers. A PCR test would no longer be required prior to entry into Kenya. She explained that the updated measures, together with additional information, had been transmitted to all participants on 21 March 2022 via email. Lastly, the Secretariat noted that a PCR-testing service would be provided at the Gigiri compound for all delegates on Tuesday 5 April. This would enable those participants requiring a PCR test for their return journey to be tested, at their own expenses, without the need for leaving the Gigiri compound.
4. Turning to the scheduling of the meeting, the Secretariat noted that on 23 February 2022 the Bureau had agreed by electronic means to the tentative schedule which outlines the scheduling of the consideration of the proposed prioritized agenda items. Each of the prioritized agenda items would be re-introduced in plenary on Monday 4 April, with contact groups to continue discussions on certain items expected to commence in the afternoon or evening. Contact group work would continue until Wednesday lunchtime, after which plenary would resume to hear reports back from contact groups, agree on conclusions for the meeting and possibly adopt one decision. The co-chair noted that the schedule for the Monday plenary session would be very tight, suggesting that for items expected to be referred to contact groups for further discussion, plenary time would need to be limited.

II. 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 at the time of resumption of the meeting. Any additional statements by Parties or observers would be placed on the password protected intranet site if so requested and unless otherwise warranted.
6. Turning to the prioritized agenda items for the meeting, the co-chair requested the Secretariat provide an overview of the items that would be before the meeting for discussion and how they were expected to be managed. The Secretariat advised that there were two main channels for prioritized items to be discussed at the meeting. Firstly, 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 the face-to-face

segment of its fifteenth meeting. Such items could include the strategic framework and consideration of whether to update the technical guidelines on waste lead acid batteries. Secondly, those items that would benefit from further discussion in a contact group, such as technical guidelines and other guidance documents, would be assigned to one of the three contact groups anticipated (on strategic matters, technical matters and legal and compliance matters). For such items, it was suggested in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/17 that the Open-ended Working Group could recommend to the Conference of the Parties at the face-to-face segment of its fifteenth meeting that it consider using as the basis for its work the versions of the various documents coming out of the meeting.

III. Insession arrangements

7. Under insession arrangements, the Secretariat advised of the expected timing of Bureau and regional meetings to take place from Sunday, 3 April to Wednesday, 6 April. Bureau meetings had been scheduled for 12 p.m. on Sunday, 3 April, thereafter regional meetings were expected to convene from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. For each day of the meeting, provision was made for the Bureau to meet, as needed, each morning at 8 a.m. Regional meetings would also be scheduled each morning, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

IV. Any other matters

8. 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.
