

BASEL CONVENTION

Secretariat of the Basel Convention

United Nations Environment Programme

Office Address : International Environment House 1, 11-13, chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

Postal Address: c/o Palais des Nations, 8-14, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 917 8271 | Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 8098 | E-mail: brs@brsmeas.org

Date: 25 September 2018

Subject: Follow-up to the decisions taken at the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that at its eleventh meeting held in Geneva from 3 to 6 September 2018, the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention adopted 15 decisions contained in annex I to the report of the meeting set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/15. The report will be made available on the Convention's website in due course at www.basel.int/oewg11.

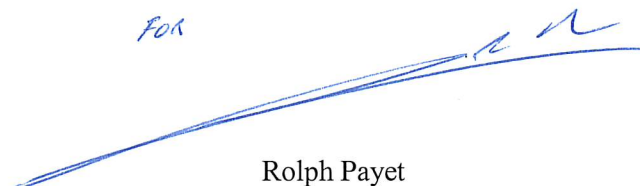
This letter is to solicit information and comments from Parties and others invited to do so in the decisions adopted by the Open-ended Working Group. The invitations are organized according to the adopted decisions and are attached to this letter.

If you have any questions, kindly contact the Secretariat (Ms. Susan Wingfield; e-mail: susan.wingfield@brsmeas.org; tel. +41 22 917 8406).

We look forward to receiving your submissions.

Yours sincerely,

for



Rolph Payet
Executive Secretary

Enc.: Follow-up to the decisions taken at the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
Draft elements as a basis for a decision on marine plastic litter, to be considered at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on which Parties and others are invited to comment
Revised list of types of wastes submitted by Parties in response to decision BC-10/10

To: Basel Convention focal points
Basel Convention competent authorities
Observers admitted to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

Cc: Representatives of permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Follow-up to the decisions taken at the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention

Invitations	Page
1. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/2 on developing guidelines for environmentally sound management	3
2. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/3 on the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants	4
3. Invitations related to decision OEWG-11/5 on the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5)	5
4. Invitations related to decision OEWG-11/8 on marine plastic litter and microplastics	6
5. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/10 on waste containing nanomaterials	7
6. Invitations related to decision OEWG-11/12 on providing further legal clarity	8
7. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/13 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part I - Follow-up to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment	9
8. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/13 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part II - Household waste partnership	10
9. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/13 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part III - Further developing partnerships	11
10. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/14 on cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System	12

1. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/2 on developing guidelines for environmentally sound management

Decision: OEWG-11/2: Developing guidelines for environmentally sound management

Background:

By decision BC-13/2, on the follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, the Conference of the Parties extended the mandate of the expert working group on environmentally sound management, adopted the work programme of the group set out in annex I to that decision and requested it to develop activities, subject to the availability of resources, to implement its work programme. By the same decision, the Conference of the Parties set out a process through which draft documents developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management would be submitted for comment to Parties and other stakeholders and for consultation, where appropriate, with the Open-ended Working Group and the Implementation and Compliance Committee before being submitted to the Conference of the Parties for possible adoption.

Accordingly, the expert working group developed a number of guidance documents and manuals during the intersessional period, drafts of which were submitted to the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group for consultation. The Open-ended Working Group welcomed a draft practical manual for stakeholders to ensure that notifications of transboundary movements meet environmentally sound management requirements; draft guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for the recycling and recovery of hazardous and other wastes; and draft guidance on how to address environmentally sound management in the informal sector and invited Parties and others to submit comments on the revised versions of the draft practical manual and the draft guidance to the Secretariat by 31 October 2018.

Invitation:

	Invitation	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and others are invited to submit comments on the revised versions of the draft practical manual and the draft guidance referred to in paragraph 2 of decision OEWG-11/2 to the Secretariat	Parties and others	Please submit comments on (i) the draft practical manual for stakeholders to ensure that notifications of transboundary movements meet environmentally sound management requirements, ¹ (ii) the draft guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for the recycling and recovery of hazardous and other wastes, ² and (iii) the draft guidance on how to address environmentally sound management in the informal sector ³ to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	31 October 2018

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Susan Wingfield (Email: susan.wingfield@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8406)

¹ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/4/Rev.1 available at

[http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/OpenendedWorkingGroup\(OEWG\)/Meetings/OEWG11/Overview/tabid/6258/Default.aspx](http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/OpenendedWorkingGroup(OEWG)/Meetings/OEWG11/Overview/tabid/6258/Default.aspx).

² UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/5/Rev.1, Ibid.

³ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/6/Rev.1, Ibid.

2. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/3 on the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants

Decision: OEWG-11/3: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants

Background:

In its decision BC-13/4, on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs), the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP) adopted six technical guidelines.

In the same decision, the COP also decided on further work on the POP wastes technical guidelines, including to:

- (a) Consider comments and information relating to a review of provisional low persistent organic pollutant content values in the general technical guidelines referred to in decision BC-13/4, and other technical guidelines, as appropriate;
- (b) Update the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and prepare or update specific technical guidelines with regard to the chemicals listed in Annexes A and C to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by decisions SC-8/10, SC-8/11 and SC-8/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

Following COP-13, the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group on POP wastes, engaged consultants to work on the development of new technical guidelines on short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCP) and on the updates of the technical guidelines on hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD), unintentionally produced POPs (UPOPs) and of the general technical guidelines. Norway led the update of the polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) technical guidelines, also in consultation with the small intersessional working group.

These draft technical guidelines were presented at the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, as documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/9, INF/10, INF/11, INF/12 and INF/13.

By decision OEWG-11/3, the Open-ended Working Group invites Parties and others to provide comments and information on the different POP wastes technical guidelines, which were presented at OEWG-11, and which will be revised by the Secretariat and Norway, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, as per the table below.

Invitation:

	Invitation	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and observers are invited to submit comments on the draft technical guidelines prepared in accordance with paragraph 4 of decision OEWG-11/3 to the Secretariat	Parties and observers	The revised technical guidelines will be prepared by 31 October 2018 in English, and made available as COP-14 documents as soon as possible. Please submit comments on these documents to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	15 February 2019

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Carla Valle-Klann (Email: carla.valle@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8686)

3. Invitations related to decision OEWG-11/5 on the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5)

Decision: OEWG-11/5: Technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5)

Background:

By decision BC-13/6, the Conference of the Parties decided that the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and on specially engineered landfill (D5) should be updated. The Governments of Argentina and Canada offered to co-lead the updating of the two sets of technical guidelines. The Secretariat engaged a consultant to assist, together with the co-lead countries, the small intersessional working group with the updating of the technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10), while the Government of Canada, in collaboration with co-lead Argentina, updated the technical guidelines on specially engineered landfill (D5). The draft updated technical guidelines on incineration on land (D10) and the draft updated technical guidelines on specially engineered landfill (D5) were presented to the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-11) respectively as documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/18 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/19.

OEWG-11 invited Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, by 13 November 2018, comments on the draft updated technical guidelines on specially engineered landfill referred to in paragraph 3 of decision OEWG-11/5. It also invited Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, by 27 November 2018, comments on the draft updated technical guidelines on incineration on land referred to in paragraph 3 of the same decision. Following receipt of the comments, the co-leads were invited to prepare, by 15 February 2019, the draft updated technical guidelines, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting. Parties and others were also invited to nominate further experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 31 December 2018.

Invitations:

	Invitations	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and others invited to submit to the Secretariat comments on the draft updated technical guidelines on specially engineered landfill referred to in paragraph 3 of decision OEWG-11/5	Parties and others	Please submit comments on the draft updated technical guidelines on specially engineered landfill ⁴ to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	13 November 2018
(b)	Parties and others are invited to submit to the Secretariat comments on the draft updated technical guidelines on incineration on land referred to in paragraph 3 of decision OEWG-11/5	Parties and others	Please submit comments on the draft updated technical guidelines on incineration on land ⁵ to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	27 November 2018
(c)	Parties and others invited to nominate further experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations	Parties and others	Please submit nominations to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	31 December 2018

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Carla Valle-Klann (Email: carla.valle@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8686)

⁴ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/19, Ibid.

⁵ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/18, Ibid.

4. Invitations related to decision OEWG-11/8 on marine plastic litter and microplastics

Decision: OEWG-11/8: Marine plastic litter and microplastics

Background:

In accordance with the activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics included in its work programme set out in the annex to decision BC-13/17, the Open-ended Working Group, at its eleventh meeting, considered relevant options available under the Convention to further address marine plastic litter and microplastics and welcomed the report set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/22 and took note of the information on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics undertaken by Basel Convention regional centres contained in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/22/Add.1.

Draft elements as a basis for a decision by the Conference of the Parties on marine plastic litter

In paragraphs 2–5 of decision OEWG-11/8, the Open-ended Working Group agreed that the draft elements set out in the annex to that decision should be a basis for a decision by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on further actions on marine plastic litter and microplastics and invited Parties and others to submit comments on those draft elements to the Secretariat by 31 October 2018.

The Secretariat was requested to prepare a draft decision based on those draft elements, taking into account the comments received from Parties and others for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, and to reflect the elements set out in sections 7, 8 and 9 of the annex to decision OEWG-11/8 in the draft decisions on relevant agenda items to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

Draft terms of reference of the partnership on plastic wastes and its work programme

In paragraphs 6–9 of decision OEWG-11/8, the Open-ended Working Group welcomed with appreciation the proposal submitted by the Government of Norway on the establishment of a partnership on plastic wastes, recommended to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting the establishment of a partnership on plastic wastes that also addresses marine plastic litter and microplastics and invited Parties and others to provide comments on the draft terms of reference of the partnership set out in the annex to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/39 as well as suggestions on elements of the work programme of the partnership for the biennium 2020–2021 by 17 December 2018.

The Secretariat was requested to revise the draft terms of reference of the partnership and prepare a draft work programme of the partnership for the biennium 2020–2021, taking into account the discussions at the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and comments and suggestions received from Parties and others, and to submit the revised draft terms of reference and the draft work programme to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting for its consideration and possible adoption.

Invitations:

	Invitations	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and observers invited to submit comments on the draft elements set out in the annex to decision OEWG-11/8 to the Secretariat	Parties and observers	Please submit comments on the draft elements set out in the annex to decision OEWG-11/8 to the Secretariat contact point provided below. The draft elements are annexed to the present communication.	31 October 2018
(b)	Parties and others invited to provide comments on the draft terms of reference of the partnership and suggestions on elements of the work programme of the partnership for the biennium 2020–2021	Parties and others	Please submit comments on the draft terms of reference of the partnership ⁶ and suggestions on elements of the work programme of the partnership for the biennium 2020–2021 to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	17 December 2018

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Kei Ohno Woodall (Email: kei.ohno-woodall@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8201)

⁶ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/39, Ibid.

5. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/10 on waste containing nanomaterials

Decision: OEWG-11/10: Waste containing nanomaterials

Background:

By decision BC-13/17, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and subject to the availability of resources, a document compiling information on existing activities that address waste containing nanomaterials and identifying issues related to waste containing nanomaterials that may be relevant to work under the Convention and on options for further work that may be carried out under the Basel Convention related to waste containing nanomaterials within the scope of the Convention, avoiding duplication with activities relating to the matter in other forums. The Secretariat, with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland, engaged consultants to assist in collecting information on existing activities that address waste containing nanomaterials, in identifying issues related to such waste and in preparing recommendations on options for further work that may be carried out under the Basel Convention related to such waste. A report identifying issues related to waste containing nanomaterials that may be relevant to work under the Basel Convention and setting out options for further work that may be carried out under the Convention related to such waste was presented to OEWG-11 as document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/24.

OEWG-11 welcomed the report on issues related to waste containing nanomaterials and options for further work under the Basel Convention and invited Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat comments on the report, in particular on the options for further work under the Basel Convention, by 31 January 2019.

Invitation:

	Invitation	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and others invited to submit to the Secretariat comments on the report referred to in paragraph 1 of decision OEWG-11/10 in particular on the options for further work under the Basel Convention	Parties and others	Please submit comments on the report referred to in paragraph 1 of decision OEWG-11/10, ⁷ in particular on the options for further work under the Basel Convention to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	31 January 2019

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Carla Valle-Klann (Email: carla.valle@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8686)

⁷ Section VIII of document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/24, Ibid.

6. Invitations related to decision OEWG-11/12 on providing further legal clarity

Decision: OEWG-11/12: Providing further legal clarity

Background:

By Decision BC-13/17, the Conference of the Parties adopted the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2018-2019 whereby it, among other things, mandated the Working Group to: provide guidance to the expert working group on the review of Annexes I, III and IV and related aspects of Annex IX to the Basel Convention; and to consider whether to review Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Convention.

Following its consideration of the matter, the Working Group adopted decision OEWG-11/12 whereby it, among other things, invited Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 October 2018, comments on the possible way forward leading up to the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, as presented in appendix II to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/30. In its decision, the Working Group also requested the expert working group to continue its work on the review of annexes, in accordance with appendix I to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/30, working by electronic means and, subject to the availability of funding, through a face-to-face meeting, and to prepare recommendations for revisions to Annex IV and Annex IX (B1110) for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting; requested the Secretariat to make available to Parties and observers, by 8 January 2019, the recommendations for revisions to Annex IV and Annex IX (B1110) referred to in paragraph 4 of the decision; and invited Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, by 15 March 2019, comments on the recommendations for revisions to Annex IV and Annex IX (B1110).

In its decision, the Working Group further took note of the comments submitted by Parties on whether to consider the review of Annexes II, VIII and IX to the Basel Convention⁸ and suggested that the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting consider extending the mandate of the expert working group in order for it to assess the implications of the review of Annexes I, III and IV for other annexes of the Convention and for relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, inter alia, for the notification and movement documents and the reporting format, and to report on its findings to the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting.

Invitations:

	Invitations	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and others invited to submit to the Secretariat comments on the possible way forward leading up to the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties	Parties and others	Please submit comments on the possible way forward leading up to the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties ⁹ to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	31 October 2018
(b)	Parties and others invited to submit to the Secretariat comments on the recommendations for revisions to Annex IV and Annex IX (B1110)	Parties and others	Please submit comments on the recommendations for revisions to Annex IV and Annex IX (B1110) to the Secretariat contact point provided below. Secretariat to make recommendations available by 8 January 2019.	15 March 2019

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Juliette Kohler (Email: juliette.kohler@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8219)

⁸ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/31, Ibid.

⁹ As presented in appendix II to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/30, Ibid.

7. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/13 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part I - Follow-up to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

Decision: OEWG-11/13: Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part I - Follow-up to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment

Background:

In paragraph 6 of its decision BC-13/12, on the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal disbanded the Working Group of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment. By its decision OEWG-11/13, the Open-ended Working Group welcomed the proposal by regional and coordinating centres to establish a follow-up partnership to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment at the international level. Also, the OEWG welcomed the establishment of an interim group for the development of a concept note, terms of reference and a draft work plan for the biennium 2020–2021, for such a partnership to be submitted to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Invitation:

	Invitation	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties, signatories and all stakeholders, manufacturers, recyclers, refurbishers, academia, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, including the former members of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, are invited to engage in the work of the interim group	Parties, signatories and all stakeholders, manufacturers, recyclers, refurbishers, academia, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, including the former members of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment	Please advise the Secretariat contact point provided below should you wish to engage in the work of the interim group.	31 October 2018 By COP-14 at the latest

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Francesca Cenni (Email: francesca.cenni@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8364)

8. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/13 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part II - Household waste partnership

Decision: OEWG-11/13: Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part II - Household waste partnership

Background:

By decision BC-13/14, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish a working group of the Household Waste Partnership to oversee organizational matters related to the implementation of the activities of the Partnership and adopted terms of reference for the Partnership. As of 31 March 2018, membership of the working group comprised of representatives of 52 Parties, one signatory, four intergovernmental organizations, 13 regional centers of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, two industry associations, one municipality, 12 non-governmental organizations and two private-sector organizations. A consultancy company was contracted to develop the outline of an overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste, and the working group at its first meeting in Mauritius in May 2018, worked on that draft outline. The draft modules of the guidance on the environmentally sound management of household waste, as developed thus far, are set out in the annexes to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/33.

Invitation:

	Invitation	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and observers are invited to provide comments on the draft guidance on the environmentally sound management of household waste	Parties and observers	Please submit comments on the draft guidance on the environmentally sound management of household waste ¹⁰ to the Secretariat contact point provided below.	30 November 2018

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Alexander Mangwiro (Email: alexander.mangwiro@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8458)

¹⁰ Document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/33, Ibid.

9. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/13 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part III - Further developing partnerships

Decision: OEWG-11/13: Basel Convention Partnership Programme: Part III - Further developing partnerships

Background:

In its decision, the Working Group requested the Secretariat to develop by 15 November 2018, subject to the availability of resources and taking into account the experience of relevant United Nations bodies such as the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and multilateral environmental agreements such as the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, a report evaluating past and ongoing partnerships, and setting out recommendations on opportunities to further develop partnerships under the Basel Convention and on opportunities for stakeholders that are observers to the Convention to contribute to the objectives of the Basel Convention through other means of programmatic cooperation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting. The Working Group also invited, by 15 January 2019, the views of Parties and observers on the report mentioned, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

Invitation:

	Invitation	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties and observers are invited to submit views on the report evaluating past and ongoing partnerships, and setting out recommendations on opportunities to further develop partnerships under the Basel Convention and on opportunities for stakeholders that are observers to the Convention to contribute to the objectives of the Basel Convention through other means of programmatic cooperation	Parties and observers	Please submit views on the report mentioned in paragraph 12 (a) of decision OEWG-11/13 to the Secretariat contact point provided below. The report will be made available by the Secretariat by 15 November 2018.	15 January 2019

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Juliette Kohler (Email: juliette.kohler@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8219)

10. Invitation related to decision OEWG-11/14 on cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

Decision: OEWG-11/14: Cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

Background:

By its decision BC-13/7, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to continue, under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG), its cooperation with the Harmonized System Committee and relevant subcommittees of the World Customs Organization in order to facilitate the inclusion of wastes covered by the Basel Convention in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) and to report on progress in that regard to OEWG-11 and COP-14.

As was reported to COP-12 (see document UNEP/CHW.12/7), at its forty-sixth session, held in Brussels in November 2013, the Harmonized System Review Subcommittee considered a proposal by the Secretariat for amending the Harmonized System (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/19, annex IV) that had been prepared on the basis of information on the types of wastes submitted by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Peru pursuant to decision BC-10/10 (UNEP/CHW.11/9, annex). As described in the report on the status of work of the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized System related to the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/19), after extensive discussions on the proposal at its forty-eighth session, held in April 2015, the Harmonized System Review Subcommittee agreed to focus its discussions on how to amend section XVI of the Harmonized System to allow for the classification of electrical and electronic waste. The Subcommittee also agreed that after working on these amendments it would decide on the possibility of extending its discussions on this topic to other chapters and categories of waste.

As a conclusion may be reached regarding the amendment to the Harmonized System in relation to electrical and electronic waste during the current review cycle of the Harmonized System, the Harmonized System Review Subcommittee could consider proposals for amendments related to other types of waste during the seventh review cycle, which is due to begin in the second half of 2019. In consideration of this, OEWG-11 requested the Secretariat to revise, by 30 September 2018, the list of types of wastes submitted by Parties in response to decision BC-10/10. Parties are invited to inform the Secretariat, by 31 October 2018, of the types of waste in the revised list referred to above for which it would be useful to request the World Customs Organization to introduce codes in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, ranked in order of priority.

Invitation:

	Invitation	Respondents	Method of submission	Deadline for submission
(a)	Parties invited to inform the Secretariat of the types of waste in the revised list referred to in paragraph 3 of decision OEWG-11/14 for which it would be useful to request the World Customs Organization to introduce codes in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, ranked in order of priority	Parties	Please inform the Secretariat of the types of waste in the revised list referred to in paragraph 3 of decision OEWG-11/14 for which it would be useful to request the World Customs Organization to introduce codes in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, ranked in order of priority. The revised list is annexed to the present communication.	31 October 2018

Secretariat contact point:

Ms. Carla Valle-Klann (Email: carla.valle@brsmeas.org; Tel.: +41 22 917 8686)