

BC-14/18: Technical assistance

I

Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 in the biennium 2018–2019¹ and the work carried out on monitoring and evaluation;
2. *Invites* developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2020, information on their needs for technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;
3. *Invites* developed-country Parties and others with the capacity to do so to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2020, information on the technical assistance and technology that they have available to be transferred, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel Convention, to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect relevant information on technical assistance for the implementation of the Basel Convention, including information available online, submitted by Parties and other stakeholders or available through other means, such as information related to the Stockholm Convention financial mechanism, in the database referred to in decisions BC-12/9, RC-7/7 and SC-7/16;
5. *Notes* that the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for the period 2018–2021² provides Parties with opportunities for training and capacity-building;
6. *Encourages* Parties, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, according to their mandates and the priorities that have been established, to continue to support the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2018–2021;
7. *Encourages* relevant Parties, in line with Article 10 of the Basel Convention, Article 16 of the Rotterdam Convention and Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention, and invites others in a position to do so to support the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2018–2021;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To continue to implement the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 in cooperation with relevant actors;
 - (b) To develop an online survey to collect the information from Parties in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the present decision, to make the information available on the websites of the conventions, and to prepare a report on the assessment of the information on the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance and technology transfer, based on the information submitted by Parties;

¹ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/25/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/24/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/25/Rev.1.

² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

(c) To continue to include information on the monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken under the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 in the report requested in paragraph 10 of the present decision;

(d) To develop a technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025, taking into account the reports referred to in subparagraphs 8 (b) and (c) of the present decision, and to present it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

9. *Emphasizes* the key role of the regional centres, as set out in the provisions of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, as well as the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering technical assistance upon request, particularly at the regional level, for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the present decision, including in particular the continued and effective use of the database for the collection of relevant information;

II

Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

11. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional and coordinating centres in enhancing the provision of technical assistance for capacity-building to support the national efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the chemicals and waste conventions in accordance with their core functions;

12. *Also emphasizes* the role of the regional and coordinating centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Basel Convention, and invites them to cooperate and coordinate among themselves and with relevant partners in areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

13. *Takes note of:*

(a) The activity reports for the period January 2017–December 2018³ submitted by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;

(b) The report on the activities of the regional and coordinating centres;⁴

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 13 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres prepared by the Secretariat⁵ and the summary of the draft evaluation report;⁶

14. *Also takes note of* the work done by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres on follow-up to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment;

15. *Welcomes* the extensive work that the regional and coordinating centres have already done on the impact of plastic waste, including marine plastic litter and microplastics, and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management, and invites them to continue their activities;

16. *Also welcomes* the procurement capacity assessment⁷ conducted as an integral part of the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres established under the Convention;⁸

³ Available at www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx.

⁴ See UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/28.

⁵ See UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27/Rev.1.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.14/17, annex.

⁷ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27/Rev.1, annex II.

⁸ See decisions III/19, VI/6, VI/8 and VII/10.

17. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the interim criteria and interim methodology set out respectively in annex I and annex II to decision BC-11/13, the performance and sustainability of the 13 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres established in accordance with decisions III/19, VI/6, VI/8 and VII/10;

18. *Also notes* the performance of the regional centres, and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and their action to support developing-country Parties;

19. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to submit to the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting:

(a) Their business plans for the period 1 January 2020–31 December 2023 by 30 September 2019;

(b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2020 by 31 December 2020;

20. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

(b) To prepare a report on the evaluation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, based on the interim criteria and interim methodology referred to in paragraph 17 of the present decision, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(c) To undertake the following activities to facilitate the work of the regional centres, subject to the availability of resources:

- (i) Organize annual meetings of the directors of the regional centres under the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention with a view to enhancing the performance of the regional centres and fostering cooperation and collaboration among them, and attend meetings of the regional centre steering committees;
- (ii) Facilitate the implementation of regional, subregional and national projects based on the business plans or workplans of the regional centres through the Small Grants Programme of the conventions;
- (iii) Foster the activities of the regional centres to increase their visibility;

21. *Invites* the Governments of the Russian Federation and Slovakia and authorizes the Secretariat to take the steps necessary to effect the signing, pursuant to decision VI/3, of framework agreements to formalize the establishment of Basel Convention regional centres for the Central and Eastern European region in the Russian Federation and Slovakia;

22. *Decides* to select Panama to host the Basel Convention regional centre to be established for the Central America and Mexico subregion, and authorizes the Secretariat to take the steps necessary to effect the signing, pursuant to decision VI/3 and paragraph 11 of decision BC-13/11, of a framework agreement with the Government of Panama on the establishment of the Basel Convention regional centre to serve the Central America and Mexico subregion;

23. *Also decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the interim criteria and interim methodology set out in annexes I and II to decision BC-11/13, the performance and sustainability of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres at its sixteenth meeting and every four years thereafter;

24. *Invites* Parties, observers and financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to implement their business plans with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention.