

The Conference

1. Takes note of progress in the establishment and operation of regional and subregional centres, as well as of the present funding situation of activities related to those centres;

2. Welcomes the support, whether financial or in kind, provided by:

(a) Government of Japan, for the regional centres in China and Indonesia;

(b) Governments of China and Indonesia, for their support to the regional centres in those countries;

(c) Government of Switzerland, for the organization of national seminars in El Salvador and Nicaragua, through the subregional centre for Central America, and for the continued support for the subregional centre in Slovakia;

(d) Government of Argentina, for the subregional centre for South America, located in Argentina;

/...

- (e) Government of El Salvador, for the subregional centre for Central America and Mexico, located in El Salvador;
- (f) Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute, for the subregional centre for the Caribbean;
- (g) Government of Uruguay, for activities at the Coordinating Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean in Uruguay;
- (h) Government of the Russian Federation, for the subregional centre in Moscow;
- (i) Government of Slovakia, for its continued support to the subregional centre in Bratislava;
- (j) Government of Nigeria, for the regional coordinating centre in Nigeria;
- (k) Governments of Denmark and South Africa, for the subregional centre for English-speaking African countries in Pretoria (Vista University);
- (l) Government of Egypt, for the subregional centre for Arabic-speaking countries in Cairo (Cairo University);
- (m) Government of Senegal, for the subregional centre for French-speaking African countries in Senegal;
- (n) Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for training on asbestos management and abatement at the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute which is hosting the subregional centre for the Caribbean;
- (o) Governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Spain and the United States of America, for providing lecturers and resource persons to training courses and workshops;
- (p) Government of the United States of America, for providing support to the subregional centres in Africa, the Caribbean and Central America;
- (q) Other Governments contributing to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (non-earmarked funds), which made possible the conduct of training courses or workshops within the framework of the regional centres in Belarus, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Uruguay;
- (r) Regional Office for Western Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme, for the meeting organized in Bahrain concerning the establishment, in Egypt, of a subregional centre for Arabic-speaking countries in Africa and West Asia;
- (s) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme, for continuous support to the subregional centres in

/...

the Latin American and Caribbean region through the provision of resource persons for workshops and seminars and the organization of the meeting by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Bahia, Brazil, in 1997, on the implementation of the Basel Convention;

3. Further takes note of efforts made by other host countries to prepare for the establishment and initiation of activities at their respective centres;

4. Requests the secretariat of the Basel Convention to establish, pursue and reinforce its closer collaboration with relevant offices and programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme, for the implementation of joint activities on training and technology transfer related to hazardous wastes, in particular with the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, Chemicals, the International Environment Technology Centre and the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and the regional seas programme;

5. Further requests the secretariat to collaborate closely with other relevant United Nations and other international agencies and conventions in the work of the regional and subregional centres, in particular with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations economic commissions, the International Maritime Organization, the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment in Kuwait, the World Customs Organization and those regional treaties and instruments developed under the framework of the Basel Convention, with a view to exploring, on a continuous basis, new areas of cooperation;

6. Also requests the secretariat to keep an updated list of project fact-sheets available on the internet concerning proposals for which funding is being sought in relation to activities on training and technology transfer at the regional or subregional centres, as well as to other technical assistance activities;

7. Requests the secretariat to explore, in collaboration with the regional or subregional centres, possibilities for the establishment of partnerships with the industry sector, relevant non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in the work of those centres, in order to ensure the long-term sustainability of their operation;

8. Recognizes the usefulness and efficiency of ensuring that, whenever feasible, regional, subregional and national seminars, training courses and workshops funded through the secretariat are being implemented within the framework of the regional centres network;

9. Requests the secretariat to continue to report to the Working Group for Implementation of the Basel Convention, on progress made in the establishment of regional or subregional centres, including proposals to be implemented in conjunction with the regional centres' programme;

/...

10. Urges all Parties and non-Parties in a position to do so, as well as international organizations, including development banks, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to make financial or in-kind contributions, either directly to the technical cooperation trust fund or on a bilateral level, to enable all centres to become fully operational, bearing in mind that comprehensive funding for the centres in their initial stage of operation, covering at least three to five years of support, including for core staffing, will facilitate the planning and implementation of their activities and encourage them to explore ways and means of ensuring the long-term sustainability of their respective centres;

11. Notes that the Technical Working Group will, as part of its proposed work programme, provide technical input or guidance to assist, as necessary, in the establishment and operation of regional or subregional centres;

12. Emphasizes the role of the regional or subregional centres with regard to implementation of the Basel Convention;

13. Emphasizes the role of the regional or subregional centres, with regard to training and capacity-building for the environmentally sound management, in particular, of wastes generated and existing in the region, and minimization of hazardous wastes, by taking into consideration a cleaner production approach, and their role in promoting awareness of the aims and provisions of the Basel Convention;

14. Recognizes the need for coordination and collaboration between all centres, including between different regions, inter alia, for the development of information systems, with a view to developing synergies;

15. Recalls the discussions at the fourth session of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Committee regarding the status of the centres and, in that context, recognizes the need for the enhancement of the status of the centres as a way to attract additional financial support and to identify diverse sources of funding, so as to secure the long-term sustainability of the centres, and that, in this connection, consideration should be given to its legal status as well as to financial mechanism and operational arrangements, including functions, a governing mechanism and staffing, and to commitments by countries participating in activities of the centre;

16. Recalls also the concerns expressed in the workshop on regional centres held immediately prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, in that context, emphasizes the importance of equality between centres with regard to financial support and operational arrangements, in order to strengthen capacities at an equal level in all regions in implementing the Basel Convention, including the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and their minimization;

17. Requests the secretariat, taking into account various legal options for the centres and the need to address organizational and financial arrangements, further to develop in consultation with the representatives of

/...

the centres a draft framework agreement, including a core set of identical basic element for all centres, taking into account specific needs and priorities in the respective regions, for consideration by the Working Group for Implementation and for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.