

VI/36. Institutional arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions I/2, I/5, II/27, III/28 and V/34, by which it established the subsidiary bodies of the Convention,

Recognizing that the work of the subsidiary bodies should be made more efficient, in accordance with the issues presented in document UNEP/CHW.6/35,

Having considered the experience of the work of the revised subsidiary bodies,

1. Decides that the subsidiary bodies of the Convention shall be organized in the following manner:

- (a) Expanded Bureau; and
- (b) Open-ended Working Group;

2. Decides also that the Expanded Bureau will be composed of 13 members: five members of the present Bureau; five members of the previous Bureau; the two Co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group; and the Chair of the Committee administering the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Basel Convention, having due regard to the principle of equitable geographic representation. Should a national of one Party occupy more than one position in the Expanded Bureau, the relevant regional group may nominate a representative of another Party to fill the additional position;

3. Decides further that, within the policy agreed by the Conference of the Parties, the Expanded Bureau will have the following mandate:

- (a) To provide administrative and general operational directions to the secretariat between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) To provide guidance and advice to the secretariat on the preparation of agendas and other requirements for the organization of meetings and on any other matters brought to it by the secretariat in the exercise of its functions;
- (c) To perform functions requested by the Conference of the Parties or the Open-ended Working Group, especially administrative tasks, taking into account the approved budget;
- (d) To report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

4. Decides that Bureau members have the responsibility to advise members of their region on substantive issues to be discussed within the Bureau, and to report back to their regions on the results of those discussions;

5. Decides also that the Open-ended Working Group will take over the roles currently performed by the Working Group for Implementation, the Legal Working Group and the Technical Working Group;

6. Decides further that the Open-ended Working Group will be composed of the representatives of all interested Parties and will be open to observers;

7. Decides that the Open-ended Working Group will have two co-chairs, one with technical and one with legal/implementation expertise, two vice-chairs, one with technical and one with legal/implementation expertise and one rapporteur, having due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation;

8. Decides also that the Open-ended Working Group will have the following mandate:

(a) To assist the Conference of the Parties in developing and keeping under continuous review the implementation of the Convention's work plan, specific operational policies and decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties for the implementation of the Convention, as specified in article 15;

(b) To consider and advise the Conference of the Parties on issues relating to policy, technical, scientific, legal, institutional, administration, finance, budgetary and other aspects of the implementation of the Convention within the approved budget, including identification of the specific needs of different regions and subregions for training and technology transfer and to consider ways and means of ensuring the establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer;

(c) To prepare its work plan for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;

(d) To report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities it has carried out between meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

9. Decides further that the Open-ended Working Group will meet up to three times intersessionally for up to a maximum of eighteen days in total, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the approved budget and its work plan.

10. Decides that the meetings of the Open-Ended Working Group will be conducted in all six official United Nations languages.

11. Decides also the tentative meeting schedule for the Open-ended Working Group is as follows:

First meeting:	April/May 2003 with focus on technical issues
Second meeting:	September/October 2003 with focus on legal/implementations issues
Third meeting:	March/April 2004
Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties:	September/October 2004

12. Requests the secretariat to prepare agendas and related documentation well in advance and ensure as far as possible that the meetings are scheduled without overlaps with meetings of other multilateral environmental agreements.

13. Invites Parties to examine the functioning of the subsidiary bodies and to submit comments to the secretariat by 31 May 2004 and requests the secretariat to prepare a paper for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.