

ICC Transit – Rwanda

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BCFP_RW

Submitted on

1/13/2016 7:30:03 AM

Language

System language

1. 1. a. Has your country enacted laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures that embody the provision set forth in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention?

*** No ***

Yes

If yes, please provide the name of the relevant piece of legislation, regulation, policy, procedures or other measure

N/A

Please also provide the text of such relevant national provision implementing paragraph 4 of Article 6 (in English) or, alternatively, outline the main elements of the national provision implementing paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention

N/A

If possible attach a copy or indicate where this can be downloaded

No file uploaded

N/A

If no, please indicate any reason for the lack of enactment of laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures embodying the provision set forth in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention

The paragraph 4 of article 6 (about notification) is implemented by those parties which accept the transit of hazardous wastes and other wastes through their territory. The Rwandan Law strictly prohibits the movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes across the territory of Rwanda, including their transit. Thus, there was no need to enact policies and regulations regulating the notification process for transit while not allowed in Rwanda.

2. 2. a. Does your country have a definition of “transit”?

No

*** Yes ***

If yes, provide the definition.

Rwanda uses the definition of Basel Convention: “Any State other than state of export or import through which a movement of hazardous wastes or other wastes is planned or takes place”

3. 2. b. In your country, which of the following instances would fall within the meaning of “transit”?

A ship transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention enters the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) 1 ;

A ship transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention enters territorial waters (territorial sea or internal waters);

A ship transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention enters the free zone ;

A ship transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention calls at a port, without offloading the wastes, and leaves for a different port of discharge;

A ship transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention calls at a port, with offloading and reloading of the wastes on the same ship, and leaves the port for a different port of discharge;

A ship transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention calls at a port, with offloading and reloading of the wastes on a different ship destined for a different port of discharge;

A ship transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention calls at a port, with offloading and reloading of the wastes on a different transporter (eg. truck, train) destined for a different country;

*** A transporter other than a ship (eg. truck, train) transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention enters and leaves the territory without offloading the wastes; ***

* A transporter other than a ship (eg. truck, train) transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention enters the territory, offloads and reloads the wastes and leaves the territory; *

* A transporter other than a ship (e.g. truck, train) transporting wastes covered by the Basel Convention enters the territory, offloads and reloads the wastes on a different transporter that then leaves the territory; *

Other instances.

Please describe any such other instances in which a “transit” is deemed to take place (e.g. activities such as storage or repackaging of the wastes)

N/A

4. 2. c. Would any answer above be different in the event a ship or transporter acted due to force majeure?

* No *

Yes

If yes, please explain what would amount to “force majeure” in your country and how it would impact the meaning of “transit” and the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6.

N/A

5. 2. d. Does the definition of “transit” include temporal elements, e.g. is the amount of time needed to go “through” your country relevant?

* No *

Yes

If yes, please elaborate.

N/A

6. 2. e. Do Customs have a responsibility in determining at the national level whether a “transit”, as defined under the Basel Convention, has occurred or may occur?

No

* Yes *

Other entity has this responsibility (Please specify which)

If yes, please explain the responsibility of Customs and how they interact with the Basel Convention Competent Authority

-Enforcement of Customs legislation and other relevant laws;

-Protection of society from illegal entry and exit of prohibited goods:

*To determine that goods are hazardous wastes or other wastes and take appropriate measures including seizing the illegal goods (they have the quality of judicial police).

7. 3. a. Has your country decided to not consent totally or partially to the transit of hazardous wastes and other wastes?

No

* Yes *

If yes, please provide information on your country’s restriction or ban of transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes

Rwanda law strictly prohibits movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes including their transit on the territory of the Country.

Article 91 of Organic law n° 04/2005 of 08/04/2005 determining the modalities of protection, conservation and promotion of environment in Rwanda provides that: “Acts related to purchase, sale, import, export, transit, store and pile chemicals, diversity of chemicals and other polluting or dangerous substances are prohibited in the whole country (...).”

The Prime Minister's Order no. 23/10/2008 determines a list of chemicals and other polluting substances that are not permitted. The list may be revised at any time when deemed necessary.

Article 426 of the Rwandan Penal Code provides that: "Any person who buys, sells, imports, conveys in transit, stores, immerses, burns or uses any other means that may lead to decomposition of toxic waste in a damp place and that may be harmful to human beings or environment or signs an agreement authorising him/her to carry out such activities, shall be liable to a term of imprisonment of seven (7) years to ten (10) years and a fine of fifty million (50, 000,000) to two hundred million (200,000,000) Rwandan francs.

The Court may also order the confiscation and removal of waste at the owner's expenses.

8. 3. b. Has your country decided not to require prior written consent , either generally or under specific circumstances, for transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes?

*** No ***

Yes

If yes , please provide information on the scope of your country's decision and whether this information was notified to the Secretariat

N/A

9. 3. c. Paragraph 4 of Article 6 ab initio reads: "Each State of transit which is a Party shall promptly acknowledge to the notifier receipt of the notification. It may subsequently respond to the notifier in writing, within 60 days, consenting to the movement with or without conditions, denying permission for the movement, or requesting additional information. The State of export shall not allow the transboundary movement to commence until it has received the written consent of the State of transit. " (emphasis added).

Please provide information on your country's understanding and implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 ab initio:

*** A transboundary movement cannot commence following the 60 days deadline if no written consent was received from the State of transit; ***

A transboundary movement can commence following the 60 days deadline if no written consent was received from the State of transit;

Other.

If your country has a different understanding of paragraph 4 of Article 6 ab initio, please elaborate.

N/A

10. 4. a. Does your country have experience as a "transit" country?

*** No ***

Yes

If yes , please provide information on how often on average your State has been a transit State in the last five years

N/A

11. 4. b. Can your country share best practices with respect to the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention?

*** No ***

Yes

If yes , please elaborate

N/A

12. 4. c. Has your country faced any difficulties in implementing the provision in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention?

*** No ***

Yes

If yes, provide the nature of the difficulties encountered:

13. (i) Domestic difficulties:

Lack of or inappropriate domestic legal or institutional framework to implement paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention;
Lack of clarity about the definition of “transit” at the national level;

Lack of clarity about the way to implement paragraph 4 of Article 6 ab initio (see question 3. c. above);

Lack of awareness among relevant entities within the country involved in transit transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes about the requirements of paragraph 4 of Article 6 (e.g. Customs, port authorities);

Lack of coordination/cooperation at the national level among relevant entities involved in transit transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes;

Lack of awareness among stakeholders within the country involved in transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes about the requirements of paragraph 4 of Article 6 (e.g. generators, transporters, exporters, importers, disposers);

Other difficulties:

Please also elaborate on any box you have ticked

N/A

14. (ii) International cooperation difficulties:

Lack of information on other Parties’ definition or understanding of “transit”;

Lack of information by other Parties or stakeholders within other Parties of your country’s definition or understanding of “transit”;

Lack of harmonized definition or understanding of the meaning of “transit” at the global level;

Lack of shared understanding among Parties of how to implement paragraph 4 of Article 6 ab initio (see question 3. c. above);

Lack of response from transit States to a proposed transboundary movement;

Difficulties as a land-locked country;

Other difficulties (Please specify):

Please also elaborate on any box you have ticked

N/A

15. 4. d. Is your country aware of any difficulties faced by stakeholders (e.g. generators, transporters, disposers) involved in transit transboundary movements with the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention?

*** No ***

Yes

If yes, provide the nature of the difficulties encountered

N/A

16. 4. e. Has your country been able to overcome difficulties stated under sections 4. c. and 4. d. above?

No

Yes

If yes, explain how

N/A

17. 4. f. Would you have suggestions to the Committee on how to improve the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention, whether at the national or global level (eg. development of guidance, information sharing, technical assistance)?

No suggestions.

18. Please add any additional information or comments pertaining to the implementation of the provisions set forth in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention that is not included in answers to the above questions.

No comments.

19. Submitting Party:

Party:
RWANDA

20. Contact details of the person who completed the questionnaire:

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