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**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention  
on the Control of Transboundary Movements  
of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal  
Thirteenth meeting**

Geneva, 21–23 February 2023

Item 3 (b) (iii) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters related to the work programme of the  
Open-ended Working Group for the biennium  
2022–2023: scientific and technical matters: further  
consideration of plastic waste**

## **Further consideration of plastic waste**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. In paragraph 1 of decision BC-15/15, on further consideration of plastic waste, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, took note of the background information related to a possible future assessment of the effectiveness of the measures taken under the Basel Convention to address plastic waste and to possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention.<sup>1</sup>

2. In paragraphs 10 and 11 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat, by 31 October 2022, on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics and requested the Secretariat to make those comments available on the website of the Convention and to suggest possible further activities, taking into consideration the comments received and the work undertaken in follow-up to resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”, as appropriate, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention at its thirteenth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

3. In paragraphs 3 and 8 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres<sup>2</sup> and to invite Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat, by 31 October 2022, on whether technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of rubber wastes (entry B3040) and waste parings and scrap of rubber (entry B3080) should be developed. Further information on those technical guidelines can be found in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/4.

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\* UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/1.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/10.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.10/6/Add.1/Rev.1, annex.

## II. Implementation

4. In line with paragraph 10 of decision BC-15/15, Parties and others provided comments to the Secretariat on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics. The comments received from Parties and others have been made available on the Basel Convention website.<sup>3</sup>

5. Information on the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 is set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/18.

6. Taking into consideration the comments received and the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, the Secretariat prepared a draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/11).

## III. Proposed action

7. The Open-ended Working Group may wish:

(a) To take note of the draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics,<sup>4</sup> developed taking into account the comments received on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics<sup>5</sup> and the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”, as appropriate;<sup>6</sup>

(b) To invite Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2023, comments on the draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics;

(c) To request the Secretariat to make those comments available on the website of the Convention and to suggest possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics, taking into consideration the comments received, the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, as appropriate, and the discussions at the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.basel.int/tabid/9357/Default.aspx>.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/11.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.basel.int/tabid/9357/Default.aspx>.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/18.