

SYNERGIES DECISIONS

2005 - 2013

Compilation of decisions related to enhancing
cooperation and coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions



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Disclaimer

The versions of the decisions contained in this booklet have not been formally edited and are for informative purposes only. They shall not supersede the official texts of the decisions as adopted by the respective conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions. In case of error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, alteration of their content, and any discrepancy between the documents included in the present booklet and the official texts of the decisions, the latter shall prevail.

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INTRODUCTION

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are distinct and legally autonomous multilateral environmental agreements that share the common objective of protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes for the promotion of sustainable development. To achieve this common goal, the conferences of the parties to these three conventions have over the years adopted a series of decisions aiming at enhancing cooperation and coordination among the conventions. Thus, a framework for the so-called “synergies process” has been set.

The present publication compiles the decisions taken by parties to the three conventions between 2005 and 2013 and provides a brief overview of the background and the development of the decisions.

INITIAL WORK

In 2005, the conferences of the parties to the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions, as well as the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention decided to explore further possibilities for synergies among the conventions (SC-1/18, OEWG-IV/10, RC-2/6). The parties commissioned the secretariats to prepare studies on how synergies among the three conventions and other relevant programmes could be improved.

MANDATE FOR THE AD HOC JOINT WORKING GROUP

In 2006 and 2007, the conferences of the parties to the three conventions agreed on the establishment of an Ad Hoc Joint Working Group with the mandate to prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels (SC-2/15, RC-3/8, VIII/8). Those recommendations were to be forwarded to the next meeting of the conference of the parties to each convention.

The Ad Hoc Joint Working Group was composed of 15 representatives from each of the three conventions and met three times between 2007 and 2008.

SYNERGIES DECISIONS

In 2008 and 2009, the conferences of the parties to the three conventions considered the recommendations developed by the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group and adopted substantively identical synergies decisions (IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34) on the following areas:

- Organizational issues in the field;
- Technical issues;
- Information management and public awareness issues;
- Administrative issues;
- Decision-making.

The synergies decisions form the backbone of the synergies process, since they indicate areas where synergies could be achieved by the different stakeholders. These include coordination at the national level, the coordinated use of regional centres, cooperation on scientific and technical issues and administrative arrangements at the secretariats' level, for example through the establishment of joint services (e.g. joint legal services or joint information technology services) on an interim basis. The decisions also request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to organize simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

OMNIBUS DECISIONS

The first simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were held in Bali, Indonesia, in 2010. Substantively identical omnibus decisions were adopted simultaneously by the three conferences of the parties (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1). Some major elements of the decisions are as follows:

- Parties, Intergovernmental Organizations, regional centres, the secretariats and other stakeholders were invited to implement synergies and undertake cooperative and coordinated activities at all levels.
- A joint head function was established for the Basel, Stockholm and UNEP part of the Rotterdam conventions secretariats, subject to review and based on voluntary funding.
- Joint services were established on a permanent basis.
- A review on the achievements of the synergies process would be carried out at the next ordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties in 2013.

ENHANCING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2011

In 2011, the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted substantively identical decisions to further cooperation and coordination (SC-5/27, RC-5/12, BC-10/29). Among others, these decisions approved an interim organization of the secretariats, cross-cutting and joint activities for inclusion in the programmes of work, detailed terms of reference for the review of the synergies process and holding simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties in 2013.

The Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions was furthermore asked to develop a detailed proposal for the reorganization of the Secretariats in consultation with parties through the bureaux by 31 December 2011 which was to be implemented by 31 December 2012.

OMNIBUS DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2013

In 2013, ordinary and simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were held back to back. Substantively identical omnibus decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions (BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1) were adopted by the three conferences of the parties. Among others, the parties endorsed the matrix-based management approach proposed by the Executive Secretary and an organization of one Secretariat serving the three conventions.

The parties also agreed on recommendations on follow-up to the review of the synergies arrangements and adopted measures in the areas of:

- Enhanced cooperation and coordination between technical bodies of the three conventions;
- Wider cooperation, including with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Minamata Convention and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;
- Transparency and accountability through the preparation of reports by the Executive Secretary on various aspects of the management of the Secretariat; and
- Facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes.

NEXT STEPS

The meetings of the conferences of the parties in 2015 will again be convened back to back to allow for coherent decision-making among the three conventions. The conferences of the parties will be considering options and terms of reference for a further review of the synergies arrangements. This review would be carried out by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017 and would include the review of the organization of the Secretariat.

SC-1/18 (2005)	}	INITIAL WORK
OEWG-IV/10 (2005)		
RC-2/6 (2005)		
SC-2/15 (2006)	}	MANDATE FOR THE AD HOC JOINT WORKING GROUP
RC-3/8 (2006)		
VIII/8 (2006)		
RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENHANCED COOPERATION AND COORDINATION DEVELOPED BY THE AD HOC JOINT WORKING GROUP		
IX/10 (2008)	}	SYNERGIES DECISIONS
RC-4/11 (2008)		
SC-4/34 (2009)		
BC.Ex-1/1 (2010)	}	OMNIBUS DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2010
RC.Ex-1/1 (2010)		
SC.Ex-1/1 (2010)		
SC-5/27 (2011)	}	ENHANCING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2011
RC-5/12 (2011)		
BC-10/29 (2011)		
BC.Ex-2/1 (2013)	}	OMNIBUS DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2013
RC.Ex-2/1 (2013)		
SC.Ex-2/1 (2013)		

Table 1:

Decisions taken by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions

COMPILATION OF DECISIONS

A. INITIAL WORK

SC-1/18: ENHANCING SYNERGIES WITHIN THE CHEMICALS AND WASTE CLUSTER

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 and 23/9 of 25 February 2005 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which stress the need to enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergies among multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats where common issues arise in chemicals and waste issues,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal made at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, for a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and the Rotterdam conventions;

2. *Decides* that further possibilities for additional synergies should be explored;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant Secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on how cooperation and synergies between the Secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and other relevant programmes could be improved, taking into account the special nature of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, which is jointly provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of the role common structures might play;

4. *Decides* to consider the results of the study referred to in paragraph 3 at its second meeting;

5. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting to consider the results of the study;

6. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session to consider the results of the study as well as the considerations and decisions from the above-mentioned bodies;

7. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, when making arrangements for the performance of the Secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention, to provide for the future adaptation of these arrangements to any decisions regarding this issue that might be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting;

8. *Invites* contributions from those Parties in a position to contribute to the voluntary trust fund to finance the study.

Annex to decision SC-1/18

Excerpts from important relevant decisions on synergies between chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats

United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance (February 2002)

"In particular, there is support for enhancing collaboration among multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats in specific areas where common issues arise, such as current work among the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats and including the interim Secretariats".

Rotterdam Convention Conference of the Parties decision RC-1/17 on financing and budget for the biennium 2005–2006 (September 2004)

"Invites the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its first meeting to consider, if feasible and appropriate, co-financing in 2006 the position of a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions at the level of D-1."

United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 23/9 on chemicals management (February 2005)

"1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen support, within available resources, for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 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;

"2. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation between the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes;

"3. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation with the Basel Convention regional training centres in the implementation of activities, as appropriate, of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions related to hazardous wastes and chemicals;

"4. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote full cooperation and synergies between the Secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and UNEP Chemicals;

"5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision, as it relates to cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session".

OEWG-IV/10: FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recalling decision VII/41 on financial matters,

Noting the information on financial matters provided by the Secretariat in accordance with decision VII/41 and the measures agreed by the Expanded Bureau to facilitate the deliberation of financial matters by the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties,

Noting also the concern expressed by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting regarding the delays in payment of the agreed contributions by Parties,

Gravely concerned about the rate of depletion of the reserve and fund balance of the Basel Convention Trust Fund,

Noting that this depletion is proceeding faster than expected, owing, among other things, to arrears from prior years and late payment of contributions for 2005,

Recognizing the possible shortage of funds for the proper functioning and operation of the Secretariat in the biennium 2005–2006,

Noting that delays in payments of contributions would further aggravate the financial situation of the Basel Convention Trust Fund,

Mindful of the request by the Conference of the Parties that the Open-ended Working Group and the Expanded Bureau should keep under review the financial information provided by the Secretariat,

1. *Congratulates* those newly assessed Parties which have made timely payment of their contributions for 2005;
2. *Urges* all Parties to pay their contributions promptly and in full, and further urges Parties that have not done so to pay their contributions for prior years as soon as possible and in this context welcomes the monthly publication by the Secretariat on the internet of the list of contributions received;
3. *Invites*, through the Expanded Bureau, the President of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to write to the relevant Parties impressing upon them the importance to pay their respective arrears, for 2004 and previous years;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to strengthen efforts to consult with Parties currently in arrears, requesting payment of the arrears and, if necessary, to invite the Party to agree on a payment plan, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting on these efforts;
5. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the Secretariat toward cost saving and improved efficiency in the fields of documentation and information technology;
6. *Encourages* the Secretariat to take further steps to monitor and control costs given the imperative need for the Executive Secretary to ensure that all expenditure is always covered by necessary income;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit a draft budget for the period 2007–2008 to the Open-ended Working Group at its fifth meeting, including if necessary the development of scenarios to maintain the working capital reserve, bearing in mind that the lack of excess reserves will require stringent control of expenditures in order to keep assessed contributions to appropriate levels; and in this context requests the Secretariat to present options for maintaining a balance between income and expenditure over the longer term;
8. *Recalls* paragraph 19 of decision VII/41 requesting the Executive Secretary to provide Parties with an indication of the financial implications of draft decisions, which cannot be met from existing resources within the budget of the Basel Convention Trust Fund at the time when they are presented to the Conference

of the Parties at its eighth meeting and recalls that decisions about new activities adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting may require savings in other areas to offset new costs;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to review the administrative tasks of the Secretariat of the Convention in order to present options for savings to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

10. *Also* requests the Secretariat to cooperate with 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, taking into account decision SC-1/18 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, in exploring cooperation and synergies and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

11. *Further* requests the Secretariat to provide an assessment to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting of the expected level of contribution for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, taking into account contributions in prior years and noting the breakdown of earmarked and unearmarked contributions, so that Parties may identify a limited number of high-priority projects based on the Strategic Plan that could reasonably be assured funding;

12. *Notes* that, in accordance with decision VII/41, the Open-ended Working Group and the Expanded Bureau should continue to review information provided by the Secretariat and recommends that the Secretariat also maintain a dialogue with interested Parties and signatories on progress made on the above issues.

RC-2/6: ENHANCING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE SECRETARIATS OF THE CHEMICALS AND WASTE CONVENTIONS

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 and 23/9 of 25 February 2005 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which stress the need to enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergies among multilateral environmental agreement secretariats where common issues arise in chemicals and waste management, and in order to achieve economies of scale including by sharing resources,

1. *Recalls* the proposal made in its decision RC-1/17 for a joint head of the secretariats of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention;
2. *Welcomes* decision SC-1/18 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention for its secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on improving cooperation and synergies, including consideration of common structures, for the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, with a view to ensuring maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes;
3. *Welcomes* also the recommendation of the Open-Ended Working Group of the Basel Convention made at its fourth session requesting the secretariat of the Basel Convention to cooperate with the secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions in preparation of the study on cooperation and synergies referred to in paragraph 2 above;
4. *Requests* the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention to join this work by contributing to the study on cooperation and synergies with the Basel and Stockholm convention secretariats;
5. *Considers* that to enable the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions to take any decisions which they may deem appropriate at their next meetings, they will require in addition to the above-mentioned study a supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that the three convention secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme may propose. In addition, such supplementary analysis should identify any financial savings that might accrue, as well as any implications for adjustments to secretariat expenditures on United Nations administrative fees;
6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the conventions, to prepare the supplementary analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above and to make it available for consideration at the next meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions;
7. *Agrees* to consider the results of the study referred to in paragraph 2 above and the analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above at its third meeting.

B. MANDATE FOR THE AD HOC JOINT WORKING GROUP

SC-2/15: SYNERGIES

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision SC-1/18 and welcoming decision RC-2/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and decisions OEWG-IV/10 and OEWG-V/6 of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,

Mindful of the recent adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management¹ and the ongoing reform process in the United Nations,

Taking note of the information in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.2/25, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/19,² as well as the provisions of Article 20 of the Stockholm Convention,

Believing that the issue of synergies and cooperation should be subject to a process that is transparent and inclusive and recognizes the autonomy of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

1. *Calls for* further improved cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;

2. *Requests* the President, supported by the Secretariat and in consultation and cooperation with the Presidents and Secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, to ensure that the reports contained in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/19 are supplemented by a further report exploring the specific areas in which cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the programmatic level would be to the mutual advantage of all three conventions and without prejudice to their autonomy;

3. *Also requests* that the supplementary report to be prepared pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision be submitted to the ad hoc joint working group referred to in paragraph 6 of the present decision and that it explore the following areas, *inter alia*: joint training activities; joint field activities and capacity-building; the use of regional centres as well as other centres of excellence; joint planning and joint implementation of activities; exchange of information; organization of joint meetings of subsidiary bodies and working groups and back-to-back conferences of the parties;

4. *Further requests* that the supplementary report analyse the advantages, relevant considerations and possible disadvantages of each specific area of coordination and cooperation, and reflect the outcomes of the consultative process outlined in paragraph 2 of the present decision;

5. *Requests* that the supplementary report outline any other improvements in any administrative or organizational matter that may be required in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency and to implement programme synergies identified pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision, including analysis of the need for and implications of a possible joint head of the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, taking into account the special nature of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, which is jointly provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-

¹ Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I-III.

² Incorporating document UNEP/OEWG/5/2/Add.8.

General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

6. *Decides* to make available the supplementary report to the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions as soon as available and suggests the establishment of an ad hoc joint working group as a possible way forward and invites the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions to consider that option and, in the event of their endorsement, agrees to its establishment. It is suggested that the working group consider the supplementary report referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision and prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels to be forwarded to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to each convention;

7. *Requests* that the supplementary report be made available to Parties and observers to the three conventions through their respective Secretariats and invites Parties and observers to the three conventions to submit their views on the supplementary report through their respective Secretariats to the ad hoc joint working group proposed in paragraph 6 of the present decision;

8. *Decides*, in the event of the establishment of such an ad hoc joint working group, that the Parties, through the Bureau, shall nominate by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties fifteen representatives, i.e., three representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions, to participate in an ad hoc joint working group of the three conventions;

9. *Invites* the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions each to nominate fifteen representatives, giving due consideration to the five United Nations regions;

10. *Invites* Parties and others to make contributions through the special trust fund to ensure the participation of representatives of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the ad hoc joint working group;

11. *Also invites* Parties to coordinate fully at the national and regional levels on enhancing cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the three conventions and encourages them to share experiences in that regard;

12. *Encourages* the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to continue to enhance synergies with other relevant international institutions and organizations and requests that experience gained in this regard be reported to the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, mindful of the present decision, to staff without delay the previously approved position of joint head of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and all other positions in the Stockholm Convention Secretariat approved at the first and second meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Persistent Organic Pollutants.

RC-3/8: COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ROTTERDAM, BASEL AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision SC-2/15 of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and noting that the President of the Conference at that meeting was requested, in consultation and cooperation with the Presidents and the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention, to ensure the preparation of a supplementary report on cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, and recalling further that such a report was subsequently prepared,³

Agreeing with the call for improved cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam Convention, the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention,

Mindful of the recent adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the ongoing reform process in the United Nations,

Believing that the issue of improved cooperation and coordination should be subject to a process that is efficient, transparent and inclusive and recognizes the autonomy of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions,

Having considered the terms of decision SC-2/15,

1. *Agrees* to participate in the process specified in decision SC-2/15, including the establishment of an ad hoc joint working group, and encourages the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to do the same at its eighth meeting, acknowledging that it is highly desirable that all three conventions be fully involved in the process in order to ensure further improved cooperation and coordination;
2. *Notes* that the ad hoc joint working group will make joint recommendations to the Conferences of the Parties of all three conventions, including the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its fourth meeting;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to invite Parties and observers to the Convention to submit their views on the supplementary report through the secretariat to the ad hoc joint working group by 31 January 2007;
4. *Decides* to nominate, through the Bureau, three representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions by 31 January 2007 to participate in the ad hoc joint working group of the three Conventions;
5. *Recognizes* the need to make resources available from the operational budget for 2007–2008 to support the participation of representatives of the Rotterdam Convention from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the ad hoc joint working group.

³ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/18.

VIII/8: COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision SC-2/15 of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and noting that the President of the Conference at that meeting was requested, in consultation and cooperation with the Presidents and the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, to ensure the preparation of a supplementary report on cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and recalling further that such a report was subsequently prepared,⁴

Recalling also decision RC-3/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions,⁵

Agreeing with the call for improved cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions,

Mindful of the recent adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the ongoing reform process in the United Nations,

Believing that the issue of improved cooperation and coordination should be subject to a process that is efficient, transparent and inclusive and recognizes the autonomy of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions,

Having considered the terms of decision SC-2/15,

1. *Agrees* to participate in the process specified in decision SC-2/15, including the establishment of an ad hoc joint working group, acknowledging that it is highly desirable that all three conventions be fully involved in the process in order to ensure further improved cooperation and coordination;
2. *Notes* that the ad hoc joint working group will make joint recommendations to the conferences of the Parties of all three conventions, including the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to invite Parties and observers to the Convention to submit their views on the supplementary report through the secretariat to the ad hoc joint working group by 31 January 2007;
4. *Decides* to nominate, through the Bureau, three representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions by 31 January 2007 to participate in the ad hoc joint working group of the three Conventions;
5. *Invites* Parties and others to make contributions to the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention in order to ensure the participation of representatives of the Basel Convention from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the ad hoc joint working group.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.8/INF/31.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.8/INF/11.

C. SYNERGIES DECISIONS

Since decisions IX/10, RC-4/11 and SC-4/34 are substantively identical decisions, these have been reproduced below only once. Those sections that are not identical have been set out in separate columns for the three decisions. Minor differences in spelling and formatting are not being indicated.

BASEL CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION
<p>IX/10: Cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>	<p>RC-4/11: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>	<p>SC-4/34: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision SC-2/15 adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its second meeting, decision RC-3/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade at its third meeting and decision VIII/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal at its eighth meeting, by which the conferences of the Parties established the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and mandated it to prepare joint recommendations on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of each of the three conventions,

Recognizing the broad scope of the Basel Convention,

Welcoming the ongoing commitment of all Parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the Basel Convention,

Recognizing the broad scope of the Rotterdam Convention,

Welcoming the ongoing commitment of all Parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the Rotterdam Convention,

Recognizing the broad scope of the Stockholm Convention,

Welcoming the ongoing commitment of all Parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the Stockholm Convention,

Looking forward to the follow-up on the development of managerial issues arising through closer cooperation between the three conventions,

Noting United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance, the Informal Consultative Process on the Institutional Framework for the United Nations' Environmental Activities and the 2005 World Summit Outcome calling for reduced fragmentation on environmental issues,

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Recognizing that the overarching goal of the three conventions is the protection of human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development and that the objective of enhanced coordination and cooperation among the three conventions is to contribute to the achievement of that goal,

Convinced that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance, enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to Parties with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels,

Noting that processes for enhancing cooperation and coordination are driven by Parties, should take into account global concerns and should respond to the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Believing that institutional structures should be defined by functions that are identified before such structures are established,

Welcoming the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,

<p>1. <i>Invites</i> the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its fourth meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting to adopt the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;</p> <p>2. <i>Adopts</i> the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group and, subject to the recommendation being adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, thereby:</p>	<p>1. <i>Takes note</i> of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting to adopt the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancement of coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;</p> <p>2. <i>Invites</i> the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting to consider adopting the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,</p> <p>3. <i>Adopts</i> the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group and, subject to the recommendation being adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, thereby:</p>	<p>1. <i>Takes note</i> of the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting and the decision of the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention at its fourth meeting to adopt the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;</p> <p>2. <i>Adopts</i> the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group and thereby:</p>
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES IN THE FIELD**A. Coordination at the national level**

1. *Invites* Parties to establish or strengthen, as necessary, national processes or mechanisms for coordinating:

- (a) Activities to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions, in particular activities of the focal points and designated national authorities for the three conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and other relevant policy frameworks, as appropriate;
- (b) Preparation for convention meetings;

2. *Invites* Parties to provide, through the joint information service referred to in section II, paragraph 4, below, models of such coordination mechanisms as well as examples of good coordination practices from countries;

3. *Recommends* that Parties, when implementing the three conventions, including through capacity-building and technical assistance, ensure close cooperation and coordination among relevant sectors, ministries or programmes at the national level with respect to, among other things, the following:

- (a) Protection of human health and the environment from the harmful impacts or adverse effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes;
- (b) Prevention of accidents and emergency response in case of accidents;
- (c) Combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
- (d) Information generation and access;
- (e) Technology transfer and transfer of know-how;
- (f) Preparation of national positions for meetings of the conferences of the Parties and other bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
- (g) Development cooperation;

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies such as the member organizations of the Intergovernmental Organization for the Sound Management of Chemicals and regional centres, to collaborate on the dissemination of good practices and, if necessary, the elaboration of guidance and training in the areas referred to in the preceding subparagraph;

5. *Invites* United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Industrial Development Organization cleaner production centres to contribute to the national implementation of the three conventions;

B. Programmatic cooperation in the field

6. *Invites* Parties to promote cooperative activities at the national and regional levels as far as possible;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, working together with other bodies of the United Nations, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, multilateral environmental agreements, and other international bodies, to develop programmatic cooperation in the field that would support implementation of the three conventions in areas of common concern such as sustainable development, trade, customs (for example through the Green Customs Initiative), transport, public health, labour, environment, agriculture and industry;

8. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization to include such cooperation in their biennial work programmes;

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9. *Recommends* that Parties incorporate in their national development plans and strategies measures to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in order to ensure coherence in their national priority setting and to facilitate the provision of aid by donors in accordance with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and in response to country and regional demand;

10. *Requests* the secretariats of the three conventions, in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and taking into account the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to initiate joint collaboration to promote the effective implementation of the decisions of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their work programmes in the area of technology transfer and capacity-building;

11. *Encourages* Parties to strengthen capacity-building and technical support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for coordinated national implementation;

12. *Encourages* Parties to promote coordination between bilateral and multilateral donors to ensure consistent and non-duplicative assistance to Parties in their implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

13. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to promote programmatic cooperation on cross-cutting issues, including in the area of technology transfer and capacity-building, in the development of their respective work programmes and to report thereon to the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions;

C. Coordinated use of regional offices and centres

14. *Acknowledges* the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in supporting Parties;

15. *Invites* Parties and other stakeholders to promote the full and coordinated use of regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions and to promote coherent chemicals and waste management, bearing in mind the existing and ongoing work of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions. This work should promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycles and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment;

16. *Recommends* that a limited number of regional “focal centres”, with the responsibility to facilitate coordinated activities in the regions covering both chemicals and waste management, be selected from among the existing regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions. These focal centres will be designated following regional agreement and in accordance with the relevant procedural provisions of the respective conventions. These focal centres should:

- (a) Ensure that the regional centres deliver their work in accordance with defined priorities and serve as an entry point for countries needing assistance or guidance on which centre in a region could provide assistance for a specific purpose;
- (b) Strengthen regional centres to enable them to exercise a more synergistic approach as delivery mechanisms under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
- (c) Play a special role in providing an overview of their activities and results to the conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as examples of lessons learned on enhanced practical implementation of the conventions;

17. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to initiate pilot projects on the coordinated use of regional centres, such projects to be undertaken by the regional centres and build on lessons learned;

18. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the regional centres to exchange information about their capacities and work programmes;

19. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, other relevant international financial institutions and instruments, the regional centre host countries and others from the donor community to provide financial support necessary for the regional centres to carry out projects aimed at cooperation and coordination in support of implementation of the three conventions;

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II. TECHNICAL ISSUES**A. National reporting**

1. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to prepare, for consideration by their respective conferences of the Parties, proposals:
 - (a) To synchronize the submission of Party reports under the two conventions in those years when the Parties to both conventions are to submit such reports;
 - (b) To develop joint capacity-building activities to assist Parties in coordinated data and information collection and management at the national level, including quality control, to enable them to fulfil their reporting obligations;
 - (c) To streamline their respective reporting formats and processes with a view to alleviating the burden of reporting, taking into account relevant activities by other bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme;

B. Compliance/non-compliance mechanisms

2. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, once compliance/non-compliance mechanisms are established under all three conventions, to prepare proposals for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions exploring the possibilities for enhancing coordination among the agreed mechanisms to facilitate compliance by, for example, provision of joint secretariat support for the committees, the attendance of the chairs of the three committees at each others' meetings or encouraging the appointment of members to the committees who have experience with other compliance mechanisms;
3. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to exchange information on progress made on the operation or establishment of the compliance/non compliance mechanisms established or under negotiation under the three conventions;

C. Cooperation on technical and scientific issues

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to facilitate the exchange of relevant information between the technical and scientific bodies of the three conventions through the sharing of information with one another, with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management and with other relevant intergovernmental bodies concerning the procedures developed and the chemicals being discussed under the three conventions;
5. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to maintain or establish cooperation on technical issues that relate to more than one of the three conventions, involving other bodies and institutions beyond the three conventions as appropriate;

III. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ISSUES**A. Joint outreach and public awareness**

1. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to develop a common approach to awareness-raising and outreach activities among the three conventions;
2. *Also requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to make full use of and build on existing information and outreach mechanisms and tools;

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B. Information exchange/clearing-house mechanism on health and environmental impacts

3. *Invites* Parties to consider establishing common websites and documentation centres at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels, containing available information on human health and environmental impacts relevant to the three conventions;

4. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to develop systems of information exchange on health and environmental impacts, including a clearing-house mechanism, with the aim of these systems serving all three conventions;

C. Joint input into other processes

5. *Requests* the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, whenever feasible, to act jointly in participating in other related processes and in providing information to other related bodies, organizations, institutions and processes;

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

1. *Recommends* that possible cost savings gained through these more efficient administrative arrangements be used to support implementation of the three conventions;

A. Joint managerial functions

2. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to establish joint management involving the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for joint services and joint activities through, for example, a system of rotating management or the assignment of individual joint services to a particular convention;

3. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to explore and assess the feasibility and cost implications of establishing joint coordination or a joint head of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for consideration at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

B. Resource mobilization

4. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to establish, on an interim basis, through the Executive Secretaries of the three conventions, a joint resource mobilization service within the secretariats in Geneva. The service should support the implementation of the three conventions beyond that achievable through separate action by:

- (a) Strengthening mobilization of resources through the development of a joint resource mobilization strategy for the short, medium and long term;
- (b) Avoiding competitive and uncoordinated resource demands to donors;
- (c) Prioritizing coordinated efforts to explore new, innovative and adequate sources of funding, including for national implementation;
- (d) Promoting resource mobilization for a life cycle approach to chemicals and waste management;
- (e) Mobilizing financial resources and technical assistance for programmes delivered through regional centres;

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- (f) Developing joint strategy options on what countries can do at the national level to generate funds and better to gain access to international and bilateral financing;
- (g) Facilitating the exchange of experiences in mobilizing resources for national implementation;
- (h) Building on available methodologies, guidance and case studies that have been developed by other institutions;

5. *Decides* that the final decision regarding the above-named joint service shall be taken at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties;

6. *Encourages* representatives of Parties to support the delivery of coherent and coordinated messages from the conferences of the Parties of each convention to the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international financial institutions/instruments on funding for the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the implementation of the conventions;

C. Financial management and audit functions

7. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to establish, on an interim basis, through the Executive Secretaries of the three conventions, a joint financial and administrative support service, within the secretariats in Geneva, taking into account relevant support services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to prepare a proposal for joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats of the three conventions;

D. Joint services

9. *Welcomes* the support provided by both the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization to the work of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and encourages the continuation of such support;

10. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in addition to the joint resource mobilization service and the joint financial and administrative support service referred to in section IV, paragraphs 4 and 7, above, respectively, to establish through the executive secretaries of the three conventions, within the secretariats in Geneva and with the aim of improving the level and efficiency of delivery of services, on an interim basis:

- (a) A joint legal service;
- (b) A joint information technology service;
- (c) A joint information service;

11. *Decides* that a final decision regarding the joint services referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be taken at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

12. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to provide further information on the costs and organizational implications of establishing the joint services identified in section IV, paragraph 10, above, to be presented prior to the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, below;

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V. DECISION MAKING**A. Coordinated meetings**

1. *Decides* that the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should be held in a coordinated manner and requests the executive secretaries of the three conventions to schedule such meetings in a way that facilitates such coordination;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries to schedule joint meetings of the bureaus of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as appropriate;

B. Extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties

3. *Decides* to convene simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to organize the meetings in coordination with the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme. At these simultaneous meetings, which are aimed at giving high level political support to the process of enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions, the conferences of the Parties would consider:

- (a) Decisions on joint activities;
- (b) Decisions on joint managerial functions;
- (c) Final decisions on joint services established on an interim basis;
- (d) Decisions on synchronization of the budget cycles of the three conventions;
- (e) Decisions on joint audits of the accounts of the secretariats of the three conventions;
- (f) Decisions on a review mechanism and follow up of the work on enhancing coordination and cooperation processes between the three conventions;
- (g) Reports or information received from the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of the three conventions on any other activity or proposed joint institution resulting from the present decision;

4. *Requests* the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization, to prepare proposals for the extraordinary meetings referred to in the preceding paragraph on:

- (a) A common arrangement for staffing and financing joint services of the three conventions, including financing shared posts;
- (b) Synchronizing the budget cycles of the three conventions as soon as possible to facilitate coordinated activities and joint services, bearing in mind the implications for the timing of future meetings of the conferences of the Parties of the three conventions and for facilitating auditing;

5. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to provide financing to support the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above;

6. *Requests* the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to prepare proposals for financing the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above with a view to decisions being taken by the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting, by Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its fourth meeting and by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fourth meeting;

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<p>C. Review arrangement</p> <p>7. <i>Decides</i> that a mechanism and timetable for reviewing the arrangements adopted pursuant to the present decision shall be determined by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties referred to in section V, paragraph 3, above;</p> <p>8. <i>Requests</i> Parties and secretariats and other bodies, as appropriate and within available resources, to take such actions as are necessary to implement the present decision.</p>		

D. OMNIBUS DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2010

Since decisions BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1 and SC.Ex-1/1 are substantively identical decisions, these have been reproduced below only once. Those sections that are not identical have been set out in separate columns for the three decisions. Minor differences in spelling and formatting are not being indicated.

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<p>BC.Ex-1/1: Omnibus decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention</p>	<p>RC.Ex-1/1: Omnibus decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention</p>	<p>SC.Ex-1/1: Omnibus decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention</p>

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of each of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 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,

Recognizing the broad scope of the three conventions,

Welcoming the ongoing commitment of all Parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the three conventions,

Recalling decision IX/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, decision RC-4/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and decision SC-4/34 of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, hereinafter referred to as the “synergies decisions”;

Reaffirming that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance and enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to Parties, with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels,

Mindful of the various principles recognized within the three conventions, including pertinent provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development such as principle 7,

Bearing in mind the potential further to enhance coordination and cooperation with other existing and newly developed instruments and frameworks in the chemicals and wastes management cluster such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the proposed legally binding instrument on mercury,

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<p><i>In consideration of the fact that, simultaneously with the adoption of the present decision, the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are adopting decisions that are in substance identical to the present decision,</i></p>	<p><i>In consideration of the fact that, simultaneously with the adoption of the present decision, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions are adopting decisions that are in substance identical to the present decision,</i></p>	<p><i>In consideration of the fact that, simultaneously with the adoption of the present decision, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions are adopting decisions that are in substance identical to the present decision,</i></p>

I JOINT ACTIVITIES

1. *Notes* with appreciation the information provided in the note by the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions⁶ on the joint activities being carried out or planned by the secretariats, which constitute an important first step in the implementation of joint activities;

2. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to undertake cooperative and coordinated activities to implement the synergies decisions, including by strengthening national processes or mechanisms, as appropriate, that involve the focal points and designated national authorities for the three conventions;

3. *Urges* Parties and other stakeholders, within their capabilities, to provide resources to support implementation of joint activities in the field and to support the joint activities of the three secretariats in accordance with the synergies decisions and programmes of work of the three conventions for 2010–2011;

4. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to promote the full and coordinated use of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to strengthen the regional delivery of assistance for the implementation of the three conventions and to consider the further aim of selecting regional focal centres in accordance with paragraph 16 of section I of the synergies decisions, bearing in mind the existing work of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

5. *Invites* Parties, regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and other stakeholders to exchange experiences, in particular on examples of good coordination practices, through voluntary reports on national and regional activities planned or carried out to implement the synergies decisions, which should be submitted in due time to the secretariats of the three conventions to be synthesized for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their ordinary meetings in 2011;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international organizations to report on their efforts to promote programmatic cooperation and coordination in relation to their support for the three conventions at the national level, and on activities carried out or planned to implement the synergies decisions, to the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions through the secretariats of the three conventions in time for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions at their ordinary meetings in 2011 and in this context welcomes the synergistic approach that has been taken in the process for the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to report to the conferences of the Parties at their ordinary meetings in 2011 on progress made in the development of programmatic cooperation in the field to support implementation of the three conventions in areas of common concern and the inclusion of such cooperation in their biennial work programmes;

8. *Requests* the secretariats of the three conventions to continue their efforts to implement joint activities and report on progress thereof at the ordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2011;

⁶ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/2.

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9. *Also requests* the secretariats, taking into account the provisions of the present decision on review arrangements, to develop for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their ordinary meetings in 2011 a proposal for cross-cutting and joint activities for possible inclusion in the programmes of work of the three conventions for 2012–2013, subject to the availability of financial resources, taking into account, when appropriate, implementation in collaboration with the relevant programmes of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the Green Customs Initiative and other relevant stakeholders in the chemicals and wastes field;

10. *Endorses* on a preliminary basis the joint workplan for a clearing-house mechanism as described in the note by the secretariats on a draft joint workplan;⁷

11. *Requests* the secretariats to prepare a report on other clearing-house mechanisms and similar mechanisms in the area of chemicals and wastes, especially the Strategic Approach clearing-house mechanism, with a description of their basic characteristics and the extent to which they contain elements that could be considered for inclusion in a clearing-house mechanism for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to avoid duplication of work, for presentation at the ordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2011;

12. *Also requests* the secretariats to prepare a revised workplan, taking into account the above mentioned report, for adoption at the ordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2011;

13. *Invites* Parties and other stakeholders to contribute to the development of the clearing-house mechanism through voluntary means;

II

JOINT MANAGERIAL FUNCTIONS

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in establishing an informal joint management group involving the executive secretaries of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

2. *Takes note* of the study on the feasibility and cost implications of establishing joint coordination or a joint head of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, with a view to enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three Conventions;⁸

3. *Decides*, after considering the views expressed by the Parties regarding the establishment of either joint coordination or a joint head function of the Basel Convention Secretariat, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, to establish a joint head function, which will be subject to review to determine if the function should continue;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, after consulting the bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to proceed immediately with the recruitment of a joint head of the Basel Convention Secretariat, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat to serve for a period of two years, noting that the continuation of the joint head will be subject to review according to paragraph 8 of the present section of the present decision;

5. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to provide on a voluntary basis additional resources to support the post of joint head until a decision is taken on the future of the post or by the end of 2013, whichever is earlier;

⁷ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/INF/2.

⁸ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/3.

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6. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to develop a proposal for the modification of the organization of the Basel Convention Secretariat, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, including the possible continuation of the joint head function, that is cost-neutral in respect of the adopted operating budgets of the three conventions;

7. *Invites* Parties to consider the proposal referred to in the preceding paragraph on the modification of the organization of the secretariats for possible adoption by the conferences of the Parties as soon as possible, but no later than 2013, taking into account the effectiveness of the joint head in:

- (a) Ensuring full respect for the legal autonomy of the three conventions;
- (b) Contributing to the overarching goal of the three conventions to protect human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development;
- (c) Providing equal commitment to the implementation of all three conventions, including in advocacy for the mobilization of substantially increased funding from all sources for national implementation;
- (d) Demonstrating increased efficiency and effectiveness in the cooperation and coordination of the three secretariats;
- (e) Reducing administrative burdens and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources;

8. *Decides* to review the joint head function in the context of the review arrangements referred to in section VI of the present decision;

III JOINT SERVICES

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and through the executive secretaries of the three conventions, in the establishment and implementation of joint services on an interim basis;

2. *Takes note* of the information provided in the note by the secretariats on joint services, including lessons learned;⁹

3. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in providing the secretariat functions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to establish, through the executive secretaries of the three conventions, taking into account the experiences gained during the interim period, the following joint services:

- (a) Joint financial and administrative support service;
- (b) Joint legal service;
- (c) Joint information technology service;
- (d) Joint information service;
- (e) Joint resource mobilization service;

4. *Approves* the proposals on a common arrangement for staffing and financing joint services of the three conventions as they relate to existing posts, including financing shared posts for 2010–2011, as set out in table 1 of annex II to the note by the secretariats on the cost and organizational implications of establishing joint services;¹⁰

⁹ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/4.

¹⁰ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/INF/3.

BASEL CONVENTION**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION****STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the joint head of the Basel Convention Secretariat, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, to develop a proposal for the modification of the organization of the three secretariats for the biennium 2012–2013, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their ordinary meetings in 2011, that is cost-neutral in respect of the adopted operating budgets of the three conventions for 2010–2011, is consistent with the proposal to be made on whether to continue the function of joint head of the Basel Convention Secretariat, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat referred to in paragraph 6 of section II of the present decision, saves costs on support services and moves resources towards assistance for the implementation of the three Conventions;

6. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to provide voluntary funding of \$80,000 to cover the integration of the information technology platforms throughout the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and through the executive secretaries of the three conventions, to continue efforts to implement joint services and to report on progress in doing so at the ordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2011;

IV**SYNCHRONIZATION OF BUDGET CYCLES**

1. *Takes note* that the synchronization of the budget cycles of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions with the budget cycles of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Stockholm Convention has been achieved;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to continue to synchronize the budget cycles of the three conventions;

V**JOINT AUDITS**

1. *Welcomes* the commitment by the United Nations Environment Programme to share with the conferences of the Parties the audit reports covering the trust funds of the three conventions, facilitating the ability of the conferences to follow up on those reports;

2. *Also welcomes* the request by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services to audit in 2010 the strategic management of the multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat functions, including administrative arrangements, governance, accountability and oversight;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on the audit conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of each of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to the Conference of the Parties to that convention for consideration at its ordinary meeting in 2011;

VI**REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS**

1. *Decides* to review at the ordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2013, in accordance with the timetable contained in the annex to the present decision, how far the arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions, in particular on joint activities, joint managerial functions and joint services, have contributed to achieving the following objectives:

- (a) Strengthening of the implementation of the three Conventions at the national, regional and global levels;
- (b) Promoting coherent policy guidance;
- (c) Reducing administrative burden;

BASEL CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION
<p>(d) Maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;</p> <p>(e) Taking into account global concerns and the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;</p> <p>(f) Protecting human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development;</p> <p>2. <i>Requests</i> the secretariats to prepare, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their ordinary meetings in 2011, detailed terms of reference for a report by the secretariats that will facilitate the review by the conferences of the Parties referred to in the preceding paragraph;</p> <p>3. <i>Also requests</i> the secretariats to compile the report referred to in the preceding paragraph jointly and to include in the report recommendations on the review, reflecting information collected from Parties through a questionnaire, prepared by the secretariats based on the terms of reference adopted by the conferences of the Parties and their own views;</p> <p>4. <i>Invites</i> the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to prepare detailed terms of reference, including performance indicators, along with a timetable, for the review called for by the present decision, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their ordinary meetings in 2011;</p> <p>5. <i>Also invites</i> the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to prepare a report on the review called for by the present decision, including recommendations, through a joint endeavour of their respective evaluation units, based on input from Parties and taking into account input from the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other stakeholders.</p>		

Annex to decision BC.Ex-1/1
Annex to decision RC.Ex-1/1
Annex to decision SC.Ex-1/1

ACTIVITY	TIMING
Development of draft terms of reference for the two reports	Finalized 90 days prior to the first meeting of a conference of the Parties to be held in 2011
Adoption of the terms of reference for the two reports	By each conference of the Parties in 2011
Publication of the two reports on the websites of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	90 days before the first meeting of a conference of the Parties to be held in 2013
Adoption of decisions by the three conferences of the Parties	By each conference of the Parties in 2013

E. ENHANCING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2011

Since decisions SC-5/27, RC-5/12 and BC-10/29 are substantively identical decisions, these have been reproduced below only once. Those sections that are not identical have been set out in separate columns for the three decisions. Minor differences in spelling and formatting are not being indicated.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	BASEL CONVENTION
<p>SC-5/27: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>	<p>RC-5/12: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>	<p>BC-10/29: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of each of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 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,

Recognizing the broad scope of the three conventions,

Welcoming the continued commitment of all parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the three conventions,

Recalling decision IX/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, decision RC-4/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and decision SC-4/34 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, hereinafter referred to as the “synergies decisions”;

Recalling also decision BC.Ex-1/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, decision RC.Ex-1/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and decision SC.Ex-1/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, hereinafter referred to as the “omnibus decisions”;

Reaffirming that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance and enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to parties, with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels,

Mindful of the various principles recognized within the three conventions, including pertinent provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development such as principle 7,¹¹

Bearing in mind the potential further to enhance coordination and cooperation with other existing and newly developed instruments and frameworks in the chemicals and wastes management cluster such as the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the global legally binding instrument on mercury currently under negotiation,

¹¹ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex I.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	BASEL CONVENTION
<p><i>Taking note</i> of decision 26/7 on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes and decision 26/12 on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-sixth session,</p>		
	<p><i>Welcoming</i> decision SC-5/27 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its fifth meeting;</p>	<p><i>Welcoming</i> decisions SC-5/27 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and RC-5/12 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;</p>
<p>1. <i>Adopts</i> the present decision, subject to the adoption of decisions that are in substance identical to the present decision by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions and invites them to adopt those decisions;</p>	<p>1. <i>Adopts</i> the present decision, subject to the adoption of a decision that is in substance identical to the present decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, and invites it to adopt that decision;</p>	<p>1. <i>Adopts</i> the present decision;</p>
<p>I JOINT ACTIVITIES</p>		
<p>2. <i>Takes note</i> of the information provided in the note by the Secretariat on joint activities¹² and its related information documents;¹³</p>	<p>2. <i>Takes note</i> of the information provided in the note by the Secretariat on joint activities¹⁴ and its related information documents;¹⁵</p>	<p>2. <i>Takes note</i> of the information provided in the note by the Secretariat on joint activities¹⁶ and its related information documents;¹⁷</p>
<p>3. <i>Also takes note</i> of the progress made in enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;</p> <p>4. <i>Approves</i> the proposed cross-cutting and joint activities for inclusion in the programmes of work of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for 2012–2013 set out in annex I to the present decision;</p> <p>5. <i>Requests</i> the Secretariat to pursue further cooperation and coordination in respect of activities that are not listed in annex I but are included in the approved programme of work and budget for 2012–2013 and can be undertaken in a cost neutral manner;</p>		

¹² UNEP/POPS/COP.5/32/Add.1.

¹³ UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/14–17, UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/46 and UNEP/POPS/COP.5/INF/49/Rev.1.

¹⁴ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/25/Add.1.

¹⁵ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/INF/11, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/INF/12, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/INF/13/Rev.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/INF/14–16.

¹⁶ UNEP/CHW.10/27/Add.1.

¹⁷ UNEP/CHW.10/INF/38-43.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	BASEL CONVENTION
<p>6. <i>Acknowledges</i> that joint activities should be aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in a manner that results in no additional overall burden for parties, particularly developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition;</p> <p>7. <i>Takes note</i> of the progress made by the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in the integration of their clearing-house mechanism functions and tools into a joint clearing-house mechanism to serve the three conventions;</p> <p>8. <i>Invites</i> the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, considering its decision XX/7, to participate in and support partnership activities with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other multilateral environment agreements as outlined in the joint activities set out in annex I to the present decision;</p> <p>9. <i>Invites</i> parties and others from the donor community in a position to do so to continue to support joint activities of the three conventions through voluntary contributions;</p> <p>10. <i>Approves</i> the revised workplan of the clearing-house mechanism for the three conventions set out in annex III to the present decision;</p> <p>11. <i>Acknowledges</i> that joint activities under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should not result in the diversion of resources from activities otherwise necessary to implement the three conventions;</p>		
<p>II</p> <p>JOINT MANAGERIAL FUNCTIONS</p>		
<p>12. <i>Welcomes</i> the establishment of the position of Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention and the successful completion of the recruitment process for that position;</p> <p>13. <i>Expresses regret</i> that the Executive Secretary was not appointed with the urgency requested in paragraph 4 of section II of the omnibus decisions, which makes it difficult to complete the reorganization of the secretariats of the three conventions by 2011, as foreseen in paragraph 5 of section III of the omnibus decisions;</p>		
<p>14. <i>Authorizes</i> the Executive Secretary to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that he remain within the ceiling established by decision SC-5/28 on financing and budget for the biennium 2012–2013;</p>	<p>14. <i>Authorizes</i> the Executive Secretary to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that he remain within the ceiling established by decision RC-5/14 on financing and budget for the biennium 2012–2013;</p>	<p>14. <i>Authorizes</i> the Executive Secretary to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that he remain within the ceiling established by decision BC-10/27 on financing and budget for the biennium 2012–2013;</p>
<p>15. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary, by 31 December 2011 and in consultation with the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions through the bureaux, to prepare a proposal for the organization of the secretariats of the three conventions, including staffing levels, numbers and structure, to be implemented by 31 December 2012;</p> <p>16. <i>Reiterates</i> its request that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Executive Secretary and taking into account the reports on the review¹⁸ referred to in section VI of the present decision, develop, for consideration by the conferences of the parties to the three conventions in 2013,</p>		

¹⁸ The review reports to be prepared by the secretariats of the three conventions and by the evaluation units of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	BASEL CONVENTION
<p>a full proposal for the organization of the secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention, including the possible continuation of the Executive Secretary, that is cost-neutral in respect of the adopted operating budgets of the three conventions;</p> <p>17. <i>Decides</i> that the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should be held in a coordinated manner and requests the Executive Secretary to schedule them in a way that facilitates their coordination;</p> <p>18. <i>Also decides</i>, subject to the submission of the reports on the review referred to in section VI of the present decision and taking into account comments made by parties on the matter, to convene, back-to-back with and at the same venue as the last ordinary meeting of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to take place in 2013, simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the three conferences of the parties, the agendas for which shall include matters related to cooperation and coordination between the conventions, with the main focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Draft decisions on the review of arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions; (b) The proposal for the organization of the secretariats referred to in paragraph 15 of the present decision; (c) Draft proposals for joint activities for 2014–2015; (d) Budget for joint activities and possible necessary amendments to the budget of the three conventions for the biennium 2014–2015; (e) Outcome of the United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director’s consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes; <p>19. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the parties through the bureaux, to prepare a proposal on the timing and organization of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions for consideration by the three conferences of the parties in 2013, taking into account the results of the review referred to in section VI of the present decision;</p>		
<p>III JOINT SERVICES</p>		
<p>20. <i>Welcomes</i> the progress made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and through the executive secretaries of the three conventions, in the establishment, implementation and consolidation of the joint services of the three conventions;</p>		
<p>21. <i>Approves</i> the proposal of the Executive Secretary for the interim organization of the secretariat consisting of the Joint Convention Services unit and three technical units to support the operations of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention;¹⁹</p>	<p>21. <i>Approves</i> the proposal of the Executive Secretary for the interim organization of the Secretariat consisting of the Joint Convention Services unit and three technical units to support the operations of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention;²⁰</p>	<p>21. <i>Approves</i> the proposal of the Executive Secretary for the interim organization of the secretariat consisting of the Joint Convention Services unit and three technical units to support the operations of the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention;²¹</p>

¹⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.5/32/Add.2.

²⁰ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/25/Add.2.

²¹ UNEP/CHW.10/27/Add.2.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	BASEL CONVENTION
<p>22. <i>Welcomes</i> the proposals of the Executive Secretary for the interim organization of the three secretariats, providing for a secretariat consisting of the Joint Convention Services unit and three technical units and for the modification, as depicted in the chart in annex II to the present decision, of the organization of the joint services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;</p> <p>23. <i>Recalls</i> its invitation to parties and the donor community to consider providing funding, through voluntary contributions, of 80,000 United States dollars to defray the cost of integrating the information technology platforms and services of the three secretariats;</p> <p>24. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and through the Executive Secretary, to continue efforts to implement joint services for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IV SYNCHRONIZATION OF BUDGET CYCLES</p>		
<p>25. <i>Welcomes</i> the information on the synchronization of the budget cycles of the three conventions in the note by the Secretariat on that subject;²²</p>	<p>25. <i>Welcomes</i> the information on the synchronization of the budget cycles of the three conventions in the note by the Secretariat on that subject;²³</p>	<p>25. <i>Welcomes</i> the information on the synchronization of the budget cycles of the three conventions in the note by the Secretariat on that subject;²⁴</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">V JOINT AUDITS</p>		
<p>26. <i>Takes note</i> of the information in the note by the Secretariat on the audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in 2011 of the strategic management of those multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat services, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;²⁵</p>	<p>26. <i>Takes note</i> of the information in the note by the Secretariat on the audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in 2011 of the strategic management of those multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat services, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;²⁶</p>	<p>26. <i>Takes note</i> of the information in the note by the Secretariat on the audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in 2011 of the strategic management of those multilateral environmental agreements for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides secretariat services, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;²⁷</p>
<p>27. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to report to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their meetings in 2013 on the outcome of the audit insofar as it relates to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;</p>		

²² UNEP/POPS/COP.5/32/Add.4.

²³ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/25/Add.4.

²⁴ UNEP/CHW.10/27/Add.4.

²⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.5/32/Add.5.

²⁶ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.5/25/Add.5.

²⁷ UNEP/CHW.10/27/Add.5.

STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	BASEL CONVENTION
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**VI
REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS**

28. *Adopts* the terms of reference set out in annexes IV and V to the present decision for the reports pertaining to the review of the arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions called for in section VI of the omnibus decisions, on review arrangements;

29. *Requests* the secretariats, and invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to continue to implement section VI of the omnibus decisions, using the terms of reference referred to in the preceding paragraph;

**VII
FINAL PROVISIONS**

30. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, through the Executive Secretary, to report to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their meetings in 2013 on the implementation of the present decision.

**Annex I to decision SC-5/27
Annex I to decision RC-5/12
Annex I to decision BC-10/29**

Proposed cross-cutting and joint activities for inclusion in the programmes of work of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for 2012–2013

I. Technical assistance

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S1. DEVELOP TOOLS TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTIONS
Mandate	Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1).
Objective	Tools are developed and exchange of experience and good practices promoted to enhance knowledge and capacity of parties to implement the conventions.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Updated toolkit and electronic tools available under the three conventions; 2. Number of users of the electronic tools; 3. Number of parties trained in the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants and new persistent organic pollutant wastes; 4. Number of good practices and experiences shared on environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes; 5. Number of follow-up activities and projects undertaken to support environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes.
Short description of the activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and upgrade toolkits and electronic training tools, including tools for persistent organic pollutant wastes, pesticides and industrial chemicals; 2. Make tools available online.

Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tools developed, upgraded as appropriate and made available; 2. Parties enabled to review and update their strategies for identifying stockpiles, products and articles in use that contain or are contaminated with the newly listed persistent organic pollutants; 3. Regional workshops organized to share experiences between parties.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of updated training materials, including electronic training tools, in a coordinated manner between the three secretariats. <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and of other regional partners, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) regional offices, in the conduct of workshops; • Inviting of relevant existing national, subregional and regional institutions, such as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in addition to intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sound chemicals management such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), FAO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).
Partner(s)	Regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, Governments hosting regional centres, FAO and UNEP regional offices, experts.

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S2. CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMMES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34).
Objective	Enhanced capacity of parties to implement the conventions at the national level.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of parties that have participated in training activities; 2. Number of project proposals developed that are consistent with the workplans of the three conventions; 3. Number of parties that are able to identify potential donors or partners and negotiate funding for projects related to the three conventions; 4. Number of regional experts that play a key role in the delivery of technical assistance and capacity development; 5. Number of technical assistance requests answered in a timely manner.

<p>Short description of the activity</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement training activities, based on previous experience and on needs identified at the national and regional levels and using the resource mobilization tools developed previously, to assist parties in developing coherent project proposals and inform them about resource mobilization techniques and funds available for the implementation of the three conventions; 2. Establish a network of regional experts (national contact points, regional experts, regional officers, regional centres, etc.) who are knowledgeable about, and assist and participate in when relevant, the delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building; 3. Provide training on the use of technical and policy guidance; 4. Enhance countries' capacity to prepare, draft and update national legal frameworks (such as legislative and administrative measures to give effect to the obligations and procedures under the conventions), support countries in the enforcement of national legal frameworks, including national legislation and guidelines, and identify and develop additional legal and other relevant tools; 5. Follow up with individual parties requiring tailored assistance, for example providing advice.
<p>Expected outputs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focal points, designated national authorities and regional centres are trained in the various issues relating to the implementation of the conventions; 2. Terms of reference for regional experts are developed; regional experts fully understand the strategy, methodology, programme and activities of the secretariats regarding delivery of technical assistance and support the programme; 3. Awareness of the legal requirements under the three conventions and of the status of each party's legal framework related to the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements is increased; 4. Parties are provided with tools, including legal guidelines and model legislation, to implement the conventions; 5. Better understanding of the obstacles faced by parties in implementing their obligations under the conventions is gained; 6. Tailored assistance is provided to individual parties upon request.
<p>Method of implementation (internal or external)</p>	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of tools and organization of training sessions. <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and other regional partners, such as FAO and UNEP regional offices, in the execution of workshops.
<p>Partner(s)</p>	<p>UNITAR, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, UNEP.</p>

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S3. SUPPORT FOR SOUND CHEMICALS AND WASTES MANAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34); Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1).
Objective	National institutional frameworks for the coordinated implementation of the three conventions, such as national action plans and strategies, are developed.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of countries that have developed updated comprehensive chemicals and wastes management strategies; 2. Number of countries that have developed policy-enabling environments supporting sound chemicals and wastes management; 3. Number of countries in which priority follow-up activities identified in the chemicals and wastes management strategies have been implemented; 4. Number of parties benefiting from programmes facilitated or implemented through regional centres.
Short description of the activity	<p>Projects on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will be implemented at the national level. Activities will include close cooperation between the focal points of the three conventions and other major stakeholders to identify challenges to and gaps in the implementation of the conventions; to develop proposals for necessary technical and functional elements including priority activities; and to develop legal and administrative bases and supportive policy environments that allow the implementation of coordinated chemicals management programmes that take into consideration obligations under multilateral environmental agreements and make full use of the benefits of such agreements. National institutions will create, adopt, implement and sustain life-cycle-based chemicals management initiatives such as chemicals and wastes management strategies. The activity will also provide for assistance to national chemicals and wastes management committees in developing countries. Workshops will be organized to develop national action plans, strategies and institutional frameworks on chemicals and wastes management. Training will be provided to focal points and enforcement authorities of the three conventions.</p>
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of national chemicals and wastes management programmes, such as systems for the control of exports and imports of hazardous chemicals and wastes; 2. Draft legislation and administrative regulations or plans for putting them in place are developed; 3. Priority activities aimed at implementing the conventions are identified; 4. Partnerships and coordination at the national level among key stakeholders in chemicals and wastes management, including designated national authorities, national focal points and official contact points, are developed; 5. Capacity to manage chemicals and wastes by participating parties is improved; 6. Capacity to implement the conventions is strengthened.

Method of implementation (internal or external)	The three secretariats will collaborate closely and jointly coordinate and facilitate the development of national programmes to be implemented as appropriate through the Basel and Stockholm regional centres, countries and relevant partners.
Partner(s)	FAO, UNEP, the Strategic Approach, UNITAR, the World Health Organization, the World Customs Organization, Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres, FAO and UNEP regional offices.
TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S4. DEVELOP PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, SC-4/34); decision XX/7 of the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.
Objective	Strategic partnerships with other multilateral environmental agreements, such as for the management and disposal of ozone-depleting substances, persistent organic pollutants and other hazardous substances, are developed.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan on strategic partnerships with other multilateral environmental agreements developed; 2. Number of strategic partnerships established; 3. Number of implementation plans for joint management and disposal operations for ozone-depleting substances, persistent organic pollutant wastes and other hazardous chemicals developed per region; 4. Tons of ozone-depleting substances, persistent organic pollutant wastes and other hazardous chemicals destroyed through joint management and disposal operations.
Short description of the activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a plan to identify strategic partnerships with other multilateral environmental agreements; 2. Implement the already identified partnership related to ozone-depleting substances and carry out an institutional, technical and cost-analysis study to ensure that the collection, transportation and destruction of ozone depleting substances, persistent organic pollutant wastes and other hazardous substances can take place economically and in a sound manner in four regions. Pilot disposal operations will be carried out in pilot countries through a national and/or regional approach as feasible. In addition, efforts will be made to identify common goals between the conventions and the Montreal Protocol.
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan on strategic partnerships with other multilateral environmental agreements is developed; 2. Strategic partnerships are identified and implemented; 3. Legal and procedural issues raised by co-disposal of ozone depleting substances and persistent organic pollutants are clarified at the national level; 4. Capacity for dealing with the destruction of ozone-depleting substances and persistent organic pollutants is developed; 5. Disposal operations are carried out for ozone-depleting substances, persistent organic pollutant wastes and other hazardous chemicals through a joint management and disposal approach.

Method of implementation (internal or external)	A pilot project on ozone-depleting substance and persistent organic pollutant destruction will be implemented by the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres in their regions with the support of the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, UNEP and donor and participating countries.
Partner(s)	Regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, Governments hosting regional centres and pilot operations, UNEP.
TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S5. WORKING WITH REGIONAL LIAISON OFFICES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE IN COLLABORATION WITH KEY PARTNERS
Mandate	Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1).
Objective	Coordinated delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes and activities at the regional level to support the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of times UNEP liaison offices and multilateral environmental agreement officers are involved in capacity-building and technical assistance activities related to the implementation of the three conventions; 2. Number of activities related to the implementation of the three conventions undertaken by UNEP liaison offices and multilateral environmental agreement officers; 3. Number of parties in the regions that receive support from UNEP liaison offices and multilateral environmental agreement officers; 4. Increased coordination between secretariats and UNEP liaison offices and multilateral environmental agreement officers.
Short description of the activity	<p>UNEP chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreement focal points will, among other things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide technical advice and guidance to countries to facilitate national and regional implementation of the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements; 2. Assist countries in identifying their needs and gaps relating to implementation of the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements and in finding solutions and needed support; 3. Assist countries in preparing, updating and submitting national implementation plans and in fulfilling national reporting requirements; 4. Collaborate with the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreement secretariats in organizing and delivering technical assistance (regional meetings, workshops and training); 5. Increase the profile of the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements through awareness-raising in cooperation with the secretariats; 6. Promote interlinkages at the national level between the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements to enhance implementation activities and to promote synergies between the conventions;

	<p>7. Coordinate with the Basel and Stockholm convention regional and coordinating centres and contribute to capacity-building activities;</p> <p>8. Act as a knowledge repository for chemicals and wastes issues in the region;</p> <p>9. Facilitate information exchange in coordination with the secretariats, Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and FAO regional and subregional offices and assist countries in updating the secretariats on changes of designated national authorities, national focal points and official contact points;</p> <p>10. Provide the secretariats with regular feedback on important issues in the regions.</p>
Expected outputs	Strengthened coordination of technical assistance and capacity-building programmes and activities at the regional and national levels.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	<p>UNEP programme officers and chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreement focal points based at the UNEP regional offices.</p> <p>Funded via UNEP; staff costs only.</p>
Potential partner(s)	UNEP regional offices, UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, Chemicals Branch of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP Chemicals), FAO regional and subregional offices.

II. Scientific and technical activities

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S6. SUPPORT THE WORK OF AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE SCIENTIFIC BODIES OF THE CONVENTIONS AND IDENTIFY COMMON ISSUES AND LINKAGES BETWEEN THE CONVENTIONS
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34); Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1).
Objective	<p>1. Technical and policy support are provided to the scientific bodies of the three conventions in a coordinated manner;</p> <p>2. Information exchange and cooperation on cross-cutting scientific, technical and policy issues are established;</p> <p>3. Opportunities for the technical and scientific bodies to network, communicate and exchange skills are provided;</p> <p>4. Reflection on the role and performance of the scientific bodies is facilitated.</p>
Indicators of achievement	<p>1. Number of studies carried out on the linkages between the conventions and other relevant issues;</p> <p>2. Cooperation on common issues by the scientific bodies of the conventions;</p> <p>3. Roster of experts and website listing meeting and workshop alumni is established.</p>

Short description of the activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with relevant scientific experts to tackle common issues that hamper the effective work of the scientific bodies; 2. Study and review linkages between conventions and identify cross-cutting technical issues on which cooperation needs to be developed or enhanced, e.g., climate change and persistent organic pollutants; handling of electronic wastes containing brominated flame retardants and mercury; life-cycle management of hazardous chemicals; sound trade of hazardous chemicals and pesticides; identification of hazardous chemical, waste and environmental occurrence hot spots; connection with biodiversity, land degradation, etc.; 3. Work with the clearing-house mechanism to establish a roster of experts relevant to the technical and scientific bodies of the three conventions; to develop an alumni website for meeting, training and awareness-raising workshop participants; and to develop joint scientific and technical documents or guidance as required.
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The technical and scientific bodies of the three conventions receive technical and policy support, facilitating the exchange and sharing of relevant information between themselves and with other relevant intergovernmental processes, including the Strategic Approach; 2. Report on linkages and potential cooperation between the scientific bodies of the conventions; 3. Roster of experts and alumni websites is established.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	Internal: staff travel, consultant, subcontracts, travel of participants and translation and printing.
Partner(s)	Interested intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and industry bodies.

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S7. SUPPORT PARTIES' IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIFE-CYCLE APPROACH TO CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT: UPDATE THE GENERAL TECHNICAL GUIDELINES ON THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANT WASTES TO INCLUDE THE NEW PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, SC-4/34), Section II C, paragraphs 4 and 5; Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1).
Objective	Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions receive technical and scientific information and guidance when required to allow them to deal with wastes from the nine new persistent organic pollutants.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes are updated to include the new persistent organic pollutants; 2. Number of parties implementing environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes; 3. Number of requests for technical assistance and advice on life-cycle approach to chemicals management answered in a timely manner.

Short description of the activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes to include the new persistent organic pollutants; 2. Provide technical and scientific information and guidance to the parties to the two conventions to allow them to deal with the new persistent organic pollutant wastes; 3. Provide policy guidance and technical information to parties to the two conventions to assist them to manage chemicals and wastes following a life-cycle approach.
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes are updated to include the new persistent organic pollutants; 2. Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions receive technical and scientific information and guidance when required to allow them to deal with the wastes from the new persistent organic pollutants; 3. Parties to the two conventions receive policy guidance and technical information when required to assist them to manage chemicals following the life-cycle approach.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	Internal: consultant, subcontracts, travel of participants and translation and printing.
Partner(s)	Industry bodies, non-governmental organizations and other interested intergovernmental organizations.

III. Regional centres

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S8. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN REGIONAL CENTRES AND FAO AND UNEP REGIONAL OFFICES: ANNUAL JOINT MEETINGS
Mandate	Synergies decision (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34), sections I A, I B and I C; Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section I, paragraph 5.
Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced coordination on regional strategies and identification of opportunities for the development of joint activities; 2. Enhanced coordination and collaboration between the regional centres, regional offices and other entities engaged in technical assistance at the regional level.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual coordination meeting held; 2. Coordinated regional implementation plans for Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres and FAO and UNEP regional offices.

Short description of the activity	Annual meetings of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and FAO and UNEP regional offices will be convened and coordinated by the secretariats of the conventions. Regional officers of FAO, UNEP and the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres will meet to present and review their activities and exchange information on workplans and business plans with a view to enhancing coordination of regional activities and strategies and identifying opportunities for the development of joint activities. The meetings will operate through a series of plenary sessions, sessions for regional groups and convention-specific sessions. It is expected that convention-specific regional activities will be coordinated and scheduled in such a way that efficiency is increased. Coordination of activities will increase the effectiveness of work undertaken.
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Experience is exchanged and coordination improved between the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and UNEP and FAO regional offices in implementing the elements of technical assistance activities of the three conventions; 2. Improved overview of financial requirements and regional resources in support of the delivery of the technical assistance programme through the preparation of a joint, coordinated plan and discussions between the secretariats and regional officers and representatives of regional centres will result in the identification and development of a number of proposals for pilot projects, joint activities and resource mobilization strategies; 3. Finalized pilot projects on the coordinated use of regional centres; 4. Joint activities are part of the workplans and business plans of the regional centres.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activity will be implemented by representatives of the secretariats of the three conventions with regional officers of FAO and UNEP and the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres. <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A network of centres and regional partners is established.
Partner(s)	Basel Convention regional centres for training and technology transfer, Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, UNEP multilateral environmental agreement focal points for chemicals and wastes , FAO regional offices and FAO subregional offices.
TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S9. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34), section I C, paragraph 18; Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section I, paragraph 5.
Objective	Enhanced South-South cooperation on pilot activities, exchange of experience, successes and strategic alliances between regional centres and parties for the joint implementation of the conventions.

Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements signed to facilitate the exchange of experiences on the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes; 2. Number of joint activities implemented by the regional centres.
Short description of the activity	<p>Regional centres tackle specific priority issues in their region related to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, e.g., transport, import and export, or collection and disposal issues, and liaise with regional centres in other regions to identify and cooperate on issues of common interest such as technical, institutional and management approaches. The project will facilitate exchange of technical staff between the centres in a twinning project approach and other approaches using the experience of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.</p>
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint activities developed and implemented by the regional centres on a bilateral or multilateral basis; 2. Practical tools for the implementation of joint activities, best practices and lessons learned are provided and disseminated via the centres' and secretariats' websites; 3. Exchange of regional centres' staff in twinning arrangements between regional centres and convention secretariats as appropriate.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	<p>Cooperation between the regional centres will begin online with regular information exchanges, video conferences and sharing of technical experience and expertise.</p>
Partner(s)	<p>Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres, FAO and UNEP regional offices, secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.</p>

IV. Clearing-house mechanism

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S10. CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE
Mandate	<p>Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34), section I A, paragraphs 2 and 3, section III B, paragraph 4; Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section III.</p>
Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide one entry point to a wide range of sources of available information relevant to chemicals and wastes management; 2. To facilitate the sharing of information on the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including on models of coordination mechanisms and examples of good coordination practices from countries; 3. To facilitate the transfer of expertise and know-how between stakeholders; 4. To develop a unique development strategy for the clearing-house mechanism across the three conventions, making better use of available resources; 5. To keep parties and other stakeholders well informed regarding convention issues, meetings, programmes, etc., in a more integrated and user-friendly environment; 6. To consolidate the use of available resources.

Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevance and pertinence of information packages for users; 2. Number of parties that will contribute and gain access to the information; 3. Availability of new tools such as social networking mechanisms to facilitate information exchange; 4. Satisfaction of parties and other stakeholders with the service provided and increased number of website hits; 5. Number of articles, best practices, project information exchanged between stakeholders; 6. Greater access to information and expertise available to all stakeholders; 7. Joint strategy for the development of the clearing-house mechanism; 8. Integration of the websites of the three conventions.
Short description of the activity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of cross-cutting information packages; 2. Development of a joint clearing-house mechanism; 3. Maintenance and continuation of the development of the conventions' websites.
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved access to all information relevant to parties' obligations under the three conventions and identification of new opportunities for information sharing and aggregation. Examples of cross-cutting information packages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness materials (United Nations Body Burden Forum, Safe Planet campaign, etc.); • Joint legal information; • Search tool for decisions by the conferences of the parties by thematic area; • Joint calendar of meetings; • Map of regional centres and offices for all three conventions; • Map of ratification status for all three conventions; • Chemicals and wastes profiles; • Focal points for all three conventions; • Country profiles, showing the status of implementation for all three conventions and information on best practices, successful projects, etc.; • Any other information package as required; 2. Integrated and user-friendly collaboration environment available for parties and other users; 3. More integrated systems across the three conventions that facilitate the implementation of the conventions by parties; 4. Constantly improving websites that meet the parties' requirements and provide useful information to other audiences.

<p>Method of implementation (internal or external)</p>	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff time to design the information packages and coordinate data collection and dissemination; • Hardware, software licences. <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants and partners, e.g., regional centres, pilot projects in countries.
<p>Partner(s)</p>	<p>Governments, the UNEP Chemical Information Exchange Network, the Strategic Approach, Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres.</p> <p>UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements through the existing information and knowledge management initiative.</p>
<p>TITLE OF ACTIVITY</p>	<p>S11. JOINT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES</p>
<p>Mandate</p>	<p>Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34), section IV D, paragraph 10 (b):</p> <p>“to establish through the Executive Secretaries of the three Conventions, within the secretariats in Geneva and with the aim of improving the level and efficiency of delivery of services, ... (b) A joint information technology service;”</p> <p>Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section III, paragraph 3 (c):</p> <p>“to establish, through the executive secretaries of the three conventions, taking into account the experiences gained during the interim period, ... (c) Joint information technology service.”</p>
<p>Objective</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the level and efficiency of delivery of information technology services; 2. Facilitate the provision and sharing of information by parties; 3. Improve the services provided to parties during meetings of the Conference of the Parties and other relevant meetings by using new technologies to facilitate negotiations; 4. Provide efficient communication mechanisms through e-mail, e-fax and the internet between parties, the Secretariat and other convention stakeholders; 5. Provide technology, services and training to the Secretariat staff that will ensure the quality and timeliness of meeting documents, information packages, publications, websites and other knowledge management tools; 6. Ensure the necessary security in hosting and archiving the institutional memory of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; 7. Provide a more integrated and user friendly information technology environment for parties, the Secretariat and other users; 8. Provide a solid platform for building up the clearing-house mechanism and other information systems in a standardized manner, achieving as much savings as possible from the reuse of common components and sharing of staff time and other resources.

Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New information technology tools and services are available to facilitate the work of the Secretariat, parties and other relevant convention stakeholders; 2. Parties and other stakeholders are satisfied with the service; 3. The quality of meeting documents, information packages, websites, etc., meet contemporary standards; 4. Greater efficiency and personalization in communication with parties and other stakeholders is achieved; 5. Joint information technology services are available and functioning on a regular basis; 6. The clearing-house mechanism, information systems and other projects that depend heavily on technology are running smoothly and not facing any delays due to technological issues.
Short description of the activity	<p>Provision to the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions of the basic information technology and services required to run the secretariats, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision, maintenance and disposal of hardware, including personal computers, network equipment, audio-visual equipment, etc.; • Selection, installation and training of office software packages; • Network administration, including cabling, switches, servers, network printers, etc.; • E-mail and e-fax administration, including user account maintenance; • Internet, including remote access for Secretariat staff and external users; • Network security, covering anti-spam, anti-virus, backup, etc.; • Helpdesk and troubleshooting.
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New information technology tools and services are available to facilitate the work of the Secretariat, parties and other relevant convention stakeholders; 2. More integrated information technology platform and service across the three conventions to facilitate parties' implementation of the conventions; 3. Greater efficiency in servicing meetings of the conferences of the parties and other meetings under the three conventions; 4. Stable platform and services to facilitate building the clearing-house mechanism and other information systems; 5. Effective and efficient delivery by the secretariats of the outputs envisaged under their programmes of work.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff time, hardware, software licences <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants, subcontracts.
Partner(s)	

V. Public awareness, outreach and publications

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S12. JOINT COMMUNICATION OUTREACH
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34), section III A; Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section III.
Objective	Increased awareness of and participation in activities of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2012–2013, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in May 2012 and national implementation activities thereafter.
Indicators of achievement	1. Number of press releases and media coverage of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; 2. Number of outreach materials produced.
Short description of the activity	Joint communication outreach includes the development of outreach materials, e.g., audio-visual materials, posters, newsletters, leaflets, brochures, exhibitions, etc., press briefings, press releases and others.
Expected outputs	Support for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions provided through the preparation of outreach materials, including printing and publication, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press and crisis management strategy; • Ensuring the integrity and management of brands created under the public awareness and outreach thematic group; • Printing and publication; • Speech writing; • Press releases; • Press liaison (United Nations, media, non-governmental organizations); • New media communication strategies (websites, blogs, social networking, clearing-house, e-newsletters, editing, web maintenance and development and content research, etc.).
Method of implementation (internal or external)	Internal: through collaboration between the three secretariats; staff cost only (non staff costs are included in relevant programmes of each convention). ²⁸
Partner(s)	Stockholm and Basel convention regional centres, UNEP and FAO regional offices, Basel Action Network, Basel Waste Solutions Circle, International POPs Elimination Network, OzonAction, PCBs Elimination Network, Strategic Approach, regional activity centres for cleaner production, other international stakeholder and United Nations organizations and non-profit and private-sector stakeholders, as appropriate.

²⁸ Funds for outreach materials are covered by programmes of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S13. JOINT OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34), section III A; Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section III.
Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased popular awareness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; 2. Support for goals 4 (Reduce Child Mortality) and 7 (Ensure Environmental Sustainability) of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2020 target to achieve sound management of chemicals and wastes; 3. Development of a joint outreach and public awareness plan, including target groups, key messages and strategic, cost-effective communication channels.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of events organized; 2. Web traffic and usage statistics; 3. Number of target groups participating in events; 4. Number of regional, national and local public awareness and outreach activities launched.
Short description of the activity	<p>Joint public awareness and outreach activities will build on the secretariats' joint public awareness and outreach strategy. Activities will include organization of events involving strategic target groups, participation in events organized by others and the inclusion of Safe Planet activities undertaken by participating organizations and individuals at the regional, national and subnational levels. In addition, the secretariats will study the feasibility of developing a global marketing and sponsorship strategy and promote mobilization of resources by external partners in support of the conventions' joint outreach and public awareness objectives.</p>
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adoption and implementation of the joint outreach and public awareness strategy; 2. Facilitation and oversight of partnership-led activities among target groups; 3. Increased popular awareness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in advance of, during and after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the third meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2012; 4. Increased popular understanding of and support for the life-cycle approach to chemicals and wastes management.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through collaboration between the three secretariats and subcontracts. <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities with participating organizations and individuals through their acceptance of United Nations principles and in conformity with the joint strategic public awareness and outreach objectives, aiming at the leveraging of existing resources, partnership agreements, and in kind and voluntary contributions.

Potential partner(s)	Stockholm and Basel convention regional and subregional centres, UNEP and FAO regional offices, Basel Waste Solutions Circle, International POPs Elimination Network, OzonAction, PCBs Elimination Network, Strategic Approach, regional activity centres for cleaner production and other international stakeholder or United Nations organizations, non-profit and private-sector stakeholders, as appropriate.
TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S14. PUBLICATIONS: PRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE VARIOUS LEGAL AND TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS, BOTH REPRINTING AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PUBLICATIONS
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34); Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1).
Objective	Legal and technical information is provided to parties and others for the effective implementation of the conventions.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High-quality publications in printed and electronic form produced; 2. Timely production and delivery of publications; 3. Cost-effective production of publications; 4. Number of legal and technical publications published, reprinted and distributed.
Short description of the activity	<p>The activity will include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meet legal, technical and other publication production needs, upon request; 2. Coordinate planning, forecasting, editing, production and distribution of convention publications; 3. Oversee graphic design, review print proofs and provide quality assurance; 4. Liaise with programme officers of the secretariats, graphic designers and printers and follow up on submission dates for final drafts and production schedules.
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved sources of information on legal and technical aspects of hazardous chemicals and wastes; 2. Better understanding of issues related to hazardous chemicals and wastes; 3. Support provided for the implementation of the conventions; 4. Timely and relevant information provided to parties and others.
Method of implementation (internal or external)	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff time. <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translators, graphic designers, printers, etc
Potential partner(s)	United Nations, UNEP, etc.

VI. Reporting

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S15. NATIONAL REPORTING: REVISE THE REPORTING SYSTEMS OF THE BASEL AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS AND IDENTIFY POSSIBLE AREAS FOR STREAMLINING
Mandate	Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, SC-4/34), section II A; Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section I, paragraph 2.
Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To streamline the reporting formats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in a harmonized manner; 2. A coordinated and simultaneous information collection mechanism from relevant government agencies for both conventions; 3. National mechanisms for reporting relating to chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements are in place; 4. Increased capacity of focal points and designated authorities to collect and report information.
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of reporting parties using the streamlined reporting system for both conventions; 2. Number of participants, number of parties and level of participant satisfaction at each workshop.
Short description of the activity	<p>Currently parties to the Basel Convention have annual reporting requirements while parties to the Stockholm Convention report every four years. To facilitate national reporting for both conventions, the secretariats will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the reporting systems of both conventions and identify possible areas for streamlining; 2. Analyse the electronic reporting systems in place, identify ways to improve them and implement changes required to allow for more similar national reporting under both conventions; 3. Develop a guidance document or documents for information collection and reporting; 4. Organize regional capacity-building workshops on national reporting to take place in 2012 and 2013.
Expected outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased number of reports submitted under the Basel and Stockholm conventions; 2. Reporting system that supports integrated national reporting under both conventions; 3. Capacity-building workshops; 4. A coordinated and simultaneous information collection mechanism from relevant government agencies for both conventions; 5. High-quality information is received through national reports.

<p>Method of implementation (internal or external)</p>	<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough revision of the questionnaires and recommendations for streamlined systems; • Preparation of streamlined reporting systems and online reporting interface; • Preparation of guidance materials on the collection and reporting of information. <p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional capacity-building workshops and training to assist parties to achieve better reporting.
<p>Partner(s)</p>	<p>Regional centres and the parties to the conventions.</p>

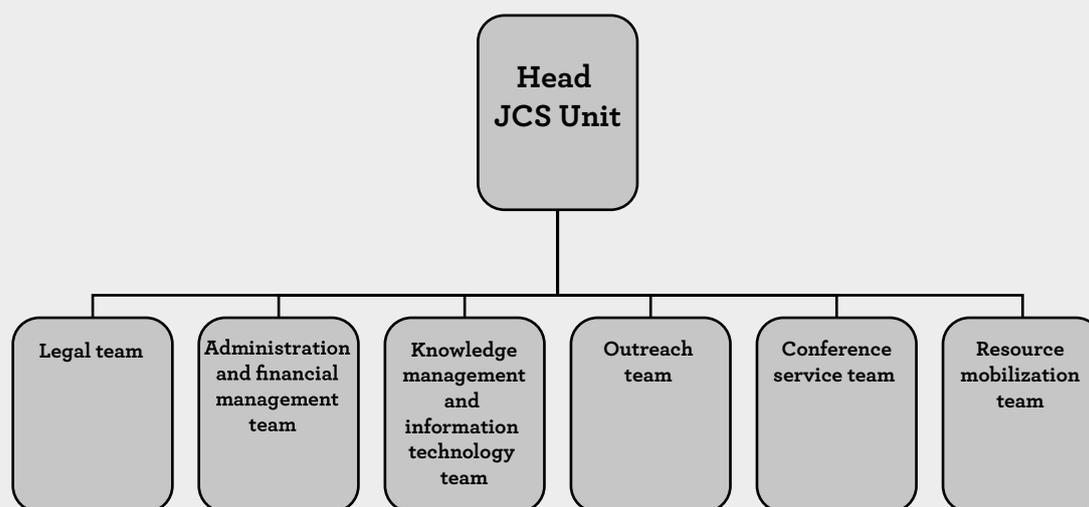
VII. Overall management

<p>TITLE OF ACTIVITY</p>	<p>S16. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION</p>
<p>Mandate</p>	<p>Synergies decisions (BC-IX/10, SC-4/34), section IV B; Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section III, paragraph 3 (e).</p>
<p>Objective</p>	<p>Maximized access to public and private sector funding for implementing the chemicals and wastes agenda in a synergistic manner.</p>
<p>Indicators of achievement</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint resource mobilization and fund-raising strategies developed; 2. Identification of funding opportunities and matching needs from countries and regions; 3. Number of project proposals for which funding is obtained.
<p>Short description of the activity</p>	<p>The activities will include to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement joint resource mobilization and fund-raising strategies; 2. Undertake donor and partner profiling and to set up an information database; 3. Monitor and report in compliance with donor requirements; 4. Meet donors; 5. Integrate and support communication and awareness-raising policies.
<p>Expected outputs</p>	<p>Increased ratio of secure funding in relation to projects presented to donors.</p>
<p>Method of implementation (internal or external)</p>	<p>Internal: staff travel; special events for raising funds; partnerships with other United Nations entities and the private sector.</p>
<p>Potential partner(s)</p>	<p>United Nations organizations and the private sector.</p>

TITLE OF ACTIVITY	S17. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS		
Mandate	Omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1), section VI.		
Objective	<p>Review of how far the arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions, in particular on joint activities, joint managerial functions and joint services, have contributed to achieving the following six objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the national, regional and global levels; 2. Promoting policy coherence; 3. Reducing administrative burden; 4. Maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels; 5. Taking into account global concerns and the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in this assessment; 6. Protecting human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development. 		
Indicators of achievement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A questionnaire on the contribution of the arrangements is sent to parties and posted on the conventions' websites in February 2012; 2. A report on how far the arrangements have contributed to achieving the six objectives is published 90 days before the first meeting of a conference of the parties in 2013. 		
	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	BASEL CONVENTION
Short description of the activity	As detailed in annex IV to decision SC-5/27, the secretariats will:	As detailed in annex IV to decision RC-5/12, the secretariats will:	As detailed in annex IV to decision BC-10/29, the secretariats will:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare in the six official United Nations languages a questionnaire to collect information from parties to the conventions; 2. Send the questionnaire to all parties and post it on the conventions' websites; 3. Collect responses from parties; 4. Prepare a report; 5. Publish the report 90 days before the first meeting of the conference of the parties of any of the three conventions in 2013. 		
Expected outputs	A report on how far the arrangements pursuant to the synergies decisions have contributed to achieving the objectives mentioned above.		
Method of implementation (internal or external)	Internal and external: consultant and translation.		
Potential partner(s)	Parties to the conventions.		

**Annex II to decision SC-5/27
Annex II to decision RC-5/12
Annex II to decision BC-10/29**

Modification of the organization of the joint services of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions



**Annex III to decision SC-5/27
Annex III to decision RC-5/12
Annex III to decision BC-10/29**

Joint workplan for the development of a clearing-house mechanism serving the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions covering the biennium 2012–2013

	Activity	Deadline
1.	Take stock of existing systems: Develop an inventory of information, tools and infrastructure and human and institutional networks that relate to the three conventions' current information-exchange activities.	March 2012
2.	Undertake a needs assessment for the Basel and Rotterdam conventions: In consultation with parties, Basel Convention regional centres and other stakeholders, as appropriate to each convention, assess needs in the context of a clearing-house mechanism.	August 2012

	Activity	Deadline
3.	Design a joint clearing-house mechanism for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, taking into account the inventory of existing systems (activity 1), the needs assessment (activity 2) and the report of the Secretariat on other clearing-house mechanisms and similar mechanisms in the area of chemicals and wastes, including the identification and prioritization of common components and tools, for development during the biennium 2012–2013.	October 2012
4.	Develop and deploy the joint clearing-house-mechanism components and tools: This covers diverse activities such as purchasing hardware and software, hiring experts in the area of systems development and architecture, subcontracting graphic designers and software companies for possible systems customization, computer programming, preparation of user manuals and documentation and testing systems and fixing bugs.	December 2012 Phase 1 December 2013 Phase 2
5.	Develop cross-cutting information package as a “one-stop-shop” of information on chemicals and wastes, covering all three conventions, including country information profiles, joint calendar and joint contact information.	August 2012
6.	Data entry and formatting: Migrate, where appropriate, data to the joint clearing-house mechanism. Enter any new data gathered through the joint activities of the three conventions.	February 2013
7.	Jointly maintain websites: Maintain and develop the three conventions’ websites and the joint portal.	Continuous
8.	Develop a guidance document for the joint clearing-house mechanism: This guidance document will cover standards and best practices for regional and national institutions that would like to develop their own clearing-house mechanism nodes. It will facilitate the compatibility and interoperability of systems under the joint clearing-house mechanism.	December 2012
9.	Implement joint capacity-building and stakeholder consultation: Implement joint capacity-building, including through training workshops and technical capacity enhancement activities for parties to all three conventions; gather feedback to inform the future development of the clearing-house mechanism.	December 2013

Annex IV to decision SC-5/27
Annex IV to decision RC-5/12
Annex IV to decision BC-10/29

Detailed terms of reference for the preparation of the report by the secretariats of the three conventions

I. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. In line with section VI of the omnibus decisions, the purpose of the report by the secretariats is to review how far the arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions, in particular on joint activities, joint managerial functions and joint services, have contributed to achieving the following objectives (hereinafter referred to as “the six objectives”):
 - (a) Strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels;
 - (b) Promoting coherent policy guidance;
 - (c) Reducing administrative burden;
 - (d) Maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;
 - (e) Taking into account global concerns and the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
 - (f) Protecting human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development.

II. SCOPE OF THE REPORT

2. The material scope of the report will be based on the six objectives and how far the arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions, in particular on joint activities, joint managerial functions and joint services, have contributed to achieving them. The report will extend to other arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions, if and where appropriate, keeping in mind that the report is not intended to review parties’ activities.
3. The report covers the period from the adoption of the synergies decisions (May 2009) to August 2012.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Questionnaire

4. A questionnaire to be sent to parties will be jointly prepared by the three secretariats. It will be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations. The questionnaire will be concise and consist of three parts:
 - (a) Request for information on whether and how much the arrangements – joint activities, joint managerial functions, and joint services – have contributed to the six objectives. In addition, parties will have an opportunity to make specific comments and recommendations on whether and how the arrangements have contributed to each objective and on their experience at the country level;
 - (b) Request for information or comments on the challenges or obstacles experienced in the achievement of the six objectives;
 - (c) Request for specific or general recommendations to parties, the secretariats, UNEP, FAO and other institutions and stakeholders as appropriate, on steps that could be taken to make the synergies arrangements, in particular on joint activities, joint managerial functions and joint services, better contribute to the six objectives.
5. The questionnaires will be sent to all parties and made available on the individual and on the synergies websites of the conventions. Completed questionnaires will also be made available on these websites.

B. Report

6. A report of no more than 20 pages in length will be jointly prepared by the three secretariats and will be based on the following outline:

- (a) Introduction;
- (b) Review of the responses from parties submitted via the questionnaire;
- (c) Views of the secretariats on the arrangements;
- (d) Conclusions and recommendations.

7. The completed questionnaires will also be made available to the conferences of the parties.

IV. WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JOINT EVALUATION OFFICES

8. Although the two reports that will be prepared for the conferences of the parties will be independent of each other, the secretariats and the UNEP and FAO evaluation offices will cooperate and exchange information to avoid duplication and to gain from each other's efforts, where applicable.

V. TIMELINE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

Activity	Deadline
Preparation and translation of the questionnaire	31 March 2012
Questionnaire sent out to all parties and posted on the websites of the conventions	30 April 2012
Collection of responses from parties	31 August 2012
Finalization of the secretariats' report	31 December 2012
Report published on the website of the conventions	Ninety days before the first meeting of a conference of the parties in 2013

Annex V to decision SC-5/27

Annex V to decision RC-5/12

Annex V to decision BC-10/29

Terms of reference for the preparation of the report by the evaluation offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

I. BACKGROUND

1. Decisions BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1 and SC.Ex-1/1 (the "omnibus decisions"), were adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, at their simultaneous extraordinary meetings in Bali, Indonesia, on 24 February 2010. In section VI of the omnibus decisions, entitled "Review arrangements", the conferences of the parties decided that at their respective meetings in 2013, in accordance with the timetable contained in the annex to the omnibus decisions, they would review the arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions, in particular on joint activities, joint managerial functions and joint services, to determine how far they had contributed to achieving the following objectives:

- (a) Strengthening of the implementation of the three Conventions at the national, regional and global levels;
- (b) Promoting coherent policy guidance;
- (c) Reducing administrative burden;
- (d) Maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;
- (e) Taking into account global concerns and the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (f) Protecting human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development;

2. The purpose of the review is to assess progress made towards the implementation of the synergies decisions with the objective of establishing how the synergies process has contributed to enhancing cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and global levels. The review will take into account progress made by the parties, the secretariats, UNEP, FAO and other institutions mentioned in the synergies decisions towards the implementation of those decisions and other relevant decisions emerging from the extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties.

II. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE REVIEW

A. Objectives

3. In order to undertake an evaluation following international best practices, the objectives of the review are to examine:

- (a) The extent to which the processes for enhancing cooperation and coordination have taken into account global concerns and responded to the specific needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (b) The extent to which actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation have helped to strengthen the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, have helped to promote coherent policy guidance and have enhanced efficiency in the provision of support to parties with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;
- (c) Whether enhanced coordination and cooperation among the three conventions have contributed to the achievement of their ultimate common objectives: the protection of human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development.

4. The review would contain recommendations to parties, the secretariats, UNEP, FAO and other institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate. It would take into account assessments that may have been undertaken in response to decisions by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2011.

B. Scope

5. The review will be both retrospective and prospective. This involves taking stock of the past while looking into the future with regard to the role of the secretariats in enhancing cooperation and coordination and promoting enhanced policy guidance and efficiencies in their support for parties. While taking a longer-term perspective on the issue, the review will focus on the period since the synergies decisions came into effect. In doing so, the review will take account of the conditions prevailing before the synergies decisions were adopted.

6. The review will not assess, or seek to reach any definitive conclusions on, compliance with the provisions of the conventions. Instead, its focus will be on overall efforts by the respective organizations and the secretariats of the conventions to cooperate and to coordinate their activities with the aim of promoting efficiencies in their support for parties. The review will identify key lessons learned or to be learned and make targeted recommendations for future improvement.

7. It will involve, among other things, a detailed analysis of actions initiated to enhance cooperation and coordination with a view to reducing the administrative burden of the conventions and maximizing the efficient use of resources at all levels.

III. REVIEW CRITERIA AND KEY QUESTIONS

8. While always taking into account the standard internationally accepted evaluation criteria included under objectives-based evaluations (i.e., relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability), these review criteria are not exclusive. The review will be organized around a set of specific review questions. With such an approach, the criteria will be translated into specific questions, and each question may be aimed at eliciting information pertinent to one or more of the criteria. These questions are intended to give a more precise and accessible form to the review criteria and to articulate the key issues of concern to stakeholders, thus optimizing the focus and usefulness of the review.

A. Relevance

9. The review will assess the overall relevance of the synergies decisions, asking whether they make sense in the broader global political, institutional and environmental context; whether they respond to the particular needs of all parties to the conventions, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and whether they are likely to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the three conventions.

10. The review will further determine whether, in retrospect, the actions taken to enhance synergies among the conventions were consistent with the decisions adopted by the parties. It will ascertain the nature and significance of the contribution to the outcomes achieved to date, to the broader goal of reducing the administrative burden on the conventions and to maximizing the use of resources.

B. Effectiveness and impact

11. The review will evaluate how, and to what extent, the synergies decisions have strengthened the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels and effectively promoted policy coherence between them. The assessment will take into account any achievement indicators that may have been stated in the decisions themselves.

12. The analysis of outcomes achieved should include an assessment of the extent to which the mechanisms established following the adoption of the omnibus decisions have directly or indirectly assisted in promoting and enhancing cooperation and coordination among the conventions. The review will seek to establish how these outcomes have contributed or will contribute to the achievement of the ultimate common objectives of the conventions: the protection of human health and the environment for the promotion of sustainable development.

C. Efficiency

13. Efficiency will be assessed at three levels. First, the review will consider whether the efforts and actions taken to forge synergies among the three conventions were cost-effective and undertaken in a timely manner.

14. Second, the review will evaluate whether the actions taken as a result of the synergies decisions have effectively reduced the administrative burden on the convention secretariats, parties and other stakeholders, and have genuinely contributed to maximizing the efficient use of resources at all levels.

15. Third, the review will assess whether the synergies decisions have led to improved efficiency in the implementation of convention-related actions or activities at the national level.

D. Sustainability

16. Sustainability is understood as the probability of continued long-term outcomes and impacts. The review will bring to light the factors that will determine the persistence of benefits derived from the efforts to foster synergies, such as enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of the conventions or improved coherence among them. Other factors might be stronger institutional capacity, better coordinated and informed decision-making or a positive perception by the parties of the outcomes of the synergies decisions themselves.

IV. METHODS

17. This study will be conducted as an in-depth review using a participatory approach by the UNEP and FAO evaluation offices. The secretariats of the respective conventions, the bureaux, parties and other relevant stakeholders will be kept informed regularly. The independent reviewers commissioned to undertake the review will liaise with the evaluation offices on any logistical and methodological issues germane to the proper conduct of the review in a manner that is as independent as possible given the circumstances and the resources provided.

18. The review will seek inputs from parties, the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as other stakeholders, and comprise broad research, data collection and analysis, in addition to selected investigations through interviews, a questionnaire or questionnaires, global consultations, regional consultations and reviews of key documents and financial information. All these approaches will focus on the questions set out in section III above.

19. The omnibus decisions and other related supporting documentation were used to derive preliminary outcome- and output-level performance indicators²⁹ for use in the review, which are listed in table 1.

Table 1
Preliminary performance indicators for use in the review

Outcomes	Indicators
Joint implementation of substantive activities at the national, regional and global levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and outputs of joint activities under implementation such as technical guidance and standards and capacity-building • Coordinated national reporting compliant with individual convention requirements • Satisfaction of parties with joint activities • Proportion of joint activities of projects undertaken by regional centres • Satisfaction of regional centres with regard to cooperation between them
Institutionalized joint financial management and audit services for the three conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction of stakeholders with arrangements for sharing audit reports • Cross-cutting Office of Internal Oversight Services audit report shared with the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2011 • Convention budget cycles remain synchronized with those of UNEP and FAO • Satisfaction of stakeholders and secretariats with financial and administrative support arrangements

²⁹ Section VI of the omnibus decisions, on review arrangements, specifies in paragraph 4 that the terms of reference for the review should include performance indicators.

Resource mobilization: increased funding for the implementation of convention-related activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in secured funding for national, regional and global implementation per convention as reflected in the secretariats' budgets • Increase in expenditure on advocacy for resource mobilization per convention
Public information products and outreach services jointly provided in relation to the three conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction of all stakeholders with public information products (such as websites) and outreach services provided
Joint management processes and structures operational for the three conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal joint management group established with defined terms of reference • Executive Secretary of the three convention secretariats appointed • Satisfaction of regional centres with regard to information exchange with the joint management structure • Ratio/percentage of documents that have been prepared reflecting the policy framework of all three conventions.
Joint resource mobilization efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a joint resource mobilization strategy
Common information technology service provision for the three conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction of Secretariat staff with information technology services provided • Reduced costs of the provision of information technology services
Legal service for the three conventions operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction of Secretariat staff and stakeholders with legal services provided • Ratio/percentage of draft decisions that have been prepared taking into account the legal framework of all three conventions • Reduced costs of the provision of legal services
Common information-sharing tools and mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of tools, procedures and agreements for sharing legal, technical and scientific information
Increased cooperation and coordination on technical issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of joint coordinated work on technical issues (e.g., guidelines)

20. The review will consist of three main phases, in the course of which four methodological stages will be developed. The phases are listed in table 2.

Table 2
Main phases of the review process

Three main phases of development	Four methodological stages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception • Implementation • Synthesis and reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structuring of the review Data collection Analysis Judgements on findings and recommendations

A. Inception

21. This phase will include the preparation of a review framework and data collection and analysis methods and tools. It will feature an extensive desk study and be concluded with the preparation of an inception report.

22. The review framework will provide details on the review questions, information sources, data collection and analysis tools, and performance indicators. The desk study will review decisions of the conferences of the parties, relevant documents prepared by the secretariats, documents and decisions of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, progress reports, minutes of meetings and relevant correspondence.

23. Preliminary interviews will be conducted with staff working on convention issues, the management teams of the secretariats and of the administering organizations (UNEP and, in the case of the Rotterdam Convention, with FAO), representatives of parties, non-governmental and civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders. Their views will be sought on the progress made by parties, the secretariats, UNEP, FAO and other institutions mentioned in the synergies decisions towards the implementation of those decisions and relevant decisions emerging from any extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties.

24. The inception report will present the context of the synergies decisions and the review framework. It will present the first findings derived from the desk study and include a list of issues requiring further investigation in the implementation phase of the review. The inception report will be shared with the advisory panel for the review (see below).

B. Implementation phase

25. The main purpose of the implementation phase will be to complete and validate the information obtained during the inception phase. It will mainly consist of further document reviews and in-depth interviews with and surveys of key individuals in UNEP, FAO, the secretariats, party representatives and other key partner organizations.

26. Questionnaires could also be employed to gather data from a broad range of stakeholders. There are obvious potential synergies in this regard with the parallel review being led and undertaken by the secretariats. If feasible, and to avoid duplication of effort, the evaluators will engage with the secretariats to prepare a consolidated and comprehensive survey instrument that will meet the needs of both review efforts.

27. Analysis of the information collected will lead to an overall judgement on progress made towards the implementation of the synergies decisions and, ultimately, the degree to which implementation of the decisions has contributed to enhanced coordination and cooperation between the conventions and has made the use of their resources more efficient. Before the synthesis and reporting phase, the review team will present its emerging findings to the advisory panel for feedback.

C. Synthesis and reporting phase

28. Based on the information collected and analysed during the previous phases, the review team will draft a review report. The report will build on relevant sections of the inception report and expand on the issues for further investigation previously identified therein. It will also present the lessons learned and recommendations of the review. The draft report will be reviewed by the advisory panel before it is finalized.

V. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

29. The main output of the review will be a final report. The report should be brief, to the point and easy to understand. It must explain the purpose of the review, exactly what was reviewed and the methods used. The report must highlight any methodological limitations, identify key concerns and present evidence-based findings, consequent conclusions, recommendations and lessons. The report should provide information on when the review took place, the places visited and who was involved and should be presented in a way that makes the information accessible and comprehensible. The report should include an executive summary that encapsulates the essence of the information contained in the main report to facilitate dissemination and distillation of lessons.

30. Evidence, findings, conclusions and recommendations should be presented in a complete and balanced manner. The report must be written in English, be no longer than 50 pages (excluding annexes), use numbered paragraphs and include:

- (a) An executive summary (no more than three pages) providing a brief overview of the review's main conclusions and recommendations;
- (b) Introduction and background giving a brief overview of the synergies decisions under review in their broader context and of the origins of the review;
- (c) Scope, objective and methods presenting the review's purpose, the review criteria used and questions to be considered;
- (d) Overall performance and impact providing factual evidence relevant to the questions asked and interpretations of such evidence (the main substantive section of the report);
- (e) Conclusions presenting the review's concluding assessments against the given review criteria and standards of performance. The conclusions should provide answers to the key questions and assess the results achieved to date;
- (f) Lessons learned, presenting general conclusions based on established good practices that have the potential for wider application and use. Lessons may also be derived from problems, gaps and mistakes. The context in which lessons may be applied should be clearly specified, and lessons should always state or imply some prescriptive action. A lesson should be written such that experiences derived could be applied in other similar situations;
- (g) Recommendations suggesting actionable proposals for improvement. Prior to each recommendation, the issue or problem that the recommendation is meant to solve should be clearly stated. The recommendations should be relevant within the context of the conventions and organized by target groups. They should be prioritized according to their importance and urgency to the purpose of the review. Options for implementing the recommendations with an indication of their respective limits and possible risks should be presented. Recommendations will in all cases need to be cross referenced to the corresponding findings or conclusions;³⁰
- (h) Annexes, including terms of reference, a list of interviewees, documents reviewed and a brief summary of the expertise of the review team. Dissenting views or management responses to the review findings may later be annexed.

³⁰ A high-quality recommendation is an actionable proposal that is feasible to implement within the time frame and resources available; commensurate with the available capacities of implementation partners; specific in terms of who would do what and when; contains results-based language (i.e., a measurable performance target); and includes a trade-off analysis, when its implementation may require using significant resources that would otherwise be used for other purposes.

VI. TASKS AND SCHEDULE

31. The review is expected to be implemented as set out in table 3.

Table 3
Schedule for the review

Deliverable/activity	Indicative time frame
Inception (November 2011–March 2012)	
Inception – evaluation framework (following decision of the final meeting of a conference of the parties in 2011)	November 2011
Desk review	December 2011
Draft inception report	End of February 2012
Final inception report	End of March 2012
Implementation (December 2011–15 May 2012)	
Additional desk review	March–April 2012
Stakeholder interviews (including field missions)	April–May 2012
Data collation and analysis	May–June 2012
Debriefing on emerging findings	15 May 2012
Reporting (15 May 2012–March 2013)	
Submission of the first draft report to UNEP and FAO	30 June 2012
Presentation of the first draft report to the advisory panel	15 July 2012
Presentation of the second draft report to the advisory panel	7 September 2012
Distribution of the report by UNEP and FAO for comments by the parties and other stakeholders	31 October 2012
Deadline for comments by the parties and other stakeholders on the report by UNEP and FAO	15 December 2012
Publishing of the final report on the websites	15 January 2013
Consideration of the review by the conferences of the parties and adoption of decisions by the conferences of the parties	After March 2013

VII. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

32. The review will be jointly managed by the evaluation offices of UNEP and FAO, which will each appoint a task manager to manage the review process. The task managers will provide backstopping support and ensure coordination and liaison with all concerned units and other key agencies and stakeholders; they will determine the review team composition, provide overall guidance and ensure substantive supervision of all research. The UNEP Evaluation Office will, in consultation with its FAO counterpart, select and contract the international consultants to the review team.

33. The review team will be responsible for the development, research, drafting and finalization of the review in close consultation with the task managers and other relevant units of UNEP and FAO, in addition to the secretariats.

34. The evaluation offices will meet all costs related to conducting the review and will manage the review process, providing support and ensuring coordination and liaison with key agencies. They will be responsible for the final evaluation report and for its formal presentation to the conferences of the parties.

VIII. REVIEW TEAM

35. The review will be carried out by a team with advanced knowledge and experience in the following fields: chemicals and wastes; multilateral environmental agreements; international affairs and international development administration; institutional reform and business processes. The team must also possess an in-depth understanding of, and familiarity with, evaluation methods and techniques and documented experience in conducting evaluations and reviews. The team must be prepared to work in English and possess excellent drafting skills.

36. The core review team will comprise two international consultants. One will be designated as the team leader and will provide intellectual leadership and direction for the review and be responsible for delivering the final product. The other will be a subject matter specialist and have a good understanding of and expertise in multilateral and intergovernmental processes and in evaluation methods and processes. The team will be supported by designated staff from the UNEP and FAO evaluation offices. These task managers will provide overall guidance for the review and participate in the review as they deem appropriate.

37. The review team leader and all other members of the review team will be selected by the evaluation offices taking into account the technical qualifications of the consultants in the subject matter and in evaluation and review methods.

38. All team members will be responsible for drafting components of the report while the team leader will be responsible for drafting the integrated final report and executive summary with the support of the task managers.

IX. ADVISORY PANEL

39. As part of the consultative process in undertaking the review, an external advisory panel comprising six experts will be set up by the evaluation offices. The members will be selected on the basis of their recognized stature in the fields of chemicals and wastes, multilateral environmental agreements and evaluations and reviews. The advisory panel will ensure quality control of the review. It will review and provide comments on the inception report, the draft report and the final review report. The evaluation offices will form part of the extended advisory panel, which will remain in existence until the completion, dissemination and final review of the report. Inputs from and comments of the advisory panel are expected to enrich the process and enhance broader understanding of the issues.

X. QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM

40. A joint internal quality assurance team comprising designated staff from the evaluation offices (but excluding task managers) will be set up to ensure adherence to the evaluation offices' quality standards pertaining to both the process and the review outputs or milestones.

XI. REVIEW AUDIENCE

41. The users of the review are the parties to the conventions, the UNEP and FAO management teams and the secretariats. Considerable interest is likely to be shown in the review by other stakeholders, including other convention parties and secretariats, various multinational organizations, the academic community, think tanks and many non-governmental and civil society organizations.

XII. FOLLOW-UP, DISSEMINATION AND LEARNING

42. The review is expected to help the parties, the secretariats, UNEP and FAO to identify key lessons on strategic positioning that can provide a useful basis for strengthening cooperation and coordination among the conventions. It will present good practices and also draw lessons from unintended results.

43. The review and resulting recommendations will be shared with the parties to the conventions, the secretariats and other interested stakeholders. The review will be presented to the conferences of the parties and the secretariats, who will be responsible for preparing a management response to the findings and recommendations. Innovative ways of disseminating the review findings will be sought to reach as wide a range of stakeholders as possible.

F. OMNIBUS DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2013

Since decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1 are substantively identical decisions, these have been reproduced below only once. Those sections that are not identical have been set out in separate columns for the three decisions. Minor differences in spelling and formatting are not being indicated.

BASEL CONVENTION	ROTTERDAM CONVENTION	STOCKHOLM CONVENTION
<p>BC.Ex-2/1: Omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>	<p>RC.Ex-2/1: Omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>	<p>SC.Ex-2/1: Omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions</p>

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of each of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 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,

Recognizing the broad scope of the three conventions,

Welcoming the continued commitment of all parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the three conventions,

Reaffirming that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance, enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to parties, reducing the administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels,

Taking into account the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries, particularly small island developing States and least developed countries, and of countries with economies in transition,

Mindful of the various principles recognized within the three conventions, including pertinent provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and reiterating decisions BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1 and SC.Ex-1/1,

Noting that the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are simultaneously adopting the present decision, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1, respectively,

1. *Adopts* the present decision;

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I REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

2. *Takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations set out in the report prepared by the Secretariat¹ and in the report prepared by the evaluation offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations² on the review of the synergies arrangements;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and invites parties, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other stakeholders to implement the recommendations set out in annex I to the present decision;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to provide a succinct report to the conferences of the parties at their 2015 meetings on the implementation of the present decision;

5. *Decides* to undertake a further review of the synergies arrangements, which should be based on an independent assessment of the implementation and impact of the joint activities and joint managerial functions, including joint services, at all levels, and presented as a report for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and in consultation with parties, to prepare options for the review referred to in the preceding paragraph and its methodology, including draft terms of reference, for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2015;

II ORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIATS OF THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

7. *Takes note* of the interim reorganization of the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention pursuant to the December 2011 proposal of the Executive Secretary, which was effected in February 2012;³

8. *Notes* that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, following consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary, has reviewed the interim organization of the secretariats and approved the Executive Secretary's proposal for the implementation of the matrix-based management approach and organization of the secretariats;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations⁴ Environment Programme to confirm to the conferences of the parties detailed information on the projected cost savings identified since the implementation of the new matrix-based management approach and organization of the secretariats;

10. *Notes* that the part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which was not included in the matrix-based management approach and organization, contributes to all the operational areas set out in that approach and organization and requests that the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions review the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to enhance synergies arrangements;

¹ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/6.

² UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/5

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10. *Notes* that the part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which was not included in the matrix-based management approach and organization, contributes to all the operational areas set out in that approach and organization and requests that the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions review the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to enhance synergies arrangements;

11. *Endorses* the matrix-based management approach and organization of the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, as approved by the Executive Director and reproduced in annex II to the present decision;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to implement the endorsed matrix based management approach and organization of the secretariats in a manner consistent with the budget and staffing decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties in 2013;

13. *Invites* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary, to undertake a review of the matrix-based management approach and organization to ensure that the operation of the secretariats is efficient and effective, to advise the conferences of the parties of any follow-up action necessary at their meetings in 2017 and to make any such changes as are deemed necessary in advance of the next meetings of the conferences of the parties following the 2017 meetings;

III JOINT ACTIVITIES

14. *Takes note* of the information provided in the note by the Secretariat on joint activities⁵ and its related information documents;⁶

15. *Also takes note* of the initial and important progress made through joint activities in enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, enabling improved cost efficiencies and reduced administrative burden;

16. *Stresses* the need for further efforts to be made in the implementation of the objectives of the synergies arrangements to promote coherent policy guidance and to strengthen the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels;

17. *Requests* the secretariats:

(a) To prepare a report on the implementation of joint activities, to recommend areas for further development or adjustment of those activities and to identify, including through engagement with parties, possible future joint activities for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2015;

(b) To continue to present joint activities as an integral part of the proposed programmes of work and budgets of the three conventions;

18. *Invites* parties and others in a position to do so to continue to support joint activities of the three conventions;

³ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/7 and UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/8.

⁴ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9.

⁵ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/2/Add.4.

⁶ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/10 and UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/12.

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IV

ENHANCED COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN TECHNICAL BODIES OF THE THREE CONVENTIONS

19. *Takes note* of the information provided in the paper by the chairs of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention and the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the potential for enhanced cooperation and coordination between the two committees;

20. *Welcomes* the identification of the options for information exchange and improved communication and recommends that the implementation of joint activities between the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Chemical Review Committee be accelerated;

21. *Requests* the alignment of the working arrangements of the Chemical Review Committee with those of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to allow for mutual information sharing and, within available resources, effective participation of experts and observers at committee meetings;

22. *Requests* the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Chemical Review Committee to discuss and identify further steps to enhance the cooperation and coordination between these two technical bodies, where practical and in accordance with their autonomous mandates and terms of reference, and to develop guidance to assist parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Chemical Review Committee in their work when a chemical under consideration is a persistent organic pollutant listed under the Stockholm Convention;

23. *Encourages* the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to involve experts from the Basel Convention when discussing waste-related issues;

V

WIDER COOPERATION

24. *Welcomes* paragraphs 89 and 213–223 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, relating to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including the reaffirmation of the aim to achieve by 2020 the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle and of hazardous wastes, and the call for further enhancing coordination and cooperation with other relevant actors at all levels;

25. *Requests* the secretariats to further enhance cooperation and coordination with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to contribute to meeting the 2020 goal on the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle and of hazardous wastes and to report on progress in doing so to the conferences of the parties in 2015, recognizing the different legal statuses of the instruments;

26. *Welcomes* the invitation by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, at its twenty-seventh meeting, to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to use the opportunity of their extraordinary meetings from 28 April to 10 May 2013 to consider steps that would facilitate possible future cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and to forward any outcome of that consideration to the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention;

27. *Expresses* its interest and signals its readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Minamata Convention on Mercury;

28. *Invites* the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention to consider cooperation and coordination in areas of mutual interest to the four conventions;

29. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention of the present decision;

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VI TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

30. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Executive Secretary in improving the transparency and accountability of the secretariats;

31. *Takes note* of the Executive Secretary's intention to continue to post the following reports on the website of the Convention:

- (a) Report on financial status by activity and budget code (annual);
- (b) Secretariat workplan (annual) and associated progress reports (quarterly);
- (c) Report on signed projects and legal instruments (semi-annual);
- (d) Inventory report on non-expendable equipment (semi-annual);
- (e) Report of the Executive Secretary on synergies, possible cost savings and efficiencies (quarterly);
- (f) Status of funds (quarterly);
- (g) Report on approved staffing (quarterly);
- (h) Report on approved human resource actions (quarterly);
- (i) Report on approved and undertaken travel (quarterly);
- (j) Report on approved consultancy contracts (quarterly);
- (k) Standard operating procedures (updated regularly);
- (l) Status of voluntary contributions received, including concept notes for activities that still require funding (updated regularly);

32. *Takes note* of the Executive Secretary's intention to include the following new reports:

- (a) An integrated workplan and schedule for all tasks required by decisions of the conferences of the parties (biennial);
- (b) Report on the gender balance of the Secretariat and actions taken to improve it at all levels (semi annual);
- (c) Report on the regional balance of the Secretariat and actions taken to improve it at all levels (semi annual);
- (d) Report on actions taken by the Secretariat to improve its environmental and economic sustainability (semi-annual);
- (e) Report on duties delegated to the Executive Secretary by the Executive Director, together with any re-delegations (updated regularly);

33. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the reports listed in the preceding paragraphs are linked to biennial and annual work plans and are, as far as possible, consolidated;

VII FACILITATING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CHEMICALS AND WASTES

34. *Welcomes* decision 27/12, section VIII, on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-seventh session, in February 2013;

35. *Joins* the Governing Council in welcoming an integrated approach to addressing the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, which underscores that the three components of an integrated approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

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<p>36. <i>Agrees</i> that an integrated approach supplements and seeks to address the increased need for adequate, predictable, accessible and sustainable financial solutions for the chemicals and wastes cluster at the national, regional and international levels;</p> <p>37. <i>Invites</i> all countries, and urges in particular developed countries, within their capabilities, to further strengthen the element of dedicated external finance so as to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to implement the sound management of chemicals and wastes;</p> <p>38. <i>Notes</i> with appreciation the invitation made by the Governing Council to the Global Environment Facility to revise, in the context of its sixth replenishment process, its focal area structure and strategy in order to address the chemicals and waste cluster and invites donors to increase their financial contributions during the sixth replenishment, taking into account the increasing need for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;</p> <p>39. <i>Takes note</i> of the country-led meeting to further develop terms of reference for the special programme described in paragraphs 13–15 of section VIII of decision 27/12, emphasizing that institutional strengthening at a national level requires attention;</p> <p>40. <i>Invites</i> parties to implement actions to further mainstream the sound management of chemicals and wastes into national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies;</p> <p>41. <i>Also invites</i> parties to implement actions to further encourage industry involvement in the integrated approach, including the development of legislation on the responsibilities of industry and national administration, the provision of incentives for sound chemicals and waste management, extended producer responsibility and the promotion of measures by industry to internalize costs as per the polluter pays principle, and urges industry in developed countries, and in other countries in a position to do so, to facilitate experience sharing on best environmental practices;</p> <p>42. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to ensure that the secretariats' activities and support to parties under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions take as reference such an integrated approach, to report on progress in implementing the three mutually reinforcing components of the approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance,⁷ and to highlight challenges in mobilizing financial resources within these components, for consideration and possible recommendations by the conferences of the parties at their next meetings;</p> <p>43. <i>Underlines</i> that implementation at the regional level, including through regional centres, could be strengthened by mobilizing further financial resources through an integrated approach.</p>		

Annex I to decision BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1, SC.Ex-2/1

Recommendations on follow-up to the review of the synergies arrangements

I. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

(a) A cooperative and coordinated approach among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and, as appropriate, to related instruments should be applied when addressing the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes at all levels in order to strengthen implementation, enhance policy coherence, maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of resources and avoid unnecessary duplication;

(b) Priority should be given to the implementation of those joint activities within the synergies work programme that strengthen the effectiveness of the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) Synergies should be enhanced at the national and regional levels, with particular attention to reinforcing cooperation, coordination and rationalization of Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention regional centres, regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant centres and institutions.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARTIES

In their consideration of paragraph 2 of section I, "Review arrangements", parties are invited to implement, at their discretion, the following recommendations:

(a) To promote the sound management of chemicals and wastes as a contribution to sustainable development;

(b) To further develop and streamline their cooperation and coordination mechanisms at the national level to improve the management of chemicals and wastes with the aim of reinforcing actions to meet the objectives of the conventions, including efficient and timely sharing of information between relevant competent authorities;

(c) To continue to support synergies arrangements of the three conventions, including through voluntary contributions;

(d) To enhance cooperation with civil society with a view to mainstreaming and raising awareness regarding the importance of synergistic actions promoting the chemicals and wastes agenda;

(e) To enhance cooperation with the private sector across the chemicals and waste management sectors, encouraging industry involvement in synergistic activities;

(f) To enhance coordination and cooperation through joint deliberations, where appropriate, to assist decision-making by the conferences of the parties;

(g) To acknowledge that providing assistance to facilitate improved efficiency and implementation of the conventions at the national and regional levels is one of the primary objectives for the use of resources saved in the budgets of the conventions through synergies arrangements;

(h) To continue to work with the secretariats, the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director General of FAO on the implementation and reviews of the matrix-based management approach and organization and the synergies arrangements;

(i) To continue to enhance coordination and cooperation among the existing chemicals and waste conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and to explore options for deepening and broadening the coordination and cooperation process.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Executive Secretary is invited to implement the following recommendations:

- (a) To continue to promote the active participation of parties and other stakeholders and increase their ownership of the process;
- (b) To continue to support the further development, deepening and broadening of cooperation and coordination;
- (c) To make proposals, on the basis of experience at the current meetings and comments from parties to the bureaux, on how to organize the meetings of the conferences of the parties to be held in 2015. The members of the Bureaux should consult widely on this;
- (d) To provide the conferences of the parties with clear and detailed information on the impact of the synergies process on implementation, on the organizational and staffing structure of the secretariats and on financial efficiency gains of the operation for their consideration.

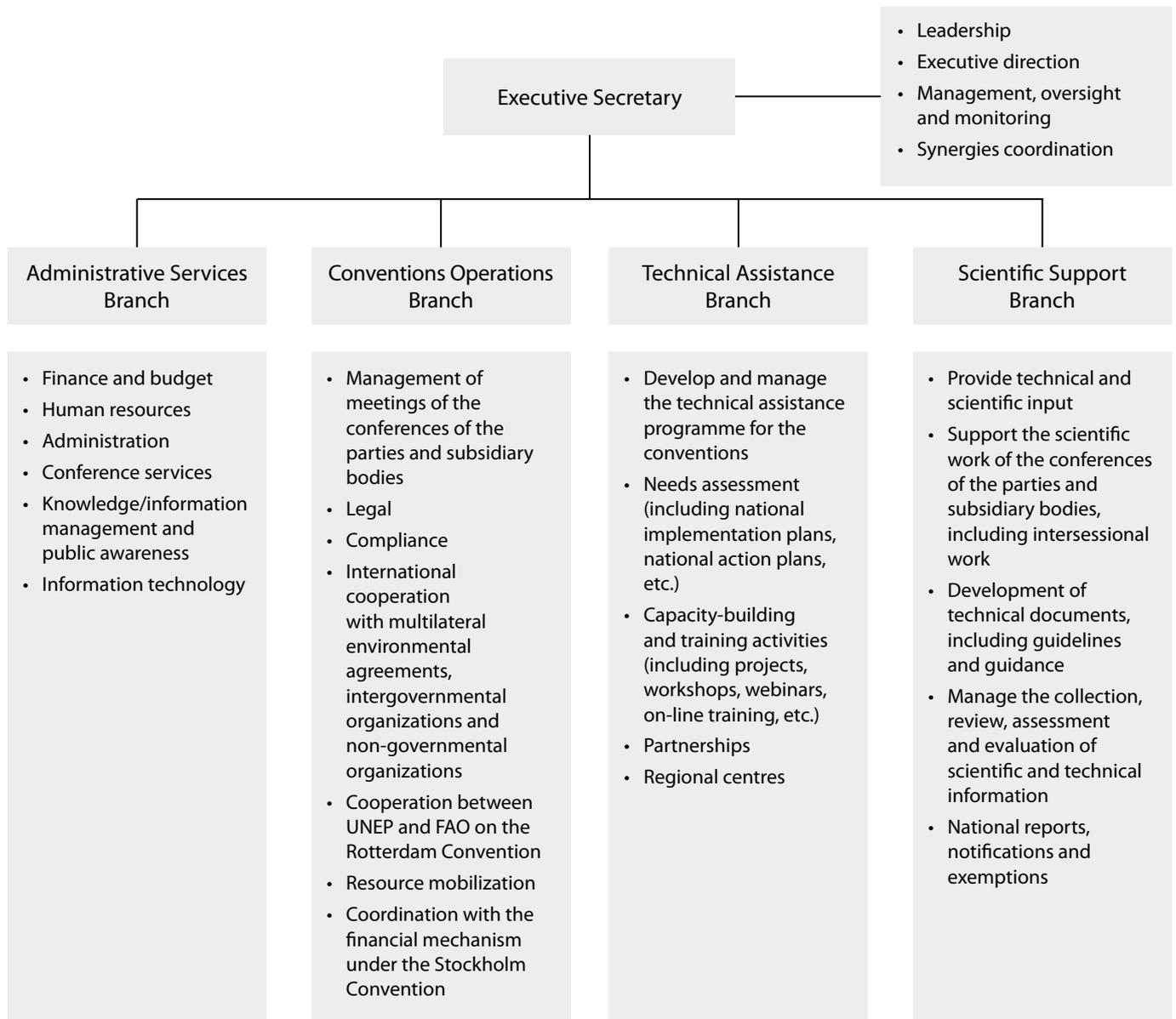
IV. RECOMMENDATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME, THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS

The United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other institutions and stakeholders are invited to implement the following recommendations:

- (a) To continue to support the further development, deepening and broadening of the cooperation and coordination.

Annex II to decision BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1, SC.Ex-2/1

Matrix-based management approach and organization of the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention and of the UNEP part of the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention



APPENDIX

OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Document number	Title	Year	Languages
UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.3/3	Report of the Ad hoc Joint Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on the work of its third meeting (English only)	2008	English only
UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.2/18	Report of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of its second meeting	2007	English only
UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.1/4	Report of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of its first meeting	2007	English only
UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/8	Report of the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	2010	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/4	Report of the second simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	2013	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

All documents, as well as the documents referred to in the various decisions, are available on the following websites:

Documents pertaining to the Basel Convention: www.basel.int

Documents pertaining to the Rotterdam Convention: www.pic.int

Documents pertaining to the Stockholm Convention: www.pops.int

Documents pertaining to the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties: <http://synergies.pops.int/>

Documents pertaining to the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group: <http://ahjwg.chem.unep.ch/>

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 22 March 1989 and it came into force on 5 May 1992. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects resulting from the generation, transboundary movements and management of hazardous wastes and other wastes.

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted on 10 September 1998 and it came into force on 24 February 2004. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of certain hazardous chemicals, including some pesticides and industrial chemicals.

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted on 22 May 2001 and it came into force on 17 May 2004. The Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from highly dangerous, long-lasting chemicals by restricting and ultimately eliminating their production, use, trade, release and storage.

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are distinct legally autonomous multilateral environmental agreements that share the common objective of protecting human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes for the promotion of sustainable development. To achieve this common goal, the conferences of the parties to these three conventions have over the years adopted a series of decisions aiming at enhancing cooperation and coordination among these conventions. Thus, a framework for the so-called “synergies process” has been set.

The present publication compiles the decisions taken by parties to the three conventions between 2005 and 2013 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions and provides a brief overview of the background and the development of the decisions.

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