
**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements
of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Sixteenth meeting**

Geneva, 1–12 May 2023

Item 4 (b) (v) of the provisional agenda**

**Matters related to the implementation of the
Convention: scientific and technical matters: further
consideration of plastic waste**

Further consideration of plastic waste

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Following the amendments to Annexes II, VIII and IX adopted in decision BC-14/12, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, in paragraph 1 of decision BC-15/15, took note of the background information related to a possible future assessment of the effectiveness of the measures taken under the Basel Convention to address plastic waste and to possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention.¹

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

3. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of used and waste pneumatic tyres³ and invited Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat, by 31 October 2022, on whether technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of rubber wastes (entry B3040) and waste parings and scrap

* Reissued for technical reasons on 13 March 2023.

** UNEP/CHW.16/1.

¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/10.

² Ibid.

³ UNEP/CHW.10/6/Add.1/Rev.1, annex.

of rubber (entry B3080) should be developed. Further information on those technical guidelines can be found in document UNEP/CHW.16/6, on technical guidelines.

II. Implementation

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

5. Taking into consideration the comments received and the work undertaken in follow-up to Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, the Secretariat prepared a draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirteenth meeting.⁵ Parties and observers were invited to provide comments on the draft document by 31 March 2023. Comments received by the 31 March 2023 deadline are available on the website of the Convention. A revised version of the draft document on possible further activities, taking into consideration the comments received, the work undertaken in follow-up to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, as appropriate, and the discussions at the thirteenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, is set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/18 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting.

6. The information relating to the Secretariat's cooperation with the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution can be found in documents UNEP/CHW.16/22–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/23, UNEP/CHW.16/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/23–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/45 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/58–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/41–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/59.

III. Proposed action

7. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the draft document on possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information and health impacts related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics;⁶

2. *Decides* to undertake the following activities: [to be inserted];⁷

3. *Decides* to include in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2024–2025, under topic II D on further consideration of plastic waste, the consideration of further activities that could be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste, as well as in the consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee referred to in paragraph 1 of resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

⁴ www.basel.int/tabid/9357.

⁵ UNEP/CHW/OEWG.13/INF/11.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/18.

⁷ This is a placeholder for any activities that the Conference of the Parties may wish to decide to undertake, taking into account the elements of possible further activities that could be conducted under the Basel Convention set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/18.