



**Basel Convention on the Control of
Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

Distr.: General
4 December 2024

Original: English



**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for Certain
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides
in International Trade**



**Stockholm Convention on Persistent
Organic Pollutants**

**Conference of the Parties
to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary
Movements of Hazardous Wastes
and Their Disposal
Seventeenth meeting**
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

**Conference of the Parties
to the Rotterdam Convention
on the Prior Informed Consent
Procedure for Certain Hazardous
Chemicals and Pesticides
in International Trade
Twelfth meeting**
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

**Conference of the Parties
to the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Twelfth meeting**
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025

Organization of the high-level segment of the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Note by the Secretariat

1. In decisions [BC-16/26](#), [RC-11/13](#) and [SC-11/25](#), on the venue and dates of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to 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, the conferences of the Parties decided that their next meetings, to be held back to back, from 28 April to 9 May 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland, would include a high-level segment of no more than one day's duration.
2. The bureaux of the conferences of the Parties, at their joint meeting on 5 November 2024, agreed on the organization of the high-level segment of the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties.¹
3. Information on the organization of the high-level segment, as agreed on by the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present note.

¹ See www.brsmeas.org/tabid/9796.

Annex

Organization of the high-level segment of the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

I. Objective

1. The objective of the high-level segment is to provide an interactive, dynamic and inclusive platform for ministers and deputy ministers (or their equivalents) to exchange experiences and to provide political leadership for renewed commitment to the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as to raise awareness of how the three conventions contribute to addressing the environmental crises of pollution, biodiversity loss and climate change. In doing so, the high-level segment aims to raise political awareness of and support for the conventions, and to promote dialogue among ministers, and between ministers, deputy ministers and other high-level representatives.

II. Theme

2. The 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties and the high-level segment will be held under the theme “Make Visible the Invisible: Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastes”. The theme is designed to foster meaningful exchanges and discussions aligned with the event’s objectives and oriented towards relevant and tangible outcomes. The theme will also play a key role in raising awareness of the work of the conventions, emphasizing the importance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

III. Outcomes

3. The outcomes of the high-level segment will comprise a report summarizing the discussions and a consolidation of the key messages emerging from the round-table discussions and the interactive panel discussions.

IV. Organization

4. The high-level segment will take place at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) and the nearby Varembe Conference Centre in Geneva in the afternoon of Wednesday, 30 April and the morning of Thursday, 1 May. In addition, a ministerial dinner is scheduled to take place in the evening of 30 April.

5. To assist ministers and other invited high-level guests in engaging in the high-level segment, a programme and a thought starter, comprising information aimed at guiding ministers in the discussions, will be made available on the conventions’ website in the “High-level segment” section.

V. Schedule

A. Wednesday, 30 April 2025: afternoon session

1. Opening of the high-level segment (3–3.45 p.m., plenary hall, CICG)

6. The opening ceremony of the high-level segment will be open to all participants in the meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

7. All participants are requested to be in the plenary hall before the start of the session. Ministers (or their equivalents) will be ushered to their seats at 2.45 p.m. All participants are requested to be seated by 2.55 p.m. The opening ceremony of the high-level segment will begin at 3 p.m.

8. Opening remarks will be made by representatives of the host country and by other dignitaries. The theme of the high-level segment will then be introduced by a keynote speaker to stimulate dialogue during the ministerial round-table discussions to follow.

2. Ministerial photo (3.50 p.m., CICG)

9. A ministerial group photo will be taken.

3. Ministerial round-table discussions (4–6.30 p.m., Varembe Conference Centre)

10. Participation in the ministerial round-table discussions will be limited to ministers and deputy ministers (or their equivalents).

11. Ministers, deputy ministers and their equivalents will focus their round-table discussions on the theme of the high-level segment. A thought starter and guiding questions to facilitate the discussions will be made available to all participants. The round-table discussions are intended to encourage an open exchange of views and experiences between participants and will not involve negotiations or decision-making on any of the items on the agendas of the 2025 meetings.

12. A number of round-table discussions, including approximately 10 ministers each, will take place simultaneously and will be organized according to language preferences, as no interpretation will be provided. Gender balance and regional representation will also be taken into consideration. In addition, one or more high-level representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations may be invited to participate in the round-table discussions.

13. A moderator will facilitate each round-table discussion in order to promote interactive, engaging dialogue, and Secretariat staff members will be present to support the proceedings. Note-takers will capture key messages emerging from the round-table discussions, which will be summarized and presented during the plenary session held in the morning of Thursday, 1 May.

B. Ministerial dinner

14. A ministerial dinner is planned for the evening of Wednesday, 30 April. Invitations to the dinner will be distributed during the meetings.

C. Thursday, 1 May 2025: morning session**1. Ministerial interactive panel discussions (10 a.m.–12.30 p.m., plenary hall, CICG)**

15. The second session of the high-level segment will be open to all participants in the meetings of the conferences of the Parties and will start with the presentation of a synthesis of key messages from the round-table discussions.

16. Following the presentation of the synthesis, three sequential ministerial interactive panel discussions will take place with simultaneous interpretation into the six official United Nations languages. The synthesis of the round-table discussions will be used as a starting point for exploring key outcomes from those discussions in greater depth.

17. Each panel discussion will be moderated in order to promote interactive and engaging dialogue among ministers on key issues related to the conventions. Time permitting, other ministers, deputy ministers and their equivalents will be invited to speak from the floor.

18. The composition of the panels will take into consideration gender balance and regional representation, as well as adequate representation from each convention.

2. Closure of the high-level segment (12.30–1 p.m., plenary hall, CICG)

19. Following the interactive panel discussions, a synthesis of key messages emerging from the round-table discussions and the interactive panel discussions will be presented by the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, Rolph Payet. Ministers and other high-level representatives will have the opportunity to exchange further views on the key messages. The high-level segment is expected to conclude no later than 1 p.m.