



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

Distr.: General
28 March 2013
English only



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



**Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants**

Conferences of the parties to
the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
Second simultaneous extraordinary meetings
Geneva, 28 April–10 May 2013
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

**Decision 27/12 on chemicals and waste management, adopted by
the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment
Programme at its twenty-seventh session**

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out the advance English version of decision 27/12 on chemicals and waste management, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-seventh session, held in Nairobi, from 18 to 22 February 2013.

* UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/1.

Annex

Decision 27/12 : Chemicals and waste management (advance English version)

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the goal that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment,

Welcoming the Rio+20 Outcome document, “The future we want”,

Recalling also its decisions 26/3 and 26/12, and other relevant UNEP decisions on chemicals and wastes, and having considered the reports by the Executive Director on the implementation of Governing Council decision 26/12 and SS.XII/5 and on chemicals and waste management,

Recalling further its decision 16/34 calling for the establishment of the International Environmental Technology Centre, based on the agreement between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of Japan, and welcoming the enhanced role of the Centre as a focus for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste management,

Recognizing that the sound management of chemicals and waste is crucial for the protection of human health and the environment and reaffirming the commitment of Governments to an approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels that responds in an effective, efficient, coherent and coordinated manner to new and emerging issues and challenges and encouraging further progress across countries and regions in order to fill the gaps in the implementation of commitments,

Welcoming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as a participating organization in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and underlining the value of the continuing cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations and observers of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,

Recognizing the growing significance of hazardous waste management for sustainable development due to rapid industrialization and urbanization and the technical and other challenges faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Recognising that the actions in this decision are supportive of and consistent with commitments of countries to the sound management of chemicals and wastes,

I

General provisions

1. *Welcomes* paragraphs 213 to 223 of the “The future we want”, relating to the sound management of chemicals and waste and the reaffirmation of the aim to achieve by 2020 the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous waste;

2. *Invites* all stakeholders to support the sound management of chemicals and waste as an important contribution to building a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;

3. *Recognizes* the significance of the findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook, which highlighted the significant increase in the manufacture and use of chemicals globally, their importance to national and global economies and the costs and negative effects on human health and the environment of unsound chemicals management and made recommendations for future action;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue work on the Global Chemicals Outlook, particularly in areas where data were found to be lacking or inadequate, and to enhance transparency through regionally balanced stakeholder involvement, *inter alia*, with a view to developing in the future a tool for assessing progress towards the achievement of the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, including the existing 2020 goal, taking into account and building upon other existing sources of information;

5. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to promote safer, effective alternatives, including non-chemical alternatives, and to adopt measures to prevent industrial chemical accidents and unintended releases and emissions in order to prevent rather than remediate risks;

6. *Invites* Governments that have not already done so to ratify the chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements and urges those countries that have ratified them to implement their obligations fully;

II

Lead and cadmium

7. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by Governments and others to address the risks posed by lead and cadmium, in particular to phase out lead from gasoline and paint through the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles and the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint respectively, and urges Governments to continue participating in and contributing to those initiatives and to consider initiatives to encourage the development of more affordable and safer alternatives;

8. *Emphasizes* that further actions are needed to address the challenges posed by lead and cadmium and encourages Governments and others to continue efforts to reduce the risks to human health and the environment from lead and cadmium throughout the life cycles of those substances, taking into consideration the specific environmental, economic and social conditions and challenges of developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director, in coordination with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to continue activities on lead and cadmium and to enhance them within the existing mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

10. *Encourages* Governments and other stakeholders to make available information on techniques for emissions abatement and on the possibility of replacing lead and cadmium with less hazardous substances or techniques and requests the Executive Director to compile such information and make it available on the United Nations Environment Programme website for the use of all stakeholders, noting that, where appropriate, use should be made of existing mechanisms like the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management clearing-house mechanism when making information available;

III

Mercury

11. *Welcomes* the completion of the negotiation of a global legally binding instrument on mercury, which was accomplished prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum as requested in paragraph 26 of decision 25/5;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to convene a conference of plenipotentiaries for the purpose of adopting and opening for signature the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in Kumamoto and Minamata, Japan, from 9 to -11 October 2013, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources, and welcomes the offer by the Government of Japan to host the conference of plenipotentiaries;

13. Calls on Governments and regional economic integration organizations to adopt and thereafter sign the Minamata Convention on Mercury at the conference of plenipotentiaries;

14. *Encourages* States and regional economic integration organizations to take, as soon as possible, the necessary domestic measures to enable them to meet their obligations upon ratification, and thereafter to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, once adopted, with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

15. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to provide secretariat support to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and, if so decided by the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to provide an interim secretariat to the instrument prior to its entry into force;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to inform the diplomatic conference of the Minamata Convention on Mercury about possible options available for the interim secretariat;

17. *Recognizes* that the decision on interim secretariat arrangements will be taken by the conference of plenipotentiaries and that it is for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury to decide on secretariat arrangements;

18. *Urges* the Executive Director through an interim secretariat of the instrument to assist in the implementation of relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries with a view to facilitating capacity-building, early entry into force and financing regarding the instrument;

19. *Requests* the Executive Director to take actions to facilitate voluntary implementation of the instrument prior to its entry into force and to provide interim support for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, if so decided by the conference of plenipotentiaries;

20. *Appeals* to Governments as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support early action designed to facilitate ratification and implementation of the Minamata Convention and further to provide financial resources for the implementation of interim arrangements for the Minamata Convention, in conformity with relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries, for the period until the end of the financial period in which the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention takes place, and welcomes with appreciation the contributions already made, including from China, Denmark, Japan, Norway and Switzerland, for those purposes;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts by the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and its partners to take immediate action on mercury through the Global Mercury Partnership, urges all partners to continue their efforts and urges Governments and other stakeholders to continue to support, participate in, and contribute to the Global Mercury Partnership;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide the necessary support to the Global Mercury Partnership;

23. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility to take into account any relevant resolutions of the conference of plenipotentiaries and consider ways of supporting their implementation;

24. *Invites* 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;

25. *Acknowledges* the 2013 update of the 2008 report from the Executive Director: “Global Atmospheric Mercury Assessment: Sources, Emissions and Transport”¹ and requests the Executive Director to provide a further update within six years;

IV

Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

26. *Welcomes* the decision adopted at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management to extend the term for the receipt of contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund until the fourth session of the Conference and to allow the distribution of funding until all approved projects are completed and requests the Executive Director to extend the operations of the Trust Fund accordingly;

27. *Welcomes also* the adoption, at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, of the strategy for the engagement of the health-care sector in the implementation of the Strategic Approach;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director to give full *support* to the Strategic Approach secretariat and to give it the necessary support to develop orientation and guidance to implement the 2020 goal on sound chemicals management;

29. *Notes with concern* the withdrawal of staffing support to the Strategic Approach secretariat by the World Health Organization due to financial constraints and invites the World Health Assembly to consider reinstating the support of the World Health Organization, at the earliest date possible, to continue to provide health expertise within the Strategic Approach secretariat;

¹ UNEP/GC.27/INF/14.

30. *Welcomes* the adoption of resolutions at the third session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on international cooperative actions on emerging policy issues and requests the Executive Director to provide leadership, in partnership with others, on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, chemicals in products and perfluorinated chemicals and in this regard also acknowledges the 2012 joint United Nations Environment Programme and World Health Organization report on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and requests the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-ninth session a report on progress and implementation;

31. *Urges* all relevant stakeholders to engage in effective implementation of the Strategic Approach throughout the materials life cycle and encourages enhanced engagement, particularly of intermediate and end users, in the Strategic Approach;

32. *Underlines* the importance of mainstreaming activities for sound chemicals management at the national level and the assessment of the economic and social costs of unsound chemicals management, as reflected in the Global Chemicals Outlook report, and requests the Executive Director to continue and expand work to facilitate country implementation of mainstreaming activities;

33. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, industry and others in a position to do so to make financial and in-kind contributions to the Strategic Approach, its Quick Start Programme, its secretariat and its implementation, including through the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;

V

Waste management

34. *Requests* the Executive Director to review existing efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme on waste, to develop a UNEP-wide waste strategy to prioritize its work and to make recommendations on existing and future areas of United Nations Environment Programme work on wastes, taking care to not duplicate efforts under way in other forums;

35. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop a global outlook of challenges, trends and policies in relation to waste prevention, minimization and management, taking into account the materials life cycle, subject to the availability of extra-budgetary resources and in consultation with Governments and stakeholders, building on available data, best practices and success stories, taking into account the Global Chemicals Outlook and any other relevant initiatives and taking care not to duplicate existing information, to provide guidance for national policy planning;

36. *Welcomes* the progress in establishing the Global Partnership on Waste Management hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme International Environmental Technology Centre and requests the Executive Director to continue to facilitate, including through this Partnership, cooperation and coordination across international efforts focusing on waste prevention, minimization, and management, taking into account the materials life-cycle and planning and implementing environmentally sound and integrated waste management strategies and activities;

37. *Encourages* the Executive Director to collaborate closely with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in pursuit of mutual objectives with regard to the sound management of waste, including support for capacity-building in relation to priority waste streams;

VI

Persistent organic pollutants

38. *Welcomes* the work undertaken to date and requests the Executive Director to continue to provide coordination of the PCB Elimination Network and the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control in accordance with the invitation received from the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

39. *Urges* the World Health Organization to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of the workplan of the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control;

40. *Invites* the Executive Director to inform the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the progress made in the work of the PCB Elimination Network and the Global Alliance for the Development of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control;

VII

Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster

41. *Notes* the progress made and the activities carried out to date by the Executive Director in the implementation of decisions 26/12 and SS.XII/5;

42. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to facilitate and support an inclusive, country-driven consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term and to present a report on the outcome of that consultative process to the Governing Council at its twenty-eighth session and encourages Governments to enhance efforts in this area;

VIII

Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes

43. *Welcomes* an integrated approach to address the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, and 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 sound management of chemicals and wastes;

44. *Takes note of* the proposal by the Executive Director as contained in document UNEP/GC.27/7* on his vision for making operational an integrated approach on financing sound management of chemicals and wastes;

45. *Invites* Governments, relevant organizations and entities and other stakeholders to apply an integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and wastes in their efforts to mobilize and manage financial resources for sound management of chemicals and wastes at all levels;

46. *Invites* Governments to implement actions to further mainstream sound management of chemicals and wastes, in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies;

47. *Further invites* Governments 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 wastes management, and promotion of measures by industry to internalize costs as per the polluter pays principle;

48. *Invites* all countries, within their capabilities, to further strengthen the element of dedicated external financing through the provision of adequate, predictable and timely financial resources, so as to support developing countries in their efforts to implement sound management of chemicals and wastes;

49. *Invites* all Governments to involve relevant ministries, departments and agencies in the implementation of an integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

50. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the necessary support, upon request, to Governments especially those from developing countries, and collaborate with relevant organizations and entities and other stakeholders as appropriate, towards the implementation of an integrated approach;

51. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to take steps to implement, and the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention to consider, an integrated approach for the purposes of the respective conventions, as appropriate;

52. *Further invites* the ICCM to take steps to implement an integrated approach;

53. *Also invites* the governing bodies of international development agencies, international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders to take steps to implement, within their mandates, an integrated approach;

54. *Invites* the GEF in the context of its 6th replenishment process to revise its focal area structure and strategy in order to address the chemicals and wastes agenda, and consider ways of further strengthening its relations with the conventions it serves as a financial mechanism;

55. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing, through an existing institution, a special programme, funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the future Minamata Convention and SAICM, noting that each respective governing body would have to determine the participation of its entity in the special programme;

56. *Emphasizes* that the special programme should avoid duplication and proliferation of funding mechanisms and associated administration and should fund activities that fall outside GEF's mandate;

57. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate and support a country-led meeting of governments and Regional Economic Integration Organizations, open to interested stakeholders, including potential donors, the private sector, civil society, UNEP, the Global Environment Facility and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions, and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and SAICM, to further develop terms of reference for such a special programme, including:

- (a) a definition of institutional strengthening;
- (b) the duration of the special programme;
- (c) clear parameters and eligibility criteria;
- (d) practical arrangements necessary to make the special programme operational;

58. *Decides* that the outcomes of the meeting should be submitted to the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the UNEP Governing Council, the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and ICCM-4;

59. *Notes* that this decision does not pre-empt the decision of the future Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury on the specific international Programme referred to in the text of that Convention;

60. *Requests* the Executive Director to facilitate an evaluation of the implementation of the integrated approach, which should be done in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and submit the evaluation, including recommendations, within six years for consideration by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, the relevant COPs and ICCM5;

61. *Also requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum within three years a report on the implementation of the integrated approach.

IX

62. *Requests* the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-eighth regular session;

63. *Invites* Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extra-budgetary resources for the implementation of the present decision.