



## Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

**Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm  
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
Eighth meeting**  
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017

### **Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its eighth meeting**

#### **Introduction**

1. By decisions BC-12/23, RC-7/13 and SC-7/31, 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, respectively, decided to hold the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention back to back from 24 April to 5 May 2017 (hereinafter, “the 2017 meetings”). The conferences of the Parties also decided that their 2017 meetings would “include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues” and would feature a high-level segment of no more than one day’s duration.

#### **I. Opening of the meetings (agenda item 1)**

2. Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, Chief, Scientific Support Branch of the Secretariat, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed participants to the 2017 meetings.
3. The meetings began with a performance of Swiss yodelling.

#### **A. Opening remarks**

4. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Mohammed Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, speaking also on behalf of Mr. Franz Perrez (Switzerland), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention; Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Bill Murray, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention; Mr. Marc Chardonens, State Secretary, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment; and Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
5. In his remarks Mr. Khashashneh said that positive outcomes from the current meetings would be vital to addressing the enormous challenges faced by the world, which were exemplified by the figures showing the small fraction of chemicals that had undergone environmental assessments and the statistics on deaths from pesticide poisoning, particularly in developing countries, and on deaths among children under five years of age as a result of unhealthy environments and, notably, the effects of pollution. Progress in preventing and minimizing waste generation had been achieved through the approach, plans and guidelines developed and implemented under the Basel Convention,

demonstrating the benefits of cooperation with its sister chemical conventions and indeed its status as a model to be emulated with regard to implementation and compliance. As to the Rotterdam Convention, it was crucial to increase its effectiveness because chemicals meeting the requirements for listing in Annex III to the Convention were sometimes not listed. More determined efforts must also be made to enhance implementation of the Stockholm Convention through elimination of the chemicals listed thereunder. Concerning the review of the synergies arrangements, it showed that the synergies process had provided a model for policy consistency among the three conventions, particularly with regard to the life cycle of chemicals and wastes, and had achieved efficiencies in the implementation of the conventions. While national and regional synergies continued to need improvement, synergies at the international level had been remarkably successful, which might be seen as evidence supporting the inclusion of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in the same framework as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

6. In his remarks, Mr. Payet said that the outcomes of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties would be crucial to tackling the nexus between development and planetary health and, hence, to improving the quality of life in a sustainable environment. He had been encouraged by the spirit of commitment that had characterized the regional preparatory meetings organized with the support of the Government of Switzerland. The relevance of the three conventions to sustainable development and poverty eradication had been recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in several key decisions and resolutions adopted since the 2015 meetings by, among others, the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the United Nations Environment Assembly and the World Health Assembly, and in a report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. In addition, some of the fruits of private sector commitment to engage with Governments in seeking sustainable solutions would be showcased at the current meetings, at the first ever technology fair.

7. Urging the Parties to address the continued decrease in voluntary contributions to the conventions and the increase in arrears in assessed contributions for the core funding of the Secretariat, he thanked those donors that had remained strongly committed to supporting the conventions such as Australia, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Sweden and Switzerland. He also commended the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies on making available the financial resources and technical expertise needed for updating national implementation plans and for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, which, according to the needs assessment report to be considered by the Conference of the Parties, would require over \$4.3 billion for the period 2018–2022. He urged the GEF secretariat and donor countries to take into consideration the recommendations of the report when negotiating the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund.

8. Mr. Murray, in his remarks, drew attention to the major impacts that agriculture had on the state of the environment and vice versa. While the projected increase in the world's population to 9.2 billion by 2050 would, he said, require a 50 per cent increase in global food production, some 80 per cent of it from land already under cultivation, the input-intensive approach of the past had proved unsustainable in view of its deleterious effects on natural resources and biodiversity. Meanwhile, many millions around the globe were currently facing extreme hunger and most of the worst affected depended directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods and were at the greatest risk from the adverse effects of climate change and hazardous pesticides, chemicals and wastes. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, among other things, had placed food security and agriculture at the centre of the global development agenda but there was no standard solution. Successful approaches must be context-specific and tailored to the needs of particular regions or communities, drawing on traditional knowledge and advances in science and technology, which required greater cooperation and collaboration at all levels, as in the case of the synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the results of which would be discussed in the coming days. Recalling the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in capacity development and institution building for national governance frameworks that reduced the risks to human health and the environment from pesticides and associated wastes while facilitating regional collaboration, he said that the technology fair and side events at the current meetings would provide opportunities to learn about partnerships and to share knowledge and experience in promoting the sound management of chemicals and wastes and a detoxified future.

9. Mr. Chardonnens, in his remarks, welcomed the participants to the 2017 meetings in the city of Geneva, which had a long history of hosting those championing the protection of nature and hoped to be home not only to the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions but also that of the Minamata Convention. The multilateral system, he said, had to adjust to meet the many new

challenges arising from the large-scale production and use of chemicals so as to ensure global governance frameworks that were more effective in protecting human health and the environment. To that end, the 2017 meetings offered an excellent opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions through, among other things, the adoption of compliance mechanisms and decisions on the listing of hazardous chemicals and to strengthen the synergies between them. They also offered the opportunity to pave the way for additional synergies with the Minamata Convention, which could contribute to a more coherent effort by the international community to ensure the sound management and use of resources. Commending the Secretariat and the presidents of the three conferences of the Parties to the conventions on organizing the 2017 meetings, and expressing appreciation to UNEP and FAO for their support in furthering implementation, he called on the Parties, civil society and industry to support the multilateral processes in the intensive work of the coming two weeks. Given that communication over borders was important and fruitful, as evidenced by the prior informed consent procedure, he invited all participants to send the available postcards home to colleagues, friends and family to report about the meetings and their time in Geneva.

10. In his remarks Mr. Thiaw said that, in contrast to their predecessors, young people lived in a heavily polluted world in which the prospect of enjoying safe air and water in the future seemed remote. The humans that were destroying the planet through pollution were not doing enough to prevent the millions of pollution-related deaths, in which chemicals played a significant part. Chemicals unquestionably improved lives but their use across the planet was outpacing the efforts to assess and address their impact on humans, wildlife and the entire food chain. Swift action was needed yet the process was slow and difficult. The existence of irrefutable scientific data placed a moral responsibility on all stakeholders to act where doubt existed. To that end, a rethink in the life-cycle approach to chemicals and adaptation to react to new findings must be triggered, including by working in various ways with Governments, scientists, the private sector, schools and the general public. The power of concerted action had been proven with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as had the importance of precautionary action, which could furthermore generate profit through the increasing demand for true life-cycle alternatives and renewable energy, mobile technology and electric transport. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions provided a crucial opportunity for taking the collective action needed to phase out some of the world's worst pollutants. That opportunity to achieve the sound management of chemicals by 2020, add important new chemicals to the conventions and accomplish global progress must therefore be seized immediately to avoid regret later.

## **B. Regional statements**

11. Representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries and individual countries made general statements on the issues to be discussed during the meetings.

## **C. Formal opening**

12. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 11.45 a.m. on 24 April 2017 by Mr. Khashashneh, Mr. Perrez, and Mr. Adu-Kumi, respectively.

## **II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)**

13. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the following agenda for its eighth meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Organization of work;
  - (c) Report on the credentials of representatives to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties.
5. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:

- (a) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use:
    - (i) Exemptions;
    - (ii) DDT;
    - (iii) Polychlorinated biphenyls;
    - (iv) Brominated diphenyl ethers;
    - (v) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;
  - (b) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production;
  - (c) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes;
  - (d) Implementation plans;
  - (e) Listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention;
  - (f) Technical assistance;
  - (g) Financial resources and mechanisms;
  - (h) Reporting pursuant to Article 15;
  - (i) Effectiveness evaluation;
  - (j) Compliance;
  - (k) International cooperation and coordination.
6. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
  7. Programme of work and budget.
  8. Venue and date of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
  9. Other matters.
  10. Adoption of the report.
  11. Closure of the meeting.

14. In adopting its agenda the Conference of the Parties agreed to discuss under item 9, Other matters, a possible memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, the admission of observers to meetings under the Convention, guidelines on conduct for meeting participants and certification to be provided in connection with exports to non-Parties.

15. During the discussion of the agendas for the 2017 meetings one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the matter of memorandums of understanding should be set out as separate items on the agendas for the three meetings rather than be discussed under the agenda items for "other matters". He said that the issue had been brought up at previous meetings of the conferences of the Parties and that the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, as reflected in its decisions RC-6/15 and RC-7/14, adopted in 2013 and 2015, had already decided twice that such a memorandum of understanding would be necessary. Given the importance of the issue, it should be presented as a separate agenda item. One representative supported the proposal, but others opposed it. It was agreed that the matter would remain under other matters and that the proposal to list it as a separate item would be noted in the reports of the 2017 meetings.

### **III. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)**

#### **A. Attendance**

16. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 158 Parties: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador,

Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

17. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of seven Parties that did not submit valid credentials: Barbados, Comoros, Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Rwanda, Suriname. It was also attended by representatives of two States that were not Parties to the Convention: the Holy See and the United States of America.

18. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Economic Commission for Europe, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University, World Bank Group, World Health Organization.

19. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, International Criminal Police Organization, League of Arab States, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, South Centre, World Trade Organization.

20. The following Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres were represented as observers: Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Latin America and Caribbean Region (BCCC-Uruguay)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC Uruguay); Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region (BCCC-Africa); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Arab States (BCRC-Egypt); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC-China)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-China); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Central Europe (BCRC-Slovakia); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for French-speaking Countries in Africa (BCRC-Senegal)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Senegal); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Indonesia); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region (BCRC-Caribbean); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the English-speaking African countries (BCRC-South Africa)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-South Africa); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the South American Region (BCRC-Argentina); Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and the Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region (SPREP); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Algeria); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Kuwait); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Spain); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Panama).

21. A number of non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/70-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/53-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/66).

## B. Election of officers

22. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that the Parties would need to elect the officers of the three conferences of the Parties whose terms of office would start at the closure of the 2017 meetings, as well as officers and members of subsidiary bodies. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in documents UNEP/CHW.13/2, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/2 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/2, noting, among other things, that curricula vitae should be provided for nominees for membership on the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention.

23. Following that introduction one representative said that in the past there had been some flexibility regarding the provision of curriculum vitae and that they should not be required because each Party had the right to decide who would best represent it. The President said in response that it was up to each region to decide on its nominations and that the requirement to submit curricula vitae had been communicated at the regional meetings that had been held in preparation for the 2017 meetings.

24. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the following members of the Bureau elected at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention served during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President:	Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Andrew McNee (Australia)
	Mr. Luis Ignacio Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador)
	Ms. Ana Berejiani (Georgia)
	Ms. Daina Ozola (Latvia)
	Mr. Reginald Hernaus (Netherlands)
	Mr. Marcus L. Natta (Saint Kitts and Nevis)
	Mr. Ali Mohammed Ali Mahmoud (Sudan)
	Mr. Nguyen Anh-Tuan (Viet Nam)
	Mr. Ali Al-Dobhani (Yemen)

25. Pursuant to rule 22, Mr. McNee served as rapporteur.

26. Also in accordance with rule 22, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the new Bureau, whose terms would commence upon the closure of the current meeting and terminate upon the closure of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President:	Mr. Mohammed Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Jean Claude Emene Elenka (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
	Mr. Mehari Wondmagegn Taye (Ethiopia)
	Ms. Ana Berejiani (Georgia)
	Ms. Silvija Nora Kalnins (Latvia)
	Mr. Reginald Hernaus (Netherlands)
	Mr. Sverre Thomas Jahre (Norway)
	Mr. Marcus L. Natta (Saint Kitts and Nevis)
	Ms. Agustina Camilli (Uruguay)
	Mr. Ali Al-Dobhani (Yemen)

27. Pursuant to rule 22, and in line with past practice and for the purposes of regional rotation, one of the two Vice-Presidents from the African region would serve as rapporteur. The Bureau would be informed of which one of the two would so serve.

## C. Organization of work

28. The discussion summarized in the present section, on organization of work (agenda item 3 (b)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 29–33 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 30–34, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 28–32.

29. The three conferences of the Parties agreed to conduct their meetings in accordance with the scenario note set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/1, the schedule set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/2-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/2-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/2 and the arrangements for the high-level segment described in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/3-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/3-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/3. The schedule and conduct of the meetings would be adjusted by the bureaux each day, as necessary, in the light of the progress of the meetings.

30. In accordance with the agreed arrangements, and as described in the scenario note, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would hold both joint and separate sessions during their meetings. During the joint sessions, the conferences of the Parties would discuss cross-cutting issues affecting at least two of the three conventions. In addition, the conferences of the Parties would establish such joint and separate contact and other groups as they deemed necessary for the various meetings, including a joint contact group on budget matters. All decisions would be adopted pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2018–2019. The total number of contact groups meeting at any one time would be limited to facilitate participation by all delegations. The conferences of the Parties also agreed that the presidents of the three conferences would take it in turn to preside over joint sessions and that each, when so presiding, would act on behalf of all three.

31. A high-level segment of the meetings would be held on the afternoon of 4 May and the morning of 5 May. A ministerial dinner would take place on the evening of 4 May. A report on the high-level segment is set out in annex II to the present report.

32. In carrying out their work at the current meetings, the conferences of the Parties had before them working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the agendas for the meetings. Lists of those documents for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, are set out in information documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/4, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/4 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/4, respectively.

33. During discussion of the organization of work one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern that there might not be sufficient time for careful consideration of all issues in plenary sessions. He also expressed concern with regard to the scheduling of a single session of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on Thursday, 27 April, with the remaining sessions of that meeting to take place the following week, saying that as had been previously agreed the meetings of the conferences of the Parties should be held back to back, i.e., one after the other. He concluded by voicing concern that some documents had been circulated late.

## D. Credentials

34. The discussion summarized in the present section, on credentials (agenda item 3 (c)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 35–38 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 36–39, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 34–37.

35. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that during the period leading up to the 2017 meetings the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had agreed to take the same common approach to their consideration of credentials for the current meetings as had been taken during the 2015 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the

three conventions. Pursuant to that approach each Bureau would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies, on the understanding that, in the case of the latter, originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

36. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the requirements in respect of credentials set out in rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, saying that in accordance with those rules the bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions would examine the credentials of the representatives of the Parties present at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively, and that each Bureau would present its report to its Conference of the Parties on the afternoon of Thursday, 4 May.

37. The President added that the three presidents were of the view that credentials were essential to multilateral environmental negotiations and served an important function that should be taken seriously. At the current meetings, he said, it would be important to have an early indication of possible problems with regard to credentials, and he therefore called on Parties to submit the credentials of their representatives by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 26 April. Information on the status of credentials would be provided on Friday 28 April.

38. Also under the item it was announced that, as at the start of the 2017 meetings, there were 185 Parties to the Basel Convention, 157 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 181 Parties to the Stockholm Convention. At a later stage in the meetings, on the morning of 2 May 2017, it was announced that Turkey had recently ratified the Rotterdam Convention and would deposit its instrument of ratification in the near future.

39. On 28 April 2017 the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at noon on that day, indicating that the Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 162 Parties to the Stockholm Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 152 had been issued by a Head of State or Government or a minister for foreign affairs and were therefore in good order. The credentials of 138 of those 152 representatives were originals, while 14 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

40. It was also reported that the following 10 Parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives: Albania, Comoros, Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Rwanda, Suriname, United Arab Emirates. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials.

41. On the afternoon of 5 May 2017 the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at 1 p.m. on that day, indicating that the Bureau had further examined the credentials of the representatives of the 165 Parties to the Stockholm Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 158 had been issued by a Head of State or Government or a minister for foreign affairs and were therefore in good order. The credentials of 147 of those 158 representatives were originals, while 11 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

42. It was also reported that the following seven Parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives: Barbados, Comoros, Djibouti, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Rwanda, Suriname. Those seven Parties were therefore participating as observers in the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and would be recorded as such in the report of the meeting and list of participants.

43. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials, which superseded the report adopted on 28 April 2017.

#### **IV. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 4)**

44. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that at its first meeting the Conference of the Parties had adopted its rules of procedure, as set out in the annex to decision SC-1/1, in their entirety with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45. That sentence, which provided for the adoption of decisions on substantive matters by a two-thirds majority vote in the absence of consensus, had been enclosed in square brackets to indicate that it had not been adopted. At its second through seventh meetings the Conference of the Parties had considered the same issue and had agreed to defer adopting a formal decision on that matter.

45. As at previous meetings, the Conference of the Parties agreed that it would not adopt a formal decision on the item at the current meeting, that the square brackets around the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45 would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide substantive matters by consensus.

## **V. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention (agenda item 5)**

### **A. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use**

#### **1. Exemptions**

46. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, highlighting some of the information presented in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/4, recalling that, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 of the Convention, all registrations of specific exemptions expired five years after the date of entry into force of the Convention with regard to a particular chemical. Accordingly, the Secretariat had notified the Parties that the initial five-year period for registrations of specific exemptions for endosulfan would end on 27 October 2017 for those Parties for which the amendment had entered into force on 27 October 2012.

47. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was encouraging to note that both the number of specific exemptions and the number of Parties having registered them was decreasing, indicating that Parties were replacing persistent organic pollutants with safer alternatives. He strongly urged Parties to continue their efforts in that regard. One representative, however, noted that most developing countries had not yet completed inventories on new persistent organic pollutants, suggesting that there might be an increase in requests for exemptions once they had done so. Another representative said that there should be more active communication with the Secretariat and between Parties to facilitate the elimination of persistent organic pollutants.

48. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/4, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

49. Decision SC-8/1, on exemptions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

#### **2. DDT**

50. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/5 and reporting that in accordance with the process adopted in decision SC-3/2 the expert group on DDT had met in November 2016 and produced a report for use by the Conference of the Parties in its evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control. The group had concluded that there was a continued need for DDT for indoor residual spraying in specific settings for disease vector control where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives were still lacking and was recommending improvements in national reporting on DDT, national capacity for research and resistance monitoring and in the pilot testing and scaling up of existing alternatives to DDT. Information from the World Health Organization (WHO) was before the Parties, as were two reports from UNEP on the implementation of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT, and the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control. The Secretariat, with financial support from France, had developed a toolkit for the sound management of DDT for disease vector control, which was available on the Convention website.

51. The representative of UNEP introduced the reports submitted by the organization on the implementation of the road map and the Global Alliance, which it had led, and the representative of WHO reported briefly on the information that it had submitted for the current meeting.

52. The representative of UNEP said that the reports showed the importance of collaboration in finding suitable alternatives to DDT, saying that cooperation with the Secretariat had led to the concrete results outlined in the reports. The reports also contained information on collaboration with partners, including non-governmental organizations, and activities related to the Global Monitoring Plan. She underlined that funding for the road map had been limited and that difficulties had been experienced in terms of reviewing progress in its implementation owing to a lack of indicators,

milestones and deadlines and insufficient data. Finally, she appealed for nominations to the vacant positions on the Advisory Committee for the Global Alliance.

53. The representative of WHO said that the progress in reducing malaria rates over the past 15 years was threatened by the increasing frequency and intensity of vector resistance to insecticides. She highlighted the work of the WHO Vector Control Advisory Group, which reviewed new vector-control paradigms and technologies. There were new tools in the pipeline, but they needed to be more affordable. She drew attention to the development by WHO of a report entitled *Global Vector-Control Response 2017–2030*.

54. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives expressed appreciation for the work carried out by UNEP, WHO and the DDT expert group and the utility of their findings.

55. Several representatives reported that DDT use had already been banned fully in their countries, was restricted to certain domains, had not occurred for several years, or had been significantly reduced with further reductions planned. Several representatives said that there was a need for safe and cost-effective alternatives to DDT, with one representative from a malaria-free country expressing interest in alternatives owing to a potential threat of infection via neighbouring countries. One representative called for increased financial support for the implementation of the road map itself, particularly for the search for such alternatives.

56. While encouraging all Parties to make further efforts to replace DDT with less hazardous alternatives or methods, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, congratulated the African region for the progress that it had made and India on the expected termination of the use of DDT for leishmaniasis vector control in 2017.

57. Two representatives of countries that no longer allowed the use of DDT called for technical assistance to eliminate DDT that entered their countries illegally, welcoming, along with another, the call for technical, financial and other assistance in the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/5.

58. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed an amendment to the draft decision with a view to ensuring the long-term sustainability of vector control programmes.

59. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/5, as orally amended, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

60. Decision SC-8/2, on DDT, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

### 3. Polychlorinated biphenyls

61. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that under the Convention Parties had to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025 and ensure the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with PCBs by 2028. Every four years, within the same time frame as the transmission of reports pursuant to Article 15, the Conference of the Parties was to review progress towards the elimination of PCBs. The last such review had taken place at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, when it had been noted that many Parties were significantly behind in their efforts to meet those deadlines, and the next would take place at the ninth meeting. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/6, reported that in response to decision SC-7/3 the UNEP Chemicals and Wastes Branch had prepared in consultation with the advisory committee of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network (PEN) and the Secretariat a consolidated assessment report (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/10) on efforts to eliminate PCBs for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting, based on information submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 and paragraph (g) of part II of Annex A to the Convention and the preliminary assessment of efforts to eliminate PCBs. The consolidated assessment had also been made available for use by the effectiveness evaluation committee. The report set out a number of recommendations on the management and elimination of PCBs, including the establishment of a mechanism for monitoring progress in achieving those goals.

62. The representative of UNEP then reported on work of PEN, saying that it had been active in providing tools to assist in PCB identification, inventorying and phase-out. He said that PEN had updated and revised guidance documents, developed project concepts and expanded its membership along with that of its advisory committee. Under the theme “PCB - A Forgotten Legacy”, a set of materials had been developed to highlight to Parties the need to continue efforts to phase out PCBs. In

addition to strengthening regional delivery and support, two new membership positions within the advisory committee had been included in the terms of reference for regional centres of the Stockholm and Basel conventions. He also outlined the report entitled “Consolidated Assessment of Efforts made Toward the Elimination of Polychlorinated Biphenyls”, in which the advisory committee had actively participated. The seventh meeting of the advisory committee, held in December 2016, had highlighted that countries were far from reaching the Convention goals of eliminating the use of PCBs by 2025 and achieving the environmentally sound management of PCB wastes by 2028 and that realistic and urgent global and national strategies must be launched as soon as possible.

63. In the ensuing discussion several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the work of the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, PEN and the Secretariat in, among other things, developing PCB-related guidance and awareness-raising materials. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries welcomed the fact that the report on PEN activities had been taken into account in the effectiveness evaluation, while another highlighted the importance of the work conducted by PEN in the area of open applications. One representative said that his country wished to continue its technical cooperation with PEN and another that additional resources should be allocated to PCB identification and elimination efforts. More focus should also be placed on raising awareness of the negative health effects of PCBs, identification of PCB-containing items and practical solutions for their elimination.

64. Many representatives expressed gratitude for the technical and financial assistance provided by GEF, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNEP to promote the efforts of Parties to achieve the two key goals of elimination of the use of PCBs by 2025 and the environmentally sound management of PCB wastes by 2028. One representative added that her country had achieved progress towards PCB elimination thanks to support received from the Convention’s regional centre and from a public-private partnership arrangement. Another representative, highlighting some of the data reproduced in the report of the UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, said that sustainability of the results achieved through GEF-funded projects relating to PCB elimination was crucial and that it would therefore be useful to have information on such funding going forward. Efforts should be made, he added, to involve the private sector in national PCB elimination activities and to strengthen the capacity of regional centres to engage in such activities. One representative said that it was necessary to follow scientifically sound work methods and use sound management of PCB liquid wastes. She also favoured the idea of an international conference on the subject of PCB wastes.

65. With an emphasis on PCB disposal and elimination as a concern of high priority, numerous representatives described their countries’ efforts and plans to that end, as well as the results achieved to date. Examples of those efforts included the development of appropriate guidelines and legal and regulatory frameworks, the conduct of PCB inventories and projects for the environmentally sound management of PCBs and for the reduction of PCB-contaminated oil and equipment. In acknowledging the need for enhanced efforts if the 2025 and 2028 target deadlines were to be met, many representatives said that more robust technical and financial assistance would be necessary, especially in the case of developing countries.

66. One representative said that PCBs had been eliminated from her country thanks to the support it had received but noted the magnitude of the challenge of eliminating PCBs from around the globe in the light of existing data showing how little had been destroyed. Another suggested that consideration should be given to developing PCB monitoring, control, management and substitution projects employing green and sustainable chemistry as a means of protecting human health and the environment. One also suggested that regional PCB disposal centres should be established.

67. Numerous representatives expressed support for the establishment of a small intersessional working group to prepare a report on progress towards PCB elimination for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, with a number, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also supporting the request for the Secretariat to develop guidance and a road map for the implementation of plans for the environmentally sound management of PCBs throughout their life cycles. Another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that it would be more efficient for the Secretariat, rather than a small intersessional working group, to prepare the report on progress in the elimination of PCBs.

68. There was general support for the draft decision, although one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and supported by others, proposed an amendment to emphasize the need for Parties to intensify their efforts to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals, as well as amendments in support of its view that any report on progress achieved towards PCB elimination would be best prepared by the Secretariat. One representative opposed the latter amendments, while another proposed the

inclusion of wording focused on PCBs in open applications, which she and other representatives had identified as a particular problem requiring more attention than closed applications. Another representative suggested the addition of a new paragraph to the draft decision that would highlight the need for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to receive technical assistance and technology transfer for building their capacities for the environmentally sound management of PCBs.

69. Referring to the work of PEN, the representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) said that UNITAR had provided input on its activities at the seventh meeting of the advisory committee in December 2016. He said that PEN was more than a forum for information exchange; it also sought action-oriented alternatives, bearing in mind the work to be undertaken to reach the goals of the Convention. Despite limited resources, UNEP and PEN had developed tools to assist countries to address the issue in a sound manner. UNITAR reiterated its support for PEN and requested Parties and others to do the same.

70. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Parties, to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/6, taking into account the discussions in plenary.

71. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision, as orally amended, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

72. Decision SC-8/3, on polychlorinated biphenyls, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

#### **4. Brominated diphenyl ethers**

73. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, saying that at the current meeting the Conference of the Parties, pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A and decision SC-6/3, was to evaluate the progress that Parties had made towards achieving their ultimate objective of the elimination of hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether and to review the continued need for the exemptions for those chemicals. To facilitate the work of the Conference of the Parties in undertaking the review, the Secretariat had prepared a report based on information submitted by Parties and others, including information on Parties' experience in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2, information in Parties' national implementation plans and studies from the scientific and grey literature, and incorporating comments by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee. The full report was set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/12, while its conclusions were reproduced, in the six official languages of the Convention, in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/7.

74. In the ensuing discussion one representative expressed concern about the limited information provided to the Secretariat for preparing the report, which she said undermined the evaluation of Parties' progress in eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers. Parties still declaring a need to register specific exemptions should provide the relevant information, and she recommended that more specific data on the quantity of brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles be solicited. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, agreed that the provision of quantitative information on articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers would strengthen reporting.

75. One representative, supported by several others, called for the exemptions for the recycling of such articles to be curtailed as soon as possible, as recommended by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in the annex to its decision POPRC-6/2. Several representatives said that continuing to allow the chemicals to be reused in new products would contribute to their spread rather than their elimination and, hence, increase the risks to human health and the environment in direct contravention of the objectives of the Stockholm Convention. One representative, supported by another, said that the presence of brominated diphenyl ethers in toys posed an unacceptable risk to children.

76. One representative, supported by another, recommended separating the articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers from those entering the recycling stream and, together with a third representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, she urged the limited number of Parties still registered for the specific exemptions to carefully consider their continued need for them. A number of representatives said that some developing countries lacked the capacity to analyse articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers, including in the waste stream. A number of others, including one speaking

on behalf of a group of countries, said that exports of articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers to countries unable to dispose of the waste in an environmentally sound manner should be prevented.

77. Most of the representatives that spoke expressed support for the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/7. Amendments were proposed by several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, and it was agreed that interested Parties would consult informally to prepare a revised version of the draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

78. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

79. Decision SC-8/4, on the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## **5. Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride**

80. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that in accordance with part III of Annex B to the Convention the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting had reviewed the continued need for the various specific exemptions and acceptable purposes for the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) listed in that annex and had concluded that Parties might need to continue to use those chemicals for acceptable purposes.

81. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat outlined document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/8, saying that it provided information on consolidated guidance on alternatives to PFOS and its related chemicals, which had been endorsed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee at its twelfth meeting, at which time the Committee had also recommended that the Conference of the Parties encourage Parties and observers to collect information on the production and use of sulfluramid and make it available for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting; on possible actions should the Conference of the Parties determine that there was no further need to use PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for one or more of the acceptable purposes listed in Annex B; and on the main provisions of the Convention to which Parties referred in providing information on the application of Article 4 of the Convention.

82. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives welcomed the consolidated guidance on alternatives to PFOS and its related chemicals as a useful reference document for all Parties. A number of representatives also welcomed the evaluation pertaining to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, with one saying that the evaluation must take into account development levels in the case of developing countries and another stating that the evaluation promised to provide a basis for amendment of the Convention at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Another said that all countries producing or importing sulfluramid for the acceptable purpose of use as the active ingredient of insect baits for the control of leaf-cutting ants should provide the Secretariat with all relevant information to facilitate the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

83. Saying that exemptions should be phased out as soon as possible, one representative, supported by another, reiterated a proposal made at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties that the acceptable purposes for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF should be replaced with time-limited specific exemptions, which could be done irrespective of whether Parties were still using the chemicals for acceptable purposes. A number of representatives objected to the proposal, with one saying that there was still a need for acceptable purposes. Another expressed the hope that his country's ban on all specific exemptions and many of the acceptable purposes would be followed by other Parties. One representative reported on progress achieved in his country towards reducing and eliminating the use of PFOS in certain industries.

84. Concerning the interpretation of Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Convention, one representative expressed the view that the date of entry into force of the Convention with regard to a specific chemical determined the starting date for a specific exemption, for which the expiry date was therefore the same for all Parties registered for the exemption, and that it was not possible for a Party to register for a specific exemption after its expiry date.

85. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was important for the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to provide support to Parties in their efforts to build their technical and legal capacity for the sound management of PFOS and the introduction of alternatives. It was also important, however, to encourage the involvement of regional

centres in providing that support, to which end he proposed an amendment to the draft decision. Several representatives said that it would first be necessary to strengthen the capacities of regional centres if they were to undertake that task.

86. Following the discussion it was agreed that interested Parties would consult informally to prepare a revised version of the draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

87. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

88. Decision SC-8/5, on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## **B. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production**

89. Introducing the sub-item the President noted that it encompassed issues relevant to the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as to the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/9, reported that the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) had implemented the workplan adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-7/7, developing draft joint terms of reference for the review and updating of relevant guidelines and guidance, updating existing guidance on BAT/BEP and developing new guidance on BAT/BEP in respect of hexabromocyclododecane. The experts had also supported the effectiveness evaluation committee in its evaluation of issues relating to Article 5 of the Convention by analysing available information on unintentional releases of persistent organic pollutants. The Secretariat, with financial support from the Governments of Germany and Norway and the European Union, had supported the experts, including through the organization of expert meetings in 2015 and 2016 in collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe in Bratislava. The conclusions and recommendations of the experts at their 2015 and 2016 meetings were set out in annex I to the document.

90. Following that introduction one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries expressed appreciation for the work of the experts on the Toolkit and BAT/BEP and support for their conclusions and recommendation and pledged the continued active involvement of experts from the countries for which he spoke.

91. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/9, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

92. Decision SC-8/6, on the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants and guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## **C. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes**

93. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/10 and reporting that relevant guidelines under the Basel Convention had been developed and updated (see UNEP/CHW.13/28, sect. B 1 (a)) with the participation of Stockholm Convention experts, including members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the work of the experts that had participated in the small intersessional working group under the Basel Convention that had worked to update the general and specific technical guidelines for persistent organic pollutant wastes. There was widespread support for the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/10 and for updating the guidelines. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed amendments to the draft decision. One underscored the importance of completing the guidelines so that Parties could use them when updating their national implementation plans.

94. A number of representatives noted that their countries had more stringent national standards for low persistent organic pollutant content than some of those included in the guidelines, with one inquiring what scientific methods and methodologies had been used in selecting the levels. Two

representatives said that there was a need to provide technical and financial assistance to help countries to implement the guidelines, drawing particular attention to countries in Africa or suffering the impacts of violent conflict. Another said that each Party possessed the sovereign right to apply or not apply the guidelines and in what manner.

95. The representative of the Secretariat noted that representatives interested in the elaboration of the guidelines, including the criteria for setting the low persistent organic pollutant content levels, could participate in the contact group on Basel Convention technical matters. Parties seeking support for implementing the guidelines could apply for assistance through the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

96. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention requested the Secretariat to consult with the representatives that had suggested amendments to the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/10 and to prepare a revised version of the draft decision, taking into account the discussions in plenary and related developments that would need to be reflected such as the listing of new chemicals in the annexes to the Convention at the current meeting or the adoption or updating of guidelines by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

97. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

98. Decision SC-8/7, on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

#### **D. Implementation plans**

99. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that Parties were required to endeavour to implement the Convention through implementation plans that were to be periodically reviewed and updated. The Secretariat, he said, had prepared a number of guidance documents to assist Parties in their efforts to do that. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant note by the Secretariat (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/11). Information on the transmission of implementation plans by Parties was provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/17, and since the preparation of that document Lebanon had transmitted its implementation plan.

100. During the ensuing discussion many representatives stressed the importance of national implementation plans for fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, and many reported on the current status of their countries' implementation plans. In several cases initial plans had been completed successfully, but Parties were encountering problems in preparing updated plans in a timely manner. Many representatives said that there was a need for additional, predictable and sustainable technical and financial resources to enable the completion or updating of their countries' implementation plans. One representative said that capacity-building and training activities were also required. Several representatives expressed appreciation for the technical and financial support already received from such entities as GEF and its implementing agencies.

101. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized the importance of implementation plans and urged Parties to submit their missing or delayed plans as soon as possible. While welcoming the revised guidance documents, he emphasized that guidance should remain user friendly and suggested that an electronic template would be useful for submitting quantitative information in a harmonized manner, as recommended in the effectiveness evaluation report. The Secretariat could explore innovative approaches to make reporting more efficient and effective, such as information harvesting through open data sources. One representative said that the guidelines provided by the Secretariat had proved useful in developing his country's national implementation plan. Another representative highlighted the value of the guidance documents in assisting countries with completing their implementation plans but expressed reservations about the benefit of introducing further electronic forms, the use of which should remain optional. Another representative said that not all guidance documents had been reviewed by the Parties and should be reviewed in accordance with the process adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

102. One representative drew attention to the considerable problems encountered in gathering information and developing inventories by countries in post-conflict situations. Another representative said that it was important to consider the role that the private sector could play in helping countries attain their objectives under the Convention. Another representative said that education was very important in informing all actors of their roles in supporting the elimination of persistent organic

pollutants. Another representative said that his country had not been able to receive funding for the revision and updating of its national implementation plan. Another representative said that his country had withdrawn its non-acceptance of the amendment to the Convention adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

103. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Parties, to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/11, taking into account the discussions in plenary.

104. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

105. Decision SC-8/8, on implementation plans, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## **E. Listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention**

106. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that the process for listing chemicals in the annexes to the Convention was at the heart of the Convention. Under the sub-item the Conference of the Parties would discuss developments in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and recommendations by the Committee to list chemicals in the annexes to the Convention.

### **1. Developments in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee: membership of the Committee, cooperation between the Committee and other scientific bodies and effective participation in the work of the Committee**

107. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/12, recalling that the 14 members of the Committee nominated at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with decision SC-7/15 had begun their terms of office on 5 May 2016 subject to appointment by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting. The terms of the remaining 17 members of the Committee would expire on 4 May 2018, and the Conference of the Parties was invited to appoint their successors at the current meeting.

108. Mr. Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan), Vice-Chair of the Committee, then reported on the Committee's work at its eleventh and twelfth meetings, which had taken place in October 2015 and September 2016, respectively, noting that the main role of the Committee, as stated in Article 8 of the Convention, was to review chemicals recommended for listing in the annexes to the Convention and observing that information provided by Parties and observers was critical to its ability to make sound, science-based decisions. During the two meetings, he reported, the Committee had concluded its review of decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins and was recommending that they be listed in Annex A to the Convention. In accordance with decision SC-7/11 it had also further evaluated hexachlorobutadiene (previously listed in Annex A to the Convention without specific exemptions by decision SC-7/12) on the basis of newly available information in relation to its possible listing in Annex C to the Convention. The Committee had also reviewed dicofol and pentadecafluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds and would consider risk management evaluations for them at its thirteenth meeting, in October 2017; had reviewed and commented on a draft report by the Secretariat on the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers; and had finalized guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and its related chemicals for its use in assessing alternatives to PFOS in accordance with the process set out in the annex to decision SC-6/4.

109. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and saying that it was important to strengthen the involvement of experts working under the Basel Convention in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in order to ensure the consideration of relevant information on waste and disposal issues, introduced a conference room paper proposing amendments to the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/12. Another representative proposed an additional amendment aimed at encouraging Parties and others to provide information on waste and disposal issues and to involve their Basel Convention experts in the work of the Committee.

110. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/12, taking into account the discussions in plenary and the proposed amendments.

111. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat.

112. Decision SC-8/9, on the operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## **2. Recommendations by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list chemicals in the annexes to the Convention**

### **(a) Decabromodiphenyl ether**

113. During the discussion on decabromodiphenyl ether, many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for its listing in Annex A to the Convention. Many of those who spoke also specified that they were in favour of proposed exemptions for the automotive industry and in some cases the aerospace industry as well. A number of representatives proposed an additional exemption for the textile industry, and others, an exemption for the recycling of articles containing decabromodiphenyl ether. One representative opposed both of those proposed exemptions. Several representatives said that there was a need to provide developing countries with technical and financial assistance to enable the successful introduction of alternatives and elimination and prevention measures, and another suggested that the creation of a register of products containing decabromodiphenyl ether could help the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee resolve issues and find and assess alternatives, thus simplifying the procedure for listing chemicals.

114. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties established a contact group on listing chemicals in the annexes to the Convention, co-chaired by Mr. Björn Hansen (European Union) and Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia). Taking into account the discussions in plenary, the group would prepare for the consideration of the Conference a revised version of the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/13.

115. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision prepared by the group, which provided for the listing of decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE) in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions. It also adopted, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019, a second draft decision prepared by the group, by which the Conference of the Parties requested the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to undertake a review of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether and to prepare a report on the results of the review, including any recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

116. Decisions SC-8/10, on the listing of decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE), and SC-8/13, on the review of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are set out in annex I to the present report.

### **(b) Short-chain chlorinated paraffins**

117. In the discussion of short-chain chlorinated paraffins many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that they were in favour of listing the chemical in Annex A to the Convention, although several stipulated that their support was conditional on the granting of specific exemptions and a number of others said that they would require financial and technical assistance to enable them identify and eliminate the chemical if it were listed. A number of representatives called for listing with no exemptions, and a number of others, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also expressed support for controls to limit the presence of short-chain chlorinated paraffins in other chlorinated paraffin mixtures. A number of representatives said that the chemical to be listed should be more clearly identified.

118. Several representatives said that they opposed the listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins. One representative, supported by another, contended that the risk profile adopted by the Committee did not meet the requirements of Annexes D and E and that more time was needed for research, and a third said that the risk profile on short-chain chlorinated paraffins prepared by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee contained gaps and contradictory information.

119. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group on listing chemicals in the annexes to the Convention established as described in section V E 2 (a) above (para. 114) would consider the matter further. Taking into account the discussions in plenary, the group would prepare for the consideration of the Conference a revised version of the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/14.

120. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision prepared by the contact group providing for the listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions. It also adopted, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019, a second draft decision prepared by the contact group by which the Conference of the Parties requested the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to undertake a review of information related to specific exemptions for short-chain chlorinated paraffins and to prepare a report on the results of the review, including any recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

121. Decisions SC-8/11, on the listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins, and SC-8/14, on the review of information related to specific exemptions for short-chain chlorinated paraffins, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are set out in annex I to the present report.

(c) **Hexachlorobutadiene**

122. During the discussion on unintentional releases of hexachlorobutadiene, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for listing the chemical in Annex C to the Convention, although a number of them said that the available information on unintentional releases was not clear and indicated that ongoing information gathering was desirable. One representative opposed listing, saying that there was a lack of relevant data, and another urged caution, saying that Parties should carefully consider the cost implications of listing the chemical in Annex C.

123. One representative took the opportunity to make a general comment regarding the process for listing substances in the annexes to the Convention, suggesting that the use of a more scientific approach would allow Parties to set aside political interests. He also said that alternatives should be identified before substances were listed.

124. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties agreed that the contact group on listing chemicals in the annexes to the Convention established as described in section V E 2 (a) above (para. 114) would consider the matter further. Taking into account the discussions in plenary, the group would prepare for the consideration of the Conference a revised version of the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/15.

125. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/15, without change.

126. Decision SC-8/12, on the listing of hexachlorobutadiene in Annex C to the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

**F. Technical assistance**

127. The discussion summarized in the present section, on technical assistance (agenda item 5 (f)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 128–134, 138–143 and 147–149 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 156–162, 166–171 and 177–179, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 159–165, 169–174 and 177–179.

128. Introducing the matter, the President said that technical assistance was essential to the successful implementation of the conventions, that the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional and subregional offices of UNEP and FAO continued to play a vital role in its delivery and that it was one of the areas of work that benefitted most from enhanced coordination and cooperation among the three conventions. The main matters to be considered at the current meetings were technical assistance in general, including the technical assistance plan prepared by the Secretariat for the delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions; the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres; and the implementation of decision V/32 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention.

## 1. Technical assistance

129. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17 and recalling that since the 2013 meetings of the conferences of the Parties the Secretariat had implemented a common technical assistance and capacity-building programme for the three conventions aimed at avoiding duplication and thus increasing the effectiveness of delivered assistance. Based on past experience and information provided by Parties about their needs, the Secretariat had developed a four-year technical assistance plan to replace the current biennial programme with a view to allowing for improved impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation while advancing capacity development and assisting Parties to address their needs in a strategic, systematic and forward-looking manner.

130. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives said that technical assistance and technology transfer were crucial to implementation of the three conventions by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. Examples of the achievements to which technical assistance had contributed included regulation and standard-setting relating to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) under the Stockholm Convention and data collection for the preparation of a proposal on carbofuran as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation under the Rotterdam Convention. Several representatives said that there was a need for increased technical assistance, in relation, for example, to dealing with new industrial persistent organic pollutants, e-waste and plastics, including micro-plastics in the marine environment.

131. There was general support for the Secretariat's four-year technical assistance plan, including its cross-cutting nature in respect of many issues. Several representatives, however, suggested changes to the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17, and others said that they would like to discuss the matter further in a contact group.

132. Several representatives said that there was a need for more resources for technical assistance, from both existing and new sources, to ensure that the plan could be implemented successfully. Their proposals included leveraging public-private partnerships; drawing on the expertise and resources of implementing institutions such as UNIDO and UNDP; and ensuring coordinated programme planning with international organizations implementing programmes on chemicals and wastes.

133. One representative proposed that the technical assistance plan should build on the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and that it should incorporate the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Several representatives made comments in relation to training support, calling for more dynamic, hands-on learning as opposed to a traditional workshop format; saying that there was a need for more research, training, education and scientific and technical support in specialized fields relevant to implementation of the conventions; and calling for more support on reporting, which was currently only available from the Secretariat, which had limited time and capacity to provide it. One representative said that there was a need to ensure that the plan was a living document that was updated and adjusted as needed and implemented according to the resources available.

134. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V G 3 below (para. 168) should consider the matter further.

135. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision submitted by the contact group, as sections I and III of decision SC-8/15, on technical assistance.

136. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

137. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on technical assistance that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-13/11 (sections I and IV) and RC-8/9, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

## 2. Regional centres

138. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in documents UNEP/CHW.13/11 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1, on the activities undertaken by the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, the Secretariat and others in response to the requests of the conferences of the Parties to the two conventions, and highlighting information about the number of regional centres that had submitted their business plans, work plans and activity reports, the 2015 and 2016 annual joint meetings of the directors of the regional centres under the two conventions and the status of framework agreements with a number of regional centre host country Governments, including the decision by the Government of El Salvador to terminate the framework agreement between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Government of El Salvador.

139. In the ensuing discussion several members said that regional centres played a critical role in enabling the sound management of chemicals and wastes and that the need for support provided by the centres was increasing with the constant development of new products. It was also said that the regional centres should take into account the specific requirements for technical assistance identified at the current meetings when developing their work plans.

140. One representative said that the regional centres could play a role in collecting and verifying information not only on best available technologies but also on the operators using such technologies, with the aim of developing a register to assist countries in stemming the spread of dubious technologies.

141. Several representatives said that there was a need to ensure that the regional centres had the resources that they needed to support Parties. In that respect, several representatives expressed concern at the closure of a regional centre in the Latin America region, saying that others should be saved from the same fate. In that context the representative of Brazil proposed that the Stockholm Convention regional centre based in the environment agency of the State of São Paulo, (Companhia do Tecnologia do Saneamento Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo), which had also developed a number of initiatives in support of the Basel Convention, become a regional centre for the latter convention. The representatives of several countries hosting existing regional centres expressed their continued support for those centres.

142. One representative said that language-related difficulties prevented her country from benefiting fully from the services of the centre in her region, and she proposed that the regional centre located in Moscow be strengthened to allow it to support countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

143. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V G 3 below (para. 168) should consider the matter further.

144. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019, as section II of decision SC-8/15, on technical assistance.

145. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

146. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a decision on Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres as section II of decision BC-13/11, on technical assistance. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28).

## 3. Implementation of decision V/32 on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention

147. In the interests of time, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention decided not to discuss the implementation of decision V/32, on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention, in plenary. Instead the matter would be taken up directly by the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V G 3 below (para. 168).

148. Following the discussion in the contact group the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision on the matter set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/12, without change, as section III of decision BC-13/11, on technical assistance.

149. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28).

## **G. Financial resources and mechanisms**

150. The discussion summarized in the present section, on financial resources and mechanisms (agenda item 5 (g)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 151–168 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 231–248, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 181–198.

151. Under the item the conferences of the Parties first considered issues relating to the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and second the integrated approach to financing for chemicals and wastes and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach.

### **1. Financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention**

152. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18 and noting that it comprised five issues: first, guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism; second, the fourth review of the financial mechanism; third, cooperation between the Secretariat and the GEF secretariat and reciprocal representation at relevant meetings; fourth, the assessment of the funding needed by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention during the period 2018–2022; and fifth, reporting by the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties.

153. Regarding the first issue, he said that a non-exhaustive list of proposed elements of guidance to the financial mechanism was before the Conference of the Parties for consideration in the draft decision set out in the document, along with newly proposed guidance that took into account proposed programme priorities for 2018–2022 and that was based on the recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee. The Conference of the Parties, he added, might wish to consider further additional guidance to the financial mechanism. For the second and third issues, the Conference of the Parties had before it a draft report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/30) prepared by an independent evaluator, and information on cooperation between the Secretariat and the GEF secretariat (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18, paras. 22–27) and the GEF co-financing policy (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/29). With regard to the fourth issue, document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/32 contained a full report on the assessment of funding needs prepared by two independent experts. Echoing the President, he added that the outcomes of the deliberations on the assessment of funding needs for the period 2018–2022, the additional guidance to the financial mechanism and the fourth review of the financial mechanism would constitute important inputs for the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund.

154. Finally, regarding reporting by the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties, he noted that a report by the GEF Council was before the Parties in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/28. Following the Secretariat's introduction, the representative of GEF introduced the report, which provided information on GEF activities between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2016 and how GEF had responded to existing guidance from the Conference of the Parties. During the period, she noted, GEF had provided funding of approximately \$187 million, leveraging an additional \$753 million from private sector and other sources, for 81 projects in the chemicals and wastes focal area, including \$131 million for projects aimed at reducing human exposure to persistent organic pollutants. More than 45 per cent of the approved projects for the sixth replenishment period related to chemicals, including projects relating to unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, PCBs, persistent organic pollutant pesticides, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, effectiveness evaluation, national implementation plans, capacity-building, green chemistry, reducing chemical emissions in the context of sustainable urban growth and chemicals management in the industrial sector. In the more than 15 years of implementation of the Stockholm Convention, GEF had provided over \$1 billion in resources and leveraged an additional \$3 billion in co-financing for

implementation of the Convention. Evaluations of those projects, including the fourth review of the financial mechanism, had shown that GEF support was exceeding performance targets with positive impacts, but GEF looked forward to working with all partners to further improve its operations during its seventh replenishment period.

155. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, indicated their general support for the draft decision, although a number, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they wished to propose minor changes or additions.

156. A number of representatives said that predictable funding was critical to the successful implementation of the conventions. One suggested that new sources of predictable, sustainable and adequate financing would need to be identified due to the interim nature of the role of GEF with regard to the financial mechanism. He also said that the approach of GEF was politicized and should be more technical. Another representative said that GEF should improve access to funding by allowing various national agencies to participate and to bear in mind the practices of other international financial institutions with regard to access to funding.

157. Several representatives said that there was a need for diversified sources of funding. A number of representatives said that the private sector should play a greater role in financing, with one calling for the development of strategies in that regard. Another said that private sector participation should form part of a broader co-financing effort and asked that GEF support developing countries in identifying and mobilizing co-financing for implementation projects. He also encouraged GEF to seek alternative international funding sources that could allow for joint efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner. Another representative said that in addition to diversified sources of funding, countries with economies in transition needed access to very low interest loans.

158. One representative, saying that GEF was a crucial tool for catalysing resource mobilization at the domestic level, expressed concern about a decision taken at the latest meeting of the GEF Council regarding a possible reduction of resources as a result of exchange rate fluctuations and the possibility that such a situation might recur during the seventh replenishment period.

159. One representative called for countries to more accurately assess both the volumes of persistent organic pollutants subject to ultimate disposal and the financial means required for that, at the same time expressing appreciation for the needs assessment work done by the Secretariat and other stakeholders.

160. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V G 3 below (para. 168) should consider the matter further.

161. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

162. Decision SC-8/16, on the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## **2. Integrated approach and Special Programme**

163. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/40-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/44-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/35 and reporting that, in accordance with decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22, the Secretariat had continued to take the integrated approach as a reference in its mandated activities and its support for the Parties to the three conventions and had participated in the internal task team of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach, including by attending the first two meetings of the Special Programme executive board as an observer.

164. The representative of UNEP then reported on the implementation of the Special Programme, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/41-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/45-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/36.

165. The conferences of the Parties were invited to take note of the information provided.

166. In the ensuing discussion a number of representatives, speaking on behalf of groups of countries, praised the achievements of the Special Programme to date. Along with the fact that GEF was already taking into account possible co-benefits for the implementation of the Basel and

Rotterdam conventions, said one, the implementation of the Special Programme showed the good progress made in the external financing component of the integrated approach. He called for further progress in the other two components, namely, mainstreaming and private sector involvement, pointing to the recent adoption by several Parties of legislation imposing taxes and levies in accordance with the polluter pays principle as an example to be followed. Another representative called for continued improvement of the programme, in particular by including a needs assessment to ensure that country needs and stated goals were met and by raising the current cap on funding.

167. The representative of India said that efficient implementation of the conventions required the dissemination of appropriate technologies to developing countries, supported by effective capacity-building and technical assistance. Consequently, his delegation intended to introduce a conference room paper proposing a framework for the development of a mechanism along the lines of the technology facilitation mechanism under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A second representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the view that technology transfers were essential and that the technology facilitation mechanism was a good means of facilitating them but said that the mobilization of new, additional and predictable financial resources remained key to the implementation of the conventions in developing countries.

### **3. Establishment of a contact group**

168. Following the discussion in section 2 above, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources co-chaired by Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. Niko Urho (Finland). The group was mandated to prepare for consideration at a subsequent session of the meetings draft decisions on technical assistance using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17 as a starting point; on Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres using the draft decisions in documents UNEP/CHW.13/11 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1; on the implementation of decision V/32 using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/12; on the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention using the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18. The group was also tasked with considering the integrated approach and Special Programme and the conference room paper on the financial mechanism for technology transfer to be submitted by India.

## **H. Reporting pursuant to Article 15**

169. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that the Parties to the Convention were required to report every four years on the measures they had taken to implement the Convention and their effectiveness and that the information so reported was used, among other things, for the effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Convention, for the evaluation of progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls and for the evaluation of the continued need for the specific exemptions and acceptable purposes for the production and use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/20, reported that in response to decision SC-7/23 the Conference of the Parties had enhanced the electronic reporting system and revised the draft strategy to enhance reporting under the Convention. Noting that the effectiveness evaluation report had stressed the importance of Parties increasing their efforts to collect quantitative data on chemicals listed in the Convention, she outlined activities that could help Parties increase their capacity for reporting, including work on inventories under the technical assistance programme and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach. She also suggested that the role of the regional centres and regional coordination in respect of reporting could be improved. In addition, she noted that the revised draft strategy to enhance reporting under the Convention recommended the development of a manual for completing the updated format for national reporting, and the draft decision proposed the establishment of a small intersessional working group for that purpose.

170. In response to a query the representative of the Secretariat provided additional information on the manual to be developed by the small intersessional working group, saying that while the current manual only addressed the very basic functioning of the system, the proposed new manual would address content, describing in detail what was sought for each table and question in the reporting format and cross-referencing relevant guidance and other supporting information. The creation of an intersessional working group to develop the manual was proposed based on the positive experience during a similar activity under the Basel Convention and was aimed at engaging Parties in the process. She also addressed comments from another representative, welcoming his suggestion that a frequently-asked-questions section be added to the electronic reporting system and confirming that all data and information submitted pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention was currently publicly

available. Regarding the possibility of integrating the information from national systems into the electronic reporting system, she suggested that aligning the reporting system with the many different national systems would be challenging but said that the Secretariat was open to further discussions on that topic and other ways of making the system more user friendly.

171. One representative said that his country required additional support from the Secretariat with the collection of data and its submission through the electronic reporting system.

172. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/20, on the understanding that it would be revised to incorporate any new chemicals listed in the annexes to the Stockholm Convention at the current meeting and pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

173. Decision SC-8/17, on reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## **I. Effectiveness evaluation**

174. Under the sub-item the Parties discussed the effectiveness evaluation overall and the global monitoring plan for the effectiveness evaluation.

### **1. Effectiveness evaluation**

175. Introducing the matter, the President recalled that the effectiveness evaluation committee appointed by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, in accordance with the process adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, had undertaken the first evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention required by Article 16 of the Convention. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat described the conduct of the evaluation and the preparation of the report presenting its results, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22. The full report on the results of the evaluation was set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/40, the executive summary of the report (in all six official languages of the Convention) in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22/Add.1 and a report by the effectiveness evaluation committee on the experience with the use of the effectiveness evaluation framework and recommendations for its further development in UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/41.

176. Following that introduction Mr. Ramón Guardans (Spain), Chair of the global coordination group, made a presentation on the most important findings of the global monitoring plan and Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada) and Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda), the Chair and Vice-Chair of the effectiveness evaluation committee, gave a joint presentation on the main findings, conclusions and recommendations presented in the effectiveness evaluation report.

177. In his presentation, Mr. Guardans said that the documents presented were part of a long-term process of global cooperation, with both international and national bodies contributing valuable data. The main message to be drawn from the global monitoring plan was that regulations targeting persistent organic pollutants were succeeding in reducing levels of persistent organic pollutants in humans and in the environment. For persistent organic pollutants listed in 2004, concentrations measured in air and human populations had declined and continued to decline or remain at low levels due to restrictions on persistent organic pollutants that predated the Stockholm Convention and had been incorporated into it. There had been a considerable increase in the quantity of good-quality monitoring data since 2009, especially in developing countries, which had greatly assisted the development of the global monitoring report. In addition, for many substances, data from long-term studies were increasingly becoming available and would prove very useful for monitoring progress and guiding future actions. Looking ahead to the next phase, the main challenges related to sustaining and consolidating existing levels of cooperation and monitoring; developing strategies to deal with the growing list of substances of concern; tracking alternatives from an early stage to identify any potential concerns; and harnessing new analytical tools to make effective use of the growing body of data. In conclusion, he said that the main aims were to gather high-quality data and to make them available in order to enhance the understanding of persistent organic pollutants and deal with them more effectively.

178. Commencing the presentation on the main findings, conclusions and recommendations presented in the effectiveness evaluation report, Ms. Daniel summarized the process for effectiveness evaluation, including its purpose, the framework adopted, the establishment of the effectiveness evaluation committee and the stages in which information had been gathered from a wide range of sources and then synthesized and evaluated. The committee had held two meetings in 2016. Regarding

the overall outcomes, the committee had concluded that the Convention provided an effective and dynamic framework for regulating persistent organic pollutants; that inadequate implementation was a key issue; that a lack of data constituted a major challenge; that the mechanisms and processes for supporting Parties in meeting their obligations had been put in place, with the exception of compliance procedures; and that regulations targeting persistent organic pollutants were succeeding in reducing levels of pollutants in humans and the environment. Ms. Daniel and Mr. Christian then summarized the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation for each article of the Convention. Key findings included that there was a need to sustain global monitoring of persistent organic pollutants in the long term; to further develop and strengthen national regulatory systems and inventories; and to build capacity to deal with specific substances. In addition, Parties should make every effort to develop and maintain up-to-date action plans, including the application of best available techniques and best available practices; to improve the quality of their inventories, national reporting and data collection mechanisms; and to accelerate their efforts relating to the sound management of stockpiles and wastes. More generally, the need to strengthen technical assistance and technology transfer activities, and to provide additional sustainable financial resources, was highlighted, with the review and updating of national implementation plans recognized as a priority. Finally, the necessity of establishing a compliance mechanism was stressed.

179. In the ensuing discussion, there was general appreciation for the work that had been performed by the effectiveness evaluation committee and the quality and comprehensiveness of the accompanying documentation. Many of those who spoke expressed support for the recommendations emerging from the evaluation. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged continuation of the work under the global monitoring plan and expressed support for the revised mandate and terms of reference of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group. One representative stressed the need for more information and data in order to accelerate progress.

180. Many representatives said that further technical assistance, technology transfer and financial resources were needed to enable developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to meet their obligations under the Convention. One representative said that support should focus on priority activities to maximize impact and suggested that South-South cooperation should be promoted in order to pool expertise and experience. Several representatives said that technical assistance was urgently needed to help developing countries to deal with stockpiles of both identified and unidentified substances. One said that greater focus should be placed, under Article 11, on biopesticides as an alternative to synthetic pesticides, which had been shown to have adverse effects on vulnerable groups, including women and children. Another representative highlighted the elimination of PCBs as a particular challenge requiring technical and financial support.

181. There was some discussion of the matter of compliance under Article 17 of the Convention, with several representatives urging Parties to strive for agreement on the establishment of a compliance mechanism. Several representatives identified a linkage between compliance and technical and financial support, including for the updating of national implementation plans and inventories. One representative said that many countries were facing problems in updating their national implementation plans due to shortcomings in technical assistance, technology transfer and financing mechanisms, including the interim financing mechanism under GEF. A study was needed on why the financial mechanism had failed to provide the support necessary to enable Parties to update their plans. One representative said that the report laid too much emphasis on monitoring and evaluation and lacked specific detail on the reasons for the lack of effective implementation of the Convention and of the decisions of the Parties at the national level, as well as of the failures of the financial mechanism to meet its obligations, which had limited Party access to technical and financial resources. Such matters needed to be clarified to pave the way for any further discussion of compliance.

182. The representative of UNEP highlighted the contribution that the programme had made to the work of the effectiveness evaluation committee by providing relevant information, as well as the support that it had provided to Parties in monitoring and generating data on persistent organic pollutants, as part of its efforts to assist Parties in implementing the Stockholm Convention and to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.

183. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22.

184. Decision SC-8/18, on effectiveness evaluation, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## 2. Global monitoring plan

185. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, reporting that the global monitoring plan's global coordination group had prepared a second global monitoring report, which included conclusions and recommendations pertaining to the third phase of the global monitoring plan and proposed amendments to the terms of reference for the global coordination group and the regional coordination groups. The report was set out in full in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/38, the executive summary of the report (in all six official languages of the Convention) in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/21/Add.1 and a draft decision on the matter in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/21.

186. In the ensuing discussion, all representatives who took the floor welcomed the second report and the progress to date. One representative said the report demonstrated that decisions were being made on an informed basis and were fulfilling the objective of the Convention. A few representatives said that monitoring was needed at additional sites to allow for greater coverage at the regional level and thereby improve the evaluation of trends with regard to persistent organic pollutants in core media.

187. A number of representatives said that participation in the global monitoring programme had improved analytical capacity in some countries but a number said that support for developing countries in their efforts to provide monitoring data had to be strengthened, especially with regard to new persistent organic pollutants. Speaking on behalf of a group of countries, another representative said that financial support for the work of the global monitoring programme should come from the Convention trust fund, especially in relation to activities described in paragraphs 6 (a) and 6 (b) of the draft decision. Challenges faced by Parties included a need for financial support for the collection of data on new persistent organic pollutants and laboratory evaluations, including at the clinical level; a need to strengthen monitoring mechanisms; a need for assistance in clearly identifying chemicals contained in articles; a need for further strengthening analytical capability; and a need for the training of laboratory technicians.

188. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/21, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

189. Decision SC-8/19, on the global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

## J. Compliance

190. The discussion summarized in the present section, on compliance (agenda item 5 (j)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 191–222 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 118–149, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 126–157.

191. Introducing the item, the President indicated that matters relating to compliance under each of the three conventions would be discussed sequentially, with each President presiding over the discussions pertaining to his convention.

### 1. Basel Convention

192. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, indicating that the principal subjects to be considered at the current meeting were the report of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance on its activities during the biennium 2016–2017 (UNEP/CHW.13/9, sects. II B and II C), which included recommendations in respect of both the Committee's general review mandate and its specific submission mandate, and the election of five new members of the Committee. Draft guidance on illegal traffic (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1) and proposed revisions to the revised reporting format and the forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions or prohibitions (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2) were also before the Conference of the Parties for consideration. She highlighted the generous financial support for the Committee that had been provided by the Governments of Colombia, Japan, Norway and Switzerland and by the European Union.

193. Mr. Juan Simonelli (Argentina), Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, gave a presentation, highlighting some of the activities and recommendations detailed in document UNEP/CHW.13/9. Regarding the work of the Committee on specific submissions, he outlined the progress made in dealing with the 13 specific submissions considered at the Committee's twelfth meeting. He added that the Committee recommended that it be mandated to explore options for strengthening institutional links with the executive board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach, to ensure mutual support between the two bodies and the efficient use of resources. As to the work under the general review mandate, he drew attention to the activities and recommendations related to national reporting, national legislation, illegal traffic, guidance on insurance, bonds and other guarantees and the control system. On the matter of reporting he pointed out that the targets set at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to improve the completeness and timely submission of national reports had not been met, with only nine of the 178 Parties with an obligation to submit full reports for 2013 having done so by the stated deadline. In concluding, he drew attention to the Committee's proposed programme of work for 2018–2019, which included new areas of work for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, and expressed appreciation for, among other things, the cooperation of Parties in the activities of the Committee and the financial support provided by Parties, including through the implementation fund.

194. In the ensuing discussion, many participants voiced appreciation for the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee. One representative said that the mechanism should assist Parties to implement the Convention and be simple, transparent and not overly rigid. He said that it should help Parties to provide reports with the required information within required timelines and improve coordination between all authorities such that information could be provided on product inventorying and scheduling, and he added that additional guidelines for the preparation of reports and inventories should be developed. Another representative said that the mechanism worked well and that Parties viewed it as supportive rather than punitive. He added that his country was pleased to continue to support the implementation fund. Another representative urged that work towards the development of guidance on Article 11 agreements and arrangements with non-Parties continue. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Committee should keep its activities consistent with its programme of work and mandate. He drew attention to conference room papers submitted by the European Union and its member States that contained suggestions for amendments to the guidance on illegal traffic and the format for national reporting, saying that another conference room paper would be submitted proposing changes to the draft decision and to the Committee's programme of work. Supported by another representative he expressed concern regarding the proposed further work on electronic approaches to the control system and said that the possible establishment of an intersessional group as well as the previously mentioned issues could be discussed in a contact group. Another representative said that amending the terms of reference of the Committee merited further discussion and that she would have some recommendations on a few items of the work programme.

195. One representative said that he had submitted a conference room paper reflecting concerns with the reporting format. Regarding the classification of Parties' compliance performance with regard to reporting, he objected to the naming of Parties and, suggesting that even developed countries did not always have the capacity to complete their national reporting, said that the mechanism must retain the spirit of the Convention by building the capacity of countries to implement its objectives. Another representative said that the proposed additional paragraph for the terms of reference of the Committee should reflect a non-punitive, non-adversarial and conciliatory mechanism, which was not the way it was currently drafted.

196. A few representatives drew attention to the low level of reporting, with one adding that it was not clear whether the Committee had carried out a study to understand the reason why there had been so little reporting and another suggesting that the reason was that there was no new information to report. One representative said that since the existing reporting system was not being well implemented it might not be effective to impose additional requirements that might improve the process but would require additional funding that had not yet been identified.

197. Several representatives said that there was a need for technical and financial assistance, training and capacity-building in respect of reporting. One representative said that the Special Programme could assist countries with such needs. He added that it was important to accelerate the mechanism so that reporting could be carried out in a timely manner and consistently between the three conventions.

198. Several representatives outlined their countries' experience in matters related to compliance and identified challenges faced, including a lack of infrastructure resulting in hazardous waste needing to be treated abroad, national situations that led to the spread of hazardous wastes and chemicals, a need for assistance with the return of illegal goods to their points of origin, improvement of feedback on reports submitted and a lack of national legislation and inventories of all processes for fighting against waste products.

199. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties established a contact group on Basel Convention compliance and legal matters, co-chaired by Mr. Simonelli and Mr. Geri-Geronimo Romero Sañez (Philippines). The group was asked to prepare for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at a subsequent session a draft decision using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/9 as a starting point and taking into account the discussion outlined above; a revised draft of the guidance set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1; and revised proposed revisions to the revised reporting format and the forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions or prohibitions set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2 and the conference room papers submitted by the European Union and its member States and India.

200. Following the establishment of the contact group the President said that it was vital for all Parties to the Convention, especially those not in a position to participate in intersessional processes, to have the time to review the outcomes of such processes so that they could come to meetings of the Conference of the Parties prepared for their consideration and possible adoption. The regional preparatory meetings were key to that preparatory work, as was careful planning to ensure that the outcomes of intersessional processes were finalized in a timely manner. To that end, he had asked the Secretariat to prepare a schedule for intersessional work to ensure that all products of intersessional groups under the Basel Convention were complete by the end of October 2018 so that they would be ready for consideration and possible adoption at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

201. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018-2019, the draft decision prepared by the contract group, in which, among other things, it adopted a revised version of the draft guidance on illegal traffic (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1/Rev.1) and further revised versions of the reporting format and forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions and prohibitions (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1).

202. Decision BC-13/9, on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28).

## **2. Rotterdam Convention**

203. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18 and recalling that at its seventh meeting, as at all its previous meetings, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had discussed but had not achieved consensus on adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention. By its decision RC-7/6, the Conference of the Parties had accordingly decided that it would further consider the procedures and mechanisms for adoption early in the course of its eighth meeting, using the draft text in the annex to the decision (reproduced for the current meeting in annex I to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18) as the starting point for its discussions, and had invited the Bureau to facilitate consultations among Parties in the period between its seventh and eighth meetings to promote a policy dialogue on outstanding issues. In the course of those consultations, following the submission of views by Parties, the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties had submitted to the bureaux of the three Conventions a proposal that the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention consider for adoption the procedures and mechanisms on compliance in plenary at the beginning of the 2017 meetings. Concluding the introduction of the document, she said that the compromise text and draft decision by the co-chairs of the contact group that had considered the matter at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties was set out in annex II to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18.

204. The President said that as a result of the consultations held since the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, it appeared that there was no longer any objection to the adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance. He proposed that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decision set out in annex II to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18, with minor adjustments to

reflect that it was being adopted at the eighth rather than the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

205. In the ensuing discussion, it was widely acknowledged that the establishment of compliance procedures was required by the Convention, that compliance with the Convention was crucial to its success, and that the compliance procedure to be established should contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention and be facilitative, transparent and non-punitive in nature. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized that the provision of adequate financial and technical assistance was closely linked to the effective implementation of the Convention and thus compliance.

206. Several representatives called for the examination of the draft text on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention and the links between compliance and financial resources and technical assistance, including with regard to how the term compliance should be defined. One called for amending the Convention to create a dedicated financial mechanism to support implementation. Other representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that compliance procedures could be agreed to at the current meeting based on the compromise text and draft decision achieved at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Several of those representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that discussion should be limited to issues on which there was disagreement at the end of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as indicated by the presence of square brackets around relevant paragraphs in the draft text. Another representative underscored that, at the seventh meeting of the Parties, his country had not agreed to the text on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention.

207. Following the discussion, it was agreed that the matter would be further considered during the separate sessions of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

208. Following resumption of the consideration of the matter of compliance a regionally balanced friends-of-the-President group chaired by the President was established to look at the way forward. The President subsequently presented for adoption a compromise version of the annexes to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18 that he had prepared following consultations in the friends-of-the-President group in an effort to accommodate the concerns of those opposing the proposed compliance mechanism and procedures in their current form while respecting the position of others that matters on which tentative agreement had been reached at the sixth and seventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties should not be reopened. In introducing the compromise version he noted in particular that a Party-to-Party trigger could only be effected following consultation with the Party concerned to allow it to correct any misunderstandings and that the proposed compliance committee would have to ensure that it was taking into account the Party's national circumstances in drafting its recommendations; that while the committee could adopt decisions by a four-fifths majority, any recommendations put forward by the committee to the Conference of the Parties for adoption would need to be approved by the Conference of the Parties by consensus; and that any Party being reviewed should receive information and advice from the committee to facilitate its preparation of a voluntary plan for meeting its obligations under the Convention. He also highlighted a new paragraph in the related draft decision stating that the procedures and mechanisms should be facilitative, non-punitive and non-adversarial.

209. In the ensuing discussion one representative said that the President's compromise version did not adequately capture his country's position. Supported by several other representatives, he said among other things that only a few Parties had had a chance to examine it in detail; that it therefore reflected the views of a relatively small group of Parties; and that debate should continue and not be limited to provisions enclosed in square brackets in the draft text in annex I to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18. One representative, supported by another, called for further discussion in a contact group.

210. Several other representatives, on the other hand, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended the President on his work and, expressing dismay at the failure to achieve consensus, opposed any further discussion of text on which tentative agreement had been reached at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

211. The President then indicated that while some representatives had expressed concern regarding his compromise proposal none had objected to its adoption, and he accordingly announced that it had been adopted. Several representatives, asking that their comments be reflected in the present report, argued strongly in response that they had indeed objected to the adoption of the compromise proposal. They also said that the President's announcement that his proposal had been adopted was invalid, with one Party objecting to the announcement.

212. At a subsequent session, one Party, asking that its comment be reflected in the present report, requested that the quorum for the debate to proceed be verified, which was done by the Secretariat and announced by the President. The debate then continued with the President saying that, in the light of the comments mentioned in the previous paragraph, it had become clear that there was no consensus on his proposal and that the Conference of the Parties had not in fact adopted his proposed compromise text, and he then withdrew that text as a proposed basis for further discussion.

213. Regarding the basis for further discussion of compliance at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, reiterated their position that discussion should proceed from the tentative agreement that had been reached at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, with one Party referring to the importance of incremental negotiations, that draft text set out in the annex to decision RC-7/6 that was not enclosed in square brackets should not be reopened. Citing the proposition that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed”, a number of other representatives argued that all provisions of the draft compliance procedures and mechanisms remained open for debate and that future discussions should reflect all positions put forth at the current meeting, including in relevant conference room papers. Another representative said that aspects of the consensus decision-making procedures were blocking progress in the operation and further development of the Convention.

214. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of compliance to its ninth meeting.

### **3. Stockholm Convention**

215. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23 and recalling that at its seventh meeting and all previous meetings the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention had discussed but had not achieved consensus on adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention. By its decision SC-7/26, the Conference of the Parties had accordingly decided that it would further consider the procedures and mechanisms for adoption early in the course of its eighth meeting and had invited the Bureau to facilitate consultations among Parties in the period between its seventh and eighth meetings to promote a policy dialogue on outstanding issues. In the course of those consultations, following the submission of views by Parties, the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties had submitted to the bureaux of the three conventions a proposal that the issue of compliance be taken up by a friends-of-the-President group early in the course of the 2017 meetings. She also noted that in considering the draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance the Conference of the Parties might wish to take into account relevant recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22/Add.1, paras. 151–169, 179 and 180), which included a recommendation that the Conference of the Parties adopt procedures and mechanisms on compliance at the current meeting.

216. Continuing the introduction the President said that the Conference of the Parties could commence its work based on either of the two versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23: the first version as it stood at the close of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which time there were four principal issues outstanding, and the second as it stood at the close of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which reflected several additional outstanding issues raised at that meeting.

217. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, underscored the importance of establishing an effective compliance mechanism. A number of representatives said that compliance and the provision of adequate financial and technical assistance to developing countries were linked. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that discussion of the matter should move forward on matters on which agreement had not yet been reached and should not reopen previous discussions. Another representative proposed the establishment of a contact group to discuss remaining substantial issues and views.

218. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties established a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Daniel and Mr. Humphrey Mwale (Zambia), to consider the matter for a period of three hours, after which the co-chairs would report to the plenary on the outcome of the group’s discussions.

219. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties decided that a regionally balanced friends-of-the-President group co-chaired by Ms. Daniel and Mr. Mwale would consider the matter further with a focus on the outstanding issues and with the aim of preparing for its consideration a draft decision taking into account the discussions in plenary and in the contact group.

220. At a subsequent session, the co-chair of the friends-of-the-President group reported that the group had continued the discussions initiated in the contact group on the outstanding issues common to both versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23, namely, triggers and measures, until one delegation had expressed strong concern over the operating format that had been set for the group. The Conference of the Parties therefore decided to resume consideration of the matter in the contact group. At a subsequent session, the co-chair of the contact group reported that the group had held general discussions on 16 elements put forward by a group of countries, and subsequently discussed, without reaching agreement, how to further consider the matter of compliance at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

221. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, given that no agreement on any issue had been reached at the present meeting, future discussions of the matter should be based on the two versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23. Several other representatives, said that deliberations on the matter at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties should also give equal consideration to the discussions, and the proposals introduced, at the current meeting. One representative said that the entire text was open for further negotiation and requested that the Secretariat compile all relevant documents, including proposals introduced and views expressed at the current meeting, to produce a comprehensive text as the basis for future discussions.

222. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of the matter of compliance to its ninth meeting.

## **K. International cooperation and coordination**

223. The discussion summarized in the present section, on international cooperation (agenda item 5 (k)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 224–235 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 207–218, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 200–211.

224. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the documents relevant to the sub-item, which outlined the activities of the Secretariat in respect of international cooperation and coordination undertaken in response to decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27, including contributions that the three conventions could make to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, cooperation with UNEP in the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and cooperation with other entities both within and beyond the chemicals and waste cluster. She also introduced information documents setting out reports submitted by the Executive Director of UNEP, the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention. Observing that the aim of cooperation was to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the conventions and to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources and expertise, the President opened the floor, suggesting that Parties, building upon the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24, might wish to consider additional efforts under the conventions to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

225. In the ensuing discussion there was general consensus that enhanced international cooperation and coordination were essential to the implementation of the three conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One representative said that the management of chemicals and wastes under the three conventions was aligned with the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 12, and with the three pillars of sustainable development. Another representative said that the 2030 Agenda included many Sustainable Development Goals related to the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes and that their associated targets could only be achieved through the effective and efficient use of resources through enhanced cooperation and collaboration involving all actors and that the three conventions had already demonstrated what could be achieved through a synergistic approach. Another representative said that the complexity and ambition of the 2030 Agenda should not divert attention from the universality and interdependence of the Sustainable Development Goals. One representative said that synergies between the three conventions and other United Nations entities should lead to actual direct cooperation rather than just the identification of areas of mutual interest. Another representative said that it was essential that countries fully comply with their obligations under the chemicals and waste conventions as they committed to delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.

226. Several representatives offered proposals for further elements that might be included in the draft decision. The representative of the European Union and its member States, introducing a conference room paper on the matter, said that reference should be made to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integration of the sound management of chemicals and waste in a number of the Sustainable Development Goals and work under the Strategic Approach. Another representative said that the draft decision should draw on the work of other entities, such as UNDP and FAO, to assist Governments in mainstreaming sound chemicals and waste management into their development activities. Another representative said that the draft decision should include those organizations and entities with which the Secretariat was requested to enhance cooperation and coordination, including the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes.

227. Several representatives commented on the balance between obligations under international agreements and the right of individual countries to follow their own development agendas. One representative said that the Sustainable Development Goals were aspirational rather than binding and that countries retained flexibility regarding the development of national indicators. While synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals were to be welcomed, linkages with national reporting related to the three conventions should be avoided. Another representative called for further study of the implications for Parties of bringing the Sustainable Development Goals into the domain of the three conventions. Another representative stressed the voluntary nature of the national review processes that would form part of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda.

228. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged Parties and regional and intergovernmental organizations with experience in implementing measures in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals to provide inputs to the Secretariat for subsequent circulation among the Parties to guide them in implementing the three conventions within the context of the 2030 Agenda.

229. The representative of UNEP highlighted some issues discussed in the Executive Director's report to the conferences of the Parties (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59), including the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and priority matters that would be considered during the third session, the theme of which – “pollution-free planet” – was closely aligned with the objectives of the three conventions. In addition, he said, several of the elements of the UNEP programme of work provided opportunities for integration with work under the three conventions.

230. The representative of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach highlighted the main areas of cooperation between those entities and the three conventions, particularly in the context of the lead-up to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, the efforts to achieve the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management and the recent launch of an intersessional process for preparing recommendations on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

231. The representative of UNIDO gave a statement on the Joint Declaration of Intent on Chemical Leasing signed in November 2016 between UNIDO, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Chemical leasing, he said, was a new and innovative business model that could contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development and sound chemicals management. The initiative was closely aligned with the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the objectives of the three conventions and could contribute to and stimulate the engagement of industry and the public sector to translate those objectives into business opportunities.

232. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe gave an update on activities under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, which was the first convention to deal with air pollution on a regional basis. Its protocol on persistent organic pollutants currently covered 16 substances. The convention gave a prominent role to science, not just in providing information but also in guiding policy. The protocol's long-term strategy called for greater linkages with the work of the Stockholm Convention.

233. The representative of the United Nations Environment Management Group gave a report on the group's work to enhance coordination in the United Nations system to address the global challenge of e-waste. The Environment Management Group had established an Inter-agency Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste in 2016 to facilitate further synergies, including with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in promoting e-waste prevention and environmentally sound management. A draft report had been prepared by the inter-agency issue management group on a coordinated approach to e-waste management in the United Nations system.

234. Following the discussion, the President noted that the proposals referred to in footnote 16 of document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 could be further considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention during its discussion of national reporting.

235. The conferences of the Parties decided that the joint contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues, established as described in section VI A below (para. 245), should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing for their consideration at a subsequent joint session a draft decision based on the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24, taking into account the discussion on the matter and the content of the conference room paper presented by the European Union and its member States.

236. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 prepared by the contact group.

237. Decision SC-8/20, on international cooperation and coordination, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

238. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on international cooperation and coordination that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-13/16 and RC-8/10, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

239. During the consideration of the decision, one representative said that while he supported its adoption he regretted that neither it nor document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 made reference to the Samoa Pathway. Such a reference would facilitate linkages between secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, small island developing States and the wider sustainable development agenda, in the light of a report by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations system and the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

## **VI. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 6)**

240. The discussion summarized in the present section, on enhancing cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 6), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 241–245, 249–250, 254–255, 259–260 and 264–265 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 260–264, 268–269, 273–274, 278–279 and 283–284, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 217–221, 225–226, 230–231, 235–236 and 240–241.

241. Introducing the item, the President said that it encompassed five topics: the reviews of the synergies arrangements between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange; mainstreaming gender; illegal traffic and trade; and “from science to action”. Each topic would be discussed separately.

### **A. Review of the synergies arrangements**

242. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25 and recalling that by decisions BC-12/20, RC-7/10 and SC-7/28 the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had mandated three reviews of the three conventions’ synergies arrangements: a review of the matrix-based management approach and organization of the Secretariat; a review of 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 FAO to enhance synergies arrangements; and a review of the overall synergies arrangements, including joint activities and joint managerial functions. A steering committee, comprising the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties, the

executive secretaries and Deputy Executive Secretary of the three conventions, the Corporate Services Division of UNEP and the Evaluation Office of UNEP, had overseen the conduct of the three reviews by an independent consulting company. Reports on the results of the reviews, including 40 recommendations on various thematic issues directed to various audiences, were before the conferences of the Parties in documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/44-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/30-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/47, UNEP/CHW.13/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/48 and UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46, respectively, and a compilation of the recommendations and actions proposed in response thereto was set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1.

243. In the ensuing discussion several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the reviews, saying that the synergies process had provided important benefits for the operation and management of the Secretariat and the implementation of the conventions, including in advancing the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycles. Many said that the synergies process and its benefits should be focused on assisting countries to implement key provisions of the conventions more effectively, including with regard to, inter alia, reporting, technology transfer, financial resources, administrative costs and burdens and the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the intent of the draft decision on the matter, with several representatives introducing proposals for amendments and calling for their discussion in a contact group. The representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper on the subject and the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, indicated that those countries would also submit a conference room paper.

244. Some representatives underscored what they said were the potential advantages of including the Minamata Convention in aspects of the synergies arrangements, including potentially co-locating its secretariat with, or integrating its secretariat into, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and expressed support for requesting the Secretariat to examine the potential impact of, and potential modalities for, doing so. While only the parties to the Minamata Convention could take decisions regarding their secretariat, and nothing that occurred at the current meetings would prejudice such decisions, it would be appropriate to signal to the parties to the Minamata Convention that the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were open to exploring the issue. Several other representatives said that it was premature to hold formal discussions of synergies with the Minamata Convention before the Conference of the Parties to that convention had discussed issues related to its secretariat at its first meeting.

245. Following the discussion the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues, co-chaired by Ms. Jane Stratford (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Mr. Nguyen Anh-Tuan (Viet Nam), to prepare for their consideration at a subsequent joint session a draft decision using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25 as a starting point and taking into account the conference room papers introduced relevant to the issue and the discussion in plenary.

246. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

247. Decision SC-8/21, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

248. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-13/18 and RC-8/11, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

## B. Clearing-house mechanism

249. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/23-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/26 and recalling that by decisions BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29 the conferences of the Parties had taken note of the proposed joint clearing-house mechanism strategy prepared by the Secretariat, invited Parties and others to comment on the strategy and requested the Secretariat to make information in 11 priority thematic areas available through the clearing-house mechanism and to revise the proposed strategy. A revised version of the proposed strategy (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50) and a draft biennial workplan prepared by the Secretariat based on the draft revised workplan (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/48-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/39-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/43) were before the conferences of the Parties.

250. Following the introduction, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 245) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/23-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/26 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

251. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

252. Decision SC-8/22, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

253. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on the clearing-house mechanism that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-13/19 and RC-8/12, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

## C. Mainstreaming gender

254. In the discussion of the sub-item, one representative said that the issue of mainstreaming gender was important both to the operation and effectiveness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and offered several amendments to the relevant draft decision. A number of other representatives said that those amendments and those in a conference room paper submitted by the European Union and its member States warranted further discussion.

255. The conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 245) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/20-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/19-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/19 as a starting point and taking into account the discussion in plenary and a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

256. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

257. Decision SC-8/23, on mainstreaming gender, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

258. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on mainstreaming gender that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-13/20 and RC-8/13, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its

thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

#### **D. Illegal traffic and trade**

259. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/24-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/23-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/27 and recalling that at their 2015 meetings the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to prepare recommendations on possible synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, building on lessons learned under the Basel Convention. In the absence of financial support for such work the Secretariat had developed a number of such recommendations based on an analysis of possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/51) that it had prepared for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its 2015 meeting.

260. Following the introduction the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 245) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/24-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/23-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/27 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

261. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, as orally amended and pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

262. Decision SC-8/24, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

263. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-13/21 and RC-8/14, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

#### **E. From science to action**

264. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/25-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/28 and recalling that at their 2015 meetings the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to develop a road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the regional and national levels, taking into account the roles of the scientific bodies of the conventions. In response to the decision the Secretariat, in consultation with the experts of the scientific bodies of the conventions, regional centres and other relevant stakeholders and taking into account the results of an online survey of Parties and other stakeholders, had prepared a draft road map for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at the current meetings. The draft roadmap was set out in annex I to document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52 and a summary of the results of the online survey in annex II to the same document.

265. Following the introduction, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 245) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/25-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/28 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

266. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget

matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

267. Decision SC-8/25, on from science to action, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

268. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on from science to action that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-13/22 and RC-8/15, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

## VII. Programme of work and budget (agenda item 7)

269. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the programme of work and budget (agenda item 7), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 270–276 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 289–295, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 246–252.

270. Introducing the item, the President said that it was key to ensuring that the 2018–2019 programmes of work included the activities and resources needed to support the implementation of the three conventions, while ensuring the continuation of the activities of the previous biennium, and that the Secretariat's staff and financial resources were managed efficiently and effectively in a way that responded to the needs of the three conventions and in conformity with United Nations policies and procedures.

271. The representative of the Secretariat then continued the introduction, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/26-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/25-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/29 and the related tables in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/51-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/53. He said that in preparing the budget proposal the executive secretaries had attempted to assure the core capacity of the Secretariat to service meetings of the Parties and to provide technical assistance and scientific, technical and legal support to Parties; to strengthen the science-based action required for implementing the conventions; to ensure adequate capacity to mobilize, manage and efficiently administer resources; to prioritize core budget resources for essential activities; and to provide a conservative and realistic assessment of the requirements for 2018–2019. In response to decisions BC-12/25, RC-7/15 and SC-7/33, the Secretariat was presenting two budget scenarios for consideration by the conferences of the Parties. The first assumed zero nominal growth compared with the budget for 2016–2017, while the second represented the executive secretaries' assessment of the amount necessary to provide a similar level of services to those provided during the 2016–2017 biennium.

272. Regarding the implications of the two scenarios, the executive secretaries' scenario would allow the continuation of the approved programme of work for 2016–2017, along with a number of new activities, and would involve an average increase of 3 per cent across the three conventions. The zero nominal growth scenario envisaged a reduction in the core services provided by the Secretariat, including a 42 per cent reduction in the number of translated pages of pre-session documents for the meetings of the conferences of the Parties and the replacement of face-to-face meetings of the three individual bureaux with video conferences. The scenario also envisaged that certain activities currently funded from the core budgets would henceforth be funded from the voluntarily-funded budgets. In addition, based on an analysis of recent trends in voluntary funds raised during the preceding years, the voluntary fund budget proposal was reduced by 37 per cent to reflect the shortfalls that had been experienced in recent years. It was noted that the staff requirements were the same in the two scenarios.

273. As to the format of the budget, it had been necessary to change it owing to the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in 2014 and the implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning system in June 2015. Umoja's cost-sharing functionality enabled the equitable sharing of staff costs and savings among the conventions, and it was thus considered unnecessary to establish a single operational account for staff costs as had been

recommended by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services. In addition, it was noted that the detailed information previously provided in the budget proposals was available in activity fact sheets on the activities in the proposed programme of work (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/52-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/37-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/54).

274. He also drew attention to the financial reports for the current biennium (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/55/Rev.2) and highlighted issues with regard to difficulties caused by the implementation of Umoja, growth in arrears in contributions to the Conventions, which had increased beyond the amount of the working capital reserve and a drop, as noted above, in voluntary contributions. Information on donors that had contributed to the implementation of the three conventions and the activities that they had funded was provided in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/55-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/43-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/57. He expressed particular thanks to those countries that had generously supported the participation of representatives of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the current meetings.

275. In conclusion, he recalled that FAO continued to provide the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat with \$1.5 million per biennium and noted that during the period 1999–2015 the FAO part of the Secretariat had accumulated an unspent balance of \$994,524 that would be returned to the Rotterdam Convention general trust fund in 2017 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/51).

276. Following the presentation the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on budget matters for the three conventions, chaired by Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile). The group was asked to prepare for consideration and separate adoption by the conferences of the Parties draft programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2018–2019 and related draft decisions.

277. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

278. Decision SC-8/27, on the programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2018–2019, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

279. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on the programmes of work and budgets for those conventions for the biennium 2018–2019. Decisions BC-13/24 and RC-8/17, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

## **VIII. Venue and date of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 8)**

280. The conferences of the Parties decided to hold their next meetings in Geneva from 29 April to 10 May 2019 in a format similar to that of the 2017 meetings, with joint sessions covering matters of relevance to at least two of the three conventions and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the three conferences of the Parties. They also decided that the 2019 meetings would not feature a high-level segment and that such segments would occur only at every second set of meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

## **IX. Other matters (agenda item 9)**

### **A. Memorandums of understanding between UNEP, FAO and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

281. The discussion summarized in the present section, on memorandums of understanding between UNEP, FAO and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 282–287, below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 301–306, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 258–263.

282. Introducing the matter, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that at their previous meetings the three conferences of the Parties had reviewed draft memorandums of understanding with UNEP regarding the provision of secretariat services, following which they had, in decisions BC-12/24, RC-7/14 and SC-7/32, noted that many of the issues addressed in the draft memorandums of understanding were being discussed by a task team established by the Executive Director in response to decision 27/13 of the UNEP Governing Council, on the effectiveness of the administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provided secretariat services, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; decided to wait for the task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the memorandums of understanding; and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the Environment Assembly at its second session, revised draft memorandums of understanding for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings. At its second session, in its resolution 2/18, the Environment Assembly, noting the work of the task team, had requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop for consideration by the governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements a draft flexible template of options for the provision of secretariat services. In the same resolution the Environment Assembly had also requested the Executive Director, when delegating authority to the heads of the multilateral environment agreement secretariats, to maintain the flexibility required on a case-by-case basis, including reflecting the size of the secretariats.

283. As had been reported to and discussed with the bureaux during the intersessional period, work on the draft template of options was expected to be completed in time for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its third session, in December 2017. Accordingly, no revised draft memorandums of understanding had been prepared for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at the 2017 meetings. As to delegations of authority, a policy and framework on that subject had entered into force on 1 November 2016 and, on 30 January 2017, had been supplemented by a direct delegation of authority to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; both the policy and framework and direct delegation covered matters covered by the draft memorandums of understanding, and the full extent of that overlap would be examined during the development of the draft template of options.

284. The representative of UNEP then provided additional information about the delegation of authority policy and framework and related matters, confirming that UNEP had taken administrative actions pursuant to decisions BC-12/24, RC-7/14 and SC-7/32, as well as in accordance with Environment Assembly resolution 2/18, and saying that the new delegation of authority policy and framework simplified, standardized and streamlined the delegation of authority from the Executive Director to the heads of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and of other bodies for which UNEP provided the secretariat or secretariat functions.

285. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the memorandums of understanding were a long-standing issue to which his delegation attached great importance. He noted with concern that no draft memorandums of understanding were being presented for consideration and possible adoption at the current meetings.

286. As to the statement in paragraph 9 of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/26 that FAO saw no need for a memorandum of understanding between the Director General of FAO and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention “unless the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention holds different views”, he said that as reflected in its decisions RC-6/15 and RC-7/14 the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had already twice determined that such a memorandum of understanding was necessary.

287. Following those comments, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 245) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing draft decisions for consideration by the conferences of the Parties.

288. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

289. Decision SC-8/26, on the draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

290. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on draft memorandums of understanding with UNEP and, in the case of the latter, FAO. Decisions BC-13/23 and RC-8/16, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), respectively.

## **B. Admission of observers**

291. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the admission of observers, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 292–294 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 311–313, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 268–270.

292. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, recalling that at their meetings in 2015 the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to maintain its current practices with regard to the admission of observers to meetings under the Conventions, including the use of the previously approved application forms to be used by bodies or agencies wishing to be represented as observers at such meetings. She then briefly outlined the procedures by which the requests were transmitted by such bodies and agencies and reviewed by the Secretariat. She also drew attention to documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/57/Rev.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/9 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/56/Rev.1, which set out lists of the bodies and agencies requesting admission to participate in the respective meetings as observers. The attention of the meeting was drawn to a number of additional bodies and agencies that were also requesting admission to participate in the meetings as observers but that had transmitted their applications after the deadline to be included in the relevant documents.

293. Following the presentation one representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the current report, said that the Secretariat should strive to ensure that the participation of observers that were non-governmental organizations was in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions.

294. The conferences of the Parties took note of the information provided.

## **C. Certification to be submitted in connection with exports to a non-Party**

295. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/31 and recalling that at its sixth meeting the Conference of the Parties had adopted a template for the annual certification to be submitted, in accordance with paragraphs 2 (b) (iii) and 2 (d) of Article 3 of the Convention, by Parties exporting chemicals listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention with specific exemptions or acceptable purposes to States not Party to the Convention. The Secretariat, she said, had revised the template, as set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/31/Add.1, to ensure that it was sufficiently generic for use with any chemicals listed in the annexes to the Convention with specific exemptions or acceptable purposes.

296. Following the presentation by the representative of the Secretariat, the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised template for the certification for exports to a non-Party pursuant to paragraphs 2 (b) (iii) and 2 (d) of Article 3 set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/31/Add.1 and invited Parties to use it. The revised template as adopted is set out in annex III to the present report.

## **D. Guidelines on conduct for meeting participants**

297. The discussion summarized in the present section, on guidelines on conduct for meeting participants, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 298–301 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 315–318, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27), paragraphs 272–275.

298. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to two sets of guidelines that had been prepared by the Secretariat, the first on the use of cameras and audio and video recording devices at

meetings of the conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies and the second on the participation of observers in such meetings. The guidelines, which had been brought to the attention of the bureaux of the three conferences of the Parties at their meetings in June and July 2016, were available on the convention websites and were reproduced in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/58-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/47-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/24.

299. In the ensuing discussion, one representative requested clarification as to whether the guidelines had been presented for adoption or approval or whether they were already applicable to all meeting participants, suggesting also that paragraph 2 of annex I to the document should be amended to prevent negotiations from being disrupted by incidents of the kind that had occurred at the current meetings, in which the representative of an observer had disseminated pictures taken during contact group discussions via social media. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called on all observers to respect the rules of conduct, and a number of others said that there must be serious consequences for failing to do so, including in the current case, as it threatened to undermine the spirit of mutual trust prevailing among the government representatives participating in the meetings.

300. The representative of the Secretariat said in response that the guidelines had been developed by the Secretariat based on the standard practices of other multilateral environmental agreements; that they had been developed in response to expressions of concern regarding similar incidents at the 2015 meetings; and that they were not intended for adoption and had been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to its inherent prerogative and responsibility to ensure the smooth running of meetings under the conventions. The Secretariat, she concluded, considered that the incident that had taken place at the current meeting was covered by the guidelines as they stood.

301. The conferences of the Parties took note of the information provided.

## **X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 10)**

302. The Conference of the Parties adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report set out in documents UNEP/CHW.13/L.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/L.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/L.1, as orally amended, and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/L.1/Add.1, on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, under the authority of the President of the Conference of the Parties.

## **XI. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 11)**

303. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 6.40 p.m. on Friday, 5 May 2017.

## Annex I

### Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting

- SC-8/1: Exemptions
- SC-8/2: DDT
- SC-8/3: Polychlorinated biphenyls
- SC-8/4: Evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention
- SC-8/5: Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride
- SC-8/6: Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants and guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices
- SC-8/7: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes
- SC-8/8: Implementation plans
- SC-8/9: Operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
- SC-8/10: Listing of decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE)
- SC-8/11: Listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins
- SC-8/12: Listing of hexachlorobutadiene
- SC-8/13: Review of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether
- SC-8/14: Review of information related to specific exemptions for short-chain chlorinated paraffins
- SC-8/15: Technical assistance
- SC-8/16: Financial mechanism
- SC-8/17: Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention
- SC-8/18: Effectiveness evaluation
- SC-8/19: Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation
- SC-8/20: International cooperation and coordination
- SC-8/21: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- SC-8/22: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange
- SC-8/23: Mainstreaming gender
- SC-8/24: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes
- SC-8/25: From science to action
- SC-8/26: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- SC-8/27: Programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2018-2019

## SC-8/1: Exemptions

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and relevant parts of Annexes A and B to the Convention,

1. *Encourages* Parties to continue to assess in a timely manner the need for exemptions, in particular after the adoption of decisions by the Conference of the Parties to amend Annex A or Annex B to the Convention;
2. *Reminds* Parties that may wish to register specific exemptions, acceptable purposes, chemicals occurring as constituents of articles, or the production and use of chemicals as closed-system site-limited intermediates that are currently available to so notify the Secretariat using the relevant forms;<sup>1</sup>
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to maintain and update the forms, registers and related information as appropriate so as to ensure that information is easily accessible to Parties and other stakeholders;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to assist Parties in their efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention related to specific exemptions and acceptable purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> As set out in annex III to the report of the Conference of the Parties on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30) and the annexes to its decisions SC-1/23, SC-1/25, SC-5/8 and SC-6/2.

## SC-8/2: DDT

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to DDT,

1. *Takes note* of the report by the DDT expert group on the assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, including the conclusions and recommendations set forth therein;<sup>2</sup>
2. *Concludes* that countries that rely on indoor residual spraying for disease vector control may need DDT for that purpose in specific settings where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are still lacking for a sustainable transition away from DDT;
3. *Notes* the necessity of providing technical, financial and other assistance to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for a transition away from reliance on DDT for disease vector control, with due priority accorded to:
  - (a) Reporting on DDT by Parties to enable adequate assessment under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, including in particular the mechanism for reporting on use, import and export and stockpiles of DDT and use of other chemicals for indoor residual spraying;
  - (b) Ensuring adequate national capacity for research, resistance monitoring and implementation for pilot testing and scaling up of existing alternatives to DDT, as well as ensuring the long-term sustainability of vector control programmes;
4. *Urges* Parties to seek guidance from the World Health Organization before considering DDT for the control of vectors of arboviruses;
5. *Decides* to evaluate at its ninth meeting the continued need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of the available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including that provided by the DDT expert group, with the objective of accelerating the identification and development of locally appropriate, cost-effective and safe alternatives;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to support the process set out in annex I to decision SC-3/2 and to assist Parties to promote locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives for a sustainable transition away from DDT;
7. *Takes note* of:
  - (a) The report by the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT<sup>3</sup> and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to lead the implementation of the road map, in consultation with the World Health Organization, the DDT expert group, the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control and the Secretariat, and to report on progress in the implementation of the road map to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
  - (b) The report by the United Nations Environment Programme on progress in the implementation of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control<sup>4</sup> and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to report on progress in the implementation of the activities of the Global Alliance towards achieving its goals to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
  - (c) The information reported by the World Health Organization on the use of DDT and DDT alternatives in disease vector control<sup>5</sup> and welcomes the existing collaboration with the World Health Organization and invites its continued collaboration in the process for the reporting on and assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control referred to in paragraph 6 above and in any other manner that may support the Conference of the Parties in future evaluations of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and in promoting suitable alternatives to DDT for disease vector control;

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/6, annex I; UNEP/POPS/COP.8/5, annex.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/8.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/9.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/7.

8. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to participate in the activities of the Global Alliance;

9. *Invites* Parties and others to continue to provide technical and financial resources to support the implementation of the activities of the Global Alliance, including the activities set out in the road map.

## SC-8/3: Polychlorinated biphenyls

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to polychlorinated biphenyls,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated assessment of efforts to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls<sup>6</sup> developed by the Chemicals and Waste Branch of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme, in cooperation with the Secretariat and in consultation with the advisory committee of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network, and the report on the activities of the Network<sup>7</sup> prepared by the Chemicals and Waste Branch;
2. *Invites* the Chemicals and Waste Branch to provide information on the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
3. *Encourages* Parties to step up their efforts, inter alia by developing and implementing rigorous plans for the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls throughout their life cycles, including their elimination and destruction, to meet the goals of the Stockholm Convention to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and to achieve the environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent no later than 2028;
4. *Encourages* Parties to endeavour to identify, as soon as possible, open applications such as cable sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects containing more than 0.005 per cent polychlorinated biphenyls and to manage them in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to consolidate the existing guidance on this issue;
5. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to meet their outstanding needs to manage polychlorinated biphenyls, including in open applications, in an environmentally sound manner;
6. *Decides* to undertake, at its ninth meeting, a review of progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A to the Convention;
7. *Encourages* Parties to provide information on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls in their fourth national reports submitted pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention by 31 August 2018, in accordance with paragraph (g) of part II of Annex A to the Convention, as decided in decision SC-8/17 on reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;
8. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, working by electronic means and, subject to the availability of funding, through a face-to-face meeting, to prepare a report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting and requests the Secretariat to support the group;
9. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead country in the preparation of the report referred to in paragraph 8 above and to inform the Secretariat accordingly by 30 June 2017;
10. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group established in paragraph 8 above and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 June 2017;
11. *Invites* the lead country, or, if there is no lead country, requests the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group and subject to the availability of resources, to prepare the report referred to in paragraph 8 above on the basis of the fourth national reports that are required to be submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 and any other pertinent information, including the consolidated assessment referred to in paragraph 1 above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting to assist it in the review to be conducted in accordance with paragraph (h) of Part II of Annex A;

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/10.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/11.

12. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to participate in the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network and to assist Parties in their efforts in respect of the plans referred to in paragraph 3 above, including by developing guidance and a road map for the implementation of such plans;
13. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, industry bodies and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial support for the work of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network;
14. *Highlights* the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for technical assistance, financial support and technology transfer to manage polychlorinated biphenyls in an environmentally sound manner.

## SC-8/4: Evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers<sup>8</sup> contained in articles,

*Recalling* that, pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention, any Party that has a specific exemption in accordance with Annex A to the Convention shall take appropriate measures to ensure that any production or use under such exemption is carried out in a manner that prevents or minimizes human exposure and release into the environment,

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers;<sup>9</sup>
2. *Notes* from the report referred to in paragraph 1 above that brominated diphenyl ethers have been detected in a range of articles in use, including plastic toys that are not subject to flammability requirements, which suggests that their presence is unintentional and possibly a consequence of the recycling of plastics containing brominated diphenyl ethers;
3. *Also notes* that a number of Parties are still registered for specific exemptions for brominated diphenyl ethers;
4. *Urges, recalling* decision SC-5/5, Parties and other relevant stakeholders to implement where appropriate, taking into account national circumstances, the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2 on the elimination from the waste stream of brominated diphenyl ethers and to provide information on progress in doing so to the Conference of the Parties in order to facilitate the evaluation and review of progress in eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers through the process referred to in paragraph 8 below;
5. *Also urges* Parties to take determined steps to ensure that brominated diphenyl ethers are not introduced into articles in which their presence would pose a risk of human exposure, in particular consumer products such as children's toys;
6. *Urges* Parties that have made use of the specific exemptions described in parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention to accelerate efforts to prevent the export of articles that contain or may contain brominated diphenyl ethers and of articles manufactured from recycled materials that contain brominated diphenyl ethers and levels or concentrations of brominated diphenyl ethers exceeding those permitted for the sale, use, import or manufacture of those articles within their territories, in accordance with their obligations under Annex A;
7. *Urges* Parties to strengthen measures for the environmentally sound management of wastes, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, containing or contaminated with brominated diphenyl ethers in accordance with their obligations under Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention and under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, taking into consideration the updated guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers listed under the Stockholm Convention,<sup>10</sup> the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants<sup>11</sup> and the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether or tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether;<sup>12</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, listed in Annex A to the Convention in 2009.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/12.

<sup>10</sup> Available at:

<https://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/GuidanceonBATBEPfortherecyclingofPBDEs/tabid/3172/Default.aspx>.

<sup>11</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.1/Rev.1.

<sup>12</sup> UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.6/Rev.1.

8. *Decides* to undertake an evaluation of progress that Parties have made towards eliminating brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles and a review of the continued need for specific exemptions for those chemicals at its tenth meeting, pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention and in accordance with the process set out in the annex to decision SC-6/3 and the schedule set out in the annex to the present decision;

9. *Encourages* Parties to collect information on the types and quantities of brominated diphenyl ethers in articles in use and in the waste and recycling stream and on measures taken to ensure their environmentally sound management pursuant to Article 6 of the Convention and, where appropriate, parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention and to make that information available to the Secretariat;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to support the process set out in the annex to decision SC-6/3;

(b) To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, activities to support Parties in collecting the information required for the process set out in the annex to decision SC-6/3 and in implementing measures to facilitate the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles;

(c) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting on activities undertaken pursuant to paragraphs 10 (a) and 10 (b) above, including recommendations on any modifications to the process or format for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

#### **Annex to decision SC-8/4**

#### **Schedule for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Parties submit information on brominated diphenyl ethers.	December 2019
The Secretariat prepares a draft report on the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers and transmits it to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.	September 2020
The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee provides comments on the draft report on the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers.	October 2020
The Secretariat finalizes the report on the evaluation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.	October 2020
Evaluation by the Conference of the Parties in accordance with paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention.	April 2021

## SC-8/5: Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride,

*Recalling* paragraph 7 of decision SC-7/5, by which it decided to undertake the further evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its ninth meeting,

1. *Welcomes* the consolidated guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its related chemicals<sup>13</sup> developed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;
2. *Takes note of* the options for possible action by the Conference of the Parties should it conclude that there is no continued need for the various acceptable purposes for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride listed in Annex B to the Convention;<sup>14</sup>
3. *Also takes note of* the information related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Convention transmitted by Parties;<sup>15</sup>
4. *Invites* Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, by 15 February 2018, the following information for use by the Secretariat in preparing its next report on the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to decision SC-6/4 and by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in its future updating of the guidance on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and its related chemicals:
  - (a) Information on the production and use of sulfluramid;
  - (b) Information on local monitoring of releases of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid from the use of sulfluramid;
  - (c) Information on research on and the development of safe alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride as stipulated in paragraph 4 (c) of part III of Annex B to the Convention;
5. *Encourages* the regional centres and others to provide support to Parties to improve their technical and legal capacity for the sound management of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and the introduction of alternatives;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To continue to support the process set out in the annex to decision SC-6/4, in accordance with the revised schedule set out in the annex to decision SC-7/5, and to support Parties, subject to the availability of resources, in collecting the information required for the process;
  - (b) To further promote the exchange of information, including information provided by Parties and others, on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals;
  - (c) To provide support to Parties, in particular developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, subject to the availability of resources, to build their capacity to identify and collect information on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, to strengthen their legislation and regulations on the management of those chemicals throughout their life cycles and to introduce safer, effective and affordable alternatives to those chemicals.

<sup>13</sup> UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/INF/15/Rev.1.

<sup>14</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/8, paras. 10–15.

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/13.

## SC-8/6: Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants and guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to Article 5 on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production,

1. *Takes note* of the nominations to the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster<sup>16</sup> and the reports of the expert meetings on the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices;<sup>17</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the updated guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention,<sup>18</sup> the updated guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers listed under the Stockholm Convention<sup>19</sup> and the draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the production and use of hexabromocyclododecane listed with specific exemptions under the Stockholm Convention;<sup>20</sup>

3. *Also welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations of the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices;<sup>21</sup>

4. *Adopts* the workplan for the ongoing review and update of the Toolkit and the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices set out in annex I to the present decision and the terms of reference for the review and update of guidelines and guidance to address releases from unintentional production and best available techniques and best environmental practices for the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention as set out in annex II to the present decision;

5. *Requests* the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to continue the work on the ongoing review and updating of the Toolkit and on the guidelines and guidance in accordance with the workplan and the terms of reference referred to in paragraph 4 above;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to support the experts in the work referred to in paragraph 5 above and to continue to implement awareness-raising and technical assistance activities to promote the Toolkit and the guidelines and guidance;

7. *Invites* Parties and others to participate actively in the review and updating of the Toolkit, guidelines and guidance and to submit relevant information to the Secretariat for consideration by the experts in accordance with the workplan and the terms of reference referred to in paragraph 4 above;

8. *Also invites* Parties and others to confirm the availability of the current experts in the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster and to nominate new experts with expertise related to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A, B or C to the Convention to the joint roster;

9. *Encourages* Parties to use the Toolkit, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices, when developing source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Convention; to report the estimated releases under Article 15 of the Convention according to the source categories identified in Annex C; and to maintain up to date their action plans to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;

<sup>16</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/14.

<sup>17</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/15.

<sup>18</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/BATandBEP/Guidance/Overview/tabid/5121/Default.aspx>.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/16.

<sup>21</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/9, annex I.

10. *Also encourages* Parties to consider the data quality guidance in the Toolkit and implement quality assurance and quality control as part of the development and updating of the source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Convention;

11. *Further encourages* Parties to use the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices, when implementing action plans and other measures to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention and to share their experiences in using the guidelines and guidance, such as in the form of case studies, by means of the Stockholm Convention clearing-house mechanism.

## **Annex I to decision SC-8/6**

### **Workplan for the ongoing review and update of the Toolkit and the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP)**

#### **A. Areas of work**

##### **1. Toolkit**

1. Collect and evaluate new information relevant to the identification and quantification of releases of unintentional persistent organic pollutants, including those listed in the Convention since 2009, i.e., pentachlorobenzene and polychlorinated naphthalenes,<sup>22</sup> for eventual additional inclusion of emission factors in the Toolkit and provision of practical guidance to Parties on how to address these chemicals in their inventories pursuant to Article 5.

2. Collect and evaluate information relevant to the identification and quantification of releases of unintentional persistent organic pollutants that would be listed at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, i.e., hexachlorobutadiene.

##### **2. Guidelines and guidance on BAT and BEP**

##### **(a) Guidance on BAT and BEP relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A or B**

3. Continue to collect and evaluate relevant new information on BAT and BEP for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, polybrominated diphenyl ethers<sup>23</sup> and hexabromocyclododecane, made available by Parties and others, including on available chemical and/or non-chemical alternatives as identified by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, for eventual further updating of the relevant guidance documents.

4. Collect and evaluate information relevant to BAT and BEP for pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters and hexachlorobutadiene listed in Annex A to the Convention for developing relevant guidance.

5. Collect and evaluate information relevant to BAT and BEP for the chemicals listed in Annex A to the Convention at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and assess the need for updating and/or developing additional guidance for those chemicals.

##### **(b) Guidelines on BAT and BEP relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C**

6. Continue to collect and evaluate new information on key sources of unintentional persistent organic pollutants as identified by Parties and the Toolkit experts, recently updated BAT reference documents, national documents on BAT and BEP, and other sources of information, and supplement and update the guidelines as appropriate.

<sup>22</sup> Polychlorinated naphthalenes, including dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes and octachlorinated naphthalene.

<sup>23</sup> Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether (commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether) and hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether (commercial octabromodiphenyl ether).

7. Continue to collect and evaluate new information on available alternative techniques and practices and on the use of substitute or modified materials, products and processes and supplement and update the guidelines as appropriate.
8. Collect and evaluate information on BAT and BEP for sources of releases of the chemicals that were listed in Annex C to the Convention at the seventh and eighth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, assess the applicability of the existing guidance for those chemicals and supplement and update the guidelines as appropriate.

(c) **Sites contaminated by persistent organic pollutants**

9. Collect and evaluate information relevant to the identification and management of sites contaminated by persistent organic pollutants for developing relevant guidance.

**B. Timelines**

Deadline	Activity
February 2017	Task teams and leads are confirmed and/or newly identified from the joint expert roster for the areas of work included in the workplan
May 2017	Secretariat invites information submission from Parties and others on the work areas specified in the workplan
Continue throughout the biennium	Collection and compilation of information from Parties and others for consideration and evaluation by the experts at their annual meeting(s)
August 2017	Secretariat compiles information submitted by Parties and others to that date and sends the compilation to task teams and leads by 14 August 2017
	Task teams assess the information and develop proposals for updating existing guidance and/or developing additional guidance for the areas of work included in the workplan:
September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task team leads send the draft proposals to the Secretariat by 11 September 2017</li> <li>• Secretariat sends the proposals for review by the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts by 15 September 2017</li> </ul>
October/November 2017	<p>Joint meeting of the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts to consider revisions and/or additional guidance according to the proposals by task teams</p> <p>Task teams prepare draft updated guidance and/or draft new guidance on the basis of the evaluation of the information made available and the comments by the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts at their 2017 meeting</p>
June–July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task team leads send drafts to the Secretariat by 25 June 2018</li> <li>• Secretariat makes available the drafts on the Stockholm Convention website by 29 June 2018 for comments by the experts and by Parties and others prior to 31 July 2018</li> </ul>
August 2018	<p>Secretariat compiles additional information submitted by that date and comments from the experts and from Parties and others and sends the compilation to task teams and leads by 5 August 2018</p> <p>Task teams revise the draft updated and/or new guidance on the basis of the comments received and additional information collected</p>
September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task team leads send the drafts to the Secretariat by 24 September 2018</li> <li>• Secretariat makes the drafts available on the Stockholm Convention website by 28 September 2018 for comment by the experts and by Parties and others prior to 19 October 2018</li> </ul>
October/November 2018	Joint meeting of the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts to finalize drafts, develop conclusions and recommendations and a workplan for the next biennium for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting
January 2019	Task teams finalize the draft guidance and task team leads send the final and/or interim drafts to the Secretariat by 15 January 2019
May 2019	Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

## **Annex II to decision SC-8/6**

### **Terms of reference for the review and update of guidelines and guidance to address releases from unintentional production and best available techniques and best environmental practices for the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. By decisions SC-7/7 on the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants and SC-7/8 on the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices, the Conference of the Parties recognized that the listing of new substances in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention would trigger the need to further update existing guidance and/or develop new guidance to support Parties in implementing new obligations and requested the experts on best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) and on the Toolkit to collaborate and develop joint terms of reference for synergistically considering aspects relevant to releases from unintentional production and BAT and BEP for the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention.
2. Elements of the joint terms of reference were discussed and agreed upon at the expert meetings on BAT and BEP and the Toolkit held in Bratislava, Slovakia, from 29 September to 1 October 2015 and from 25 to 27 October 2016. The terms of reference describe the scope of the review and update process; the general and specific tasks to be performed in the process; the stakeholders to be involved; and the frequency with which the activities and tasks are to be performed.

#### **II. Scope**

3. Acknowledging the importance of collaboration and information exchange between the experts serving under the various technical and scientific processes under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions with a view to synergistically addressing cross-cutting issues, in addition to source inventories and release estimates from unintentional production, BAT and BEP relevant to all chemicals listed in the annexes to the Convention are considered as they relate to:
  - (a) Production of restricted persistent organic pollutants for acceptable purposes as defined in the Convention;
  - (b) Use of persistent organic pollutants for acceptable purposes and pursuant to specific exemptions as defined in the Convention;
  - (c) Recycling of articles containing persistent organic pollutants pursuant to specific exemptions as defined in the Convention;
  - (d) Destruction of persistent organic pollutants and aspects of BAT and BEP relevant to waste management under the Stockholm Convention;
  - (e) Identification and management of sites contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;
  - (f) Other technical assessment work relevant to releases from unintentional production and BAT and BEP for the chemicals listed in the Convention as requested by the Conference of the Parties and/or other technical and scientific bodies under the Convention.

#### **A. General tasks**

4. Considerable time, effort and funds have been invested in the development of existing guidelines and guidance. These guidelines and guidance have been, and continue to be, useful and informative, and do not require major revision. The focus of the work is therefore on necessary updates and the addition of relevant new information triggered by the listing of new substances in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention.

5. The general tasks to be undertaken in the review and updating process are:
  - (a) Evaluating the implications of the newly listed persistent organic pollutants and assessing the need for developing new guidance to address these chemicals;
  - (b) Providing information on available alternatives, including home-grown alternatives, and on the use of substitute or modified materials, products and processes and evaluating emerging technologies and improvements to existing technologies;
  - (c) Exchanging relevant information and harmonizing activities with the work of other technical and scientific bodies under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions such as the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on waste-related aspects and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on alternatives to these chemicals;
  - (d) Optimizing synergies with other efforts, such as those to combat mercury and to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions through BAT and BEP;
  - (e) Conducting other technical assessment work as requested by the Conference of the Parties and/or other technical and scientific bodies under the Conventions;
  - (f) Reporting to the Conference of the Parties.
6. The procedures for identifying detailed tasks and activities, to be undertaken as priorities over a set period of time, are outlined below.

## **B. Stakeholders**

7. The existing joint Toolkit and BAT and BEP expert roster will be used.
8. Experts that have served or are serving in the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee will be consulted and involved in the review and updating process as appropriate.
9. Basel Convention experts will be involved in the work related to wastes as appropriate.
10. All experts nominated by Parties and others and included in the joint Toolkit and BAT and BEP expert roster will be involved in the review and updating process, at least by electronic means.
11. The joint roster will remain open at all times for further nominations.
12. Between 25 and 30 nominated experts selected from the roster may be invited by the Secretariat to participate in expert meetings. Participants will be selected taking into account the type of expertise needed at the meetings, in addition to regional and gender balance.
13. Up to five additional experts may be invited to provide specific expertise related to the particular topics to be discussed, if such expertise is not available among the experts included in the roster.

## **C. Procedures, activities and specific tasks**

14. The review and updating process is driven by Parties and organized and facilitated by the Secretariat. Expert panels focusing on a specific source category or task could be established, led by Parties volunteering to do so.
15. Parties and others will be invited to generate relevant data and information to assist in the review and updating process, and to provide that information to the Secretariat.
16. Such data and information will be gathered and summarized regularly by the Secretariat and provided for the experts' consideration.
17. The experts should perform the following tasks and activities, among others:
  - (a) Develop a detailed workplan and timetable for the review and updating process;
  - (b) Set up the necessary organizational structure (such as expert panels);
  - (c) Identify existing gaps, agree on priorities and propose activities for improvement, taking into account any feedback received from Parties and others based on their experience in using the guidelines and guidance;
  - (d) Define preliminary outlines for developing new guidelines and guidance as appropriate;

- (e) Collect and evaluate relevant data and information within the scope of the review and updating process;
  - (f) Validate data and information according to agreed data quality criteria<sup>24</sup> and draft revised or new texts;
  - (g) Assess training and capacity-building needs of Parties relevant to their efforts to identify and manage their sources of persistent organic pollutants;
  - (h) Take into account, in relation to wastes-related matters, the technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants wastes adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention;
  - (i) Take into account, in relation to alternatives to persistent organic pollutants, the assessment and guidance developed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;
  - (j) Exchange any relevant information with other technical or scientific bodies under the Basel and Stockholm conventions;
  - (k) Respond to inquiries from Parties on technical aspects to facilitate understanding of the guidelines and guidance.
18. Expert meetings will be organized to facilitate the implementation of the activities and tasks outlined above.
19. The guidelines and guidance, as revised or developed by the expert panels, will be circulated to all experts for review and comment before being made available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention. Parties and others will be invited to review and provide comments.
20. The following activities will be further promoted:
- (a) Sharing and exchanging of information via the clearing-house mechanism;
  - (b) Initiatives for data generation and collection, including case studies;
  - (c) Joint activities and projects between developed and developing countries and South-South cooperation;
  - (d) Synergies between activities related to releases from unintentional production and BAT and BEP;
  - (e) Awareness-raising.

#### **D. Periodicity**

21. As new chemicals are listed in the Convention, the guidelines and guidance should be considered as a living document and the process for their review and update should be continuous.
22. Expert meetings should be organized as needed, with at least one meeting taking place every two years. Work should, however, continue intersessionally by electronic means, organized by the expert panel leaders and facilitated by the Secretariat.

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<sup>24</sup> Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional POPs, annex 8: Data Quality. [http://toolkit.pops.int/Publish/Annexes/A\\_08\\_Annex08.html](http://toolkit.pops.int/Publish/Annexes/A_08_Annex08.html).

## SC-8/7: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes,

1. *Welcomes* with appreciation decision BC-13/4 on technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants, by which the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, at its thirteenth meeting, adopted updated general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants<sup>25</sup> and other technical guidelines specific to persistent organic pollutants listed in that decision;
2. *Notes* that the updated general technical guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its thirteenth meeting:
  - (a) Establish provisional definitions for low persistent organic pollutant content;<sup>26</sup>
  - (b) Establish a provisional definition for levels of destruction and irreversible transformation;<sup>27</sup>
  - (c) Determine methods considered to constitute environmentally sound disposal;<sup>28</sup>
3. *Reminds* Parties to take into account the above-mentioned technical guidelines when implementing their obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention;
4. *Encourages* the introduction and demonstration in developing countries and countries with economies in transition of cost-effective methods selected from those listed in section IV G of the updated general technical guidelines;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in meeting their obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention, taking into account the above-mentioned technical guidelines;
6. *Invites* the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention, with regard to the chemicals newly listed in Annexes A and C to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by decisions SC-8/10, SC-8/11 and SC-8/12:
  - (a) To establish for those chemicals the levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to ensure that the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants, as specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D to the Stockholm Convention, are not exhibited;
  - (b) To determine what they consider to be the methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal under paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;
  - (c) To work to establish, as appropriate, the concentration levels in order to define for those chemicals the low persistent organic pollutant content referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention;
  - (d) To further update, if need be, the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and to update or develop new specific technical guidelines under the Basel Convention;
7. *Encourages* Parties to accelerate their efforts to ensure the sound management of persistent organic pollutant stockpiles and wastes, including their further identification, and to prepare plans of action that prioritize the environmentally sound disposal of wastes;

<sup>25</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.1/Rev.1.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. III A

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. III B

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. IV G

8. *Encourages* Parties and others to improve the availability of data to determine the amounts of specific persistent organic pollutant contained in wastes that have been destroyed or irreversibly transformed, taking into account the recommendation set out in paragraph 102 of the executive summary of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22/Add.1.

## SC-8/8: Implementation plans

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to implementation plans,

1. *Welcomes* the additional implementation plans transmitted by Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention, including revised and updated plans;<sup>30</sup>
2. *Takes note* of the deadlines for the transmission of revised and updated implementation plans;<sup>31</sup>
3. *Urges* those Parties that have not transmitted their implementation plans within the deadlines to transmit them as soon as possible;
4. *Takes note* of the following guidance documents:<sup>32</sup>
  - (a) Guidance on developing a national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
  - (b) Guidance on preparing inventories of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
  - (c) Guidance on preparing inventories of polybrominated diphenyl ethers listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
  - (d) Guidance on socioeconomic assessment for national implementation plan development and implementation under the Stockholm Convention;
  - (e) Guidance on the calculation of action plan costs for specific persistent organic pollutants under the Stockholm Convention;
  - (f) Guidance on the control of the import and export of persistent organic pollutants;
  - (g) Guidance on the labelling of products or articles that contain persistent organic pollutants – initial considerations;
  - (h) Guidance on the sampling, screening and analysis of persistent organic pollutants in products and articles;
  - (i) Guidance on preparing inventories of hexabromocyclododecane;
  - (j) Draft guidance on preparing inventories of hexachlorobutadiene;<sup>33</sup>
  - (k) Draft guidance on preparing inventories of polychlorinated naphthalenes;<sup>34</sup>
  - (l) Draft guidance on preparing inventories of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters and on identifying alternatives for the phase-out of those chemicals;<sup>35</sup>
5. *Encourages* Parties to use the guidance referred to in paragraphs 4 (a)–(c) above, as appropriate, when developing, reviewing and updating their national implementation plans;
6. *Invites* Parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat on the guidance documents listed in paragraph 4 above by 30 June 2018, including based on their experience in using the guidance documents and on how to improve their usefulness;
7. *Invites* the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to review the waste-related aspects of the guidance documents listed in paragraphs 4 (j)–(l) above and to forward the outcome of their review to the Secretariat no later than one week after the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group for its consideration in the updating of the guidance in line with the request set out in paragraph 8 (a) below;

<sup>30</sup> See UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/17/Rev.1.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> The draft guidance documents listed in paragraphs 4 (a)–(i) are available at <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/tabid/2882/Default.aspx>.

<sup>33</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/18.

<sup>34</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/19.

<sup>35</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/20.

8. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue, subject to the availability of resources, to update the guidance documents listed in paragraph 4 above, as appropriate, on the basis of the comments received from Parties and others, including from Basel Convention bodies, as referred to in paragraphs 6 and 7 above;

(b) To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in order to facilitate the development, review and updating of national implementation plans, taking into account the guidance documents listed in paragraphs 4 (a)–(c) above;

(c) To develop, as necessary and subject to the availability of resources, new guidance on preparing inventories of the persistent organic pollutants listed by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting in decisions SC-8/10 and SC-8/11;

(d) To continue to identify any additional guidance that might be required to assist Parties in the development, review and updating of national implementation plans;

(e) To develop, subject to the availability of resources, an electronic template for the quantitative information included in national implementation plans in a harmonized manner with the reporting under Article 15 of the Convention;

9. *Also requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices, taking into account comments from Parties and others, and subject to the availability of resources, to develop draft guidance documents on alternatives for the phase-out of the chemicals listed by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting in decisions SC-8/10 and SC-8/11 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

10. *Requests* Parties to identify diversified, accessible, predictable and sustainable financial resources as required by the Convention to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in updating their national implementation plans under Article 7 of the Convention.

## SC-8/9: Operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to the listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the reports of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its eleventh and twelfth meetings<sup>36</sup> and the documents forwarded by the Committee to the Conference of the Parties;<sup>37</sup>
2. *Appoints* the 14 designated experts with terms of office commencing on 5 May 2016 to serve as members of the Committee and notes that one vacancy arising during the intersessional period has been filled;<sup>38</sup>
3. *Also appoints* the 17 designated experts listed in the annex to the present decision to serve as members of the Committee with terms of office commencing on 5 May 2018;<sup>39</sup>
4. *Encourages* Parties and observers to submit the information specified in Annexes E and F to the Convention and to review and provide to the Committee, through the Secretariat in a timely manner, technical comments on draft risk profiles and draft risk management evaluations to support the development of sound recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and supporting documents on the listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention and in doing so, when relevant, to involve experts working at the national level on the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;
5. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider enhancing the involvement of experts working under the Basel Convention in the work of the Committee;
6. *Invites* the Committee to strengthen the involvement of experts working under the Basel Convention in its work to facilitate its receipt of improved information on waste and disposal issues;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate the involvement of experts as referred to in paragraph 6 above;
8. *Encourages* Parties and observers to undertake, within their capabilities, appropriate research, development, monitoring and cooperation pertaining to alternatives to persistent organic pollutants and candidate persistent organic pollutants in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to assist the Committee in collecting information on persistent organic pollutants in products as necessary for its review of chemicals and to provide Parties with guidance on labelling for the chemicals listed in Annexes A and B and to collaborate, as appropriate, with relevant international efforts such as the Chemicals in Products project of the United Nations Environment Programme;
10. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to support Parties and others to participate effectively in the work of the Committee, as listed in paragraph 1 of decision POPRC-12/7, and to report on the results of those activities to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

<sup>36</sup> UNEP/POPS/POPRC.11/10 and Add.1-2; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/11 and Add.1-5.

<sup>37</sup> UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/INF/9/Rev.1; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/INF/12/Rev.1; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/INF/15/Rev.1.

<sup>38</sup> See UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/60.

<sup>39</sup> The curricula vitae of these experts are set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/65.

## **Annex to decision SC-8/9**

### **Experts designated by Parties and appointed as members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee with terms of office commencing on 5 May 2018**

#### **African States**

Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana)  
Ms. Mantoa Makoena Clementina Sekota (Lesotho)  
Ms. Amal Lemsioui (Morocco)  
Mr. Nadjo N'Ladon (Togo)

#### **Asia-Pacific States**

Mr. Manoj Kumar Gangeya (India)  
Mr. Amir Nasser Ahmadi (Islamic Republic of Iran)  
Mr. Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan)  
Mr. Anass Ali Saeed Al-Nedhary (Yemen)

#### **Central and Eastern European States**

Ms. Tamara Kukharchyk (Belarus)  
Ms. Svitlana Sukhorebra (Ukraine)

#### **Latin American and Caribbean States**

Mr. Luis G. Romero Esquivel (Costa Rica)  
Ms. Vilma Morales Quillama (Peru)  
Ms. Victorine Augustine Pinas (Suriname)

#### **Western European and other States**

Ms. Ingrid Hauzenberger (Austria)  
Mr. Jean-François Ferry (Canada)  
Ms. Rikke Donchil Holmberg (Denmark)  
Mr. Peter Dawson (New Zealand)

## SC-8/10: Listing of decabromodiphenyl ether

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having considered* the risk profile, the risk management evaluation and the addendum to the risk management evaluation for decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE) as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,<sup>40</sup>

*Taking note* of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209) of c-decaBDE be listed in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions,<sup>41</sup>

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209) present in commercial decabromodiphenyl ether therein, with specific exemptions for the production and use of commercial decabromodiphenyl ether, by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209) present in commercial decabromodiphenyl ether (CAS No: 1163-19-5)	Production	As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register
	Use	In accordance with Part IX of this Annex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parts for use in vehicles specified in paragraph 2 of Part IX of this Annex</li> <li>• Aircraft for which type approval has been applied for before December 2018 and has been received before December 2022 and spare parts for those aircraft</li> <li>• Textile products that require anti-flammable characteristics, excluding clothing and toys</li> <li>• Additives in plastic housings and parts used for heating home appliances, irons, fans, immersion heaters that contain or are in direct contact with electrical parts or are required to comply with fire retardancy standards, at concentrations lower than 10 per cent by weight of the part</li> <li>• Polyurethane foam for building insulation</li> </ul>

2. *Also decides* to insert a new part IX in Annex A, as follows:

### Part IX

#### Decabromodiphenyl ether

1. The production and use of decabromodiphenyl ether shall be eliminated except for Parties that have notified the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use it in accordance with Article 4.

2. Specific exemptions for parts for use in vehicles may be available for the production and use of commercial decabromodiphenyl ether limited to the following:

(a) Parts for use in legacy vehicles, defined as vehicles that have ceased mass production, and with such parts falling into one or more of the following categories:

- (i) Powertrain and under-hood applications such as battery mass wires, battery interconnection wires, mobile air-conditioning (MAC) pipes, powertrains, exhaust manifold bushings, under-hood insulation, wiring and harness under hood (engine wiring, etc.), speed sensors, hoses, fan modules and knock sensors;
- (ii) Fuel system applications such as fuel hoses, fuel tanks and fuel tanks under body;

<sup>40</sup> UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10/Add.2; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.11/10/Add.1; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/11/Add.4.

<sup>41</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/13.

- (iii) Pyrotechnical devices and applications affected by pyrotechnical devices such as air bag ignition cables, seat covers/fabrics (only if airbag relevant) and airbags (front and side);
  - (iv) Suspension and interior applications such as trim components, acoustic material and seat belts.
- (b) Parts in vehicles specified in paragraphs 2 (a) (i)–(iv) above and those falling into one or more of the following categories:
- (i) Reinforced plastics (instrument panels and interior trim);
  - (ii) Under the hood or dash (terminal/fuse blocks, higher-amperage wires and cable jacketing (spark plug wires));
  - (iii) Electric and electronic equipment (battery cases and battery trays, engine control electrical connectors, components of radio disks, navigation satellite systems, global positioning systems and computer systems);
  - (iv) Fabric such as rear decks, upholstery, headliners, automobile seats, head rests, sun visors, trim panels, carpets.

3. The specific exemptions for parts specified in paragraph 2 (a) above shall expire at the end of the service life of legacy vehicles or in 2036, whichever comes earlier.

4. The specific exemptions for parts specified in paragraph 2 (b) above shall expire at the end of the service life of vehicles or in 2036, whichever comes earlier.

5. The specific exemptions for spare parts for aircraft for which type approval has been applied for before December 2018 and has been received before December 2022 shall expire at the end of the service life of those aircraft.

## SC-8/11: Listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having considered* the risk profile and the risk management evaluation for short-chain chlorinated paraffins as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,<sup>42</sup>

*Taking note* of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that short-chain chlorinated paraffins be listed in Annex A to the Convention with controls to limit the presence of short-chain chlorinated paraffins in other chlorinated paraffin mixtures, with or without specific exemptions,<sup>43</sup>

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list short-chain chlorinated paraffins therein, with specific exemptions, by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (Alkanes, C <sub>10-13</sub> , chloro)*: straight-chain chlorinated hydrocarbons with chain lengths ranging from C <sub>10</sub> to C <sub>13</sub> and a content of chlorine greater than 48 per cent by weight	Production	As allowed for the Parties listed in the Register
For example, the substances with the following CAS numbers may contain short-chain chlorinated paraffins: CAS No. 85535-84-8; CAS No. 68920-70-7; CAS No. 71011-12-6; CAS No. 85536-22-7; CAS No. 85681-73-8; CAS No. 108171-26-2.	Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additives in the production of transmission belts in the natural and synthetic rubber industry</li> <li>• Spare parts of rubber conveyor belts in the mining and forestry industries</li> <li>• Leather industry, in particular fatliquoring in leather</li> <li>• Lubricant additives, in particular for engines of automobiles, electric generators and wind power facilities, and for drilling in oil and gas exploration and petroleum refining to produce diesel oil</li> <li>• Tubes for outdoor decoration bulbs</li> <li>• Waterproofing and fire-retardant paints</li> <li>• Adhesives</li> <li>• Metal processing</li> <li>• Secondary plasticizers in flexible polyvinyl chloride, except in toys and children's products</li> </ul>

2. *Also decides* to insert a new note (vii) in part I of Annex A, as follows:

- (vii) Note (i) does not apply to quantities of a chemical that has a plus sign (“+”) following its name in the “Chemical” column in Part I of this Annex that occurs in mixtures at concentrations greater than or equal to 1 per cent by weight.

<sup>42</sup> UNEP/POPS/POPRC.11/10/Add.2 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/11/Add.3.

<sup>43</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/14.

## SC-8/12: Listing of hexachlorobutadiene

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having considered* the risk profile and the risk management evaluation for hexachlorobutadiene, as well as the evaluation of new information in relation to listing hexachlorobutadiene in Annex C to the Convention, as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,<sup>44</sup>

*Taking note* of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that hexachlorobutadiene be listed in Annex C to the Convention and the conclusion of the evaluation of new information on unintentional production of hexachlorobutadiene,<sup>45</sup>

*Decides* to amend part I of Annex C to the Convention to list hexachlorobutadiene therein by inserting “Hexachlorobutadiene (CAS No: 87-68-3)” in the “Chemical” table of the Annex and by inserting “hexachlorobutadiene” in the first paragraph of parts II and III of the Annex.

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<sup>44</sup> UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/16/Add.2; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13/Add.2; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/11/Add.5.

<sup>45</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/15.

## **SC-8/13: Review of information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether**

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Invites* each Party listed in the register of specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention to report to the Secretariat, by December 2019, justifying its need for the registration of that exemption;
2. *Invites* each Party listed in the register of specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether listed in Annex A to the Convention, as well as observers, to provide to the Secretariat, by December 2019, information on the following:
  - (a) Production;
  - (b) Uses;
  - (c) Efficacy and efficiency of possible control measures;
  - (d) Information on the availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives;
  - (e) Status of control and monitoring capacity;
  - (f) Any national or regional control actions taken;
3. *Invites* all Parties to provide to the Secretariat, by December 2019, information on progress made in building the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on alternatives to decabromodiphenyl ether;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile the information provided in accordance with paragraphs 1–3 above and to make it available to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee by January 2020;
5. *Requests* the Committee, subject to the availability of resources, to analyse the information referred to in paragraph 4 above and any other pertinent and credible information available and to prepare a report, including any recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
6. *Decides*, if any request is received from a Party for an extension of an exemption in the register in accordance with paragraph 1 of the review process set out in the annex to decision SC-3/3, to take into account the report and the recommendations referred to in paragraph 5 above when undertaking its review of entries in the register of specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether.

## SC-8/14: Review of information related to specific exemptions for short-chain chlorinated paraffins

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Invites* each Party listed in the register of specific exemptions for short-chain chlorinated paraffins listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention to report to the Secretariat, by December 2019, justifying its need for the registration of that exemption;
2. *Invites* each Party listed in the register of specific exemptions for short-chain chlorinated paraffins listed in Annex A to the Convention, as well as observers, to provide to the Secretariat, by December 2019, information on the following:
  - (a) Production;
  - (b) Uses;
  - (c) Efficacy and efficiency of possible control measures;
  - (d) Information on the availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives;
  - (e) Status of control and monitoring capacity;
  - (f) Any national or regional control actions taken;
3. *Invites* all Parties to provide to the Secretariat, by December 2019, information on progress made in building the capacity of countries to transfer safely to reliance on alternatives to short-chain chlorinated paraffins;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile the information provided in accordance with paragraphs 1–3 above and to make it available to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee by January 2020;
5. *Requests* the Committee, subject to the availability of resources, to analyse the information referred to in paragraph 4 above and any other pertinent and credible information available and to prepare a report, including any recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;
6. *Decides*, if any request is received from a Party for an extension of an exemption in the register in accordance with paragraph 1 of the review process set out in the annex to decision SC-3/3, to take into account the report and the recommendations referred to in paragraph 5 above when undertaking its review of entries in the register of specific exemptions for short-chain chlorinated paraffins.

## SC-8/15: Technical assistance

*The Conference of the Parties,*

### I

#### Technical assistance

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to technical assistance and the recommendations contained in the report on the overall review of the synergies arrangements,<sup>46</sup>

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect, through the database established for that purpose, information on the technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;
2. *Welcomes* the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2018–2021<sup>47</sup> and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement it in cooperation with relevant actors striving to attract the programming capacity and financial resources of relevant international organizations;
3. *Encourages* Parties, regional centres and others:
  - (a) To make financial or in-kind contributions to facilitate the availability of capacity-development materials and activities in appropriate official regional languages;
  - (b) To undertake capacity-building activities in official local languages, as appropriate;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with other international organizations to explore additional ways of facilitating North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in its technical assistance plan referred to in paragraph 2 above;
5. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres, as set out in the provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering, upon request, technical assistance at the regional level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and in facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;
6. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution highlighting the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in assisting the regions in the implementation of the two conventions and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve;<sup>48</sup>
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021, including, as appropriate, adjustments to the plan;

<sup>46</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46.

<sup>47</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

<sup>48</sup> See United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

## II

### Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology

8. *Takes note of:*

(a) The workplans for the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019<sup>49</sup> and activity reports for the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016<sup>50</sup> submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;

(b) The reports on activities submitted by the regional and subregional centres;<sup>51</sup>

(c) The report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;<sup>52</sup>

9. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) Their workplans for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023 by 30 September 2019;

(b) Their activity reports for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018 by 31 December 2018;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, including on technology transfer, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

11. *Takes note of* the information provided by the Secretariat pertaining to the nomination and endorsement of regional centres;<sup>53</sup>

12. *Encourages* interested regional and subregional centres to work, under the Convention, on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastics and measures for their prevention and environmentally sound management and requests the Secretariat to reflect any such work in the report prepared pursuant to paragraph 10 above;

13. *Invites* Parties, observers and financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to implement their workplans with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention;

14. *Encourages* Parties, observers and financial institutions to enhance communication with the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;

## III

### Secretariat report

15. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

<sup>49</sup> Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx>.

<sup>50</sup> Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReports/tabid/4112/Default.aspx>.

<sup>51</sup> See UNEP/CHW.13/INF/29/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/26/Rev.1.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> See UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1.

## SC-8/16: Financial mechanism

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* Articles 13 and 14 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

*Recognizing* the urgent need for financial resources for developing countries for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and the considerable gap between that need and the financial resources provided by the principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism of the Convention under the current financial arrangements,

*Recognizing* future discussions with a view to continuing to strengthen the effectiveness of the financial mechanism of the Convention,

1. *Requests* the principal entity entrusted with the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, taking into account the specific deadlines set forth in the Convention, to consider in its programming of areas of work for the period 2018–2022 the following priority areas:

- (a) Development and deployment of products, methods and strategies as alternatives to persistent organic pollutants;
- (b) Restriction of DDT production and use to disease vector control in accordance with World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT in cases where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to a Party to the Stockholm Convention;
- (c) Elimination of the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025;
- (d) Environmentally sound waste management of liquids containing PCBs and equipment contaminated with PCBs having a PCB content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 and part II of Annex A to the Convention, as soon as possible and no later than 2028;
- (e) Introduction and use of best available techniques and best environmental practices to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;
- (f) Development and strengthening of national legislation and regulations for meeting obligations with regard to persistent organic pollutants listed in the annexes to the Convention;
- (g) Review and updating of national implementation plans, including as appropriate their initial development;

2. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue to support the focal area of chemicals and waste and if appropriate its work on integrated programming as a means of harnessing opportunities for synergy in implementing the Stockholm Convention and contributing to the global efforts to attain the chemicals-and-waste-related Sustainable Development Goals with adequate and sustainable financial resources, taking into account the national priorities of developing countries;

3. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to consider improving its access modalities, including enabling the participation of a number of additional agencies from developing countries;

4. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility and its partners to support recipient countries in their efforts to identify and mobilize co-financing for its projects related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, including through public-private partnerships, as well as applying co-financing arrangements in ways that improve access and do not create barriers or increase costs for recipient countries seeking access to Global Environment Facility funds;

5. *Takes note* of the projected shortfall of resources from the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility due to exchange rate movements and the decision of the Council of the Global Environment Facility on item 6 of the agenda for its fifty-first meeting;

6. *Notes* the crucial role of the Global Environment Facility in the mobilization of resources at the domestic level and in support of the effective implementation of the Stockholm Convention and requests the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to minimize the potential consequences of the projected shortfall referred to in paragraph 5 above for its support to developing countries aiming to fulfil the relevant programming directions of the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility and with a view to maintaining the level of support to Global Environment Facility recipient countries;

7. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to consider exploring measures to mitigate possible risks, including currency risks, in order to avoid potential negative impacts on future replenishment periods for the provision of financial resources for all Global Environment Facility recipient countries, taking fully into account the obligations under the Stockholm Convention;

8. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner;

9. *Takes note* of the following non-exhaustive list of elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the Facility that also address relevant priorities of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade:

(a) Environmentally sound management of waste consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants;

(b) Minimization of waste with a view to reducing or eliminating releases from unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants;

(c) Development or strengthening of national legal and regulatory frameworks for meeting obligations regarding persistent organic pollutants listed under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as persistent organic pollutant wastes as covered by the Basel Convention;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare, on the basis of the document developed by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 7 (a) of decision SC-6/20,<sup>54</sup> a complete set of guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention by consolidating the guidance set out in decision SC-7/21 and paragraphs 1–8 of the present decision;

(b) To make the complete set of guidance available on the Convention website;

(c) To update the complete set of guidance after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

11. *Welcomes* the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention;<sup>55</sup>

12. *Welcomes* the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism;<sup>56</sup>

13. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism set out in the annex to decision SC-7/20, draft terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

14. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on the assessment of funding needs of Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Convention over the period 2018–2022;<sup>57</sup>

15. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, during the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, to consider the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the non-exhaustive list referred to in paragraph 9 above;

16. *Takes note* of the low level of responses to the online questionnaire, prepared by the Secretariat in response to paragraph 6 of decision SC-7/18, directed to developed country Parties, other Parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, asking them to provide further information about how they could provide support for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention;

17. *Urges* developed country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of

<sup>54</sup> Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Portals/0/download.aspx?d=UNEP-POPS-FM-GUID-Guidance-04062013.En.pdf>.

<sup>55</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/28; UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18, annex I.

<sup>56</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/30; UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18, annex II.

<sup>57</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/32.

the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;

18. *Invites* other Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such support;

19. *Invites* other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 30 September 2018, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above, including information on access to such contributions;

20. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 17–19 above, a report on the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and ways and means of mobilizing and channelling such additional resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

21. *Also requests* the Secretariat to prepare draft terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for Parties that are developing countries or countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022–2026, on the basis of the terms of reference set forth in the annex to decision SC-7/18 and taking into consideration the observations and recommendations made by Parties in their assessment of the needs assessment report referred to in paragraph 14 above and the methodology used in preparing it for consideration and possible adoption at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

22. *Further requests* the Secretariat to transmit to the Global Environment Facility for its consideration the consolidated guidance referred to in paragraph 10 above, the report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism referred to in paragraph 12 above and the report on the assessment of funding needs over the period 2018–2022 referred to in paragraph 14 above and invites the Global Environment Facility to indicate, in its next regular report to the Conference of the Parties, how the above guidance and reports have been reflected in the outcomes of the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the Facility;

23. *Welcomes* the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention and encourages the two secretariats to further enhance effective inter-secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;

24. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

## SC-8/17: Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to Article 15 on reporting,

1. *Takes note* of the progress made by the Secretariat in further improving the electronic reporting system;
2. *Encourages* Parties to use the electronic reporting system when submitting their fourth national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention, which, in accordance with decision SC-7/23, are to be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 August 2018 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
3. *Also encourages* Parties to step up their efforts to collect quantitative data on chemicals listed in the annexes to the Convention, to make use of the existing guidance documents on preparing inventories of chemicals listed in the Convention and to report the data collected in their fourth national reports;
4. *Urges* Parties to submit national reports, complete and on time, in order to facilitate the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention pursuant to Article 16 and other processes that rely on national reporting data;
5. *Takes note* of the users' manual for the electronic reporting system available on the Convention website;<sup>58</sup>
6. *Takes note* of the revised strategy<sup>59</sup> to increase the rate of submission of national reports by Parties pursuant to Article 15 and invites Parties and requests the Secretariat to implement, where appropriate, the recommendations contained therein;
7. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, operating by electronic means, to develop a manual for completing the updated format for national reporting under Article 15, aimed at clarifying what is sought in each question and table of the format;
8. *Invites* Parties to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 31 July 2017;
9. *Also invites* Parties to consider serving as lead country for the development of the manual referred to in paragraph 7 above and to inform the Secretariat of their willingness to do so by 31 July 2017;
10. *Requests* the Secretariat to support the work of the small intersessional working group;
11. *Requests* the lead country or, if no lead country is identified, the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, and subject to the availability of resources, to develop the manual referred to in paragraph 7 above;
12. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
  - (a) To update the electronic reporting system to include chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention by decisions SC-8/10, SC-8/11 and SC-8/12, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
  - (b) To further improve the electronic reporting system in time for it to be used for the submission of the fourth report pursuant to Article 15;
  - (c) To provide feedback to Parties regarding the submission of their national reports, with a view to improving the quality of the reported data and information;
  - (d) To continue to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties, in particular developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in submitting their national reports pursuant to Article 15, in cooperation with the Stockholm Convention regional centres or other partners.

<sup>58</sup> <http://chm.pops.int/Countries/Reporting/Guidance/tabid/3670/Default.aspx>.

<sup>59</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/37.

## SC-8/18: Effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Mindful* of the purpose of the effectiveness evaluation, namely, to assess whether the Convention has succeeded in achieving its objective of protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants,

*Recognizing* that conclusions and recommendations by the effectiveness evaluation committee as to the effectiveness of specific measures of the Convention to achieve its objective have an impact on all elements of the Convention and are useful in informing the relevant processes and mechanisms under the Convention,

*Mindful* that the priority areas for action identified by the effectiveness evaluation committee, as recognized in paragraphs 3 and 5 (a)–(f) below, as well as all other recommendations of the committee, are addressed by the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants pursuant to Article 16,<sup>60</sup> including the conclusions and recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee,<sup>61</sup> and the report on the framework for effectiveness evaluation;<sup>62</sup>

2. *Acknowledges* that, as confirmed by the effectiveness evaluation committee in its evaluation, the Convention provides an effective and dynamic framework for addressing the production, use, release, import, export and disposal of persistent organic pollutants globally, but that inadequate implementation is the key issue identified in the evaluation;

3. *Notes* that the mechanisms and processes required by the Convention to support Parties in meeting their obligations have all been put in place, except for procedures and mechanisms on compliance pursuant to Article 17;

4. *Encourages* Parties to step up their efforts to achieve full implementation of the Convention and, to that end, to give priority to developing or strengthening and enforcing national legislation and regulations implementing the Convention that are appropriate for both industrial chemicals and pesticides;

5. *Takes note* of the following priority areas for action to address implementation challenges identified by the effectiveness evaluation committee:

(a) Sustained and long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation and continued support for research, monitoring, risk evaluation, data sharing and modelling;

(b) Enhanced efforts by Parties to update their national implementation plans, including national inventories, and the development or revision of regulatory frameworks and national legislation with a view to specifically addressing their obligations in respect of the chemicals listed under the Convention;

(c) Urgent implementation of legal and administrative measures to meet the obligations under the Stockholm Convention related to 2025 and 2028 for the elimination and environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls throughout their life cycles;

(d) Promotion of sustainable integrated vector management in order to reduce the use of DDT while supporting the strengthening of the capacity of Parties still relying on DDT to commence a sustainable transition away from DDT;

(e) Identification, collection and provision through the appropriate reporting mechanisms of quantitative information on articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers and on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and the introduction of safer and affordable alternatives where applicable;

(f) Development and updating of source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Convention and provision of relevant information as part of national reports under Article 15 while ensuring quality control, consistency and comparability in respect of data reported over time;

<sup>60</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/40.

<sup>61</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22/Add.1.

<sup>62</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/41.

- (g) Acceleration of efforts to ensure the sound management of stockpiles and wastes in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention and prioritization of their sound disposal;
- (h) Registering for needed specific exemptions by States upon becoming Parties to the Convention or on becoming bound by its amendments;
- (i) Adequate and timely submission of the information specified in Annex E and Annex F to the Convention in response to requests for input from the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;
- (j) Timely and accurate completion of national reports under Article 15 of the Convention;
- (k) Strengthening of technical assistance activities for the priority areas identified by the effectiveness evaluation committee;<sup>63</sup>
- (l) Sustainable financing to continue to support and enhance the implementation of the Convention in the long term;

6. *Notes* that the framework for effectiveness evaluation provided a good basis for conducting the first evaluation cycle and requests the Secretariat to revise the framework in the light of the report of the effectiveness evaluation committee<sup>64</sup> for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

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<sup>63</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP8/22/Add.1.

<sup>64</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/41.

## SC-8/19: Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to the global monitoring plan,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the meetings of the global coordination group;<sup>65</sup>
2. *Welcomes* the second global monitoring report<sup>66</sup> and the conclusions and recommendations of the global coordination group in the executive summary of that report;<sup>67</sup>
3. *Adopts* the revised terms of reference and mandate of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group set out in the annex to the present decision;
4. *Requests* the regional organization groups and the global coordination group to continue to implement the global monitoring plan according to the revised terms of reference and mandate referred to in paragraph 3 above, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations referred to in paragraph 2 above;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
  - (a) To continue to support the work of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group in the implementation of the third phase of the global monitoring plan;
  - (b) To continue to support training and capacity-building activities to assist Parties, in particular developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in implementing the global monitoring plan for subsequent effectiveness evaluations and to work with partners and other relevant organizations to undertake implementation activities;
6. *Encourages* Parties to consider the conclusions and recommendations referred to in paragraph 2 above and to engage actively in the implementation of the global monitoring plan and the effectiveness evaluation, in particular:
  - (a) To continue to monitor the core media of air and human breast milk or human blood and, for those Parties in a position to do so, to initiate monitoring of perfluorooctane sulfonate in surface water in support of future evaluations, and to share the resulting monitoring data through their respective regional organization groups;
  - (b) To support the further development and long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan if in a position to do so.

### Annex to decision SC-8/19

#### Revised terms of reference and mandate of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group referred to in the annex to decision SC-4/31

##### A. Regional organization groups

1. Regional organization groups were established in the five United Nations regions by decision SC-3/19. The main objective of the regional organization groups is to define and implement the strategy for regional information gathering, including facilitating capacity-enhancement activities, and to produce the regional monitoring reports.

##### 1. Membership

2. The terms of membership are as follows:

- (a) Members are appointed for a minimum six-year period beginning after the Conference of the Parties has considered the report of an evaluation and ending after the results of the following evaluation are considered by the Conference;
- (b) To maintain continuity, members may renew their terms for subsequent evaluations;

<sup>65</sup> See UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/39.

<sup>66</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/38.

<sup>67</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/21/Add.1.

(c) If a member steps down, Parties from the region in question should nominate a new member with expertise in monitoring and data evaluation, submitting the nomination to the Secretariat through the Bureau members from their region.

## 2. Tasks

3. The tasks of each regional organization group will be guided by the recommendations put forward in the report of the co-chairs of the coordination group<sup>68</sup> and will include, among other things:

- (a) Coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the regional monitoring plan, taking into account the work already achieved;
- (b) Identifying where existing suitable monitoring data are and are not available;
- (c) Promoting and updating as necessary the regional strategy for implementation of the global monitoring plan;
- (d) Promoting and helping to maintain regional, subregional and interregional monitoring networks and extending them as necessary to improve geographic coverage;
- (e) Coordinating with Parties involved in sampling and analytical arrangements;
- (f) Ensuring compliance with protocols for quality assurance and quality control, noting the examples described in the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants for sample collection and analytical methodologies, for data archiving and accessibility and for trend analysis methodologies to ensure quality and allow comparability of data;
- (g) Ensuring and improving internal consistency of the methods and comparability of the data within a particular programme over time;
- (h) Maintaining the interaction with other regional organization groups and the Secretariat, as appropriate;
- (i) Identifying further capacity-enhancement needs in its region;
- (j) Assisting, for the purpose of filling gaps, in the preparation of project proposals, including through strategic partnerships;
- (k) Preparing a summary of experiences in implementing the duties assigned in subparagraphs (h) and (j) above for transmission to the coordination group via the Secretariat;
- (l) Preparing regional reports including, where appropriate, information from Antarctica;
- (m) Encouraging transparency of communication and information dissemination within and between regions, noting the need for stakeholder involvement;
- (n) Nominating for each evaluation cycle three of its members to serve in the global coordination group.

## B. Global coordination group

4. The main objective of the global coordination group is to assist the Secretariat in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the global monitoring plan and to produce the global monitoring report.

5. The global coordination group will comprise three members from each region, nominated by the respective regional organization groups, and will meet at least twice during the evaluation period to perform the following tasks:

- (a) Assisting the Secretariat in coordinating and overseeing the implementation of the global monitoring plan, taking into account the work already undertaken;
- (b) Assessing regional work with the aim of achieving consistency between regions;
- (c) Identifying impediments to the implementation of the global monitoring plan and actions to tackle them;
- (d) Updating the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants in the light of the listing of new chemicals in the annexes to the Convention, with the assistance of invited experts, as necessary;

<sup>68</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.4/31, annex.

- (e) Establishing a coordinated cross-regional approach to analysing and assessing data on regional and global environmental transport, considering current international efforts;<sup>69</sup>
- (f) Nominating one of its members to serve on the effectiveness evaluation committee;
- (g) Promoting:
  - (i) Experience-sharing within and between regions;
  - (ii) Capacity-enhancement to fill gaps in coverage for the core media where possible;
  - (iii) Comparability between air monitoring programmes in support of modelling and assessment of the global long-range transport of persistent organic pollutants;
  - (iv) Awareness of the results of the global monitoring plan;
- (h) Reporting on the results of the global monitoring plan by means of a global monitoring report,<sup>70</sup> including:
  - (i) Compilation of the results from the regional monitoring reports;
  - (ii) Evaluation and assessment of changes in persistent organic pollutant levels over time;
  - (iii) Assessment of long-range transport and the effect of variable climate and meteorology on observed trends for persistent organic pollutants;
- (i) Evaluating the global monitoring plan and developing recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the end of each evaluation phase and reporting on the following matters:
  - (i) Role, membership and activities of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group in support of subsequent effectiveness evaluations;
  - (ii) Media;
  - (iii) Need for further updating of the global monitoring plan, the implementation plan and the guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants as the Convention itself evolves;
  - (iv) Need for further capacity enhancement of Parties on a regional basis;
  - (v) Any other issues relevant for the implementation of further evaluations.

## C. Schedule

6. Monitoring data gathered through the global monitoring plan are compiled and analysed every six years in the regional monitoring reports and the global monitoring report. The global monitoring report is developed on the basis of the regional monitoring reports and constitutes one of the major sources of information for the effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention.

7. While activities under the global monitoring plan are ongoing throughout the six-year evaluation cycles, effectiveness evaluations are conducted during the last two years of the evaluation cycles.

8. The global monitoring report is made available to the effectiveness evaluation committee by 31 January of the year preceding the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the effectiveness evaluation is to be completed. It is submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties two years after the submission of the regional reports, at the same meeting at which the Conference of the Parties is to consider the effectiveness evaluation report.

<sup>69</sup> For example, the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution of the Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution or any other body studying global transport of persistent organic pollutants.

<sup>70</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.4/31, annex.

## SC-8/20: International cooperation and coordination

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;<sup>71</sup> the note by the Secretariat on integrating chemicals and waste management into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;<sup>72</sup> and the information provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020;<sup>73</sup>
2. *Welcomes* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the sound management of chemicals and wastes as an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development;
3. *Emphasizes* the important contributions 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 to supporting the Parties to those conventions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets;
4. *Takes note* of the methodology for the collection of data relevant to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of other chemicals and wastes-related multilateral environmental agreements to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of the methodology;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available to the United Nations Environment Programme information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted to it by Parties, as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
6. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;<sup>74</sup>
7. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to assist Parties, upon request, in their efforts to integrate relevant elements of the conventions into their national plans and strategies for sustainable development, and, as appropriate, legislation;
8. *Welcomes* the adoption of relevant resolutions by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the conventions in the implementation of those resolutions, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of those resolutions;
9. *Welcomes* the resolutions adopted at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including in particular the endorsement of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, and the resolution to launch an intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in this respect and to participate in and provide relevant input to the Strategic Approach intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

<sup>71</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

<sup>72</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/39-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/28-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/45.

<sup>73</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/54-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/42-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/58.

<sup>74</sup> In accordance with the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as with the international organizations and the activities listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;<sup>75</sup>

11. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

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<sup>75</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

## SC-8/21: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Mindful* of the legal autonomy of, respectively, 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,

*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, taking into account national-level activities, circumstances and priorities, as appropriate,

*Mindful* that several of the follow-up actions to the recommendations presented in the reports on the reviews called for in decisions BC-12/20, RC-7/10 and SC-7/28<sup>76</sup> are addressed in decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the further review of the synergies arrangements;<sup>77</sup>
2. *Also welcomes* the report on the review of the matrix-based management approach and organization<sup>78</sup> undertaken by the Executive Director in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
3. *Further welcomes* the report on the review of the proposals to enhance synergies arrangements 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;<sup>79</sup>
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to seek opportunities for enhanced coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in order to ensure policy coherence and enhance efficiency with a view to reducing the administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;
5. *Invites* Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 June 2018, suggestions for possible further action to enhance cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and requests the Secretariat to inform the Conference of the Parties about the specific suggestions received in the documents to be considered under each relevant agenda item for its next meeting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to include information on progress achieved in enhancing cooperation and coordination in its reports on the implementation of relevant decisions.

<sup>76</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1.

<sup>77</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46, annex.

<sup>78</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/44-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/30-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/47, annex.

<sup>79</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/48, annex.

## SC-8/22: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to Article 9 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, on information exchange,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism;
2. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretariat in revising the draft joint clearing-house mechanism strategy<sup>80</sup> and in preparing a draft workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2018–2019;<sup>81</sup>
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
  - (a) To start the work to implement the strategy of the joint clearing-house mechanism<sup>82</sup> in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
  - (b) To implement the activities of the workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
  - (a) To ensure that activities undertaken in the development of the clearing-house mechanism are cost-effective, proportionate and balanced and in line with the capacity and resources of the Secretariat;
  - (b) To prioritize recurring activities, in particular in respect of maintenance;
  - (c) To implement activities in-house whenever possible and to resort to the use of consultants only in justifiable cases;
  - (d) To link with other relevant existing mechanisms and sources of information without having to redo the content already contained in them;
  - (e) Where possible, to participate in meetings through electronic means and to use translations already available in the six official United Nations languages;
5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination activities with existing partners in the area of information exchange, to explore possible cooperative activities with new partners as appropriate and to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication with existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
6. *Invites* Parties and others to participate, as appropriate, in the development of the strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan in accordance with the present decision;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments with regard to matters such as the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

<sup>80</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

<sup>81</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/48-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/39-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/43.

<sup>82</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

## SC-8/23: Mainstreaming gender

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Recalling also* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/5 of 27 May 2016, entitled “Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which, among other things, stresses the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting gender equality in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Welcomes* the Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan<sup>83</sup> and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts in respect of gender mainstreaming in its activities, projects and programmes;

2. *Recognizes* that, notwithstanding the efforts of Parties and the Secretariat to promote gender equality, efforts are still needed to ensure that women and men from all Parties are equally involved in the implementation of the three conventions and are represented in their bodies and processes and thus inform and participate in decision-making on gender-responsive hazardous chemicals and wastes policies;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) In accordance with decisions BC-12/25, RC-7/15 and SC-7/33, to continue to report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2019 and at subsequent meetings;

(b) To update, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings, the Gender Action Plan for mainstreaming gender considerations in the programme of work with indicators for monitoring progress so as to enable the conferences of the Parties to follow up on the plan’s implementation.

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<sup>83</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/46-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/32-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/49, annex.

## SC-8/24: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to strengthening legislation and regulations for the implementation and enforcement of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

*Mindful* of decision BC-13/10 on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and efforts to combat illegal traffic under the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the analysis of possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, building on lessons learned under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;<sup>84</sup>
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, in particular Articles 11 and 12, for preventing and combating illegal trade in hazardous chemicals;
3. *Underlines* the importance of adequate legal and institutional frameworks at the national level in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes under the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention;
4. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure complementarity and consistency and to avoid duplication of the work on illegal traffic and trade under the conventions with similar work by the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations;
5. *Urges* Parties to strengthen action under the conventions, including cooperation with other Parties, to combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the information provided by Parties to the Secretariat under each convention on the measures that they have adopted in order to implement the convention and requests the Secretariat to make the information relevant to illegal traffic and trade, if not identified as confidential by Parties involved, available on the website of the convention, without duplicating related requests under the other conventions;
7. *Encourages* Parties to two or more of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:
  - (a) To establish, where they do not yet exist, coordinating mechanisms at the national level with a view to facilitating the exchange of information among relevant authorities responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of the chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions, other relevant institutions and the private sector;
  - (b) To review, through those coordinating mechanisms, the lessons learned under each convention that could benefit the implementation and enforcement of the others and, as appropriate, to adjust their legal and institutional frameworks accordingly;
8. *Invites* Parties to share with other Parties, through the Secretariat, while avoiding duplication:
  - (a) Their experiences pursuant to paragraph 7 above;
  - (b) Information on cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
9. *Invites* the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and relevant global and regional enforcement networks to provide the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, with information on their activities aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes as well as lessons learned from those activities for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

<sup>84</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/49-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/34-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/51.

10. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To seek, subject to the availability of resources, comments from Parties and others on further areas, including areas common to two or three of the conventions, in which legal clarity could be improved as a means of preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes and, based on those comments, to prepare a report, including recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

(b) To support Parties, upon request and within available resources, on matters pertaining to the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of chemicals and wastes covered under the three conventions, including on the development and updating of national legislation or other measures;

(c) To develop examples of the integration of the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions into national legal frameworks and to organize training activities, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with partners, to assist Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in the development of national legislation and other measures to implement and enforce the provisions of the conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions;

(d) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

## SC-8/25: From science to action

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Emphasizes* that, through its subsidiary bodies, expert groups and other related mechanisms, including with other partners, the necessary processes are in place to ensure science-based work and decision-making under 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 and welcomes their work in that regard;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of, and the need to enhance, the interaction between scientists, policymakers and other actors in the policy process to promote the exchange, development and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of achieving more informed decision-making for reaching the objectives of the conventions;
3. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to initiate action to promote science-based decision-making and action in the implementation of the conventions at the national level;
4. *Takes note* of the Secretariat's draft road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions;<sup>85</sup>
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with regional centres, as appropriate, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in science-based decision-making and action in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
6. *Welcomes* the progress made to date and requests the Secretariat, by 30 September 2017, to further revise the draft road map with a focus on moving from multilateral dialogue to action at the national and regional levels while avoiding duplication and inconsistencies with existing mechanisms and taking into account the views expressed by Parties during the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions;
7. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments on the further revised road map by 28 February 2018;
8. *Invites* Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to nominate through their bureau representatives up to four experts per United Nations region, by 30 June 2017, to assist the Secretariat in further revising the draft road map, working through electronic means, and requests the Secretariat to prepare a final draft, with a focus on enhancing science-based action at the national and regional levels, in particular with regard to section 4.2 and appendix 1 of the current draft road map,<sup>86</sup> for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions at their next meetings;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders to strengthen the science-policy interface and to report to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2019 on the implementation of the present decision.

<sup>85</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52, annex I.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid.

## **SC-8/26: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Noting* the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and 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 have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Recalls* its request in decision SC-7/32 for the preparation by the Secretariat of a draft memorandum of understanding concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Convention by UNEP and notes with concern that no such draft has been submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties in 2017;
2. *Reiterates* its request in decision SC-7/32 for the preparation by the Secretariat of a draft memorandum of understanding for consideration and possible adoption at its next meeting;
3. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/18 on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats and of the progress report prepared by the Executive Director of UNEP;<sup>87</sup>
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to engage actively in the work of the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of other UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, taking into account the UNEP delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the draft memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director;<sup>88</sup>
5. *Decides* that if the work of UNEP under paragraph 4 above is not finalized in time for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties it should not delay consideration of the draft memorandum of understanding;
6. *Decides* to include the draft memorandum of understanding as an item on the provisional agenda of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with rule 10 (b) of the rules of procedure.

## **SC-8/27: Programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2018–2019**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Taking note* of the financial reports on the Stockholm Convention trust funds for 2016 and estimated expenditures for 2017 from the Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention Trust Fund),<sup>89</sup>

### **I**

#### **Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 of 11,582,220 United States dollars for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;

<sup>87</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59.

<sup>88</sup> UNEP/CHW.12/25, annex; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex; UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9, annex.

<sup>89</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/55/Rev.2.

2. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention to make commitments in an amount up to the approved operational budget, drawing upon available cash resources;
3. *Decides* to increase the working capital reserve from 13 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for 2018–2019 to 15 per cent in accordance with the Office of Internal Oversight Services audit recommendation;<sup>90</sup>
4. *Welcomes* the continued contribution of 4 million Swiss francs by Switzerland to the Secretariat for the biennium to offset planned expenditures and notes that 2 million Swiss francs, equivalent to 2,008,032 United States dollars,<sup>91</sup> will be allocated as a contribution to the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund and will include Switzerland's assessed contribution and that the remainder will be allocated to the Stockholm Convention voluntary Special Trust Fund;
5. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2018–2019 set out in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the Executive Secretary, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2018 for 2018 and before 1 January 2019 for 2019;
6. *Recalls* that contributions to the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund are expected by or on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, requests Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2017 for the calendar year 2018 and by 16 October 2018 for the calendar year 2019 and requests the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;
7. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund for 2016 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules;
8. *Urges* Parties to pay their contributions promptly by or on 1 January of the year to which the contributions apply and requests the Secretariat to present at regional meetings information on the state of play<sup>92</sup> regarding arrears and their consequences;
9. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of decision SC-7/33 and decides to continue the practice that, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards, no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties or a member of any subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, provided, however, that this shall not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States or to any Party that has agreed on and is respecting a schedule of payments in accordance with the financial rules;
10. *Also recalls* paragraph 11 of decision SC-7/33 and decides to continue the practice that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for four or more years and that has not agreed on or is not respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of rule 5 of the financial rules shall be eligible to receive financial support for attendance at intersessional workshops or other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years must be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;
11. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers of foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, requests that this practice continue and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

<sup>90</sup> Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at <https://oios.un.org/page/download/id/120>.

<sup>91</sup> The host country contribution of Switzerland to the General Trust Fund of 2,000,000 Swiss francs for 2018–2019 is equivalent to 2,008,032 United States dollars using the United Nations 1 May 2017 operational exchange rate, according to which 1 United States dollar equals 0.996 Swiss francs.

<sup>92</sup> For the present decision, "state of play" consists of the current status of arrears, difficulties with paying assessed contributions due to restrictions that go beyond national jurisdiction, and the status of any payment plans agreed with the Secretariat.

12. *Also takes note* of the indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2018–2019 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;
13. *Authorizes*, on an exceptional basis, the Executive Secretary, as a last resort, to draw additional funds, not exceeding 100,000 United States dollars, from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions' three general trust funds' net balances to cover any shortfall from the approved staffing envelope for the biennium 2018–2019 should the annual increase applied to real staff costs and used to determine the staffing envelope not be adequate, provided that the balances are not reduced below the working capital reserve, except in the case of the Stockholm Convention, where the working capital reserve may temporarily be used for this purpose;
14. *Also authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that he remains within the overall cost of the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2018–2019, as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its audit report;
15. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to continue cooperating on programmatic matters with the interim secretariat to the Minamata Convention and to provide any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;
16. *Requests* the Secretariat to ensure the full utilization of the programme support costs available to it in 2018–2019 and, where possible, to offset those costs against the administrative components of the approved budget;

## II

### Stockholm Convention voluntary Special Trust Fund

17. *Takes note* of the funding estimates included in table 1 of the present decision for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Stockholm Convention voluntary Special Trust Fund in the amount of 4,797,645 United States dollars for the biennium 2018–2019;
18. *Notes* that the voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget represents the Secretariat's best efforts to be realistic and reflects priorities agreed upon by all Parties and urges Parties and invites non-Parties and others to make voluntary contributions to the voluntary Special Trust Fund so as to encourage contributions from donors;
19. *Invites* Switzerland to include in its contribution to the voluntary Special Trust Fund support for, among other things, the participation of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in meetings of the Convention and joint activities between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
20. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute urgently to the voluntary Special Trust Fund with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

## III

### Preparations for the next biennium

21. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2019 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2018–2019, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;
22. *Takes note* of the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the joint secretariat and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;
23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which it is based and presenting expenditures for the 2020–2021 period in a programmatic format;
24. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of various options and, to that end, requests the Executive

Secretary to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2020–2021 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 22 above and are based on:

(a) The Executive Secretary's assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms, to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms;

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary at the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions before the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

26. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the 2020–2021 voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;

27. *Requests* the Secretariat to identify elements of programmatic cooperation with other organizations of the chemicals and wastes cluster for the programme of work for 2018–2019 in line with decision SC-8/20 on international cooperation and coordination.

Table 1

**Programme budget, reserves and financing for the 2018–2019 biennium (United States dollars)****Programme Budget**

	General trust fund			Voluntary trust Fund		
	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
1	557 575			1 014 871		
2		557 575			1 014 871	
3			557 575			1 014 871
4	347 982			669 512		
5		517 208			89 535	
6			952 962			111 552
7	50 900					
8		30 200				
9			44 000			
10	35 000			30 280		
12				40 000	40 000	40 000
13				516 000	636 500	637 500
14				1 000 000		
15					1 000 000	
16						1 000 000
18				566 600	278 800	39 600
19	44 150		44 150	300 000		300 000
20	275 000		20 000	235 000		
21		60 000			130 000	
22			135 000			372 000
23			60 000			398 000
24	42 500		70 000	107 500		20 000

	General trust fund			Voluntary trust Fund		
	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
25 Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, including the prior informed consent database and the Rotterdam Convention website in English, French and Spanish	42 705	92 792	42 703	83 334	83 330	83 336
26 Publications	33 400	33 200	33 400			
27 Joint communication, outreach and public awareness	10 000	10 000	10 000			
28 Executive direction and management	122 300	225 427	204 868			
29 International cooperation and coordination, including partnerships						
30 Financial resources and mechanisms	12 000	12 000	12 000			
32 Legal and policy (specific to the Basel Convention)				402 500		
33 Joint legal and policy activities under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; national legislation, illegal traffic and trade, and enforcement under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions				20 000		
34 Coordination and provision of support to Parties in follow-up to the country-led initiative on environmentally sound management and further legal clarity				677 500		
35 Office maintenance and services	364 080	212 040	364 080			
36 Joint information technology services	100 000	80 000	100 000			
37 Staff costs	6 488 841	5 460 797	7 599 014	228 845	228 845	228 845
Total (excluding programme support costs)	8 526 433	7 291 239	10 249 752	5 891 942	3 501 881	4 245 704
Programme support costs	1 108 436	947 861	1 332 468	765 952	455 244	551 941
Total (including programme support costs)	9 634 869	8 239 100	11 582 220	6 657 894	3 957 125	4 797 645
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>29 456 189</b>			<b>15 412 664</b>	

<sup>1</sup> The impact assessment of the implementation of the technical assistance plan shall be funded as a priority using unearmarked contributions to the voluntary Trust Funds of the Conventions

<b>Reserves</b>			
	<b>Basel</b>	<b>Rotterdam</b>	<b>Stockholm</b>
2018–2019 approved budget from the general trust fund	9 634 869	8 239 100	11 582 220
Working capital reserve			
Current level	705 363	611 008	748 847
Required level	722 615	617 933	868 666
Approved changes to the working capital reserve	17 252	6 924	119 820
Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve			
Current level	0	292 540	0
Approved changes to the Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve	0	0	0
<b>Total required for the approved budget and changes to reserves</b>	<b>9 652 121</b>	<b>8 246 025</b>	<b>11 702 039</b>

<b>Financing</b>			
	<b>Basel</b>	<b>Rotterdam</b>	<b>Stockholm</b>
Funded from the trust fund balance	0	0	0
Funded from the Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve	0	0	0
Funded from the host country contributions of Switzerland <sup>1,2</sup>	0	651 466	1 934 389
Funded from the host country contributions of Italy <sup>1</sup>	0	1 302 932	0
Funded from assessed contributions of Parties	9 652 121	6 291 627	9 767 650

<sup>1</sup>The host country contribution for the Rotterdam Convention was pledged in Euros and converted to United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.921 euros on 1 May 2017.

<sup>2</sup>The host country contribution for the Stockholm Convention was pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.996 Swiss francs on 1 May 2017.

Table 2

**Assessed contributions apportioned to Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the 2018–2019 biennium (United States dollars)**

	United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)		
	Party	United Nations scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium
Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
-	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
1	Afghanistan	0.006	1	0.008	362	1	0.010	315	1	0.010	488
2	Albania	0.008	2	0.010	483	2	0.010	315	2	0.010	488
3	Algeria	0.161	3	0.201	9 717	-	n.a.	n.a.	3	0.213	10 400
4	Andorra	0.006	4	0.008	362	-	n.a.	n.a.	4	n.a.	n.a.
5	Angola	0.010	5	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.010	488
6	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	6	0.003	121	3	0.010	315	5	0.010	488
7	Argentina	0.892	7	1.115	53 834	4	1.131	35 595	6	1.180	57 623
8	Armenia	0.006	8	0.008	362	5	0.010	315	7	0.010	488
9	Australia	2.337	9	2.923	141 043	6	2.964	93 256	8	3.091	150 969
10	Austria	0.720	10	0.900	43 454	7	0.913	28 731	9	0.952	46 511
11	Azerbaijan	0.060	11	0.075	3 621	-	n.a.	n.a.	10	0.079	3 876
12	Bahamas	0.014	12	0.018	845	-	n.a.	n.a.	11	0.019	904
13	Bahrain	0.044	13	0.055	2 655	8	0.056	1 756	12	0.058	2 842
14	Bangladesh	0.010	14	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	13	0.010	488
15	Barbados	0.007	15	0.009	422	-	n.a.	n.a.	14	0.010	488
16	Belarus	0.056	16	0.070	3 380	-	n.a.	n.a.	15	0.074	3 618
17	Belgium	0.885	17	1.107	53 412	9	1.123	35 315	16	1.171	57 170
18	Belize	0.001	18	0.001	60	10	0.010	315	17	0.010	488
19	Benin	0.003	19	0.004	181	11	0.010	315	18	0.010	488
20	Bhutan	0.001	20	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
21	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.012	21	0.015	724	12	0.000	0	19	0.016	775
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.013	22	0.016	785	13	0.016	519	20	0.017	840
23	Botswana	0.014	23	0.018	845	14	0.018	559	21	0.019	904
24	Brazil	3.823	24	4.781	230 726	15	4.849	152 554	22	5.057	246 963
25	Brunei Darussalam	0.029	25	0.036	1 750	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
26	Bulgaria	0.045	26	0.056	2 716	16	0.057	1 796	23	0.060	2 907
27	Burkina Faso	0.004	27	0.005	241	17	0.010	315	24	0.010	488
28	Burundi	0.001	28	0.001	60	18	0.010	315	25	0.010	488
29	Cabo Verde	0.001	29	0.001	60	19	0.010	315	26	0.010	488
30	Cambodia	0.004	30	0.005	241	20	0.010	315	27	0.010	488
31	Cameroon	0.010	31	0.013	604	21	0.013	399	28	0.013	646
32	Canada	2.921	32	3.653	176 288	22	3.705	116 561	29	3.864	188 695
33	Central African Republic	0.001	33	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	30	0.010	488
34	Chad	0.005	34	0.006	302	23	0.010	315	31	0.010	488
35	Chile	0.399	35	0.499	24 080	24	0.506	15 922	32	0.528	25 775
36	China	7.921	36	9.906	478 049	25	10.048	316 082	33	10.477	511 691

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
Party	United Nations scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium	
Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
-	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
37	Colombia	0.322	37	0.403	19 433	26	0.408	12 849	34	0.426	20 801
38	Comoros	0.001	38	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	35	0.010	488
39	Congo	0.006	39	0.008	362	27	0.010	315	36	0.010	488
40	Cook Islands	0.001	40	0.001	60	28	0.010	315	37	0.010	488
41	Costa Rica	0.047	41	0.059	2 837	29	0.060	1 876	38	0.062	3 036
42	Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	42	0.011	543	30	0.011	359	39	0.010	488
43	Croatia	0.099	43	0.124	5 975	31	0.126	3 951	40	0.131	6 395
44	Cuba	0.065	44	0.081	3 923	32	0.082	2 594	41	0.086	4 199
45	Cyprus	0.043	45	0.054	2 595	33	0.055	1 716	42	0.057	2 778
46	Czechia	0.344	46	0.430	20 761	34	0.436	13 727	43	0.455	22 222
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	47	0.006	302	35	0.010	315	44	0.010	488
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.008	48	0.010	483	36	0.010	315	45	0.010	488
49	Denmark	0.584	49	0.730	35 246	37	0.741	23 304	46	0.772	37 726
50	Djibouti	0.001	50	0.001	60	38	0.010	315	47	0.010	488
51	Dominica	0.001	51	0.001	60	39	0.010	315	48	0.010	488
52	Dominican Republic	0.046	52	0.058	2 776	40	0.058	1 836	49	0.061	2 972
53	Ecuador	0.067	53	0.084	4 044	41	0.085	2 674	50	0.089	4 328
54	Egypt	0.152	54	0.190	9 174	-	n.a.	n.a.	51	0.201	9 819
55	El Salvador	0.014	55	0.018	845	42	0.018	559	52	0.019	904
56	Equatorial Guinea	0.010	56	0.010	483	43	0.010	315	-	n.a.	n.a.
57	Eritrea	0.001	57	0.001	60	44	0.010	315	53	0.010	488
58	Estonia	0.038	58	0.048	2 293	45	0.048	1 516	54	0.050	2 455
59	Ethiopia	0.010	59	0.010	483	46	0.010	315	55	0.010	488
60	European Union	2.500	60	2.500	120 652	47	2.500	78 645	56	2.500	122 096
61	Fiji	0.003		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	57	0.010	488
62	Finland	0.456	61	0.570	27 521	48	0.578	18 196	58	0.603	29 457
63	France	4.859	62	6.076	293 251	49	6.164	193 895	59	6.427	313 888
64	Gabon	0.017	63	0.021	1 026	50	0.022	678	60	0.022	1 098
65	Gambia	0.001	64	0.001	60	51	0.010	315	61	0.010	488
66	Georgia	0.008	65	0.010	483	52	0.010	315	62	0.010	488
67	Germany	6.389	66	7.990	385 589	53	8.104	254 949	63	8.451	412 725
68	Ghana	0.016	67	0.020	966	54	0.020	638	64	0.021	1 034
69	Greece	0.471	68	0.589	28 426	55	0.597	18 795	65	0.623	30 426
70	Guatemala	0.028	69	0.035	1 690	56	0.036	1 117	66	0.037	1 809
71	Guinea	0.002	70	0.003	121	57	0.010	315	67	0.010	488
72	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	71	0.001	60	58	0.010	315	68	0.010	488
73	Guyana	0.002	72	0.003	121	59	0.010	315	69	0.010	488
74	Honduras	0.008	73	0.010	483	60	0.010	315	70	0.010	488
75	Hungary	0.161	74	0.201	9 717	61	0.204	6 425	71	0.213	10 400
76	Iceland	0.023	75	0.029	1 388	-	n.a.	n.a.	72	0.030	1 486

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
Party	United Nations scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium	
Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
-	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
77	India	0.737	76	0.922	44 479	62	0.935	29 410	73	0.975	47 610
78	Indonesia	0.504	77	0.630	30 417	63	0.639	20 112	74	0.667	32 558
79	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.471	78	0.589	28 426	64	0.597	18 795	75	0.623	30 426
80	Iraq	0.129	79	0.161	7 785	-	n.a.	n.a.	76	0.171	8 333
81	Ireland	0.335	80	0.419	20 218	65	0.425	13 368	77	0.443	21 641
82	Israel	0.430	81	0.538	25 951	66	0.545	17 159	-	n.a.	n.a.
83	Italy	3.748	82	4.687	226 200	67	4.754	149 562	-	n.a.	n.a.
84	Jamaica	0.009	83	0.011	543	68	0.011	359	78	0.010	488
85	Japan	9.680	84	12.105	584 208	69	12.279	386 274	79	12.804	625 321
86	Jordan	0.020	85	0.025	1 207	70	0.025	798	80	0.026	1 292
87	Kazakhstan	0.191	86	0.239	11 527	71	0.242	7 622	81	0.253	12 338
88	Kenya	0.018	87	0.023	1 086	72	0.023	718	82	0.024	1 163
89	Kiribati	0.001	88	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	83	0.010	488
90	Kuwait	0.285	89	0.356	17 200	73	0.362	11 373	84	0.377	18 411
91	Kyrgyzstan	0.002	90	0.003	121	74	0.010	315	85	0.010	488
92	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.003	91	0.004	181	75	0.010	315	86	0.010	488
93	Latvia	0.050	92	0.063	3 018	76	0.063	1 995	87	0.066	3 230
94	Lebanon	0.046	93	0.058	2 776	77	0.058	1 836	88	0.061	2 972
95	Lesotho	0.001	94	0.001	60	78	0.010	315	89	0.010	488
96	Liberia	0.001	95	0.001	60	79	0.010	315	90	0.010	488
97	Libya	0.125	96	0.156	7 544	80	0.159	4 988	91	0.165	8 075
98	Liechtenstein	0.007	97	0.009	422	81	0.010	315	92	0.010	488
99	Lithuania	0.072	98	0.090	4 345	82	0.091	2 873	93	0.095	4 651
100	Luxembourg	0.064	99	0.080	3 863	83	0.081	2 554	94	0.085	4 134
101	Madagascar	0.003	100	0.004	181	84	0.010	315	95	0.010	488
102	Malawi	0.002	101	0.003	121	85	0.010	315	96	0.010	488
103	Malaysia	0.322	102	0.403	19 433	86	0.408	12 849	-	n.a.	n.a.
104	Maldives	0.002	103	0.003	121	87	0.010	315	97	0.010	488
105	Mali	0.003	104	0.004	181	88	0.010	315	98	0.010	488
106	Malta	0.016	105	0.020	966	89	0.020	638	99	0.021	1 034
107	Marshall Islands	0.001	106	0.001	60	90	0.010	315	100	0.010	488
108	Mauritania	0.002	107	0.003	121	91	0.010	315	101	0.010	488
109	Mauritius	0.012	108	0.015	724	92	0.015	479	102	0.016	775
110	Mexico	1.435	109	1.795	86 605	93	1.820	57 263	103	1.898	92 700
111	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	110	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	104	0.010	488
112	Monaco	0.010	111	0.013	604	-	n.a.	n.a.	105	0.013	646
113	Mongolia	0.005	112	0.006	302	94	0.010	315	106	0.010	488
114	Montenegro	0.004	113	0.005	241	95	0.010	315	107	0.010	488
115	Morocco	0.054	114	0.068	3 259	96	0.068	2 155	108	0.071	3 488

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
Party	United Nations scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium	
Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
-	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
116	Mozambique	0.004	115	0.005	241	97	0.010	315	109	0.010	488
117	Myanmar	0.010	116	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	110	0.010	488
118	Namibia	0.010	117	0.013	604	98	0.519	16 334	111	0.013	646
119	Nauru	0.001	118	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	112	0.010	488
120	Nepal	0.006	119	0.008	362	99	0.010	315	113	0.010	488
121	Netherlands	1.482	120	1.853	89 442	100	1.880	59 138	114	1.960	95 736
122	New Zealand	0.268	121	0.335	16 174	101	0.340	10 694	115	0.354	17 313
123	Nicaragua	0.004	122	0.005	241	102	0.010	315	116	0.010	488
124	Niger	0.002	123	0.003	121	103	0.010	315	117	0.010	488
125	Nigeria	0.209	124	0.261	12 614	104	0.265	8 340	118	0.276	13 501
126	Niue	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	119	0.010	488
127	Norway	0.849	125	1.062	51 239	105	1.077	33 879	120	1.123	54 845
128	Oman	0.113	126	0.141	6 820	106	0.143	4 509	121	0.149	7 300
129	Pakistan	0.093	127	0.116	5 613	107	0.118	3 711	122	0.123	6 008
130	Palau	0.001	128	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	123	0.010	488
131	Panama	0.034	129	0.043	2 052	108	0.043	1 357	124	0.045	2 196
132	Papua New Guinea	0.004	130	0.005	241	-	n.a.	n.a.	125	0.010	488
133	Paraguay	0.014	131	0.018	845	109	0.018	559	126	0.019	924
134	Peru	0.136	132	0.170	8 208	110	0.173	5 427	127	0.180	8 786
135	Philippines	0.165	133	0.206	9 958	111	0.209	6 584	128	0.218	10 659
136	Poland	0.841	134	1.052	50 756	112	1.067	33 560	129	1.112	54 328
137	Portugal	0.392	135	0.490	23 658	113	0.497	15 643	130	0.519	25 323
138	Qatar	0.269	136	0.336	16 235	114	0.341	10 734	131	0.356	17 377
139	Republic of Korea	2.039	137	2.550	123 058	115	2.586	81 365	132	2.697	131 718
140	Republic of Moldova	0.004	138	0.005	241	116	0.010	315	133	0.010	488
141	Romania	0.184	139	0.230	11 105	117	0.233	7 342	134	0.243	11 886
142	Russian Federation	3.088	140	3.862	186 367	118	3.917	123 225	135	4.085	199 483
143	Rwanda	0.002	141	0.003	121	119	0.010	315	136	0.010	488
144	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	142	0.001	60	120	0.010	315	137	0.010	488
145	Saint Lucia	0.001	143	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	138	0.010	488
146	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	144	0.001	60	121	0.010	315	139	0.010	488
147	Samoa	0.001	145	0.001	60	122	0.010	315	140	0.010	488
148	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	146	0.001	60	123	0.010	315	141	0.010	488
149	Saudi Arabia	1.146	147	1.433	69 163	124	1.454	45 730	142	1.516	74 031
150	Senegal	0.005	148	0.006	302	125	0.010	315	143	0.010	488
151	Serbia	0.032	149	0.040	1 931	126	0.041	1 277	144	0.042	2 067
152	Seychelles	0.001	150	0.001	60	-	n.a.		145	0.010	488
153	Sierra Leone	0.001	151	0.001	60	127	0.010	315	146	0.010	488
154	Singapore	0.447	152	0.559	26 977	128	0.567	17 837	147	0.591	28 876
155	Slovakia	0.160	153	0.200	9 656	129	0.203	6 385	148	0.212	10 336

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
Party	United Nations scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium	
Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
-	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
156	Slovenia	0.084	154	0.105	5 070	130	0.107	3 352	149	0.111	5 426
157	Solomon Islands	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	150	0.010	488
158	Somalia	0.001	155	0.001	60	131	0.010	315	151	0.010	488
159	South Africa	0.364	156	0.455	21 968	132	0.462	14 525	152	0.481	23 514
160	Spain	2.443	157	3.055	147 440	133	3.099	97 486	153	3.231	157 816
161	Sri Lanka	0.031	158	0.039	1 871	134	0.039	1 237	154	0.041	2 003
162	State of Palestine	0.001	159	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
163	Sudan	0.010	160	0.010	483	135	0.010	315	155	0.010	488
164	Suriname	0.006	161	0.008	362	136	0.010	315	156	0.010	488
165	Swaziland	0.002	162	0.003	121	137	0.010	315	157	0.010	488
166	Sweden	0.956	163	1.196	57 697	138	1.213	38 149	158	1.265	61 757
167	Switzerland	1.140	164	1.426	68 801	139	1.446	45 491	159	1.508	73 643
168	Syrian Arab Republic	0.024	165	0.030	1 448	140	0.030	958	160	0.032	1 550
169	Tajikistan	0.004	166	0.005	241	-	n.a.	n.a.	161	0.010	488
170	Thailand	0.291	167	0.364	17 562	141	0.369	11 612	162	0.385	18 798
171	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.007	168	0.009	422	142	0.010	315	163	0.010	488
172	Togo	0.001	169	0.001	60	143	0.010	315	164	0.010	488
173	Tonga	0.001	170	0.001	60	144	0.010	315	165	0.010	488
174	Trinidad and Tobago	0.034	171	0.043	2 052	145	0.043	1 357	166	0.045	2 196
175	Tunisia	0.028	172	0.035	1 690	146	0.036	1 117	167	0.037	1 809
176	Turkey	1.018	173	1.273	61 438	-	n.a.	n.a.	168	1.347	65 762
177	Turkmenistan	0.026	174	0.033	1 569	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
178	Tuvalu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	169	0.010	488
179	Uganda	0.009	175	0.010	483	147	0.010	315	170	0.010	488
180	Ukraine	0.103	176	0.129	6 216	148	0.131	4 110	171	0.136	6 654
181	United Arab Emirates	0.604	177	0.755	36 453	149	0.766	24 102	172	0.799	39 018
182	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.463	178	5.581	269 351	150	5.661	178 093	173	5.903	288 307
183	United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	179	0.010	483	151	0.010	315	174	0.010	488
184	Uruguay	0.079	180	0.099	4 768	152	0.100	3 152	175	0.104	5 103
185	Uzbekistan	0.023	181	0.029	1 388	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
186	Vanuatu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	176	0.010	488
187	Venezuela	0.571	182	0.714	34 461	153	0.724	22 785	177	0.755	36 886
188	Viet Nam	0.058	183	0.073	3 500	154	0.074	2 314	178	0.077	3 747
189	Yemen	0.010	184	0.010	483	155	0.010	315	179	0.010	488
190	Zambia	0.007	185	0.009	422	156	0.010	315	180	0.010	488
191	Zimbabwe	0.004	186	0.005	241	157	0.010	315	181	0.010	488
<b>Total (annual)</b>		<b>80.490</b>		<b>100.000</b>	<b>4 826 060</b>		<b>100.000</b>	<b>3 145 813</b>		<b>100.000</b>	<b>4 883 825</b>
<b>Total (biennium)</b>					<b>9 652 121</b>			<b>6 291 627</b>			<b>9 767 650</b>

*Remarks:*

- (1) United Nations scale of assessment per General Assembly resolution 70/245, adopted at the seventieth session of the General Assembly for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 on 23 December 2015.
- (2) Per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Basel Convention, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by the General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that (i) no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total and (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.
- (3) Per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by the General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that (i) no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total, (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total and (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.
- (4) This is the annual contribution to be paid by the Parties both in 2018 and 2019. It is the same for both years and is based on the total required funds for the biennium and the average requirement for the year.

Table 3

**Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2018–2019**

**Posts funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes only)**

Staff category and level	Approved 2016–2017 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions				Total proposed 2018–2019 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions			
	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP programme support costs	Total	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP programme support costs	Total
<b>A. Professional category</b>								
D-2 level	1.00	0.25	–	<b>1.25</b>	1.00	0.25	–	<b>1.25</b>
D-1 level	1.00	–	–	<b>1.00</b>	1.00	–	–	<b>1.00</b>
P-5 level	7.50	–	–	<b>7.50</b>	7.00	–	–	<b>7.00</b>
P-4 level	8.00	–	2.00	<b>10.00</b>	7.00	–	2.00	<b>9.00</b>
P-3 level	17.50	1.00	–	<b>18.50</b>	16.00	1.00	–	<b>17.00</b>
P-2 level	2.00	–	–	<b>2.00</b>	2.00	–	–	<b>2.00</b>
<b>Subtotal A</b>	<b>37.00</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>40.25</b>	<b>34.00</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>37.25</b>
<b>B. General Service category</b>								
GS	13.00	1.25	6.00	<b>20.25</b>	12.00	1.25	6.00	<b>19.25</b>
<b>Subtotal B</b>	<b>13.00</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>20.25</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>1.25</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>19.25</b>
<b>TOTAL (A+B)</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>60.50</b>	<b>46.00</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>56.50</b>
<b>Remarks</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>		<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	

*Remarks:*

- (1) Post funded by assessed contributions.
- (2) Provided by FAO as an in-kind contribution in its capacity as part of the Rotterdam Secretariat
- (3) Funded by the programme support cost of 13 per cent accrued from both assessed (core) and voluntary contributions; includes finance, administration and logistics staff.

*Posts funded from voluntary special and technical cooperation trust funds (used for costing purposes only)*

Staff category and level	Approved 2016–2017 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	Total proposed 2018–2019 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
<b>A. Professional category</b>		
D-2 level	–	–
D-1 level	–	–
P-5 level	–	–
P-4 level	1.00	
P-3 level	5.25	1.00
P-2 level	–	–
<b>Subtotal A</b>	<b>6.25</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>B. General Service category</b>		
GS	4.00	1.00
<b>Subtotal B</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>1.00</b>
<b>TOTAL (A+B)</b>	<b>10.25</b>	<b>2.00</b>
<b>Remarks</b>		<b>(1)</b>

Remarks:

(1) Voluntarily-funded staff will be recruited only if funds are available.

**Projected salary costs for Geneva for the biennium 2018–2019 (United States dollars)**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018–2019
<b>A. Professional category</b>					
D-2	332 988	339 648	346 441	353 370	699 811
D-1	332 988	339 648	346 441	353 370	699 811
P-5	295 207	301 111	307 133	313 276	620 409
P-4	224 791	229 287	233 873	238 550	472 423
P-3	183 774	187 449	191 198	195 022	386 221
P-2	144 919	147 817	150 773	153 789	304 562
<b>B. General Service category</b>					
GS	131 318	133 945	136 623	139 356	275 979
<b>C. Other direct personnel costs</b>					
Retirement and replacement recruitment costs					351 115
ASHI costs	116 000	117 624	119 271	120 941	240 211
<b>Remarks</b>	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(3), (4)

Remarks:

(1) Average actual salary costs including staff entitlement of BRS Geneva staff for 2016 was used as basis to project future salary costs.

(2) Staff costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2016 with an increase of 2 per cent per annum to cover for salary step increase, inflation, exchange rate fluctuations and unexpected adverse movements in salary costs.

(3) The projected actual salary costs for the biennium exclude the estimated retirement and recruitment costs of a total of USD 351,115 for 4 staff members for staff due to retire and their replacements. The retirement/recruitment costs are an integral part of the staffing costs and have been added separately.

(4) After service health insurance (ASHI) is a new staff-related cost that is 3 per cent of the net base salary of every staff member and is mandatory in the United Nations Secretariat as at 1 January 2017. These costs were not yet mandatory in 2016 and thus are included separately.

**Projected salary costs for Rome for the biennium 2018–2019 (United States dollars)**

<b>Staff category and level</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018–2019</b>
<b>A. Professional category</b>					
P-5	220 381	224 788	229 284	233 870	463 154
P-4	228 301	232 867	237 524	242 274	479 798
P-3	185 452	189 161	192 944	196 803	389 747
P-2	136 869	139 607	142 399	145 247	287 645
<b>B. General Service category</b>					
GS	94 042	95 923	97 842	99 799	197 640
<b>C. Other direct personnel costs</b>					
ASHI costs	22 000	22 308	22 620	22 937	45 557
<b>Remarks</b>	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2), (3)

*Remarks:*

- (1) Average actual salary costs including staff entitlements and improved cost recovery uplift (ICRU) in respect of Rome staff for 2016 was used as a basis to project future salary costs.
- (2) Staff costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2016 increased by 2 per cent per annum. No retirement or recruitment costs were included in the estimates.
- (3) After service health insurance (ASHI) is a new staff-related cost that is 3 per cent of the net base salary of every staff member and is mandatory in the United Nations Secretariat as at 1 January 2017. These costs were not yet mandatory in 2016 and thus are included separately.

## Annex II

### Report of the high-level segment of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

1. The high-level segment of the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions took place on the afternoon of Thursday, 4 May 2017, and the morning of Friday, 5 May 2017, focusing on the theme “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”. The segment comprised a ceremony to mark recent ratifications of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment; introductory statements by the members of a high-level panel; twelve simultaneous ministerial round-table discussions; and a presentation and discussion of the key messages emerging from the round-table discussions.

#### I. Opening of the high-level segment

2. Following a performance of traditional Swiss music, Ms. Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director of the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva, welcomed the participants to the high-level segment.

3. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Marc Chardonens (Switzerland), Chair of the high-level segment of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, speaking also on behalf of the presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions; Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility (GEF); and Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Ms. Kate Gilmore, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, then delivered a keynote speech.

4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Chardonens welcomed the participants, extending particular greetings to the Executive Director of UNEP, the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the presidents of the Conferences of the Parties to the three conventions. The national and international focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, he said, was contributing to the mainstreaming of sustainable chemicals and waste management in development, environmental and economic plans, and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, together with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, constituted the cornerstones of an environmental governance structure. He urged countries to ratify the Minamata Convention. While congratulating the Parties on the listing of several chemicals in the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the current meeting, he said that the conventions must either be amended or complemented by additional instruments to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycles. He called on Parties to be ambitious and to collaborate to enhance the effectiveness of the three conventions, saying that the cost of failing to do so was too high.

5. Highlighting the improvement in cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, he said that it must continue to counter fragmentation and ensure that the conventions could face the challenges of a globalized world with innovative technology. Highlighting the need for adequate means to meet the challenges, he welcomed the increased funding for chemicals and waste management in the most recent GEF replenishment. He called on Governments to lead by example, including by acting as convenors and enablers, and he stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment under the Basel Convention, in finding and implementing solutions to specific problems. As important as it was to respond immediately to pressing issues, however, he also underscored the need to think strategically about long-term objectives and to adopt the policies required to achieve them.

6. Mr. Adu-Kumi, in his welcoming remarks, said that the high-level segment provided an opportunity to reflect not only on the intensive work conducted during the 2017 meetings but also on the links between that work and the many broader environmental and sustainable development issues facing humanity. In that context, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions demonstrated synergy at its best and exemplified the beauty of unity and diversity. The theme of the meetings, “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”, had captured imaginations and brought home the message that combined efforts and a common cross-cutting approach were key to achieving

that aim. The full commitment of all stakeholders, especially those at the highest level, was thus crucial to driving forward the global agenda on chemicals and waste.

7. Mr. Solheim said that it was gratifying that so many from around the world had gathered for the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, as they were doing in increasing numbers at other events to address global problems and improve lives. Indeed, the positive results achieved through the 2017 meetings showed that there was no limit to what could be accomplished by coordinating efforts toward a common goal, as already amply demonstrated by such successes as the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the signing and imminent entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the eradication and control of such diseases as poliomyelitis, measles and smallpox. The next great ambition of achieving a pollution-free world was likewise achievable by setting the tone and direction for the global efforts and decisive national actions that it would require. But achieving that goal would also require a fair world in which developed countries provided technical assistance to others in pursuit of shared objectives, with Governments, civil society and the private sector all playing their parts. Chemicals undoubtedly provided enormous benefits to the world but their proper control was critical, particularly in what was a rapidly changing scientific environment. It was only by working together to find solutions to such issues that humanity would fully reap those benefits.

8. Ms. Ishii began by highlighting how much the international situation had changed over the preceding two years with the adoption of milestone international agreements and a shift towards action and implementation of the sustainability agenda. The chemicals and waste agenda was emerging as the catalyst for sound economic and social systems, she said, but was tied to key economic systems and needed to be addressed systematically. With global pollution worsening at alarming rates and the continued use of toxic chemicals putting unsustainable pressure on the global environment, business as usual could not continue. With a rising world population and a growing middle class, production and consumption patterns had to be transformed; cities, industries and the food system had to be transformed to embrace supply chain interventions, innovative waste management approaches and alternatives to harmful chemicals. Economic sectors such as manufacturing, building and agriculture were highly dependent on chemicals, but also presented opportunities to reduce chemicals and waste through innovative approaches such as green chemistry and the circular economy and opportunities for synergies in climate action, responsible consumption, life on land and other areas covered by the Sustainable Development Goals. Noting that the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund would be informed by the outcome of the current meetings, she called for urgent work to bring about transformation through political leadership, coalitions for change and innovation. She closed her remarks by expressing the commitment of GEF to working with all Parties on the journey towards a future detoxified.

9. Ms. Semedo opened her remarks by saying that although access to food was the most basic human right, nearly 800 million people, most living in rural areas, still suffered from hunger. The world's poor and hungry were the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of harmful pesticides and chemicals and waste. Growth in the agriculture sector remained one of most cost-effective means for developing countries to reduce poverty and end food insecurity, but sustainable agriculture must also contribute to detoxifying the air, water and soil. As an example of the work of FAO towards that end, she drew attention to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, developed jointly with the World Health Organization to help avert the negative consequences of pesticide misuse, including the decline in the populations of birds, insects and other pollinators vital to food production. She also noted efforts by FAO, in partnership with UNEP, to prevent the accumulation of microplastics in the marine environment, a growing concern for fisheries. Overall, FAO was committed to exploring innovative solutions, supporting dialogue, sharing information and enabling policies for sustainable agriculture, and promoted ecosystem approaches to achieve its aims. The farming, fishery and forestry sectors had demonstrated their ability to work together to share knowledge and expertise in finding innovative approaches to developing more effective, efficient and resilient production systems, but robust government structures, strong institutions, ministerial collaboration and international cooperation were required for countries to benefit more fully from global instruments such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. While good progress had been made in putting together mechanisms, frameworks and instruments at the national, regional and global levels, greater political will was needed to take advantage of them.

10. In her keynote speech, Ms. Gilmore likened the relationship between the sound management of chemicals and waste and the protection of human rights to a long-term marriage in which commitment had not always been strong, illustrating the point with the mercury poisoning in Minamata, Japan, that had given rise to the adoption of the Minamata Convention, the first recognized case of which had involved a child. Children were particularly vulnerable to the effects of toxic chemicals, but in what could be termed a silent pandemic the consequences might not manifest for

many years. Almost every country had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which, in Article 24, required States Parties to ensure adequate food and clean drinking water for children, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution. The story of the Minamata mercury poisoning demonstrated many issues with regard to the relationship between chemicals and waste management and human rights, including the power of community engagement to provide early warning; the rights of individuals and communities to receive information; the danger of stigmatization of and discrimination against the victims of toxic poisoning; the hindering of a prompt and effective response; the ability of large corporations to obstruct investigations into their malpractice, instil fear into their employees and neglect the rights of victims; and the harm that could result when the State sided with business over its citizens.

11. Humans were central to the inviolable, intricate relationship between biodiversity, species protection, environmental sustainability and human habitat, which broke down if humans were disconnected or disempowered. People had to be at the centre of the story, as they were the planet's greatest natural resource. Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted the right of everyone to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. Interference with that right for political or commercial purposes was a betrayal of human rights. Legal obligations must empower the State to oblige accountability from those whose resources and activities had the potential to cause great harm, even in the context of manufacture that could create great benefit. If it abandoned those responsibilities, it was derogating from its responsibilities as a State. Collateral damage to people and their rights in the pursuit of prosperity should not be allowed. Freedom of information was a fundamental human rights obligation, and a fundamental responsibility of the State. In conclusion, she said that the chemicals and human rights sectors should be partners in using the various measures at their disposal, including international agreements and instruments, and national legislation and political responsibility, to ensure commitment to human rights within the development nexus.

## II. Round-table discussions

12. Following the opening of the high-level segment ministers, deputy ministers and ambassadors engaged in 12 simultaneous round-table discussions on the theme of the session: "A future detoxified: Sound management of chemicals and waste". Each round table was served by a high-level moderator from the United Nations Secretariat or other United Nations entity. A number of resource persons also participated in the round-table discussions. The composition of the round tables is set out in appendix I to the present report.

13. For the purposes of the ministerial round-table discussions the theme was subdivided into three sub-themes:

- (a) Opportunities for a detoxified future in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
- (b) Opportunities for strengthened implementation through partnerships;
- (c) Opportunities for reducing waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity.

14. Following the round-table discussions, Mr. Tim Kasten, Deputy Director of the Economy Division of the United Nations Environment Programme, presented a compilation of the messages emerging therefrom.

15. The members of a ministerial panel – representing the round-table discussions – then reacted to the messages, with other participants from the discussions adding their views. The panel members were Ms. Arlette Sombo-Dibele, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, and Hunting and Fishing (Central African Republic); Ms. Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment (Congo); Mr. Khaled M. Fahmy, Minister of Environment (Egypt); Mr. Sydney A. Samuels, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Guatemala); Mr. Noel Holder, Minister of Agriculture (Guyana); Ms. Carole Dieschbourg, Minister of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure (Luxembourg); Mr. Etienne Didier Dogley, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Seychelles); Mr. Singappuli Premajayantha, Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy (Sri Lanka) and Ms. O.C.Z. Muchinguri, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate (Zimbabwe).

16. In their reactions and comments, the panel members and other participants in the round-table discussions referred to some of the key issues identified as priorities across the three themes of the high-level segment, with many highlighting the role of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in promoting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in turn the

achievement of social and economic prosperity. In that context, numerous speakers mentioned the importance of synergies and of harmonizing national development plans with the Sustainable Development Goals, including as a way of facilitating the vital task of monitoring implementation. Several emphasized chemical and waste management as a priority for all, with another saying that immediate action to reduce pollution from chemical waste would be much less costly than dealing in the future with the consequences of inaction. Several speakers said that there was a need for robust legislation and regulations to control chemical and other wastes and imports of hazardous substances.

17. Several speakers said that institutional capacity-building was vital to ensuring the enforcement of relevant laws and regulations, particularly in developing countries, which should also receive training and guidance designed to promote implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Many said that it was important to share knowledge, experiences and solutions to that end, including through scientific research and technology transfer. One speaker said that information and data must be transparent and readily available at all stages, including with regard to the life cycle of all products. In the interests of an integrated approach, numerous speakers emphasized the vital need for broad cooperation and partnership at the national, regional and global levels among all stakeholders, including Governments, ministries, civil society, academia, industry and business, with one saying that care must be taken to avoid any duplication of effort.

18. Various speakers also spoke of awareness-raising and education among the public, consumers and manufacturers as matters for attention. One said that financial assistance should be provided for that purpose and others said that simple language should be used to communicate the messages of the three conventions to the public. Other issues highlighted by speakers included a need to focus on the “3Rs” (reduce, reuse, recycle); waste management training for operators; innovative mechanisms for financing waste treatment centres; plastics and marine litter; price incentives to promote waste reduction; and, notably, the provision of financial assistance for building the capacities of small island developing States, other developing countries and least developed countries in the sound management of chemicals and waste. One said that the circular economy had its benefits but that care must be taken to ensure that recycled products did not contain toxins.

19. Speakers also said that there was a need for high-level commitment, political will, political coherence and a long-term strategic vision and framework for chemicals and waste management, with the last said to be a cross-cutting issue that called for strong institutional structures. Others placed emphasis on gender in policymaking, ethical policymaking and corruption. One speaker highlighted the problem of the dumping of used vehicles and equipment and another called for measures to stop occupying authorities from dumping chemical wastes and building chemical production facilities in the territories that they occupied.

20. The moderator then opened the floor for general discussion and comments, with responses from the panellists.

21. In the ensuing discussion many representatives spoke of a need for cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders at all levels. One panellist said that the fact that a number of countries did not produce toxic chemicals but still used them, for example in the case of fertilizers and pesticides to increase food security, was itself an argument for cooperation, including between chemical producers and end users. Another panellist spoke of a need for cooperation among entities at the national level, for example between different ministries, to facilitate coherent national action. She also said that the concept of a circular economy implied the need for all stakeholders to work together at the regional level in order to share best practices and identify opportunities and benefits, while maintaining connectivity with issues at the global and national levels.

22. Several representatives spoke of the scale of the challenge of managing chemicals and wastes in a sound and sustainable manner. One representative said that least developed countries were particularly vulnerable because they lacked the necessary infrastructure; the question was how to articulate action at the global, regional and national levels to provide effective solutions to the problems facing those countries. In response, a panellist said that the common agreement on waste management of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community served as an example of how cross-border alignment of regulatory measures could facilitate the management of wastes at the regional or subregional level. Another panellist said that controlling cross-border trade in hazardous substances was more difficult when there were disparities in the relevant regulations of neighbouring countries. One representative said that regional centres had a role to play in sharing good regulatory and policy practices among the countries of their regions. Another representative expressed concern at the lack of progress made in dealing with certain hazardous chemicals at successive meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Another representative said

that it was important to promote awareness-raising and education, including in schools and the media, in order to disseminate the messages of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

23. Several representatives spoke of the importance of gender in the sound management of chemicals and wastes. One panellist said that insufficient attention was given to the exposure and vulnerability of women in the mining sector, for example when fetching contaminated water. Another panellist said that it was important to build the capacity of women and raise awareness of gender issues so that more women filled positions of responsibility. Another panellist said that the matter of gender should be strongly institutionalized, for example in national constitutions or through the establishment of gender commissions and clear gender-inclusive policies. Another panellist said that there was a tendency to focus on the vulnerability of women rather than on the strong roles they played in many sections of society. Another panellist said that gender concerned not only the role of women but also the interaction of both sexes, including with regard to their roles at the household and community levels, for example in the area of hazardous waste management in the home. Another panellist said that as gender equality was one of the Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 5) the gender dimension should be included in chemicals and waste management planning given the indivisibility of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

24. Several participants said that developing countries would need financial, technical and other assistance to realize their goals with regard to the sound management of chemicals and waste. One panellist said that there was a danger of funding bias, whereby donors funded larger, more regionally prominent countries or blocs of countries rather than States that were smaller but just as in need. Another panellist said that fiscal measures could be utilized to ensure that funds were levied for environment-related programmes and to support capacity-building and awareness raising. One panellist said that efforts should be made to streamline the often cumbersome processes by which international financing was made available and to provide training to countries in the design of bankable projects, while another panellist highlighted the difficulties that developing countries often faced in aligning their project needs with donor requirements. Another panellist drew attention to the relationship between financial resources and compliance, stating that while there was general political will for compliance with the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, funding mechanisms were often inadequate to generate the necessary financing. Another panellist said that policy coherence was important to facilitate financing and that there was a need for donor and recipient countries to agree on such matters as the polluter pays principle, climate neutrality and waste reduction.

25. Following the discussion the moderator thanked the panellists and other participants for their contributions to what she said was a rich and interesting discussion.

26. At the conclusion of the interactive discussion, Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, presented a consolidation of the key messages that emerged from the round-table discussions, which summarized the outcomes of the high-level segment. The key messages are set out in appendix II to the present report.

### **III. Closure of the high-level segment**

27. Closing the high-level segment, Mr. Chardonnens said that the valuable ideas and global perspectives that had informed the discussions and the resulting key messages demonstrated the strength of the multilateral approach and the importance of concerted action to address challenges in an efficient and effective manner. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a unique opportunity for the mainstreaming of the chemicals and waste agenda, to which end he encouraged all stakeholders to continue what he described as sterling work towards the goal of protecting human health and the environment.

## Appendix I

### Composition of round tables

#### Round table 1

Moderator: Mr. Steven Stone (United Nations Environment Programme)

Ms. Jeanne Josette Acacha Akoha (Benin)  
 Mr. Batio Bassière (Burkina Faso)  
 Mr. Serge Karonkano (Burundi)  
 Mr. Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva (Cabo Verde)  
 Mr. Pierre Hele (Cameroon)  
 Ms. Rosalie Matondo (Congo)  
 Mr. Patrick Mayombe-Mumbyoko (Democratic Republic of Congo)  
 Ms. Aya Thiam Diallo (Mali)

#### Round table 2

Moderator: Ms. Katharina Kummer (World Health Organization)

Mr. Apolinário Jorge Correia (Angola)  
 Ms. Arlette Sombo-Dibele (Central African Republic)  
 Ms. Anne Désirée Ouloto (Cote d'Ivoire)  
 Ms. Chantal Abengdang Mebaley (Gabon)  
 Mr. Antonio Serifo Embalo (Guinea-Bissau)  
 Ms. Benedicte Johanita Ndahimananjara (Madagascar)  
 Mr. Almoustapha Garba (Niger)

#### Round table 3

Moderator: Mr. Achim Halpaap (United Nations Environment Programme)

Ms. Khomoatsana Tau (Lesotho)  
 Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara (Sierra Leone)  
 Ms. Barbara Thomson (South Africa)  
 Mr. Christopher Gamedze (Swaziland)  
 Mr. Sam Cheptoris (Uganda)  
 Mr. Lloyd Mulenga Kaziya (Zambia)  
 Ms. O.C.Z. Muchinguri (Zimbabwe)

#### Round table 4

Moderator: Ms. Monika Linn (Economic Commission for Europe)

Mr. Kare Chawicha Debessa (Ethiopia)  
 Mr. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng (Ghana)  
 Mr. Abdulla Ziyad (Maldives)  
 Mr. Ibrahim Usman Jibril (Nigeria)  
 Mr. Etienne Didier Dogley (Seychelles)

#### Round table 5

Moderator: Mr. Habib N. El-Habr (United Nations Environment Programme)

Mr. Abdul Wali Modaqiq (Afghanistan)  
 Mr. Mohamed Bindaina (Bahrain)  
 Mr. Khaled Mohamed Fahmy Abdelall (Egypt)  
 Ms. Saja Majali (Jordan)  
 Ms. Adalah Atira (State of Palestine)  
 Mr. Mustafa Osman Ismail Elamin (Sudan)  
 Mr. Per Ångquist (Sweden)  
 Mr. Mehmet Ceylan (Turkey)  
 Mr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi (United Arab Emirates)

**Round table 6**

Moderator: Mr. Andrey Vasilyev (Economic Commission for Europe)

Mr. Ado Lõhmus (Estonia)  
Mr. Gani Sadibekov (Kazakhstan)  
Mr. Mindaugas Gudas (Lithuania)  
Ms. Carole Dieschbourg (Luxembourg)  
Mr. Marek Haliniak (Poland)  
Mr. Sergey Kraevoy (Russian Federation)  
Ms. Stana Bozovic (Serbia)  
Mr. Marc Henri Bruno Chardonnens (Switzerland)

**Round table 7**

Moderator: Mr. Stephan Sicars (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

Mr. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob (Bangladesh)  
Mr. Gigla Agulashvili (Georgia)  
Mr. Noel Holder (Guyana)  
Ms. Bounkham Vorachit (Lao People's Democratic Republic)  
Mr. Ohn Winn (Myanmar)  
Mr. Jay Dev Joshi (Nepal)  
Mr. Mykola Kuzyo (Ukraine)

**Round table 8**

Moderator: Ms. María Neira (World Health Organization)

Mr. Javier Ureta Sáenz Peña (Argentina)  
Ms. Cynthia Silva Maturana (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)  
Mr. Jair Tannus Junior (Brazil)  
Ms. Irene Cañas (Costa Rica)  
Mr. Walter Francisco Garcia Cedeño (Ecuador)  
Mr. Santiago Francisco Engonga Osono (Equatorial Guinea)  
Mr. Sydney Alexander Samuels Milson (Guatemala)  
Mr. Carlos Pineda Fasquelle (Honduras)  
Mr. Edgardo Alberto Villalobos Jaen (Panama)  
Mr. Marcos Gabriel Alegre Chang (Peru)  
Mr. Jesus Castillo (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)

**Round table 9**

Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Seth (United Nations Institute for Training and Research)

Mr. Omar Figueroa (Belize)  
Mr. Ty Sokhun (Cambodia)  
Mr. Ajay Narayan Jha (India)  
Ms. Tuti Hendrawati Mintarsih (Indonesia)  
Mr. Shigemoto Kajihara (Japan)  
Mr. Joseph Caruana (Malta)  
Mr. Singappuli Achchige Don Susil Premajyantha (Sri Lanka)  
Mr. Surasak Karnjanarat (Thailand)  
Mr. Siaso Sovaleni (Tonga)

**Round table 10**

Moderator: Mr. Cosmas L. Zavazava (International Telecommunication Union)

Mr. Yury Ambrazevich (Belarus)  
Ms. Beatriz Londoño Soto (Colombia)  
Mr. Tae Song Han (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)  
Ms. Kadra Ahmed Hassan (Djibouti)  
Mr. Wayne McCook (Jamaica)  
Mr. Israhyananda Dhalladoo (Mauritius)

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**Round table 11**

Moderator: Ms. Maria Luisa Silva (United Nations Development Programme)

Ms. Lucija Ljubic Lepine (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ms. Sundus Al-Bayraqdar (Iraq)

Mr. Janis Karklinš (Latvia)

Mr. Ernest Makawa (Malawi)

Mr. Robert Dufter Salama (Malawi)

Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua (Marshall Islands)

Mr. Milorad Scepanovic (Montenegro)

**Round table 12**

Moderator: Mr. Tim Kasten (United Nations Environment Programme)

Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Rahbi (Oman)

Mr. Farukh Akhter Amil (Pakistan)

Mr. Ahmad Al-Sada (Qatar)

Mr. Kyong-Lim Choi (Republic of Korea)

Ms. Elena Dumitru (Romania)

Mr. François Xavier Ngarambe (Rwanda)

Mr. Yackoley Kokou Johnson (Togo)

Mr. Chi Dung Duong (Viet Nam)

Mr. Ali Mohamed Saeed Majawar (Yemen)

**Resource persons**

Ms. Maria Helena Semedo (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Mr. Ross Bartley (Bureau of International Recycling)

Mr. David Azoulay (Center for International Environmental Law)

Mr. Klaus Kunz (CropLife International)

Ms. Pamela Miller (International POPs Elimination Network)

Ms. Meriel Watts (Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific)

Ms. Sascha Gabizon (Women Engage for a Common Future International)

## Appendix II

### Key messages emerging from the high-level segment of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

#### Overall messages

1. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals the political momentum for a detoxified planet has increased. This opportunity must be seized.
2. There can be no sustainable development without a commitment to a pollution-free planet, and that requires the sound management of chemicals and waste.
3. The key to a detoxified future is to take action now, including through the implementation by all Parties of all the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which should be translated into national legislation, policy and actions.

#### On opportunities for a detoxified future in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4. The sound management of chemicals and wastes is central to achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development and should be dealt with as a priority in a mutually supportive way to achieve the 2030 goals. It is also central to addressing poverty, food security, access to water, human rights and gender issues, particularly for women, children and vulnerable populations, and is linked to addressing climate change and the protection of biodiversity. With the obvious link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and the many cross-sectoral aspects of that link, the chemicals and wastes-related Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved unless the conventions are implemented effectively.
5. The 2030 Agenda provides a unique opportunity for mainstreaming chemicals and wastes-related issues into national sustainable development plans and for the development of business cases for the sound management of chemicals and wastes. Institutional frameworks at all levels and policy coherence across all sectors must be strengthened. This requires strong political will, cooperation and community and end-user awareness, as well as partnerships at all levels.
6. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda provides specific targets that support commitment to the sound management of chemicals and wastes in order to protect human health and the environment. The importance of increasing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through a focus on poverty reduction strategies recognizing that the poor are the most affected by pollution, including through the extensive use of chemicals in agriculture, is clear.
7. There is a need for greater commitment by industry to prevent the pollution of streams and other water bodies that are depended upon by communities, especially those in abject poverty. Industry must play a more proactive role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Different levels of development and differing country capacities to address the challenges of chemicals and waste management must be recognized, particularly in small island developing States, least developed countries and vulnerable populations that have limited capacity or access to information necessary to deal with environmental challenges.

#### On opportunities for strengthened implementation through partnerships

9. Increased cooperation and coordination is needed at the national, regional and global levels to implement the conventions effectively. Partnerships have a central role and civil society, business, industry and private sector investment must be fully engaged.
10. Partnerships have proved to be useful tools in the implementation of the chemicals and waste agendas and should be further encouraged. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including those involving the private sector, should be strengthened to promote new technologies, win-win partnerships and innovation in support of the implementation of the conventions.

11. Partnerships must be established with all sectors and stakeholders, including with local communities and municipal entities. A bottom-up approach is essential because citizens are the key driver for action. Regional networks can assist in monitoring and managing cross-border issues and civil society groups can help Governments monitor the environment.
12. The Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres are uniquely positioned to deliver synergistically on chemicals and wastes by engaging in capacity-building and catalysing the transfer of technology for the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national level.
13. Availability of, and access to, adequate financial resources are fundamental to ensuring the restoration of our oceans and landscapes from chemical pollution and for the adequate implementation of the chemicals and wastes agenda within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **On opportunities for reducing waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity**

14. Although there has been much progress, further efforts through the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and to prevent or minimize significant adverse effects of hazardous wastes on human health and the environment.
15. Commitment to, and the conscientious implementation of, the chemicals and wastes conventions contributes to the achievement of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and the reduction of illegal traffic in waste and cross-border pollution, thus facilitating economic and social prosperity.
16. Raising awareness of the interlinkages between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and issues such as air pollution, plastic pollution and marine litter increases the visibility of chemicals and wastes issues in a consistent manner to stakeholders, the media and schools, thereby enhancing the conventions' contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the protection of human health and the environment.
17. Adequate technology transfer is essential to address sustainable development in fields such as agriculture, recycling, household and medical waste management, as are training and capacity-building in the management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycles. Legislation and control techniques should be in place in all sectors; currently there is limited enforcement even where relevant regulations exist.
18. Lack of financial resources, as well as limited institutional capacity, are legitimate concerns that require attention. Further scientific research is also needed in developing countries along with associated funding, including for national coordinating units, laboratories and strengthening research institutes to enhance their ability to develop new technologies for chemicals and wastes management, to establish baseline data, to develop viable alternatives, to promote science-based decisions and to enhance monitoring capacity and database management skills needed to monitor progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets.
19. Mechanisms such as economic and policy incentives and disincentives should be established to implement the polluter pays principle, taking into consideration the specific situation of each country.
20. Formalization of the informal recycling sector is fundamental to the creation of decent jobs and the reduction of legal and occupational risks and environmental impacts. There is a large potential for recycling to have positive economic impacts in developing countries. Related activities must be facilitated by strong regulatory frameworks and technical expertise to ensure that wastes destined for use as resources do not have an adverse impact on human health and the environment.
21. Concepts such as the circular economy and the green economy provide opportunities for developing countries to reduce waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity; they do, however, require behavioural and cultural adaptations.
22. Industry should be encouraged to develop chemicals and products based upon green and sustainable chemistry principles taking into account the precautionary principle, in particular in the case where persistence, bioaccumulation and long range transport are of concern, in order to prevent further damage to human health and the environment.

## Annex III

### Revised template for the certification for exports to a non-Party pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3

#### ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF INTENDED USE AND COMMITMENT FOR THE EXPORT OF CHEMICALS LISTED IN ANNEXES A OR B TO THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION ON PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

1. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, each Party shall take measures to ensure that “a chemical listed in Annex A for which any production or use specific exemption is in effect or a chemical listed in Annex B for which any production or use specific exemption or acceptable purpose is in effect, taking into account any relevant provisions in existing international prior informed consent instruments, is exported only” to, among others, “a State not Party to this Convention which has provided an annual certification to the exporting Party.”
2. Such certification shall specify the intended use of the chemical and include a statement that, with respect to that chemical, the importing State is committed to:
  - (a) Protect human health and the environment by taking the necessary measures to minimize or prevent releases;
  - (b) Comply with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6; and
  - (c) Comply, where appropriate, with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Part II of Annex B.

The certification shall also include any appropriate supporting documentation such as legislation, regulatory instruments or administrative or policy guidelines.
3. The exporting Party receiving a certification from a State not Party to this Convention shall transmit the certification to the Secretariat within sixty days of receipt.
4. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 3, for the purpose of paragraph 2, the term “State not Party to this Convention” shall include, with respect to a particular chemical, a State or regional economic integration organization that has not agreed to be bound by the Convention with respect to that chemical.

#### SECTION I: IDENTIFICATION OF THE EXPORTING PARTY

1. Name and address of the authority of the exporting Party	
Institution	
Address	
Name of the contact point	
Telephone	
Fax	
E-mail	
Signature	
Date when the certification was received (DD/MM/YYYY)	

#### SECTION II: IDENTIFICATION OF THE IMPORTING STATE

1. Name and address of the authority of the importing State	
Institution	
Address	
Name of the contact point	
Telephone	
Fax	
E-mail	
Signature	
Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	

**SECTION III: IDENTIFICATION OF THE IMPORTED CHEMICAL**

<b>Name and CAS No. of the imported chemical*</b>	Name of the chemical
	CAS No.
*If the chemical is imported in the form of a preparation, please provide the name of the preparation, the name of the chemical and the concentration as a percentage (%)	Name of the preparation
	Name of the chemical
	Concentration of the chemical in the preparation (%)
*If the chemical is imported in the form of a related substance, please specify the name of the chemical and its CAS No.	Name of the chemical
	CAS No.

**SECTION IV: INTENDED USE OF THE CHEMICAL**

<b>Intended use</b>	
(1) Is the imported chemical intended to be used for any specific exemption or acceptable purpose in effect under the Stockholm Convention? <sup>93</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(2) If yes, please specify the intended use of the imported chemical  <i>For additional information on the specific exemptions or acceptable purposes in effect under the Convention, please consult:</i>  <i>The Register of Specific Exemptions at:</i> <a href="http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/Exemptions/RegisterofSpecificExemptions/tabid/1133/Default.aspx">http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/Exemptions/RegisterofSpecificExemptions/tabid/1133/Default.aspx</a>  <i>The Acceptable Purpose Registers at:</i> <a href="http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/Exemptions/AcceptablePurposesDDT/tabid/456/Default.aspx">http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/Exemptions/AcceptablePurposesDDT/tabid/456/Default.aspx</a> and: <a href="http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/Exemptions/AcceptablePurposesPFOSandPFOSF/tabid/794/Default.aspx">http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/Exemptions/AcceptablePurposesPFOSandPFOSF/tabid/794/Default.aspx</a>	

**SECTION V: COMMITMENT**

<b>1. Commitment to protect human health and the environment by taking the necessary measures to minimize or prevent releases</b>	
(1) Does your country commit itself to taking the necessary measures to minimize or prevent releases of the imported chemical in order to protect human health and the environment?	
(2) Please describe the measures to be taken and provide any appropriate supporting documentation such as legislation, regulatory instruments or administrative or policy guidelines.	
<b>2. Commitment to comply with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention</b>	
(1) Does your country commit itself to complying with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention regarding the imported chemical?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(2) Please provide information on the current status of the following and provide any appropriate supporting documentation such as legislation, regulatory instruments or administrative or policy guidelines:	

<sup>93</sup> If the chemical is imported for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal, Article 6 of the Convention applies, in particular subparagraph 1 (d) which requires that wastes consisting of or containing persistent organic pollutants not be transported across international boundaries without taking into account relevant international rules, standards and guidelines.

<b>2. Commitment to comply with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention</b>	
(a) Development of appropriate strategies for identifying (i) stockpiles consisting of or containing the chemical; and (ii) products and articles in use and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the chemical	
(b) Identification of stockpiles consisting of or containing the chemical, to the extent practicable, on the basis of the strategies referred to in (a) above	
(c) Management of stockpiles, as appropriate, in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner	
(d) Taking of appropriate measures so that wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the chemical, including products and articles upon becoming wastes, are:	
(i) Handled, collected, transported and stored in an environmentally sound manner	
(ii) Disposed of in such a way that their persistent organic pollutant content is destroyed or irreversibly transformed so that the wastes do not exhibit the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants or otherwise disposed of in an environmentally sound manner when destruction or irreversible transformation does not represent the environmentally preferable option or the persistent organic pollutant content is low, taking into account international rules, standards and guidelines, including those that may be developed pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention, and relevant global and regional regimes governing the management of hazardous wastes	
(iii) Not permitted to be subjected to disposal operations that may lead to recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses of persistent organic pollutants	
(iv) Not transported across international boundaries without taking into account relevant international rules, standards and guidelines	
(e) Development of appropriate strategies for identifying sites contaminated by the chemicals	

<b>3. Commitment to comply, where appropriate, with the provisions of paragraph 2 of Part II of Annex B</b>	
(1) If the imported chemical is DDT, does your country commit itself to restricting the production and use of DDT for disease vector control in accordance with the World Health Organization recommendations and guidelines on the use of DDT and when locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available in your country?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
(2) Where appropriate, please provide any supporting documentation such as legislation, regulatory instruments or administrative or policy guidelines.	