

**Basel Convention on the Control of
Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**Distr.: General
8 March 2017

English only

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

**Conference of the Parties to the
Basel Convention on the Control
of Transboundary Movements
of Hazardous Wastes and
Their Disposal
Thirteenth meeting**
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017
Item 4 (d) (i) of the provisional agenda*
**Matters related to the
implementation of the Convention:
technical assistance: capacity-
building**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade
Eighth meeting**
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Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda**
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**Matters related to the
implementation of the Convention:
technical assistance**

**Technical assistance plan for the implementation of the
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period
2018–2021****Note by the Secretariat**

As referred to in the note by the Secretariat on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17), the annex to the present note sets out the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the three conventions for 2018–2021. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

** UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/1.

*** UNEP/POPS/COP.8/1.

Annex

Technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for 2018–2021

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to the mandates set out in Article 16, paragraph 1 (g) of the Basel Convention, Article 19, paragraph 2 (b) of the Rotterdam Convention and Article 20, paragraph 2 (b) of the Stockholm Convention respectively and based on past activities carried out by the Secretariat¹ and needs expressed by Parties², the Secretariat has developed a four-year technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 to address these needs and provide strengthened support to Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in their implementation of the conventions. The plan will allow for improved impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation while assisting Parties to address their needs in a strategic, systematic and forward-looking manner.

2. The plan identifies interventions for the implementation of the conventions at national and regional level that are in line with the strategic directions and priorities set by Parties through their respective decisions and programmes of work. The plan seeks to engage Parties, non-Party States, Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), including their regional offices, and relevant organizations for implementation of specific activities contained therein. The implementation of the plan is subject to the availability of resources.

3. In light of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the technical assistance plan seeks to support Parties in integrating chemicals and wastes into national strategies for sustainable development. It also includes enabling activities that will support Parties to develop their statistical capacities on reporting with a view to making data and information available for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

4. The plan also aims at supporting Parties to the three conventions in engaging in inter-ministerial processes on strengthening chemicals and wastes management in the long-term, beyond 2020. A coherent and efficient strategy promoting the full engagement of key actors in the chemicals and wastes cluster as outlined in the plan is an important consideration to support developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in meeting their obligations under the conventions and in achieving the 2020 Johannesburg goal³ and Sustainable Development Goals.

5. The effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions continues to be hampered by the lack of capacity in many developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.

6. The Secretariat continuously identifies needs for technical assistance based on information from previous programmes of work; feedback on the guidance on technical assistance under the Stockholm Convention; Parties' responses to needs assessment questionnaires for each Convention; the Secretariat's database with individual requests by and formal correspondence with Parties, including import responses forms; conclusions and recommendations from the effectiveness evaluation committee of the Stockholm Convention and from the review of the synergies arrangements; requests included in decisions of the conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies; feedback from intersessional processes under the conventions and needs identified through the Secretariat's face-to-face and online activities, meetings and projects. Depending on their nature, these needs are included in the plan for future assistance to be provided by the Secretariat, the regional centers, UNEP and FAO, including their regional offices, other implementing agencies, such as the organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), intergovernmental or other organizations, in line with relevant mandate and expertise.

¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/34-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/22.

² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/35, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/25 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/23.

³ The goal agreed at the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development and then echoed by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management calls to ensure that, by the year 2020, chemicals are produced and used in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

7. On the basis of information provided by Parties in 2016 in their needs assessment questionnaires, and supported by information from other sources as mentioned above, the following main needs and challenges in implementing the conventions were identified, with priority areas under two or three of the conventions: training for customs authorities, the sound management of POPs stockpiles and wastes, multi-stakeholder coordination at the national level, development of national legal frameworks, and national reporting, with a focus on the collection of inventory data.

8. In terms of the delivery of technical assistance, Parties across the regions specified a preference for face-to-face training (workshops or “train-the-trainers”), support for project proposal development, support for the development and implementation of specific projects and support through the availability of tools and guidance. Despite some regional disparities, Parties were generally less interested in e-learning tools such as online courses without trainer support or toolkits, online training such as webinars and videos. More detailed information on the technical assistance needs assessments is available in the documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/35, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/25 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/23.

II. Guiding principles

9. The technical assistance plan promotes a dynamic, progressive and long-term process of capacity development, applying an adaptive approach. The implementation of the activities under the plan will catalyze and facilitate capacity development involving Parties, non-Party States, Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, UNEP and FAO, including their regional offices, other implementing agencies, such as the IOMC organizations, and other relevant organizations, by providing guidance aimed at:

- (a) Fostering a strategic, coherent and coordinated approach to capacity development for the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in the context of a life-cycle approach for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes. Technology transfer will also be considered where appropriate so as to achieve the goals of the conventions;
- (b) Promoting the development and implementation of targeted, synergistic and integrated activities at the national, regional and international levels;
- (c) Facilitating the mobilization and leveraging of financial, technical and technological resources and expertise in support of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition.

10. The plan promotes a life-cycle approach to chemicals and wastes management based on the legal-policy-science-business interface. This includes considering socio-economic implications, developing business cases, making use of social and economic incentives, and encouraging cooperation with academia and the private sector.

11. The plan takes into account relevant activities undertaken by subsidiary bodies and/or intersessional processes, such as the intersessional working groups on listing of chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the expert working group on environmentally sound management, the Committee administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention, and the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants under the Stockholm Convention.

12. The plan seeks to facilitate North-South and South-South cooperation between Parties by engaging developed country Parties in capacity development by providing expertise as appropriate. A differentiated approach tailoring technical assistance to specific needs of developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition will be followed taking into consideration, among other things, Parties’ capacities for the implementation of the conventions.

13. In light of the operational experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the technical assistance programme developed in 2014, technical assistance activities should:

- (a) Be country-driven and be based on the needs identified by the recipient countries;
- (b) Promote national ownership and leadership, including the setting of priorities and design, implementation and evaluation of the initiatives;
- (c) Apply a holistic approach, integrating convention-specific activities with relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies and programmes;

- (d) Maximize synergies in the implementation of the conventions through coordination of capacity development activities under the conventions' programme of work with activities implemented by Parties, the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, UNEP and FAO, including through their regional offices, and implementing agencies such as the IOMC organizations, as well as civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders;
- (e) Promote, as appropriate, regional delivery of capacity development.

III. Approach to the technical assistance

- 14. The overall approach to technical assistance focuses on developing, strengthening and maintaining the capabilities of Parties needed for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the individual, organizational and systemic levels.
- 15. While using the harmonized approach across the three conventions, specific characteristics of technical assistance for each convention are taken into account. Technical assistance activities for each convention and cross-cutting issues are presented below through outcomes, outputs and indicators. Following the strategic direction defined by the Parties, the activities will be implemented using the most appropriate means of implementation depending on the topic at hand, resources available and national circumstances.
- 16. In order to provide sufficient time for planning and implementation of projects and activities, which includes the mobilization of resources, the plan lays down the foundations for the next four years, describing the overall goal and objectives, as well as expected outputs and outcomes, with the understanding that the plan will be reviewed and adjusted, as needed, by the conferences of the Parties in 2019.
- 17. This four-year plan is the basis for activities related to technical assistance that are included in the programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2018-2019⁴ and that will be developed for the biennium 2020-2021. Specific activities for the biennium 2018-2019 to achieve the outcomes and outputs presented below are set out in the document on programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2018–2019: budget activity fact sheets.⁵

IV. Overall goal and objectives

- 18. The overall goal of the technical assistance plan is to strengthen the capacities of Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
- 19. Achieving the goal of the plan means pursuing the following objectives under each convention:
 - (a) Under the Basel Convention, the objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to support Parties in protecting human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes through enhancing the capacities of Parties to implement control procedures for transboundary movements and ensure the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, including prevention and minimization;
 - (b) Under the Rotterdam Convention the objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to strengthen Parties' capacities in promoting shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use, by facilitating information exchange about their characteristics, by providing for a national decision-making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties;
 - (c) Under the Stockholm Convention the objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants through enhancing Parties' capacities to develop legal and institutional frameworks and national implementation plans and addressing technical issues pertaining to the chemicals listed in the annexes of the Convention; and
 - (d) For cross-cutting issues among the three conventions, the objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to: enhance the capacities of Parties to increase national coordination and cooperation at the national level; identify and monitor the attainment of needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economy in transition; strengthen greater access to scientific understanding in

⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/26-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/25-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/29.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/52-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/37-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/54, see activities 13-19.

developing countries to enhance informed decision-making on the implementation of the conventions; support activities with appropriate tools and methodologies and assess the impacts of undertaken activities.

V. Outcomes, outputs and indicators

A. Basel Convention

1. Outcome: Increased capacities of Parties to implement control procedures under the Basel Convention

(a) Outputs

- (i) Measures taken in relation to transit, import/export restrictions or prohibitions, national definitions of hazardous wastes based on long-term national hazardous waste strategies;
- (ii) Development of legal and institutional frameworks implementing the control regime, including with respect to the roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities;
- (iii) Enhanced engagement of Parties with partners involved in the enforcement chain at the national level;
- (iv) Prevention, identification, investigation and punishment of cases of illegal traffic;
- (v) The technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention as adopted on interim basis, and glossary of terms are disseminated and practically applied by Parties.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Guidance on control of transboundary movements used or pilot tested and experiences shared by a number of Parties;
- (ii) Number of Parties that have developed or strengthened their legal and institutional frameworks;
- (iii) Number of pilot projects implemented on the coordination at the national and regional level among entities involved in the enforcement chain;
- (iv) Technical guidelines and manuals on control schemes and transboundary movements are used and piloted tested in a number of Parties;
- (v) The technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment, in particular regarding the distinction between waste and non-waste under the Basel Convention and glossary of terms used and experiences shared by a number of Parties.

2. Outcome: Strengthened capacities of Parties for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, including prevention and minimization

(a) Outputs

- (i) Environmentally sound management of specific waste streams, such as e-waste, POPs waste, mercury waste or other hazardous wastes is enhanced at the national level through strategies, legislation, technical norms and practical standards, as well as best practices for minimization, recycling, recovery and final disposal in line with the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012-2021;
- (ii) National inventories of hazardous and other wastes are available in increased number of developing countries for the purpose of national reporting;
- (iii) Tools and guidance on specific waste streams are disseminated and applied by Parties and others;
- (iv) Parties have access to practical guidance documents and manuals developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other waste and by the proposed household waste partnership;
- (v) Enhanced submission rate of national reports from Parties that participated in the technical assistance activities;

- (vi) Environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes activities initiated and implemented through partnerships and networks led by other organizations.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Number of Parties that have implemented activities on the environmentally sound management of e-waste, POPs waste, mercury waste or other hazardous wastes;
- (ii) Number of pilot projects on the development of national inventories of hazardous and other wastes are implemented;
- (iii) Tools and manuals on specific waste streams used or pilot tested and experiences shared by a number of Parties per year;
- (iv) Guidance documents, manuals and factsheets developed and disseminated by the expert working group on environmentally sound management and by the proposed household waste partnership;
- (v) Number of Parties trained on the use of a new reporting format under the Basel Convention;
- (vi) Number of interventions per year that promote the implementation of the BRS conventions in partnerships and networks managed by partners like UNEP (mercury, PCB elimination, waste management), the United Nations University (electrical and electronic waste), the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (measuring ICT/electronic waste).

B. Rotterdam Convention

1. Outcome: Availability of new and updated guidance documents under the Rotterdam Convention

(a) Outputs

- (i) Updated guidance for the identification of elements of national action plans on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention available and disseminated to Parties and others;
- (ii) Guidance on the use of bridging information for final regulatory actions available and disseminated to Parties and others;
- (iii) Guidance materials on vulnerable groups made available and disseminated to Parties and others;
- (iv) Information documents on alternatives to chemical substances considered under the Rotterdam Convention prepared and disseminated to Parties and others.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Guidance for development of national action plans applied by a number of Parties;
- (ii) Guidance on bridging information made available to Parties in three languages;
- (iii) Guidance on work with vulnerable groups made available to and applied in a number of pilot countries;
- (iv) Information document on alternatives field tested in by a number of countries.

2. Outcome: Strengthened functions and procedures of the Rotterdam Convention

(a) Outputs

- (i) National regulatory frameworks and sub-regional approaches are consistent with the requirements of the Rotterdam Convention;
- (ii) Compliance with export notification requirements for chemicals addressed by the Rotterdam Convention;
- (iii) Risk evaluations of hazardous chemicals and pesticides, take decisions on final regulatory action (FRAs) and preparation of notifications;
- (iv) Submission of Import Responses;
- (v) Integrated approach on pesticide management both the work on identification of Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF) and on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) on the national level.

(b) Indicators

- (i) National regulatory frameworks and sub-regional approaches including National Action Plans are available in a number of countries;
- (ii) Number of Parties that have developed a plan or strategy to implement the provisions relating to export of chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention;
- (iii) Number of Parties that have identified and evaluated chemicals for FRAs;
- (iv) Number of Parties that have prepared Import Responses, as needed;
- (v) Number of Parties that monitored and reported problems caused by SHPFs and have identified joint activities on identification of SHPFs and HHPs.

C. Stockholm Convention**1. Outcome: Legal and institutional frameworks and national implementation plans (NIPs) are reviewed and updated, supported by guidance for newly listed chemicals****(a) Outputs**

- (i) Parties have access to user-friendly and updated guidance documents to develop and review their NIPs;
- (ii) Inventory and management guidance for the newly listed POPs is developed, tested and validated;
- (iii) Parties are trained on the review and update of NIPs addressing topics such as the use of relevant guidance, inventories, strategies, priorities, and the formulation of action plans to take relevant measures to address obligations with regard to the newly listed chemicals;
- (iv) Development of legal and institutional frameworks implementing the Stockholm Convention, including with respect to the elimination and environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) throughout their life cycle.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Inventory guidance developed on new POPs and the existing guidance updated, depending on COP decisions in 2017 and 2019;
- (ii) Number of Parties that have transmitted their revised and updated NIPs;
- (iii) Project proposals on follow-up activities to implement NIPs are developed in a number of Parties.
- (iv) Number of Parties that have developed or strengthened their legal and institutional frameworks.

2. Outcome: Strengthened capacities of Parties to address technical issues pertaining to the chemicals listed in the annexes to the Stockholm Convention**(a) Outputs**

- (i) Identification, collection and sharing of information on POPs, in particular those still in use and those newly listed and to make informed decisions on newly listed POPs;
- (ii) Alternatives to DDT promoted and need for the use DDT reduced;
- (iii) Technical guidance related to the elimination of POPs including phasing out of POPs (e.g. guidance on alternatives), sound management of POPs in waste streams, application of Toolkit are widely disseminated, tested and practically applied by Parties;
- (iv) Application of best available techniques and best environmental practices;
- (v) Parties are able to perform regional monitoring activities and to process and evaluate monitoring data;
- (vi) Phasing in safer and affordable alternatives for selected POPs;
- (vii) Data on stockpiles and contaminated sites are available for specific POPs, i.e. DDT.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Number of Parties that have collected and shared information on newly listed POPs;

- (ii) Support provided to at a number of Parties to implement projects in the framework of the roadmap for the development of alternatives to DDT;
- (iii) Number of Parties have participated in the training on technical guidance related to the elimination of POPs;
- (iv) Case studies on the application of best available techniques and best environmental practices available in a number of Parties;
- (v) Number of regional experts involved in monitoring of POPs in sampling, laboratory analysis, data processing and data evaluation trained;
- (vi) Case studies on phased in safer and affordable alternatives for selected POPs is available in a number of Parties;
- (vii) Number of regional inventories on stockpiles and contaminated sites of selected POPs are available.

D. Cross-cutting areas

1. Outcome: Enhanced capacities of Parties to increase national coordination and cooperation for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

(a) Outputs

- (i) Technical assistance needs of developing countries Parties and Parties with economies in transition are identified and analyzed and website updated accordingly;
- (ii) Roles and responsibilities of various government agencies for issues addressed by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and information exchange mechanisms are established in institutional frameworks;
- (iii) Legislation and import/export procedures are strengthened;
- (iv) Submission of proposals for review of chemicals under the work of the Chemical Review Committee and the POPs Review Committee by Parties from different regions;
- (v) National experts are trained on collecting data for the national reporting under the Basel and Stockholm conventions;
- (vi) Data transmitted by Parties is used for the monitoring of the implementation of the specific targets and indicators under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (vii) A pool of skilled government officials from different regions is available for chairing meetings;
- (viii) National and regional capacity to use scientific information in decision-making to implement the Conventions is strengthened;
- (ix) National strategies and plans on chemicals and wastes management and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions include gender issues and gender focus is included in activities tackling specific challenges faced by men, women, girls and boys as well as ingenious people and other groups;
- (x) Parties are trained on prevention, preparedness for hazardous and chemicals emergencies organized by partners, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNEP Disasters and Conflicts and others.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Needs assessment database is updated on regular basis and available on the website of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
- (ii) Institutional frameworks and information exchange mechanisms are established in at a number of Parties;
- (iii) Number of Parties that have participated in the technical assistance activities have addressed challenges related to the development of legislation and import/export procedures and/or illegal traffic;
- (iv) Number of information submissions to the Chemicals Review Committee and the POPs Review Committees by Parties, members and stakeholders in regions trained;

- (v) Number of Parties participating in the technical assistance activities that submit national reports under the Basel and Stockholm conventions;
- (vi) Cooperation between relevant agencies and statistical offices enhanced in a number of Parties;
- (vii) Number of participants trained on chairing and negotiations;
- (viii) Number of Parties providing scientific inputs to the various processes under the conventions;
- (ix) Number of Parties that are aware of the importance of gender issues when mainstreaming chemicals and wastes and Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions into the national strategies and plans;
- (x) Number of Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that are aware about prevention and preparedness for waste and chemicals emergencies and coordinate efforts in this regard at the national level.

2. Outcome: Enhanced effectiveness of the regional centres

(a) Outputs

- (i) Increased coordination between activities undertaken by regional centres through the annual meetings of their directors;
- (ii) Skills for preparing project proposals by the regional centres strengthened and cooperation between regional centres and the donor community established or enhanced;
- (iii) Enhanced visibility of the regional centres through their information exchange platforms, web portals.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Number of joint programmes of the regional centres developed and/or further strengthened (e.g. regional coordination and division of specialized work areas, follow-up partnership to PACE) during meetings of the directors of the regional centres;
- (ii) Number of regional centres receiving funds to implement chemicals and waste projects in a competitive manner;
- (iii) Web portals of regional centres are updated on regular basis.

VI. Means of implementation

20. The plan identifies desirable interventions based on tangible outcomes, outputs and indicators, in line with the strategic directions set by Parties through their respective decisions and programmes of work.

21. The plan is based on the following means of implementation:

- (a) Capacity development serves as one of the main instruments to support developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the implementation the three conventions. A variety of tools will be employed to serve Parties in effective manner aiming to maximize short, medium and long-term impacts, including guidance, technical guidelines, modules and toolkits as well as face-to-face training activities, projects and study tours, complemented as appropriate by e-learning tools such as online courses, online trainings and webinars;
- (b) Regional delivery is based on the work of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, UNEP and FAO regional and subregional offices, FAO country representations, and other relevant organizations that carry out activities in support of the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the regional and national levels. The Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres play a key role as one of the main actors in the delivery of technical assistance and technology transfer at the national and regional levels. The role of the UNEP and FAO regional offices is to support Parties on the regional and national levels by integrating issues addressed by the conventions into their projects and training programmes. Within the Secretariat, regional focal points continue to facilitate communication with Parties requesting technical assistance;

- (c) Partnerships promote the involvement and cooperation with partners as they have a multiplier effect for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Through partnerships convention-specific issues are addressed within the work programmes of partners or in programmes of mutual interest among several partners. Furthermore, in partnerships, the cooperating partners bring in in-kind contributions and/or respective budgets. Partnerships have a substantial

resource mobilization effect for technical assistance. The partnerships programme has two main types of cooperation, i.e. partnerships where the Secretariat has a facilitating role as mandated by the conferences of the Parties, e.g. the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE); and partnerships and technical cooperation initiatives led by other organizations where the Secretariat participates as one of the partners. In the latter case, priority is given to partnerships and initiatives supporting the work areas that are identified through the needs assessments.

VII. Resources for implementation

22. The annexes to document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/51-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/53 set out proposed operational budgets for the biennium 2018-2019. The programme activity factsheets in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/52-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/37-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/54 provide further details on the proposed budget of the individual activities.

23. The plan also acknowledges and encourages support provided to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition through the activities financed by the Global Environment Facility and the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

VIII. Monitoring and evaluation

24. An analysis of the effectiveness of activities employed in the delivery of the plan will be conducted at regular intervals reflecting on the tangible outcomes, activities and indicators, in line with the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties. Monitoring and evaluation also includes an integrated assessment of technical assistance needs based on questionnaires, specific requests and information from other sources as well as impact assessment which will be considered already in the planning phase of the activities and conducted in a systematic way.

VIX. Adjustment of the technical assistance plan

25. The technical assistance plan covers a period of four years from 2018 to 2021. The Secretariat plans to continue to collect information on technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition as well as technology that developed country Parties and others can provide, and to analyze such information and identify gaps and barriers regarding technical assistance and technology transfer on biannual basis. This information will be used to propose adjustments to the plan, as needed, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties.

26. The Secretariat will submit a report to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2019 on the implementation of the plan, including, as appropriate, proposals to adjust the plan, for consideration and possible adoption by the conferences of the Parties.