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

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**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 5 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Enhancing cooperation and  
coordination among the Basel,  
Rotterdam and Stockholm  
conventions**

**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**  
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017  
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Persistent Organic Pollutants**  
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**Enhancing cooperation and  
coordination among the Basel,  
Rotterdam and Stockholm  
conventions**

**Revised draft strategy for further development and  
operation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for  
the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

**Note by the Secretariat**

As referred to in the note by the Secretariat on clearing-house mechanism for information exchange (UNEP/CHW.13/23-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/26), the annex to the present note sets out a revised draft strategy for further development and operation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions which aims at strengthening regional delivery mechanisms by improving information and expertise sharing relevant to the implementation of the three conventions. 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

### Revised draft strategy for further development and operation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

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## I. Situational analysis

### A. Background and mandates

1. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal provides for information to be notified or transmitted by one Party to another, for instance pursuant to Article 6 on transboundary movements between Parties and Article 10 on international cooperation. The Convention also sets out obligations for Parties to transmit or notify information or measures to the Secretariat, including in Article 3 on national definitions of hazardous wastes, Article 4 with respect to import prohibition, Article 5 on the designation of Competent Authorities and Focal Point, Article 6 paragraph 4 on transit movements Article 11 on agreements and arrangements, and Article 13 on transmission of information (which includes provisions relating to the transmission of annual reports). The Secretariat is mandated, pursuant to Article 16 on the functions of the Secretariat, to receive and convey such information as well as other information received. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties also invite additional information exchange through the Secretariat.

2. The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, in Article 1, defines the objective of the Convention which is “to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals 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”. The Convention provides for information to be notified or transmitted by a Party to another Party, for instance pursuant to Article 11 paragraph 1 (c) on obligations in relation to exports of chemicals listed in Annex III, Article 12 on export notification, and Article 13 on information to accompany exported chemicals. Article 14 more generally provides for an obligation for Parties to facilitate the exchange of information, bearing in mind that information on domestic or regulatory actions that substantially restrict one or more uses of a chemical may be transmitted directly from Party to Party or through the Secretariat. Article 15 on implementation of the Convention requires Parties to ensure that the public has access to information. The Convention also sets out obligations for Parties to transmit information to the Secretariat including in Articles 4 on designated national authorities, 5 on procedures for banned or severely restricted chemicals, and 10 on obligations in relation to imports of chemicals listed in Annex III. Information may also be transmitted by Parties to the Secretariat pursuant to Article 6 on procedures for severely hazardous pesticide formulations, and Article 9 on removal of chemicals from Annex III. The functions of the Secretariat are specifically set out in Article 19, bearing in mind that specific provisions, e.g. Article 7 paragraph 3, also require the Secretariat to communicate information to all Parties. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties also invite additional information exchange through the Secretariat.

3. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in Article 9, among other things states that “each Party shall facilitate or undertake the exchange of information relevant to the reduction or elimination of the production, use and release of persistent organic pollutants and to their alternatives, risks and economic and social costs”, directly or through the Secretariat and that “the Secretariat shall serve as a clearing-house mechanism for information on persistent organic pollutants, including information provided by Parties, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.”. The Convention also sets out obligations for Parties to transmit information, proposals or other measures to the Secretariat including in Articles 3 paragraph 2 (b) (iii) on exports to a non-Party State, Article 4 on register of specific exemptions, Article 8 on listing of chemicals and Article 15 on national reporting. The convention also sets out a general obligation for Parties to promote and facilitate access to information to a variety of stakeholders in its Article 10 on public information, awareness and education and Article 11 on research, development and monitoring. The functions of the Secretariat are set out in Article 20 and include preparing and making available periodic reports based on information received from Parties pursuant to Article 15 and other available information, Decisions of the Conference of the Parties also invite additional information exchange through the Secretariat.

4. Parties to the Stockholm Convention in decision SC-3/10 recommended that the Secretariat, Parties and others use the strategic plan<sup>1</sup> for further development of information exchange activities and projects pursuant to Article 9 of the convention. The strategic plan was developed based on principles discussed by Parties, including that the clearing-house mechanism should:

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/9.

- (a) Be cost-effective and have a reasonable budget and be implemented in a phased manner, with the Conference of the Parties guiding the process and approving each phase and budget;
- (b) Provide the means to identify and address the lack of specific information in several areas; the need for mechanisms to identify further information needs should be addressed;
- (c) Take into account the need to focus on issues related to the provision of technical and financial assistance; the information provided by the mechanism should aim at the provision of technical and financial assistance;
- (d) Take into account and integrate information acquired through feasibility and case studies on regional and sub regional centres;
- (e) Address the need to ensure the availability of information in the six official languages of the United Nations;
- (f) Provide methods for selecting countries for case studies related to the clearing-house; elaboration of selection criteria for case studies related to the mechanism;
- (g) Take into account the importance of synergies and efficiencies by coordinating with and linking to related initiatives;
- (h) Study how clearing-house mechanisms have been developed under other environmental conventions, and use existing best practices.

5. All three conventions exchange information through a network of national contacts and authorities that are officially nominated by their governments. The three conventions entrust their secretariat with a key role in the processes for information exchange, effectively serving as centralized hubs for collecting,<sup>2</sup> receiving, repackaging,<sup>3</sup> translating if necessary, and disseminating information relevant to the implementation of the conventions, including information on human health and environmental impacts of hazardous chemicals and wastes, as well as legal and administrative measures concerning chemicals and wastes within the scope of the conventions.

6. At their meetings held in 2008 and 2009 respectively, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (hereinafter the “synergies decisions”).<sup>4</sup>

7. In section III B of the synergies decisions, Parties were invited to consider establishing common websites and documentation centres at the national and, where appropriate, regional levels containing available information on human health and environmental impacts relevant to the three conventions. The conferences of the Parties also requested the Secretariat to develop systems for information exchange on health and environmental impacts, including a clearing-house mechanism, with the aim of these systems serving all three conventions.

8. At their ordinary meetings in 2011 and 2013, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions decided<sup>5</sup> to include cross-cutting and joint activities in the programmes of work of the three conventions, including activity S10 on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange.

9. At their simultaneous extraordinary meetings held in 2013, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions each adopted an omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions<sup>6</sup> (hereinafter the “2013 omnibus decision”).

10. In paragraph 17 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the conferences of the Parties requested the Secretariat to recommend areas for further development or adjustment of joint activities, which include the joint clearing-house mechanism, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2015.

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<sup>2</sup> The Secretariat facilitates information collection by preparing guidelines for Parties, including data forms, pick lists, data formats, questionnaires, mechanisms and media for submissions, etc.

<sup>3</sup> The Secretariat undertakes information repackaging by reformatting information to be used in different media, combining information from different sources, compiling information from multiple stakeholders into a single compendium, etc.

<sup>4</sup> Decisions BC-IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34.

<sup>5</sup> Decisions SC-5/27, RC-5/12 and BC-10/29 in 2011; decisions BC-11/26, RC-6/16 and SC-6/30 in 2013.

<sup>6</sup> Decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1, SC.Ex-2/1.

11. At the 2015 meetings, in decisions BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29 on clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, the conferences of the Parties took note of the proposed joint clearing-house mechanism strategy and invited Parties and others to provide comments on the strategy.

12. In the same decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested the Secretariat to provide, within available resources, access to thematic information on 11 priority areas, selected by the conferences of the Parties, and to prepare, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2017, a revised joint clearing-house mechanism strategy, taking into account, among other things, the comments received from Parties and others, and the report of the review of the synergies arrangements.

## B. Other developments

13. Governments, businesses and civil society together with the United Nations have started to mobilize efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030. Universal, inclusive and indivisible, the Agenda calls for action by all countries to improve the lives of people everywhere. The Sustainable Development Agenda sets targets related to information exchange such as:

(a) By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature;<sup>7</sup>

(b) Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements;<sup>8</sup>

(c) Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism;<sup>9</sup>

(d) Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.<sup>10</sup>

14. In addition, the United Nations Environment Assembly, in its resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste, among other things, invited Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to promote an effective and efficient network of regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance.

15. Considering the above, the Secretariat has developed the present revised draft strategy for the further development and operation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, based, among other things, on the overall principles of the Stockholm Convention strategy,<sup>11</sup> the 11 priority areas for information access identified by the conferences of the Parties in decisions BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29, the comments received from Parties and others<sup>12</sup> on the draft joint strategy for further development and operation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,<sup>13</sup> the recommendations of the report on the review of synergies arrangements,<sup>14</sup> the draft road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in an informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions,<sup>15</sup> the recommendations of the report on the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention<sup>16</sup> and taking into account the need to serve the information exchange needs of the three conventions as well as to provide emphasis on regional delivery mechanisms and strengthening the network of regional centres.

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production>.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice>.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships>.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships>.

<sup>11</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.3/INF/9.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=4648>

<sup>13</sup> UNEP/CHW.12/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/56.

<sup>14</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46.

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52.

<sup>16</sup> UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/40.

## II. Definition and scope

16. The joint clearing-house mechanism is defined as a multi-stakeholder global mechanism set up and operated by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, pursuant to the provisions of the conventions and decisions of their governing bodies, to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of information and expertise relevant to the three conventions, including the provision of access to information on priority areas identified by the conferences of the Parties. Its three major components are as follows:

(a) Information capital: Is the information exchanged among the joint clearing-house mechanism network members. It consists of scientific and technical information on health, environmental and socio-economic impacts of chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions, information on legislation and other measures relevant to the conventions that Parties and other stakeholders have put in place, information on projects and implementation activities undertaken by different conventions' stakeholders, as well as information on technical and financial assistance available to Parties for implementation. Without prejudice to the conventions and decisions of their governing bodies, the joint clearing-house mechanism embraces the open data principles, i.e., public access to information.<sup>17</sup> For more details on the information scope and the feedback provided by Parties see appendix II below;

(b) Human capital: Human capital refers to the global network of information providers and users formally contributing to and using the joint clearing-house mechanism. The information providers are selected based on criteria for information quality, relevance to the conventions' implementation as well as on partnerships established by the conventions. The user community of the joint clearing-house mechanism is widely open. The human capital consists of entities and individuals such as: Parties to the conventions, the Secretariat of the conventions, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, regional centres, States not Parties to the conventions, environmental non-governmental organizations, industry and private sector associations, funding agencies and mechanisms and other donors, researchers, universities and related initiatives, workers' unions and national local authorities. For more details on the scope of the joint clearing-house mechanism network and the feedback provided by Parties, see appendix II below;

(c) Operational capital: Operational capital refers to a set of information and communication technology tools, products and services, and the necessary processes and resources to design, implement, operate and further enhance them. It includes conventions' websites, common websites and documentation centres at the national and regional levels, systems of information exchange, databases, online collaboration tools, online reporting systems, online questionnaires, mobile applications, social media tools, offline media (CD-ROMs, flash drives and others), and paper based information products.

## III. Mission

17. The joint clearing-house mechanism shall promote, facilitate and undertake the identification, generation, collection, management, distribution and exchange of quality information and expertise to support Parties and other stakeholders in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

## IV. Vision

Updated and valued information and expertise for the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Information and expertise is provided dynamically and allowing a transparent, neutral, efficient and simple access, based on data, knowledge and experience at a regional, national and international level

18. The aim is to develop a global joint clearing-house mechanism that empowers stakeholders and users with the means to contribute to the provision of and access to up-to-date quality information relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in a transparent, neutral, effective, efficient and user-friendly manner and with an emphasis on regional delivery and on the priorities identified by the conferences of the Parties.

19. The joint clearing-house mechanism will provide Parties, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, regional centres, regional offices and other stakeholders with the

<sup>17</sup> Specific types of information might be accessible only to specific user groups as appropriate.

means and capacity to contribute with valuable information that is easily channelled and incorporated into the mechanism. The information will be validated,<sup>18</sup> re-packaged and integrated,<sup>19</sup> translated if necessary, processed and made accessible to different target audiences or the general public in a user-friendly format by means of information products and services. Other multilateral environmental agreements and information exchange initiatives could profit from, and contribute to, the mechanism; and cooperation and coordination will be enhanced, resulting in the further development of synergies beyond the three conventions.

20. The joint clearing-house mechanism will facilitate sharing and disseminating information through a variety of means, including paper-based, electronic components and internet-based tools. It will operate as a global, open and transparent network that may also be used to go beyond information exchange, for instance, for training purposes. It will take a proactive and collaborative approach in undertaking its mission. In so doing, it would, under guidance of the conferences of the Parties, be responsive in meeting the evolving needs under the conventions, and contribute to achieving the broader objectives of the three conventions.

## V. Goals

21. In order to achieve the above mission and vision, two major areas of work would need to be further developed and integrated. The first is related to the information content itself and the means and tools to identify, collect, manage, process and re-distribute it. The second is linked to the network of people and institutions that will provide and use the information.

22. The two strategic goals set out below will guide the work to be undertaken in these areas towards the achievement of the joint clearing-house mechanism mission and vision.

### A. **First goal: Enhancement of infrastructure and services to facilitate identification, collection, integration and exchange of information and the creation of a global knowledge base relevant to support the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

#### 1. Focus

23. The focus of this goal is on information and operational capitals on a global scale, making efficient use of regional delivery mechanisms. The purpose is to identify and collect information relevant to the three conventions, and to put in place the information technology infrastructure and knowledge management services that facilitate the integration of such information, its sources and foster information exchange at large. The driving forces include conventions' provisions, mandates from the conferences of the Parties, and where appropriate stakeholders' and users' needs.

24. This goal involves providing improved and integrated access to existing information sources, making the best use of regional delivery mechanisms, identifying information gaps, fostering the establishment and development of new information sources accordingly; and promoting and catalyzing the exchange of information, including knowledge, experiences and best practices.

25. Set out below are measurable objectives for guiding and evaluating progress towards this goal, strategies for achieving those objectives and approaches for their implementation.

#### 2. Objectives

26. The objectives set out below reflect desired growth in seven necessary and complementary areas of action:

##### (a) Value added

27. The objective is to improve steadily the value of information available through the joint clearing-house mechanism for achieving the goals of the conventions.

28. Possible performance indicators include the number and percentage of surveyed users perceiving improvement in the value of the information, the number of information gaps identified and addressed and the number of new information sources established and integrated into the mechanism.

<sup>18</sup> The Secretariat facilitates the adherence to agreed criteria by checking that the information provided is complete, translated if necessary, quoting sources, etc.

<sup>19</sup> The Secretariat facilitates the integration of information provided by different stakeholders by enabling comparisons between data and providing summaries and syntheses of resulting information.

**(b) Use**

29. The objective is to continuously expand the use of the products and services available through the joint clearing-house mechanism by diverse user groups and information providers. This would include use and provision of information, as well as expansion of those information products and services to regional centres as appropriate.

30. Possible performance indicators include the number of providers and users of the joint clearing-house mechanism, the number of information products and services and the number of different user groups using the mechanism as well as the number of regional centres that have been engaged in the joint clearing-house mechanism.

**(c) Quality**

31. The objectives are to improve steadily the overall quality of joint clearing-house mechanism information, products and services and the ability of users to assess the quality of specific information, and the diversification of those information products and services in languages through a better collaboration with the regional centres.

32. Possible performance indicators include the number and percentage of surveyed users perceiving improvement in the quality of joint clearing-house mechanism information, products and services and the amount of quality-related feedback received.

**(d) Speed and facility**

33. The objective is to enhance progressively the speed and facility of joint clearing-house mechanism transactions, including the ability of users and providers to contribute, locate and retrieve desired information through a variety of user friendly tools.

34. Possible performance indicators include the number and percentage of surveyed users perceiving improvement in the speed and facility of joint clearing-house mechanism transactions, the number and percentage of successful operations in uploading, locating and retrieving desired information and the number of information products and services, user applications and features available.

**(e) User needs responsiveness**

35. The objective is to continuously improve the ability of users and providers to articulate individual and collective information needs and of the joint clearing-house mechanism to meet those needs in a timely manner.

36. Possible performance indicators include the number and percentage of surveyed users perceiving improvement in the timeliness of the joint clearing-house mechanism in meeting their information needs and the number of individual and collective information requests received.

**(f) Integration**

37. The objective is to steady increase the helpfulness of the joint clearing-house mechanism for enabling comparisons between data, where possible, and in providing summaries and syntheses of resulting information.

38. Possible performance indicators include the number and percentage of surveyed users perceiving improvement in the helpfulness of the joint clearing-house mechanism for enabling data comparison, providing summaries and syntheses, and the number of features and services in the mechanism allowing for the comparison, aggregation and segregation of information.

**(g) Volume**

39. The objective is to expand progressively the amount of information, relevant to the three conventions, referenced or directly accessible via the joint clearing-house mechanism in key areas of interest and focus (e.g., national reports; legislation and policies; scientific, technical and thematic issues) and from diverse sources.

40. Possible performance indicators include the number of documents, reports and articles available per category, the number of information sources covered and the number and size of websites, databases and publications referenced.

**3. Strategies**

41. The objectives relating to the first goal will be achieved through five sub-strategies, which are described below. A strategy on building the joint clearing-house mechanism networks is provided in the section of the document dealing with the second goal.



**(a) Ensuring compatibility through standardization and interoperability**

42. The strategy involves providing and achieving acceptance of tools, guidelines, protocols and standards for promoting the compatibility of information content and network structure and processes, and can be achieved by:

- (a) Monitoring and facilitating the progress of relevant standards organizations;
- (b) Coordinating with related initiatives, e.g., InforMEA, UNEP Live, pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs), etc. This coordination can be achieved, for example, by attending and convening joint meetings and promoting interoperability between systems;
- (c) Identifying areas where information and infrastructure compatibility are necessary, while keeping standardization requirements to a minimum;
- (d) Identifying best practices, standards and protocols regarding:
  - (i) Joint clearing-house mechanism website formats, topic areas and terminologies;
  - (ii) Quality and reliability of information and methods for enabling users to assess them;
  - (iii) Information sharing protocols;
  - (iv) Indexing and searching protocols (including the use of metadata);
  - (v) Developing and adopting a standard taxonomy, compatible with existing initiatives, for use when cataloguing or retrieving information within the joint clearing-house;
  - (vi) Documenting standards and protocols to provide clear guidance and guidelines for countries and organizations to create or expand their own applications within the joint clearing-house mechanism;
  - (vii) Developing criteria and procedures for the full involvement of other actors, such as international businesses and non-profit organizations, as thematic focal points or partners;
  - (viii) Ensuring, where feasible, the use of standard protocols and formats for efficient data exchange between systems (e.g., web services, OData, XML);
  - (ix) Regularly updating and enhancing the user guide for building applications for the joint clearing-house mechanism, associated training, and related compatibility and interoperability checklists.

**(b) Tracking information needs, priorities and best practices**

43. The strategy involves tracking gaps in information and expertise and national needs, priorities, best practices and lessons learned, on an ongoing basis. This can be achieved by developing and using multiple vehicles for enabling users to articulate individual and collective information needs and priorities, including national reports, user surveys, user requests, user satisfaction, workshops and user conferences.

**(c) Prioritizing and promoting expansion**

44. The strategy involves identifying priorities for joint clearing-house mechanism growth and improvement based on user needs and strategic considerations, and promoting expansion accordingly. Measures to undertake this include:

- (a) Coordinating with related initiatives at all levels, for example by attending their meetings and convening common meetings;
- (b) Supporting regional centres and country involvement through sponsored projects to promote, partnering and progress in priority areas;
- (c) During the periods between meetings of the conferences of the Parties, focusing information expansion and synthesis on issues and topics to be covered at upcoming meetings;
- (d) Prioritizing information expansion and synthesis for chemicals and wastes issues that are under consideration by subsidiary and scientific bodies under the three conventions.

**(d) Providing open, worldwide access to existing information**

45. The strategy involves engaging national focal points, regional centres and other actors in providing access through the joint clearing-house mechanism to existing information within their regions and countries and promoting open data policies.

**(e) Rationalizing and customizing**

46. The strategy involves developing and using the right tool for the right task and for the right target audience, bearing in mind the need for interoperability and ease of maintenance of those tools. This can be achieved by:

(a) Performing analysis and research to identify the most effective tool for each task (related to information technology or not). Give preference to existing tools over developing new ones, where appropriate;

(b) Using document-based systems for small volumes and heterogeneous information (information which is not structured and not easily integrated);

(c) Using database systems for larger volumes and for more structured types of information (structure and format must be defined);

(d) Using the internet and other electronic means of data transfer such as web services where feasible, thereby minimizing the use of paper-based data transfers while enabling automation of information exchange among stakeholders;

(e) Using specialized expertise for complex data and information analysis and using partnerships with universities and non-profit organizations for less complex tasks where use of information technology is not feasible;

(f) Using the internet for information dissemination where feasible, using CD-ROMs, paper and other media where internet use is not feasible and using the right dissemination media for the right target audience.

**4. Relationship between strategies and objectives**

47. The following table shows which of the strategies outlined in section V-A-3 should be used to achieve the objectives outlined in section V-A-2.

Strategy	Objectives						
	Value added	Use	Quality	Facility	Responsiveness	Integration	Volume
Ensuring compatibility through standardization and interoperability		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
Tracking information needs, priorities and best practices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Prioritizing and promoting expansion	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Providing open, world-wide access to existing information	Yes	Yes		Yes			Yes
Rationalizing and customizing		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**5. Implementation**

48. The strategies outlined above would be implemented through workplans prepared by the Secretariat as part of the programme of work for the biennium. These workplans will be developed taking into account the goals, objectives and strategies outlined in this document. The workplans will be carried out by the Secretariat and key stakeholders of the conventions.

49. Depending on the level of engagement, regional centres and other stakeholders may want to develop their own joint clearing-house mechanism implementation plans, in coordination with the Secretariat. To facilitate integration, compatibility and interoperability of systems and tools, stakeholders shall use, to the extent possible, the guidance document for Parties and other stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism at the national

and regional levels, which will be reviewed by the Secretariat periodically<sup>20</sup>. The Secretariat will also develop a toolkit to facilitate building interoperable joint clearing-house mechanism nodes at regional and national levels.

**B. Second goal: Establishment of the joint clearing-house mechanism global network of information providers, users and institutions, having the common needs of sharing information and expertise relevant for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

**1. Focus**

50. The focus of this goal is to identify the components of the network for information exchange, including the information providers and users, the Secretariat, regional centres and regional offices, partners and other stakeholders and the conferences of the Parties. The purpose is to develop a framework for efficient interaction among those involved in information exchange, to promote the joint clearing-house mechanism and its use, and to foster international cooperation for information exchange on issues relevant to the three conventions. The driving forces are the provisions of the conventions and relevant decisions of their governing bodies, including chemicals and wastes related pollution and health problems, the promotion of alternatives and alternative approaches, opportunities for research and development, synergies, funding and other common needs and interests.

51. This goal involves, among other things: identifying and enrolling network members; defining member groups, establishing their profiles, roles and responsibilities; identifying partner institutions and developing necessary agreements; conducting joint clearing-house mechanism awareness raising and capacity-building activities.

52. Set out below are measurable objectives for guiding and evaluating progress towards this goal as well as strategies for achieving those objectives and approaches for implementation.

**2. Objectives**

53. The objectives set out below reflect desired growth in four necessary and complementary areas of action towards the establishment of the joint clearing-house mechanism global network:

**(a) Network membership and enrolment**

54. The objective is to involve a critical mass of members in the network and to expand progressively the network membership across countries, regions, and institutions, including Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and cross-sectoral thematic focal points. The focus is on populating a comprehensive, global, selective but non-discriminatory, multi-sectoral network. The outputs include terms of reference for providers and users, lists of user groups, providers and experts, indicating their expertise, user profiles and provider profiles.

55. Possible performance indicators include the number of Parties having designated national focal points, the number of regional centres engaged in the joint clearing-house mechanism, the number of network members by region, the number and percentage of network members by categories and the number and percentage of network members by social and economic sectors.

**(b) Member responsiveness**

56. The objective is to increase and steadily improve the capacity of network members to articulate information needs and agree on priorities, share experiences and expertise leading to a comprehensive global dialogue for exchange of information relative to the implementation of the conventions. The focus is on the commitment of network members and their active participation and outputs include member contributions.

57. Possible performance indicators include the total number of individual contributions by network members, such as information relevant for the implementation of the conventions, identification of information needs, priorities, experiences, expertise and feedback, the total number of collective contributions by network members, comparative geographical coverage of contributions received and comparative social and economic coverage of contributions received.

<sup>20</sup> UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/19.

**(c) Awareness and use of the joint clearing-house mechanism**

58. The objective is to increase steadily awareness of the capabilities and benefits of the joint clearing-house mechanism and progressive expansion in the use made of the information and services available under the joint clearing-house mechanism. The focus is on marketing the joint clearing-house mechanism and its use and outputs include promotional events and materials, with strong emphasis on better use of regional delivery mechanisms.

59. Possible performance indicators include the number of individuals and groups receiving information on joint clearing-house mechanism products and services, the number of promotional materials and events, the number of requests received for information or information products and the amount of website traffic per month or season.

**(d) Collaboration**

60. The objective is to develop and steadily improve collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements, regional centres, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and funding agencies in support of information exchange initiatives. The focus is on the development of synergies and partnerships and outputs include partnerships and agreements.

61. Possible performance indicators include the number of regional centres engaged in the joint clearing-house mechanism, number of partner organizations, the number of partnerships and collaboration agreements and the number of joint projects.

**3. Strategies**

62. The above objectives will be achieved through six strategies, as described below.

**(a) Concentrating on key actors**

63. To ensure an effective and efficient use of resources, the strategy involves maximizing on results while economizing on resources by identifying leverage points on which to focus efforts. In other words, it is important to identify and concentrate initially on key actors with potential to have a major impact on the implementation of the conventions. This can be achieved by:

(a) Identifying and involving members and partners capable of producing a domino effect for information exchange, action and funding;

(b) Leveraging on the effective use of regional centres, official contact points and other technical contacts and experts designated by Parties in line with relevant articles of each convention;

(c) Identifying key actors whose decisions may have greater impact on the objectives of the conventions and developing target marketing for them;

(d) Addressing marketing efforts on target actors and highlighting specific benefits for a specific target sector;

(e) Identifying champions of information exchange;

(f) Creating partnerships with existing networks to expand the joint clearing-house network;

(g) Creating partnerships with existing information exchange related initiatives such as InforMEA, UNEP Live, pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs), etc.;

(h) Using the strengths of partners and members to promote the joint clearing-house mechanism networks;

(i) Promoting the joint clearing-house mechanism at conferences, workshops and other events.

**(b) Grouping actors according to their affinities and promoting their inter-linkages**

64. The strategy involves considering multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approaches in addition to thematic, or like-minded groups, to avoid compartmentalization and to stimulate creativity and innovation. This can be achieved by:

(a) Identifying as comprehensively as possible the member categories, including providers, user groups and domain experts;

(b) Developing a framework for efficient interaction with network members and developing and communicating the roles and responsibilities of each group;

(c) Establishing membership and user categories, such as national focal points, intergovernmental organization focal points, non-governmental organization focal points, thematic focal points and groups such as information providers, users, experts, information owners and managers;

(d) Fostering teamwork capabilities and establishing a solid base to develop a network that works collaboratively to achieve the joint clearing-house mechanism goals, for example social network tools for virtual meetings, video conferences, discussion forums, blogs, etc., could be developed to strengthen links between network members at low costs.

**(c) Fostering joint endeavours to develop synergies and avoid duplication of efforts**

65. The strategy involves mentoring and learning between network members to profit from the network knowledge base to strengthen its capacity. This can be achieved, for example, by developing or further enhancing e-learning tools and databases of experts.

**(d) Relying on partnerships and focusing on facilitation**

66. The strategy involves relying on partnerships and focusing on facilitation, by:

- (a) Concentrating on facilitating, encouraging and promoting;
- (b) Engaging a wide range of conventions' stakeholders to pool resources and share work, including promotion of the joint clearing-house mechanism;
- (c) Contributing to partners' related activities through joint endeavours.

**(e) Nurturing membership and partnership**

67. The strategy involves nurturing membership and partnership, by:

- (a) Clarifying and communicating roles and responsibilities;
- (b) Ensuring satisfaction;
- (c) Rewarding valuable contributions and initiatives;
- (d) Developing good communication at all levels, organizing and improving communication resources between the Secretariat and network members and among network members, and developing communication mechanisms to ensure global participation, including areas with poor or no internet connection.

**(f) Promoting use of the joint clearing-house mechanism**

68. The strategy involves promoting awareness, understanding, use and expansion of the joint clearing-house mechanism through communication and education activities.

**4. Relationship between strategies and objectives**

69. The following table shows which of the strategies outlined in section V-B-3 should be used to achieve the objectives outlined in section V-B-2.

Strategy	Objective			
	Membership and enrolment	Member responsiveness	Awareness and use	Collaboration
Concentrating on key actors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grouping actors according to their affinities and promoting inter-linkages	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Fostering joint endeavours to develop synergies and avoid duplications		Yes		Yes
Relying on partnerships and focusing on facilitation		Yes	Yes	Yes
Nurturing membership and partnership	Yes	Yes		Yes
Promoting use of the joint clearing-house mechanism	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## 5. Implementation

70. As this goal consists of the development of the network per se, the Secretariat plays a key role in the implementation of the above strategies. However, other actors may also play important roles as proposed in the table below.

Strategy	Key actors and their possible involvement in the implementation of the strategies											
	COPs, subsidiary bodies	Secretariat, Conference Services	Parties	State non-Parties	Environmental NGOs	Industry	UNEP, MEAs	UN specialized agencies	Funding agencies donors	Researchers	Expert groups	Regional centres
Concentrating on key actors	O	L	C, P	C	C		C	C			C	C
Grouping actors according to their affinities and promoting interlinkages	O	L	C				P		F		P	P
Fostering joint endeavours to develop synergies and avoid duplications	O	L	L	C	C	C	L	C	C, F	C	L	P
Relying on partnerships and focusing on facilitation	O, C	L	C								C	C
Nurturing membership and partnership	O, C	L	C	C	C	C	C, P	C	C, F	C	C, P	L
Promoting use of the joint clearing-house mechanism	O, C	L	C	C	C	C	C	C	F	C	C, P	L

L: Leading, O: Overseeing, F: Funding, P: Promoting, C: Contributing

71. The strategies outlined above would be implemented through workplans carried out by the Secretariat and key stakeholders of the conventions.

## VI. Implementation

72. The present strategy serves as a framework for common understanding on the definition, scope, goals and objectives of the joint clearing-house mechanism. It will be used as guidance by Secretariat, Parties and other stakeholders in further development of the mechanism. The Secretariat will use this strategy to prioritize joint clearing-house mechanism activities, develop biennial workplans and budget proposals for consideration by the conferences of the Parties as part of the conventions' programme of work for each biennium. While the strategy serves as guidance for the development of the workplans, all activities with cost implications are presented to and discussed during the conferences of the Parties through the biennial workplans.

### A. Approach

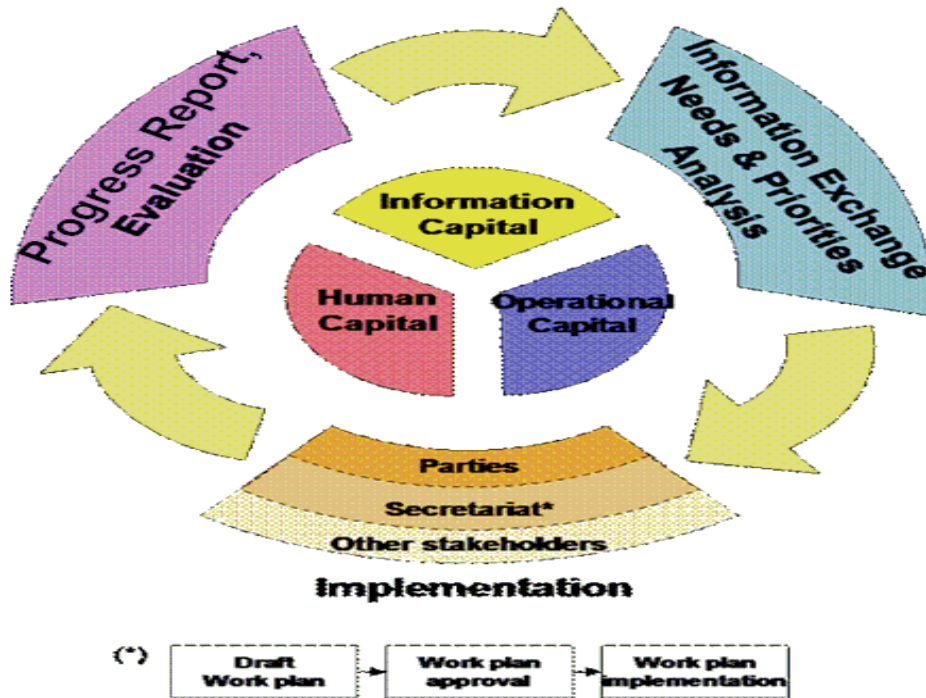
73. The implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism will follow a phased approach, with each phase consisting of two years, coinciding with the biennia and budget cycles of the conventions. Each biennium, the Secretariat will prepare or undertake:

- (a) Information exchange needs and priority analysis, on the basis of information obtained from Parties and other stakeholders at the conferences of the Parties, subsidiary body meetings, technical assistance and other types of workshops, country visits as well as user surveys;
- (b) Joint clearing-house mechanism workplan, taking into account the objectives, strategies and directions outlined in this document, for consideration and approval by the conferences of the Parties, as part of the programme of work of the conventions;
- (c) Implementation of the approved workplan, during the course of the biennium;

(d) Evaluation and progress report on implementation of the workplan, for consideration by the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

74. Each workplan will aim at increasing the usefulness of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the implementation of the conventions through a steady improvement of its performance in the areas identified under each of the objectives outlined in sections V-A-2 and V-B-2.

**Figure 1: joint clearing-house mechanism implementation approach**



75. Funding for specific activities under the joint clearing-house mechanism are included in the programme of work and proposed budgets for the consideration by the conferences of the Parties. The workplans developed by the Secretariat for each biennium would cover only the activities to be carried out by the Secretariat. Information exchange projects and other activities related to the joint clearing-house mechanism carried out by partners at the national or regional level would require separate funding.

76. The Secretariat currently concentrates its efforts on the implementation of activities related to the first goal, as well as selected activities related to the second goal, namely some pilot projects involving regional centres as well as the existing information exchange processes through the network of national focal points. To be able to fully implement the second goal and expand the joint clearing-house mechanism at a larger scale, additional resources are required to develop and manage the global network of information providers and the user community, to keep the records generated by the network, its memberships and associated activities up-to-date. In this context the Secretariat will undertake fund raising activities and support fund raising activities of partners and other convention's stakeholders as appropriate, following guidance from the conferences of the Parties.

## **B. Biennial implementation cycle**

### **1. Information exchange needs and priority analysis**

77. Each biennium, during the preparation of the proposed programme of work, the Secretariat, in consultation with Parties, will analyse the information exchange needs and priorities. This analysis will be presented for consideration at the next meeting of the conferences of the Parties. Together with this analysis, the Secretariat will prepare a workplan and budget for the biennium. Parties will have the opportunity to consider, and amend as appropriate the workplan during the meetings conferences of the Parties.

## **2. Workplan implementation**

78. On the basis of the workplan approved by the conferences of the Parties, the Secretariat will work with relevant stakeholders and partners in the implementation of the activities in the workplan, taking into account the priorities set by the conferences of the Parties. During the implementation the Secretariat will collect relevant information and statistics for the evaluation that will take place at the end of the biennium.

## **3. Evaluation**

79. The evaluation will be conducted by the Secretariat at the end of each phase, i.e., every two years, and it will be done through two main mechanisms: a user survey performed at the middle of the biennium, in time to report to the conferences of the Parties; and through Parties' and stakeholders' feedback during meetings and workshops. The results of those evaluations will be presented to the conferences of the Parties for their consideration.

## **4. Timeframe**

80. This strategy is proposed to be used to further develop the joint clearing-house mechanism during the next three bienniums 2018–2019, 2020–2021 and 2022–2023. In 2023, the present strategy will be reviewed to adapt it to any new requirements that may arise for effective implementation of the conventions. Any comments and suggestions received from Parties and other stakeholders during this timeframe will be collected and used as the basis for its review, incorporated in the strategy and presented to the conferences of the Parties in 2023 for their consideration.

# **VII. Performance indicators**

81. To conduct the evaluations, the Secretariat has developed a series of performance indicators aimed at measuring the performance for each of the established objectives outlined in chapter V above. Examples of these performance indicators are presented in appendix I to the present document.

82. Performance indicators are measured at the end of each phase during the evaluation. The final evaluation for each objective is based on an analysis of indicators and on Secretariat's judgment of the success of each of the objectives outlined in chapter V above, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties.



## Appendix I

### Examples of performance indicators for the joint clearing-house mechanism progress reports and evaluations

#### I. First goal: Enhancement of infrastructure and services to facilitate identification, collection, integration and exchange of information and the creation of a global knowledge base relevant to support the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

##### A. Objectives and performance indicators

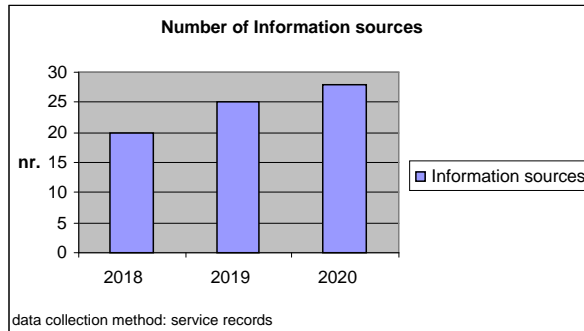
###### 1. Value added

1. The value added of the joint clearing-house mechanism tools, services and information can be measured with the following performance indicators:

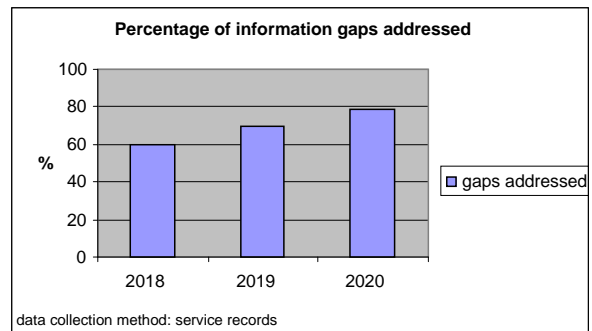
- (a) Number of information sources added to the joint clearing-house mechanism;
- (b) Percentage of information gaps addressed;
- (c) Number of information packages;
- (d) User perception of value of information to meet the goals of the conventions (will be evaluated through user surveys).

2. The intention of the strategy is to achieve growth in each of these indicators measured each year starting from 2018 and during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.

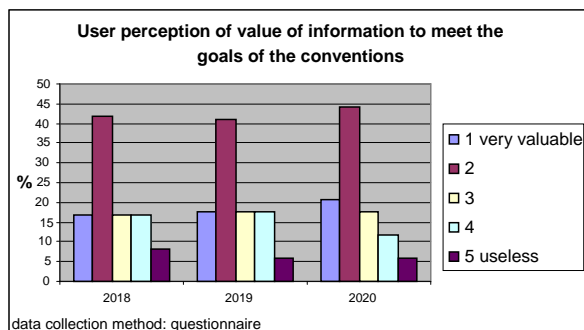
*Information sources*



*Information gaps*



*Value*



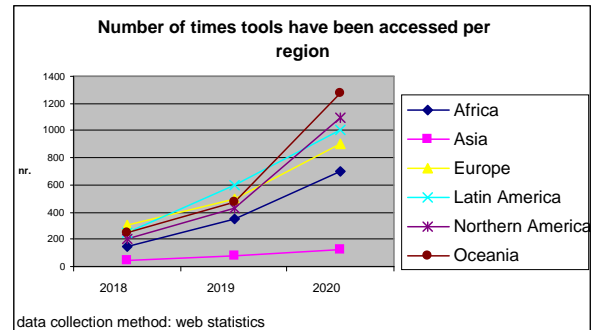
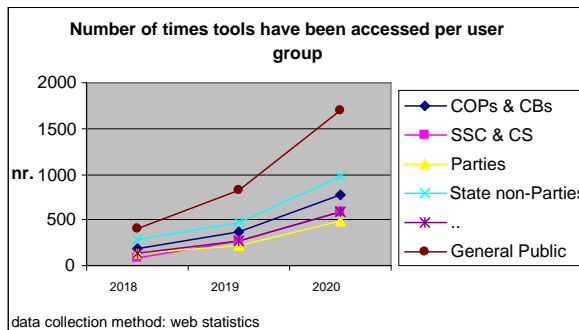
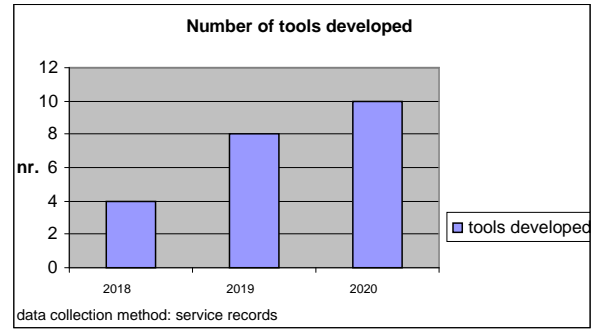
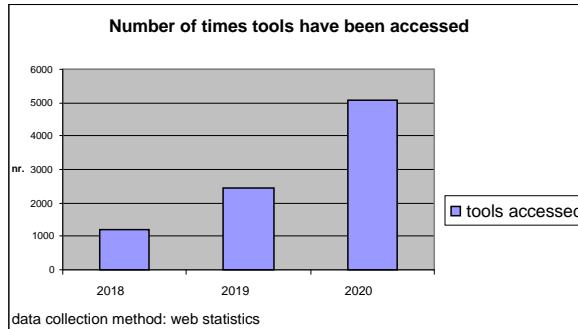
2. Use

3. The use of the joint clearing-house mechanism can be measured with the following performance indicators:

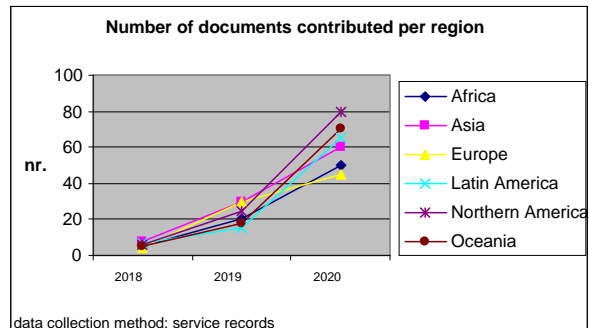
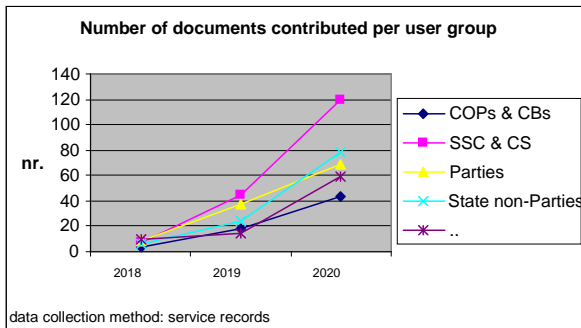
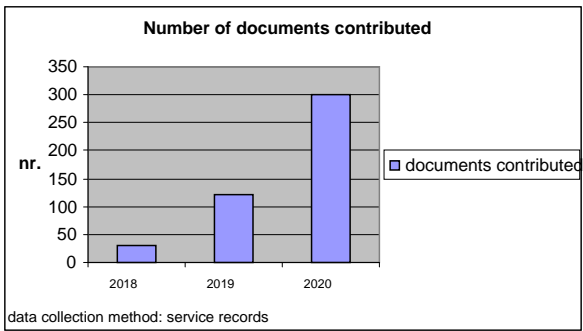
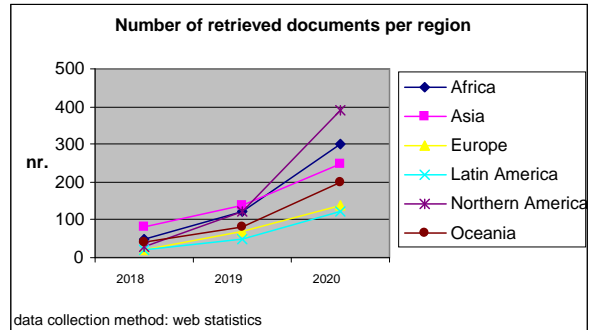
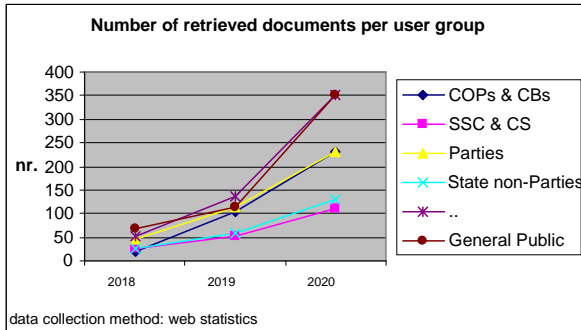
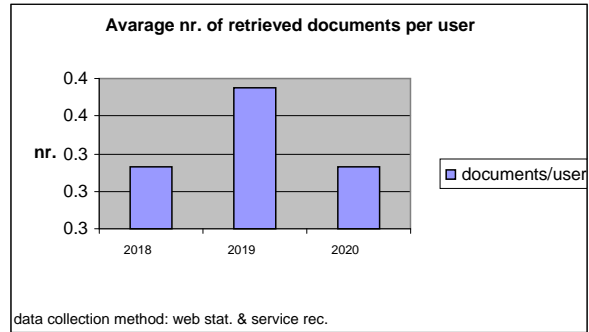
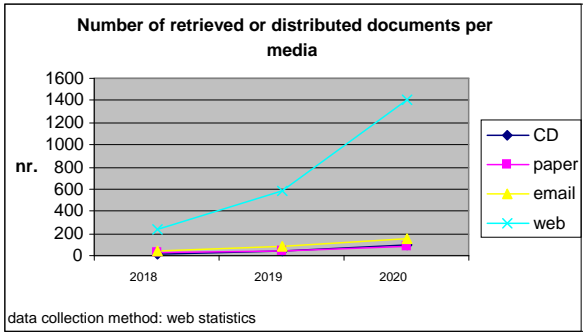
- (a) Number of times tools have been accessed;
- (b) Number of tools developed;
- (c) Number of times that tools have been accessed per user groups, per region;
- (d) Number of retrieved or distributed documents;
- (e) Average number of retrieved documents per user;
- (f) Number of retrieved documents per user or per region;
- (g) Number of documents contributed per user, per region;
- (h) Number of times that services have been used;
- (i) Number of documents and other contributions by joint clearing-house mechanism members.

4. These indicators will be evaluated by analysing the website statistics and producing the graphs per year. The intention is to achieve growth in each of these indicators each year starting from 2018 and during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.

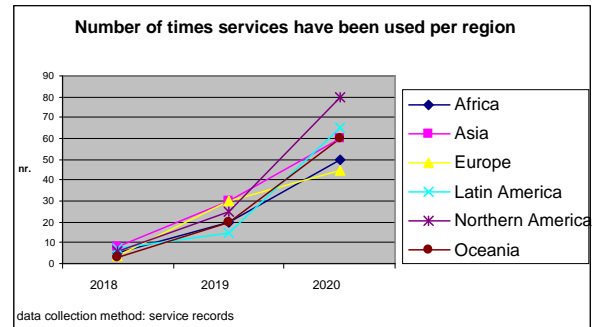
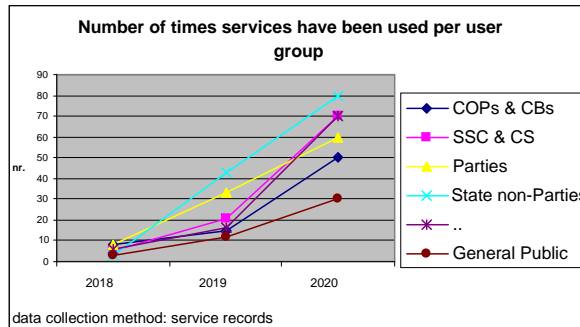
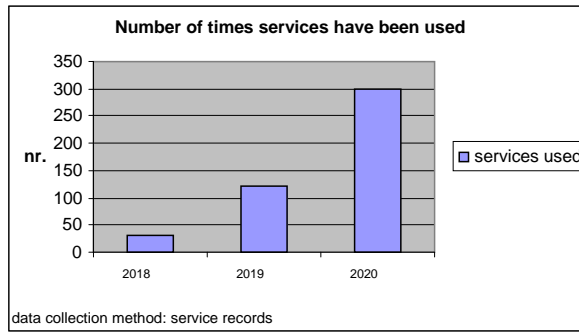
Tools



Information products



Services



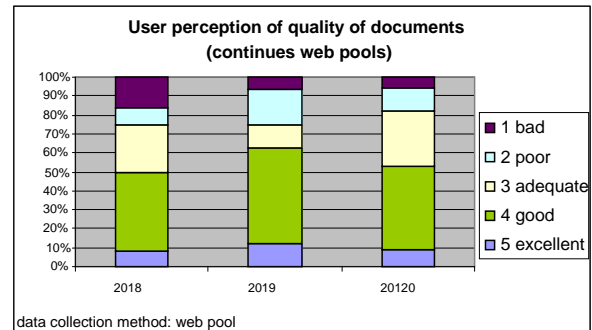
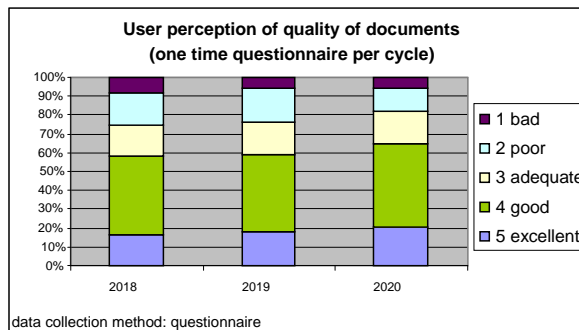
3. Quality

5. The quality of the joint clearing-house mechanism can be measured with the following performance indicators:

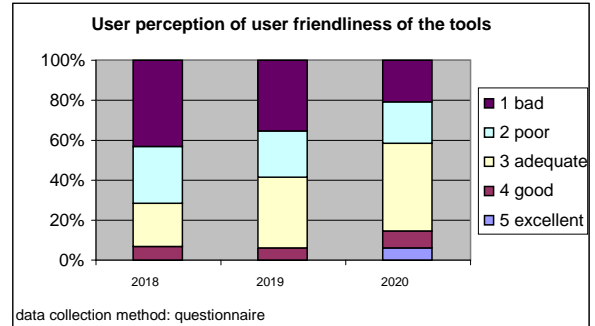
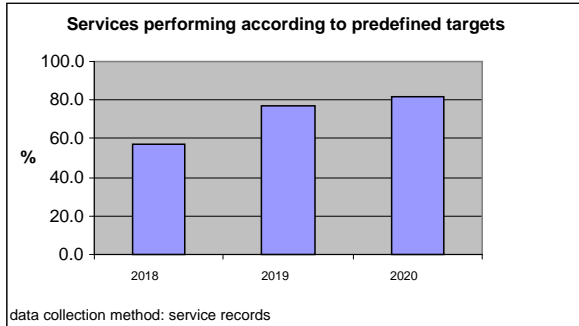
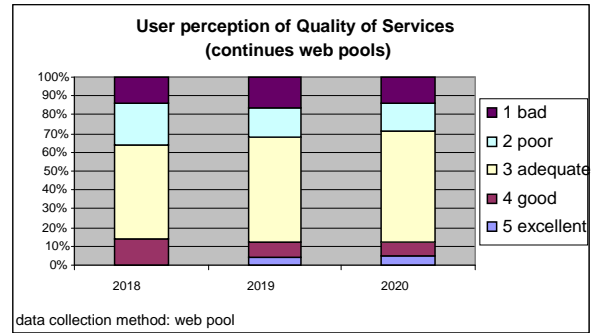
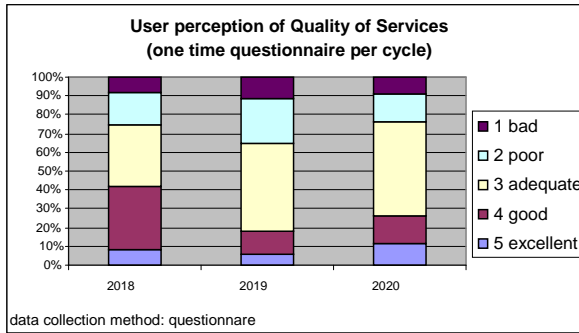
- (a) User perception of quality of documents;
- (b) User perception of quality of services;
- (c) Number of services performing for specific target audiences;
- (d) User perception of user-friendliest of the tools;
- (e) User perception of the quality of the information.

6. These indicators will be evaluated by conducting user surveys and collecting user feedback during workshops and other meetings and producing the graphs per year. The intention is to achieve growth in each of these indicators each year starting from 2018 and during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.

Information products

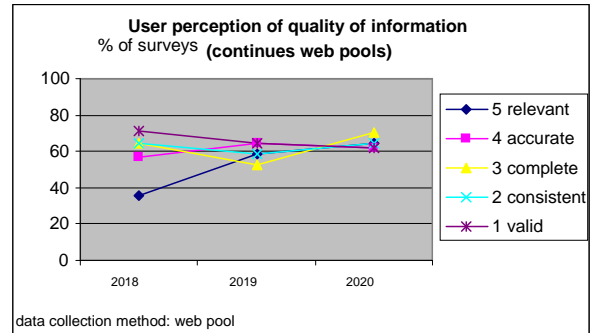
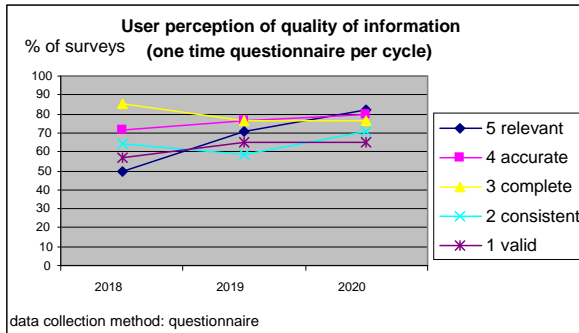


Services



Tools

Information



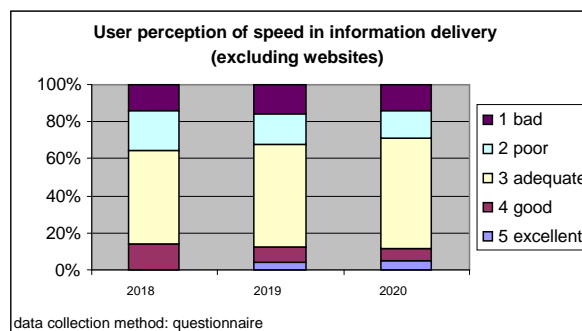
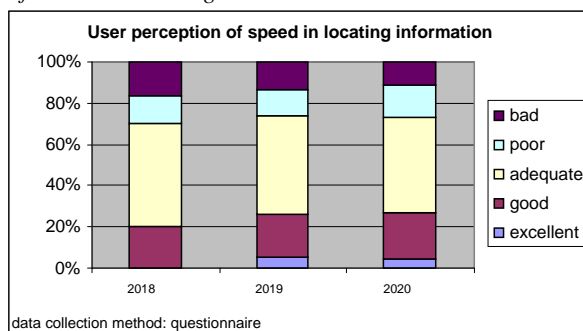
4. Speed and Facility

7. The speed and facility of the joint clearing-house mechanism can be measured with the following performance indicators:

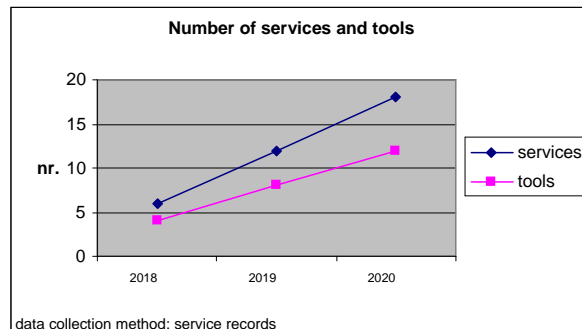
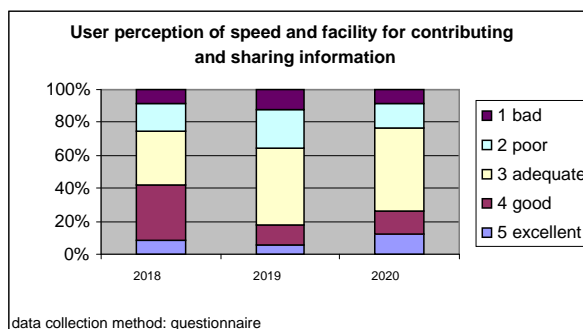
- (a) User perception of speed in locating information;
- (b) User perception of speed in delivering information (upon request to the Secretariat);
- (c) User perception of speed and facility for contributing information;
- (d) Number of services and tools;
- (e) Percentage of server uptime;
- (f) Number of systems failures;
- (g) Average number of reported bugs per tool.

8. These indicators will be evaluated by conducting user surveys and collecting user feedback during workshops and other meetings, as well as statistics collected by the Secretariat from the Secretariat hosted systems, and producing the graphs per year. The intention is to achieve growth for performance indicators (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) each year starting from 2018, and to minimize the number of failures and bugs in the joint clearing-house systems during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.

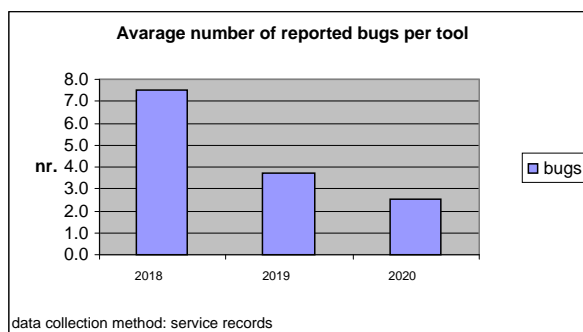
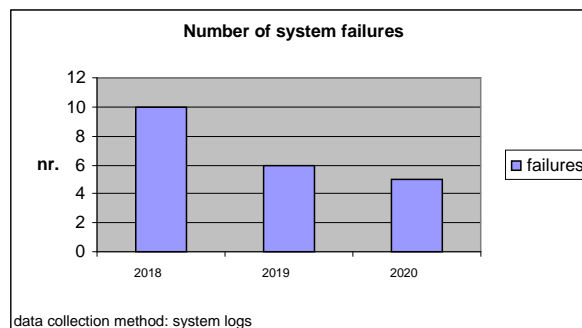
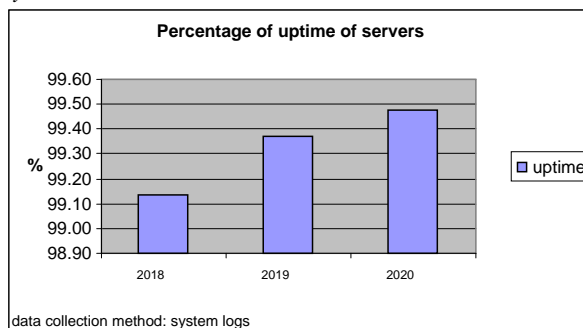
*Information handling*



*Facilities*



*System*



**5. User needs responsiveness**

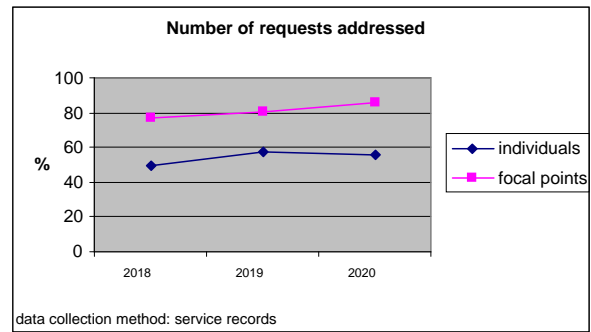
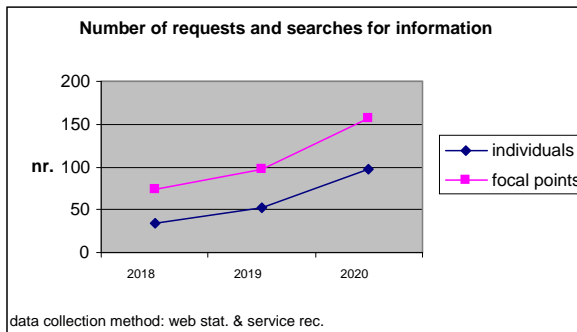
9. The user needs responsiveness is the capacity of the joint clearing-house mechanism to identify and address user needs in a responsive manner. It can be measured with the following performance indicators:

- (a) Number of requests and searches for information;
- (b) Number of requests addressed;

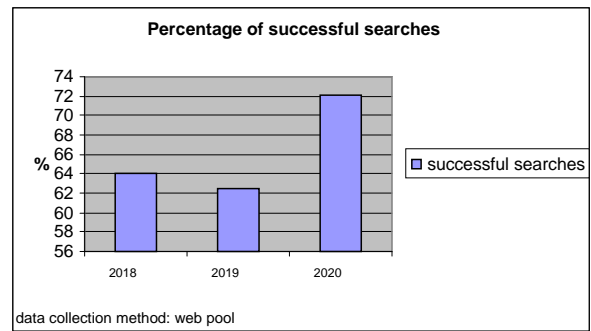
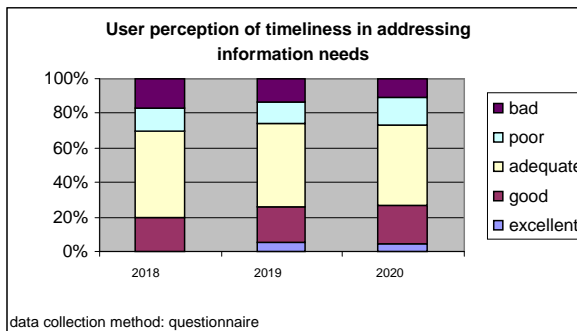
- (c) User perception of timeliness in addressing their information needs;
- (d) Percentage of successful searches;
- (e) Number of requests for information integration that have been addressed;
- (f) User perception of helpfulness of the joint clearing-house mechanism for integrating information;
- (g) Number of documents;
- (h) Size of data in the joint clearing-house systems;
- (i) Number of information packages;
- (j) Number of website pages;
- (k) Number of information products (website pages, website sections, documents, etc.) packaged to address specific needs of user groups;
- (l) Number of services performing for specific target audiences.

10. These indicators will be evaluated by conducting user surveys and collecting user feedback during workshops and other meetings, as well as statistics collected by the Secretariat from the Secretariat hosted systems, and producing the graphs per year. The intention is to achieve growth in each of these indicators each year starting from 2018 and during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.

*Information needs*

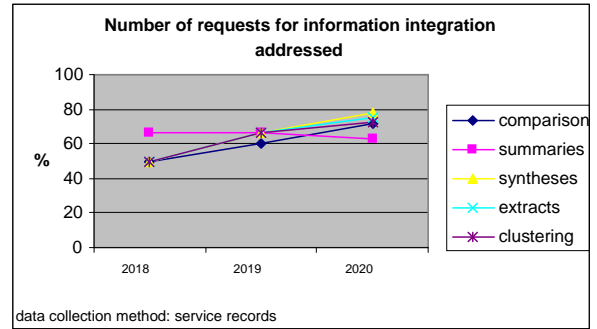
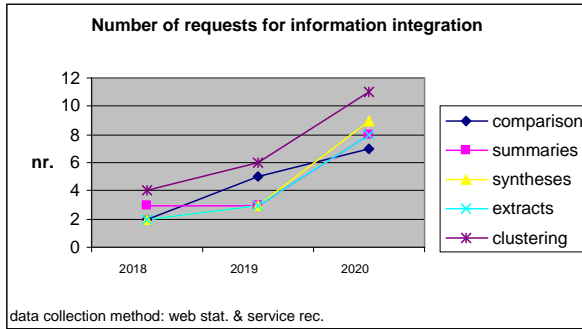


*Response*

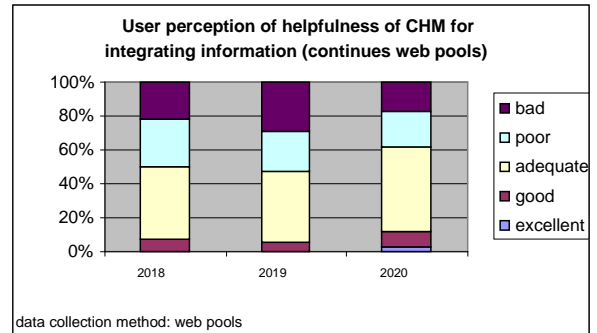
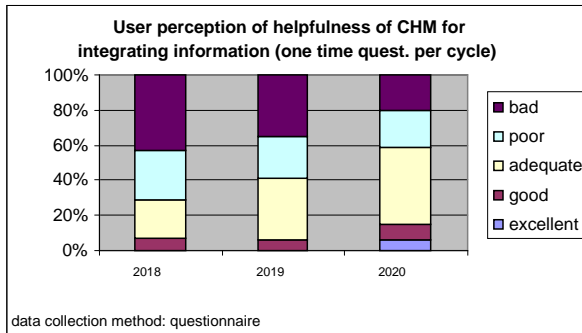


## Integration

### Needs

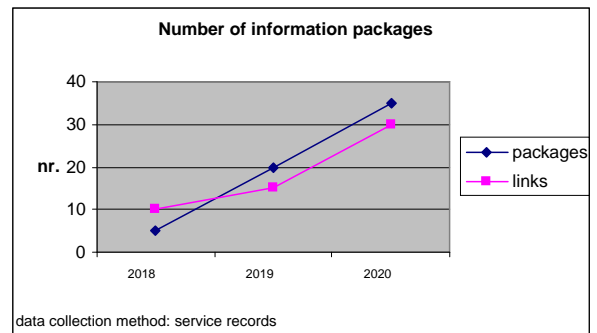
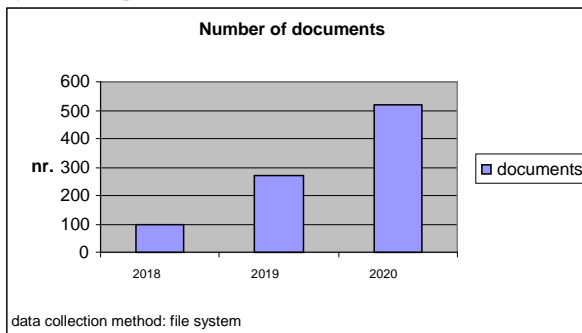


### Helpfulness

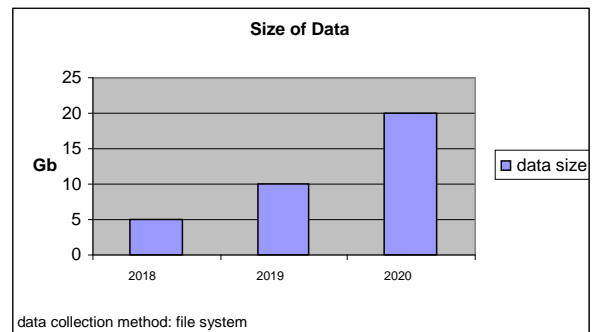
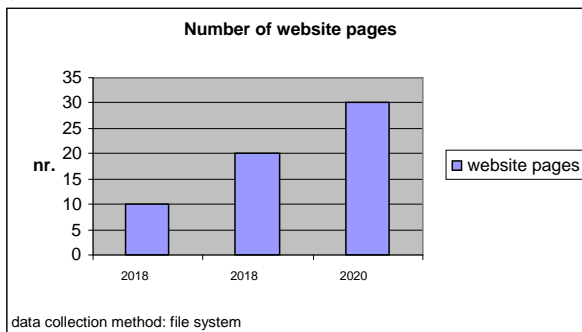


## Volume

### Information products



### System





## II. Second Goal: Establishment of the joint clearing-house mechanism global network of information providers, users and institutions, having the common needs of sharing information and expertise for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

### A. Objectives and performance indicators

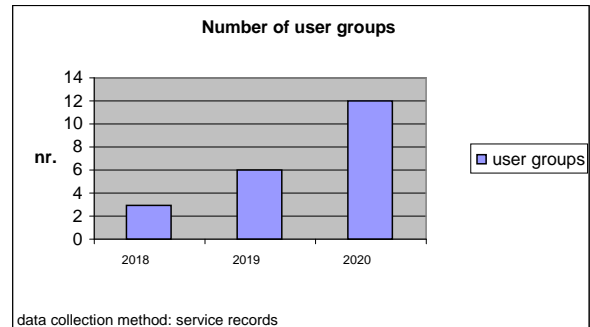
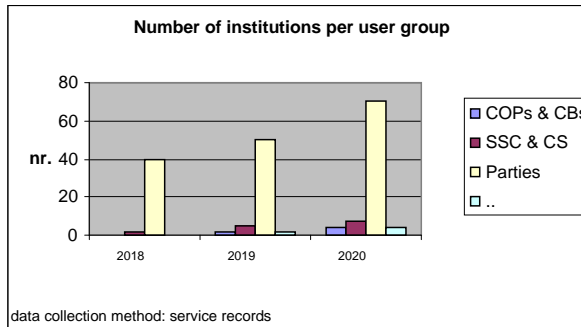
#### 1. Network membership and enrolment

11. The progress in network membership and enrolment can be measured with the following performance indicators:

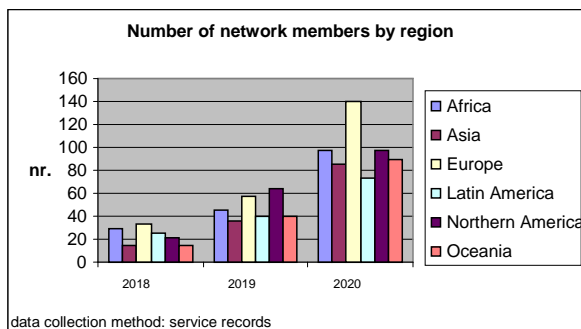
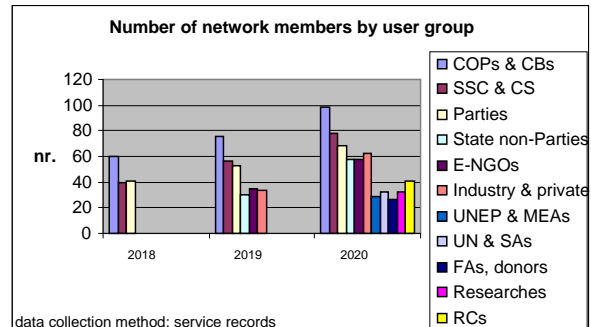
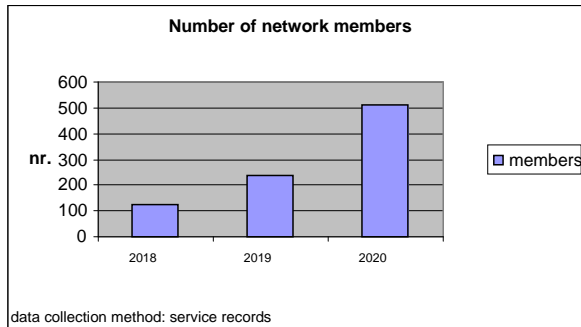
- (a) Numbers of member institutions per user groups;
- (b) Number of user groups;
- (c) Number of network members (by user groups and by regions).

12. These indicators will be evaluated by using the statistics collected by the Secretariat from the Secretariat hosted systems, and producing the graphs per year. The intention is to achieve growth in each of these indicators each year starting from 2018 and during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.

#### Parties and user groups



#### Members



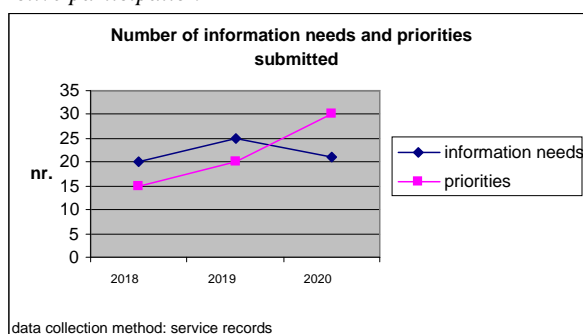
## 2. Member responsiveness

13. The member responsiveness is the capacity of the joint clearing-house mechanism members to contribute information and support other members of the community in a responsive manner. It can be measured with the following performance indicators:

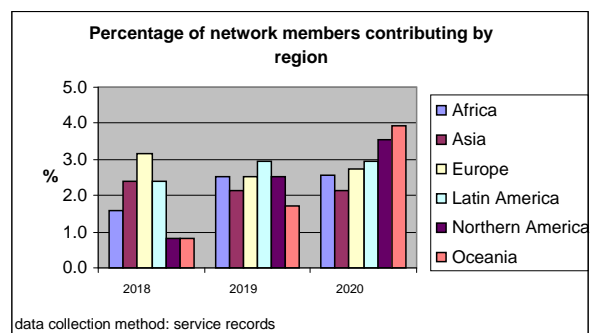
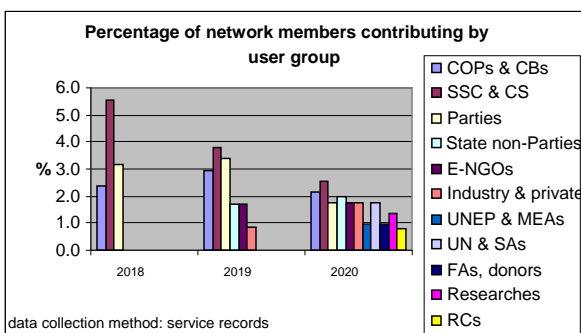
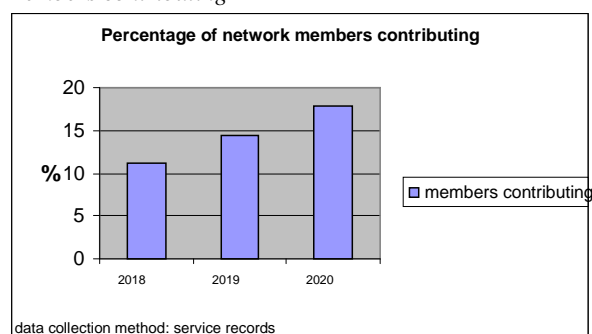
- (a) Number of information needs and priorities submitted;
- (b) Percentage of network members contributing information (by user groups and by regions);
- (c) Number of available experts in the region;
- (d) Number of expertise areas per region;
- (e) Number of sound measures, experiences and case studies contributed by members;
- (f) Number of joint information contributions.

14. These indicators will be evaluated by using the statistics collected by the Secretariat from the Secretariat hosted systems, and producing the graphs per year. The intention is to achieve growth in each of these indicators each year starting from 2018 and during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.

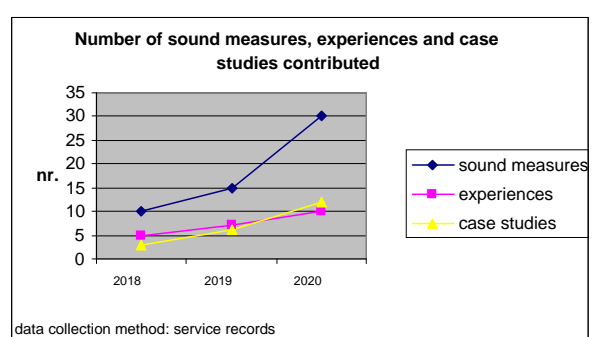
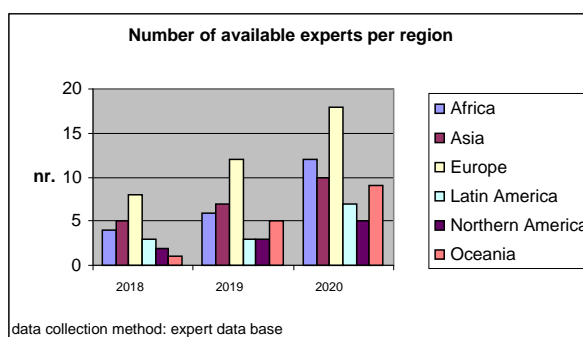
### Active participation

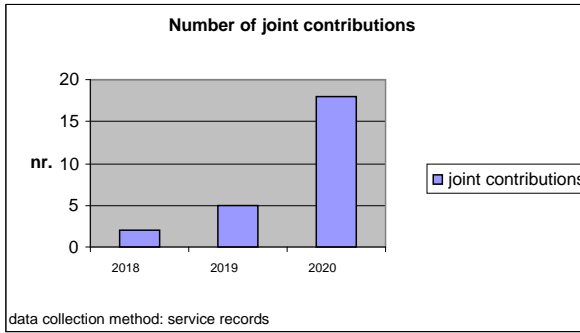


### Members contributing



### Member interaction





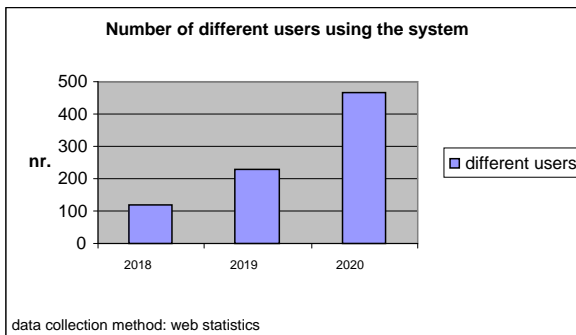
**3. Awareness and use of the clearing-house mechanism**

15. The awareness and use of the joint clearing-house mechanism can be measured with the following performance indicators:

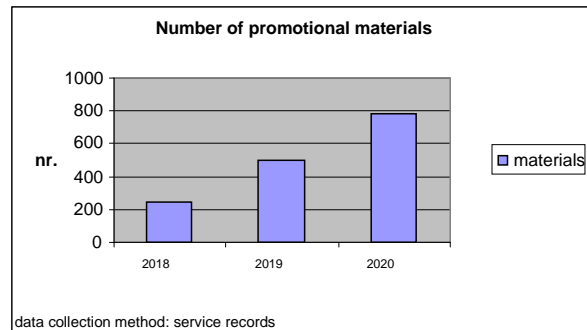
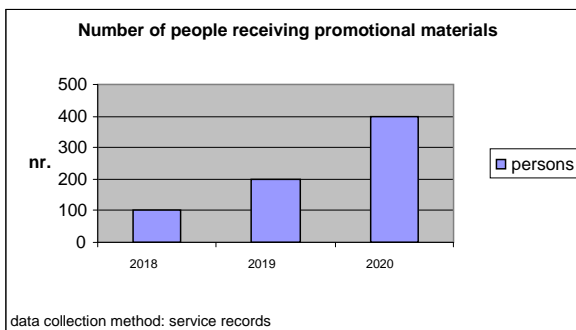
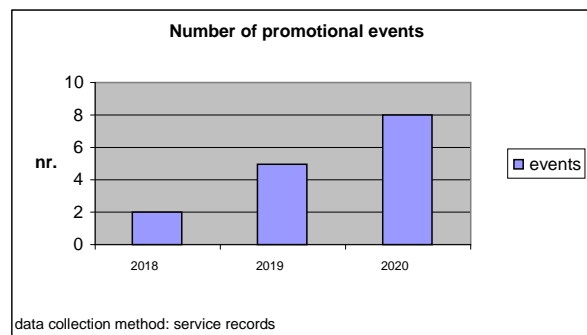
- (a) Number of different users using the system;
- (b) Number of promotional events;
- (c) Number of promotional materials;
- (d) Number of people receiving promotional materials;
- (e) Number of unique visits to the websites.

16. These indicators will be evaluated by using the statistics collected by the Secretariat from the Secretariat hosted systems, and producing the graphs per year. The intention is to achieve growth in each of these indicators each year starting from 2018 and during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.

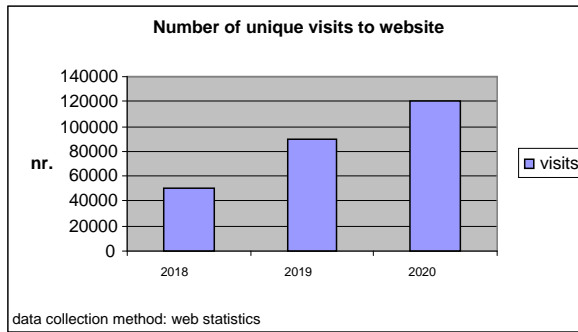
*Users*



*Promoting*



Website

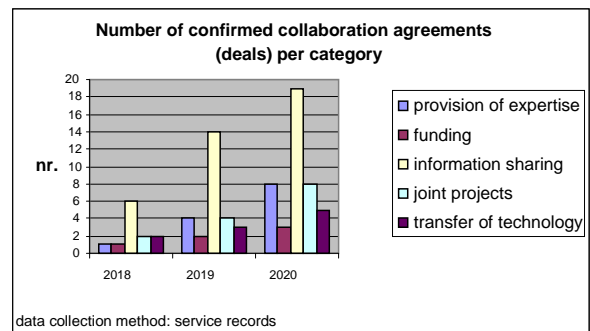
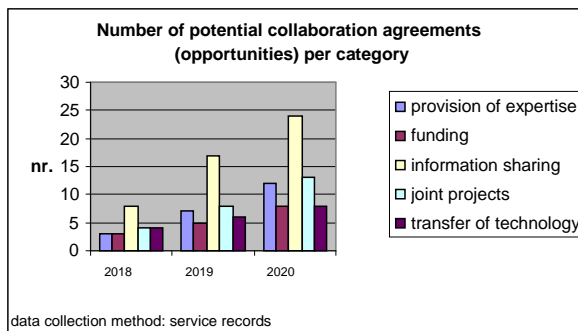
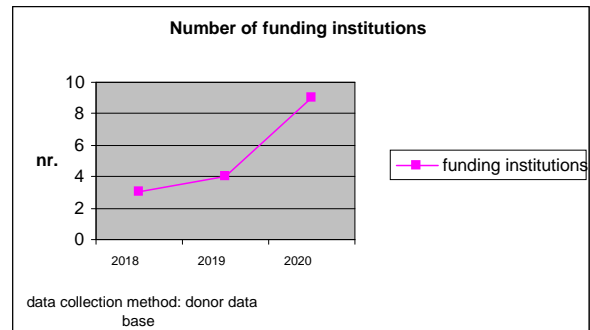
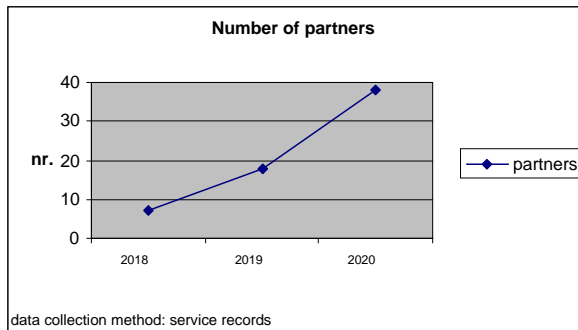


4. Collaboration

17. Collaboration between network members of the joint clearing-house mechanism can be measured with the following performance indicators:

- (a) Number of partners;
- (b) Number of funding institutions which are members;
- (c) Number of collaboration agreements between institutions which are members of the clearing-house.

18. These indicators will be evaluated by using the statistics collected by the Secretariat from the Secretariat hosted systems, and producing the graphs per year. The intention is to achieve growth in each of these indicators each year starting from 2018 and during the whole period of implementation of the strategy.



## Appendix II

### Feedback provided by Parties in relation to the scope of the information and network members to be included on the joint clearing-house mechanism

1. By decisions BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29 on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, the conferences of the Parties invited Parties and others to provide comments on the draft joint clearing-house mechanism strategy,<sup>21</sup> in particular on the scope, national and regional priorities and needs, and goals described in section IV of the strategy.
2. To this aim, the Secretariat conducted an online survey to collect feedback from Parties and others on the draft joint clearing-house mechanism strategy from 5 October to 31 December 2015. All responses received, as well as a summary of the results, are available on the website at this URL: <http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=4648>.
3. The section below provides a synopsis of the responses concerning the scope of information scope and network membership for the joint clearing-house mechanism.

#### I. Information capital

4. Section II on “Definition and scope” of the present document describes the information scope of the joint clearing-house mechanism and articulates it through broader information categories covering sub-thematic information. The following list outlines, in more detail, specific information needs expressed by Parties and other stakeholders through the different feedback collected by the Secretariat:

- (a) Scientific information on health and environmental impacts;
- (b) Information on best practices and experiences;
- (c) Information on technical and financial assistance;
- (d) Legislative and regulatory information;
- (e) Information on socio-economic impacts;
- (f) Information on technology transfer;
- (g) Information on status of implementation of the conventions, other information;
- (h) Thematic areas identified by COPs (i.e. BC-12/21, RC-7/11, SC-7/29 paragraph 5(a));
- (i) Emerging issues;
- (j) Technical information on alternative pesticide molecules;
- (k) Illegal transportation of waste returned and related information;
- (l) On the priority control of waste disposal technology advanced, the degree of processing, pollution control and the level of the relevant information;
- (m) Methods and experience in handling hazardous waste pollution incidents;
- (n) Information on developing countries and identifying vulnerable regions towards chemicals;
- (o) Information on other related conventions;
- (p) Exchange of lectures organized by the regional centres in the treatment and final disposal of hazardous waste and chemicals. Exchange strategies prepared by the member countries in waste management;
- (q) Information on projects and implementation activities undertaken by different conventions’ stakeholders, including information about the successfulness of the realized projects;
- (r) Information regarding studies, research, and pilot cases on alternatives and innovations;
- (s) Access guides, manuals, guidelines and toolboxes;

<sup>21</sup> See [UNEP/CHW.12/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/56](http://www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=4648).

- (t) Technical information on chemicals subject to the Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention and the waste streams of the Basel Convention;
- (u) Consciences of policymakers and other entities following the down-up procedures and top-down, radio programs, Online training;
- (v) Information on international standards for the exchange of information (provided by the Secretariat);
- (w) Quality information for information / data provided by the Parties (provided by the Secretariat), via email of focal points of any country and then the focal points share with the other stakeholders of his/her country;
- (x) Information about the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should be mainstreamed into education and literacy courses for farmer communities and other vulnerable groups.

## **II. Human capital**

5. Section II on “Definition and scope” of the present document describes the user groups and their role within the joint clearing-house mechanism. The users are grouped in broader categories covering more specific target audience. The following list outlines additional stakeholder groups that Parties and other stakeholders recommended to be part of the joint clearing-house mechanism:

- (a) Pupils, students;
  - (b) Teachers;
  - (c) Individuals;
  - (d) Civil society in general;
  - (e) Associations and / or different forms of civil organization of indigenous peoples;
  - (f) Consumer associations.
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