



**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  
Fourteenth meeting**  
Geneva, 29 April–10 May 2019  
Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Enhancing cooperation and  
coordination among the Basel,  
Rotterdam and Stockholm  
conventions: from science to action**

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## Draft road map on from science to action

### Note by the Secretariat

As is mentioned in the note by the Secretariat on from science to action (UNEP/CHW.14/24–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/27), the annex to the present note sets out a draft road map on from science to action prepared by the Secretariat. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

\* UNEP/CHW.14/1.

\*\* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/1.

\*\*\* UNEP/POPS/COP.9/1.

## **Annex**

### **Draft road map on from science to action**

**For further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in an informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the regional and national levels**

**Further revised draft: January 2019**

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Background

1. At the 2015 meetings, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants adopted decisions BC-12/22, RC-7/12 and SC-7/30, by which they recognized the importance of the science-policy interface for the effectiveness of the conventions and the need for greater access to scientific understanding in developing countries to enhance informed decision-making on the implementation of the conventions. The conferences of the Parties stressed the need for scientific underpinning for decision-making and policymaking in the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the national and regional levels.

2. At the 2017 meetings, the conferences of the Parties adopted decisions BC-13/22, RC-8/15, SC-8/25, by which they emphasized that, through its subsidiary bodies, expert groups and other related mechanisms, including with other partners, the necessary processes are in place to ensure science-based work and decision-making under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

3. The conferences of the Parties further emphasized the importance of and the need to enhance the interaction among scientists, policymakers and other actors in the policy process to promote the exchange, development and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of achieving more informed decision-making for reaching the objectives of the conventions.

4. Parties and other stakeholders were encouraged to initiate action to promote science-based decision-making and action in the implementation of the conventions at the national level. The Secretariat was requested, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with regional centres, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in science-based decision-making and action in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The Secretariat was also requested to cooperate and coordinate with UN Environment and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders towards strengthening the science-policy interface.

5. The need to strengthen the science-policy interface is being considered by a number of international and institutional bodies, for example the following, which may have transferrable elements or models for consideration:

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme,<sup>1</sup>
- (b) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs;<sup>2</sup>
- (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;<sup>3</sup>
- (d) EU High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Strengthening the science-policy interface, a gap analysis. UNEP 2017. [http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22261/Gap\\_Analysis\\_2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/22261/Gap_Analysis_2017.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)  
Existing science-policy interfaces for international chemicals and waste issues (SAICM/IP.2/INF.12), second meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, Stockholm, Sweden, 13-15 March 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Practices in the Sound Management of Chemicals. UNDESA, Stockholm Convention, UNEP 2010. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=41&menu=35>.

<sup>3</sup> OECD Global Science Forum, Strategic Directions 2015-2019. <http://www.oecd.org/sti/inno/global-science-forum.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> Final report of the High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance, 2018. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/180131-sustainable-finance-report\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/180131-sustainable-finance-report_en).

## 1.2 Developing a draft road map

6. By decisions BC-12/22, RC-7/12 and SC-7/30, the conferences of the Parties requested the Secretariat, taking into account the roles of the scientific bodies of the conventions, to develop and present to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2017 a road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the regional and national levels, noting that the road map should consider:

- (a) Exploring new activities within the mandates of the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions to enhance science-based action to implement the conventions;
- (b) Addressing the gaps in access to scientific information and knowledge, the lack of capacity to provide scientific inputs to the various processes under the conventions and the need for scientific and technical advice in relation to the implementation of the conventions;
- (c) Facilitating the exchange of scientific and technical information among Parties and other stakeholders and promoting the understanding of the scientific and technical aspects of the three conventions;
- (d) Possibilities for cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders.

7. At the 2017 meetings, the conferences of the Parties took note of the draft road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions<sup>5</sup> and requested the Secretariat, by 30 September 2017, to revise the draft road map with a focus on moving from multilateral dialogue to action at the national and regional levels while avoiding duplication and inconsistencies with existing mechanisms and taking into account the views expressed by Parties during the 2017 meetings. Parties and others were invited to submit comments on the revised draft road map by 28 February 2018.

8. The Secretariat was further requested to prepare a final draft, with a focus on enhancing science-based action at the national and regional levels, in particular with regard to section 4.2 and the appendix to the current draft road map, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions at their meetings in 2019.

9. In accordance with paragraph 8 of decisions BC-13/22, RC-8/15 and SC-8/25, which invited Parties to the conventions to nominate through their bureau representatives up to four experts per United Nations region to assist the Secretariat in further revising the draft road map, the following experts were nominated:

African States:	Mr. Babajide Ibitayo Alo (Nigeria)
Asia-Pacific States:	Ms. Jian Xiaodong (China)
	Ms. Roxana Maleki (Iran)
	Mr. Iftikhar Gilani (Pakistan)
	Mr. Ali Al-Dobhani (Yemen)
Central and Eastern European States:	Ms. Kateřina Šebková (Czech Republic)
	Mr. Juergen Helbig (European Union)
	Ms. Magdalena Frydrych (Poland)
Latin American and Caribbean States:	Mr. Agustín Harte (Argentina)
	Mr. Juan Carlos Lliquín Criollo (Ecuador)
Western European and other States:	Ms. Alison Kennedy (Canada)
	Mr. Timo Seppälä (Finland)
	Mr. Vassilios Karavezyris (Germany)
	Mr. Peter Dawson (New Zealand)

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52.

## 2. Elements of the draft road map

10. The draft road map was developed based on the situation and stakeholder analysis set out in appendix 1 to the present document, as well as the comments provided by Parties, observers and experts nominated by Parties in accordance with decisions BC-13/22, RC-8/15, SC-8/25.
11. Recognizing that each of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions has its own distinct legal mandate, the goal of this road map is to further engage Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the national and regional levels.
12. The possible activities to address the three areas of needs, challenges and opportunities identified by Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions through the situation and stakeholder analysis are summarized in Table 1 below:
  - (a) Improving the access to scientific and technical information relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
  - (b) Increasing the availability of scientific and technical information relevant to the BRS conventions in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
  - (c) Strengthening the national capacity to use the scientific and technical information for the implementation of the BRS conventions.
13. Parties and observers recommended the following in order to enhance science-based action at the national and regional levels:
  - (a) Continuing to look for ways to encourage greater cooperation between experts of the BRS conventions and existing partnerships and networks;
  - (b) Exploring the feasibility of voluntary partnerships between Parties to enhance information exchange and in particular capacity-building and training;
  - (c) Utilising existing pathways, where appropriate, including through the technical assistance plan of the Secretariat and with the regional centres, to facilitate capacity-building and training that takes into consideration regional and local circumstances.

**Table 1: Possible activities to address the needs, challenges and opportunities identified in Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions**

Needs, challenges and opportunities	Objectives	Activities	Key actors
<p><b>1. Improving the access to scientific and technical information relevant to the BRS conventions in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition</b></p> <p>Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition expressed the need for improving the access to scientific and technical information and relevant expertise needed for the implementation of the BRS conventions.</p> <p>Collaboration through national, regional and international mechanisms and multi-disciplinary partnerships and networks could contribute to increasing the access to scientific and technical information and expertise.</p> <p>The access to the following information was identified as useful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Experience of other countries in implementing BRS conventions;</li> <li>(ii) National and international regulations and standards;</li> <li>(iii) Monitoring data;</li> <li>(iv) Information on alternatives;</li> </ul>	<p>A. Enhance information exchange on scientific and technical aspects of the BRS conventions through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Clearing-house mechanism of the BRS conventions;</li> <li>(ii) Regional centres;</li> <li>(iii) National, regional and international mechanisms;</li> <li>(iv) Partnerships and networks, including with industry, civil society and academia.</li> </ul>	<p>(a) Identify relevant sources to acquire scientific information (e.g. national legislation and strategies, Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) and national reports, monitoring programmes, published academic literature, research data, conference documents and other information) and promote the use of such information including through the clearing house mechanism of the BRS conventions.</p>	<p>Parties to the BRS conventions, Secretariat</p>
		<p>(b) Identify examples of efforts by regional centres, national, regional and international mechanisms, partnerships and networks that support the exchange of scientific information and science-based action for the implementation of the BRS conventions at the national and regional levels and promote multi-disciplinary participation in such mechanisms, partnerships and networks.</p>	<p>Parties to the BRS conventions, regional centres, Secretariat</p>
	<p>B. Strengthen the access to scientific and technical information and expertise at the national and regional levels through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) National efforts, e.g. through improving the link to universities and other scientific institutions, industry and civil society;</li> <li>(ii) Regional efforts, e.g. through regional centres, partnerships and networks;</li> </ul>	<p>(a) Facilitate access to scientific and technical information through the ongoing strategy of the clearing house mechanism of the BRS conventions.</p> <p>(b) Strengthen legal and regulatory framework at the national level to establish reporting mechanisms that enable countries to have relevant information to adopt measures for chemicals and waste management, such as updating inventories, conducting risk assessment, identifying alternatives.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Parties to the BRS conventions</p>

Needs, challenges and opportunities	Objectives	Activities	Key actors
(v) Information on environmental and health risks of chemicals and wastes;  (vi) Solid waste management and hazardous waste incineration.	(iii) Collaboration among international organizations.	(c) Collaborate with different stakeholders, regional and international organizations in outreach, awareness raising and information exchange on scientific aspects of the BRS conventions.	Parties to the BRS conventions, regional centres, Secretariat, in collaboration with other entities
<p><b>2. Increasing the availability of scientific and technical information relevant to the BRS conventions in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition</b></p> <p>While the information on hazard is more readily available globally, the information specific to national or regional situations such as information on production and use, import and export, monitoring data, environmental, health and socio-economic costs and alternatives, is often lacking or insufficient in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.</p>	Support the collection, generation and use of scientific and technical information at the national and regional levels, taking into account the specific needs of Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as to support the use of third party data collected in a scientifically valid manner, as appropriate, to address data gaps in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	(a) Identify the specific needs of Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for increasing the availability of scientific and technical information.  (b) Undertake capacity building activities to improve the generation, collection and use of information at the national and regional levels.	Secretariat  Secretariat, regional centres, in collaboration with other entities
<p><b>3. Strengthening the national capacity to use the scientific and technical information for the implementation of the BRS conventions</b></p> <p>The capacity to review and assess scientific and technical information to support</p>	Strengthen the national capacity to use the scientific and technical information for the implementation of the BRS conventions and to provide national inputs to various processes under the conventions.	(a) Identify the specific needs of Parties from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to strengthen the capacity to use the scientific and technical information for the implementation of the BRS conventions.	Secretariat

Needs, challenges and opportunities	Objectives	Activities	Key actors
<p>decision-making and implementation of the conventions is often lacking or insufficient in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.</p> <p>This gap results in the lack of capacity to provide scientific and technical inputs to various processes under the conventions, e.g. review of candidate chemicals.</p> <p>Scientific and technical information, preferably generated at the national level, and expert advice is needed in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Understanding the scientific aspects of the conventions;</li> <li>(ii) Undertaking risk analysis/evaluation of specific chemicals to support national decisions;</li> <li>(iii) Providing national inputs to the various processes under the conventions;</li> <li>(iv) Developing and implementing safer alternatives, including nonchemical alternatives, and avoiding regrettable substitutes.</li> </ul>		<p>(b) Develop training materials and undertake training to strengthen the national capacity to use the scientific and technical information for the implementation of the BRS conventions.</p>	<p>Secretariat, regional centres, in collaboration with other entities</p>

## Appendix: Situation and stakeholder analysis

### 1. Situation analysis

#### 1.1 Online survey

1. In developing the draft road map, the Secretariat conducted an online survey<sup>1</sup> from 3 August to 10 October 2016. A total of 127 respondents (governments: 72; intergovernmental organizations: 6; regional centres: 9; industry: 11; civil society: 13; academia: 13; others: 3) provided information on the challenges and opportunities in bringing science and policy together. Of these, 96 (76%) were from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

2. Respondents identified several types of involvement with intergovernmental organizations. These included participation in the meetings of the conference of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies, for example, the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention and the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention. The most commonly reported collaboration with international organizations was the implementation of projects, e.g. national implementation plans, waste management initiatives, compilation of inventories. Participating in or provision of training courses or workshops and the development of educational materials were also identified. Awareness raising campaigns such as World Health Organization (WHO) international lead poisoning prevention week of action were also mentioned. Some respondents noted that they were executing or implementing agencies for projects and others noted that they provided technical assistance.

3. Respondents indicated extensive use of scientific and technical information to inform national and international decisions or policy making processes. Scientific and technical information is regularly used to provide the rationale for new or amended laws and regulations. It is also used in risk analysis/evaluation for specific chemicals to support decisions such as authorization of the import of chemicals or the registration or re-authorization of pesticides.

4. Of the 127 respondents, 89 indicated that their organization found it easy to access and download scientific and technical information related to the conventions; 82 found it easy to access and download information for decision or policy making. Overall, respondents from developing countries and countries with economies in transition indicated lower access to information.

5. Respondents indicated that in their work they obtained information through the review of domestic legislation of other countries, scientific journals and books. Documents and other data available through the Secretariat and scientific bodies under the conventions and international organizations (e.g. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and WHO) are regularly used when developing national positions.

6. The internet (56%) and in-person contact (54%) were considered the most effective mode of obtaining scientific or policy guidance. Websites are the most commonly used sources for scientific or policy guidance (90%) followed by e-mail (79%), web conferencing (76%) and in-person contacts (76%). A higher proportion of respondents from developing countries and countries with economies in transition indicated that social media networks and online discussion forums were effective means to obtain such information.

7. The type of information sought included experience from other countries, including national regulations, and national and international standards and monitoring information. Topics of interest among respondents included solid waste management, hazardous waste incineration, crematoria and endocrine disruption. In addition to the use of the published scholarly literature, respondents reported the use of existing national policies such as national legislation, strategies, meeting documents and other information available through the conventions' Secretariat and international organizations.

8. Data are generated as part of regular monitoring programmes or one-time surveys, including international initiatives such as the Global Monitoring Plan (GMP) of the Stockholm Convention, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and FAO Programme on the Prevention and Disposal of Obsolete Pesticides. Data and information generated through studies conducted by governments, universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is used, in addition to national monitoring programmes, to meet the reporting requirements such as PRTRs and environmental compliance reports. Therefore, those studies are also important source of data and information. In

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5276/Default.aspx>.

some countries, data collected through environmental compliance and monitoring are made available on the internet.

9. While some respondents indicated that current access to information met their needs, there were many suggestions on ways in which the BRS conventions websites could be improved. These suggestions indicated the need for the website to become a more searchable database rather than purely a repository of meeting documents, to more clearly guide the user to resources including other documents on the web, experts in other countries, or information and data from Parties. A regular news service on the topics of relevance to the BRS conventions was also suggested.<sup>2</sup> Strengthening regional structures and information at the regional level was also noted as something that would improve implementation of the BRS conventions.

10. E-mail was identified as a useful means of communication, but other more interactive tools were also suggested. Greater involvement of non-government stakeholders was identified as a potential opportunity for further growth. More opportunities for civil society to comment on draft documents through a web-based platform or national/regional workshops could ensure broader participation. More consideration needs to be given to ensuring documents and other information are available in multiple languages to ensure fuller participation from all regions.

## 1.2 Challenges and opportunities identified

11. The challenges identified through the online survey included the following:

- (a) The cost of obtaining information;
- (b) The data gaps, especially data relevant to countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (non-OECD countries) and the lack of capacity to generate data in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- (c) The lack of information in the national language;
- (d) The need for improved networking, exchange of information and communication among Parties to the conventions and all stakeholders involved in the sound management of chemicals and wastes (industry, private sectors, civil society, academia) as well as increased participation of youth;
- (e) The lack of national capacity to review and assess information including the capacity to undertake systematic reviews of the evidence (from elaborating the search strategy, appraisal of articles, and synthesis of the evidence);
- (f) Knowledge translation, i.e. making scientific information understandable to policy makers as well as a general audience, so that it can be used effectively in decision-making.

12. An improved science-policy interface could facilitate the decision-making in the BRS conventions and support their effective implementation.

13. Identifying opportunities to address the lack of capacity in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to access scientific and technical information, as well as to improve the ability for those countries to understand and assess domestically the implications of that information to support policy making regarding the Conventions at the national, regional and international levels, and, where appropriate, through building the capacity to generate relevant national data, could improve the sound management of chemicals and wastes and contribute to sustainable development, including achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>2</sup> A monthly newsletter of the Secretariat of the BRS conventions (BRS Newsletter) has been available since March 2016. <http://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4633/Default.aspx>.

## 2. Stakeholder analysis

14. This section provides an overview of the relevant stakeholders. For the successful implementation of the road map, all relevant stakeholders should actively engage in carrying out the various activities. Regular exchange on progress, challenges and opportunities will be an essential means of moving forward.

### 2.1 Parties to the BRS conventions

15. Parties to the BRS conventions are the main actors and the beneficiaries of the road map. Information is lacking in particular for developing countries and countries with economies and transition.

16. Parties have a role in supporting the science-policy interface at the national level, facilitating participation of the major groups in national discussions relevant to the BRS conventions, and supporting the involvement of major groups in regional and international fora.

17. Official contact points, competent authorities, national focal points, designated national authorities of the BRS conventions respond to the invitations for providing information and comments, nominating experts, and submitting national implementations plans and national reports, as required by the BRS conventions. In doing so, Parties are expected to solicit information and comments widely from their national stakeholders.

### 2.2 Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres

18. The Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres play a key role in providing technical assistance and promoting the transfer of technology to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition relating to the implementation of the obligations under the conventions at the regional level.

19. Currently there are 14 regional and coordinating centres for the Basel Convention and 16 regional centres for the Stockholm Convention, of which 7 centres serve Parties to both conventions.

20. The regional centres are well placed to enhance collaboration within the region they serve by facilitating information exchange, making documentation available in relevant languages, providing training, fostering dialogue and facilitating input into the BRS decision-making process.

### 2.3 Subsidiary bodies and experts of the conventions

#### 2.3.1 Basel Convention: Open-ended Working Group

21. The Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. The OEWG is mandated to consider and advise the Conference of the Parties on issues relating to policy, technical, scientific, legal, institutional, administration, finance, budgetary and other aspects of the implementation of the Convention within the approved budget, including identification of the specific needs of different regions and sub-regions for training and technology transfer and to consider ways and means of ensuring the establishment and functioning of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres for Training and Technology Transfer.

22. Various technical guidelines on environmentally sound management of wastes and other guidance documents of a scientific nature have been developed, through the work of intersessional and expert working groups. Parties and observers have opportunities to take part in such groups and contribute to their work.

#### 2.3.2 Rotterdam Convention: Chemical Review Committee

23. The Chemical Review Committee (CRC) is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. In accordance with the processes provided in Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the Convention, the Committee reviews notifications of final regulatory actions and proposals for listing severely hazardous pesticide formulations in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention and makes recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for listing such chemicals and pesticide formulations in Annex III to the Convention.

#### 2.3.3 Stockholm Convention: Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

24. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. In accordance with the processes provided in Article 8 of the Convention, the Committee reviews information on chemicals that are proposed by

Parties for listing in Annex A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention. The process includes the review of a wide range of scientific and technical data provided by Parties and observers.

#### **2.3.4 Stockholm Convention: global monitoring plan**

25. The global monitoring plan is an important component of the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention. It provides a framework for the collection of comparable monitoring data on the presence of POPs from all regions to provide data on regional and global environmental transport and to identify changes in POP concentrations over time.

26. The global monitoring plan is implemented at the regional level, with data and information collection, including capacity-enhancement activities and development of regional monitoring reports, under the responsibility of regional organization groups in each of the five UN regions. A global coordination group oversees the implementation of the global monitoring plan across the regions and the development of the global monitoring plan.

27. A guidance document on the global monitoring plan is also available to support comparability and consistency in monitoring results, including guidelines for collection, analysis and reporting of information and data.

#### **2.3.5 Stockholm Convention: other science-based assessments**

28. To assist Parties in implementing Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention and take measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production of POPs, best available techniques and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) have been documented for the sources of release of these chemicals, and relevant guidelines and guidance developed to support Parties in implementing their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

29. Furthermore, a harmonized framework for the elaboration of comparable release inventories of unintentionally produced POPs is currently provided by the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional POPs. The work on these matters is conducted through the joint Toolkit and BAT/BEP expert roster, including government-nominated technical experts and representatives of industry and the civil society.

30. The Stockholm Convention requires the Conference of the Parties at least every three years, to evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information. A DDT Expert Group has been established to provide an assessment of production and use of DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control and to make recommendations on the continued need for DDT and on other relevant issues pertaining to DDT.

### **2.4 Partnerships of the conventions**

31. Partnerships of the conventions contribute, among other things, to facilitate policy makers' access to scientific/technical expertise and information and support science-based action for the implementation of the conventions.

32. For example, the PCB Elimination Network<sup>3</sup> connects experts from academia, industry, civil society and policy makers from governments. The Advisory Committee of the Network identifies the need for further guidance and information and provides such technical support accordingly. The Global Alliance for Alternatives to DDT<sup>4</sup> links the scientific experts and policy makers in a similar manner.

33. The Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) under the Basel Convention was a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership that provided a forum for representatives of personal computer manufacturers, recyclers, associations, academia, environmental groups, international organizations and governments to increase the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment.<sup>5</sup> Through the working group of the Partnership, PACE guidance document<sup>6</sup> was developed.

<sup>3</sup> Established in decision SC-4/9.

<sup>4</sup> Established in decision SC-4/2.

<sup>5</sup> Established in decision IX/9.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/31/Rev.1.

## 2.5 Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

34. The functions of the Secretariat are provided in Article 16 of the Basel Convention, Article 19 of the Rotterdam Convention and Article 20 of the Stockholm Convention. The Secretariat, among other things, makes arrangements for meetings of the conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies and provides them with services as required; prepares and transmits reports or information as required by the conventions or the conferences of the Parties; receives, compiles and makes available information as required by the conventions or the conferences of the Parties; facilitates assistance to Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of the conventions; ensures necessary coordination with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies; communicates with focal points and competent authorities.

35. Under the Stockholm Convention, the Secretariat serves as a clearing-house mechanism for information on POPs, including information provided by Parties, Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) and NGOs.

## 2.6 Intergovernmental organizations

36. IGOs, in particular the following nine organizations that are participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) are essential to strengthening cooperation and increasing coordination in the field of chemical safety:

- (a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
- (b) International Labour Organization (ILO);
- (c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
- (d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
- (e) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO);
- (f) United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR);
- (g) World Health Organization (WHO);
- (h) World Bank; and
- (i) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

37. At its second session, the United Nations Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director to strengthen the science-policy interface regarding the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by continuing to collaborate with other relevant United Nations bodies and to facilitate the work of scientific panels that provide integrated assessments to support policy making, especially those for which United Nations Environment Programme has the secretariat function.<sup>7</sup>

38. The international community is considering the role of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) beyond 2020. The result of that consideration will be adopted in the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management in 2020.

## 2.7 Industry/private sector

39. Industry and the private sector have an important role in the sound management of chemicals and wastes, including research and development of safer alternatives and in ensuring that chemicals are manufactured, transported, used and disposed in a sound manner. They are important sources of data and information and, in accordance with national laws, often have a responsibility to inform workers, consumers and other users about the adverse health and environmental effects and preferred environmental management practices. Industry and the private sector play an important role in providing state-of-art technical information on, and knowledge of, the chemicals under review by the subsidiary bodies of the conventions.

## 2.8 Civil society

40. Civil society contributes to the sound management of chemicals and wastes through awareness raising, monitoring and surveillance activities, by participating in the meetings of the Conventions and their subsidiary bodies, and providing information to the public and about the chemicals under review

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 2/5, section V, science-policy interface.

by the subsidiary bodies of the conventions. Civil society organizations can also act as a voice for consumers, workers, vulnerable and indigenous peoples.

41. Competent authorities, academia and civil society are also important sources of data and information as they could provide independent, objective, reliable, publicly available data, which are essential for appropriate scientific advice.

## **2.9 Academia**

42. Researchers in academia contribute to the expansion of the knowledge base on chemicals and wastes and their effects. They may also be involved in monitoring and surveillance activities, exploration of alternatives, and development of new techniques and provision of information regarding chemicals under review by the subsidiary bodies of the conventions. Independent experts often work within academia or other research institutions, and high quality, peer-reviewed research is, along with additional information on hazard and exposure, critical for policy making.

43. Scientific societies or academies promote their discipline and often have an interest in both education and the science-policy interface. Their membership will include leading experts in their field of knowledge.

## **2.10 Non-party States**

44. States that are not Parties to the Conventions can contribute scientific expertise, information about their domestic regulatory systems, and legislation to assist other countries with implementation. Non-party states also may contribute financial resources through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) or other mechanisms.

## **2.11 Financial resources**

45. Financial resources can support activities relevant to the implementation of the BRS conventions, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

46. The GEF is currently the principal entity entrusted with the operations of the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention. It has been responsive to growing needs for funding for POPs by increasing allocated resources in each replenishment period, although there is still a gap between funding provided for POPs activities through the GEF and the funding identified as being needed to fulfil Convention obligations. The GEF has an advisory body called the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel. It comprises of six expert advisers supported by a Secretariat, who are together responsible for connecting the GEF to the most up to date, authoritative, and globally representative science.

47. The Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM has been created to provide support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their sustainable institutional capacity to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation and to gain access to financial and other resources for effective frameworks for the implementation of the legally binding chemicals and waste conventions and SAICM.

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