

Questions and Answers during the webinar sessions on the “Outcome of the third meeting of the Expert Working Group on Environmentally Sound Management of hazardous and other wastes”

17 and 19 February 2015

Q. One of the practical manuals being developed by the Expert Working Group is on waste prevention. At the same time, the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG), at its ninth meeting, in September 2014, developed a roadmap for the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration on the prevention, minimization and recovery of hazardous and other wastes. Will the Expert Working Group on ESM contribute to the implementation of the Cartagena declaration?

A. The Expert Working Group is developing a manual on waste prevention but there are differing opinions as to what could be the contribution of the Expert Working Group on ESM to the roadmap for the implementation of the Cartagena declaration. For example, the group could work on providing further guidance on waste prevention strategies and contribute to the activities in the roadmap for the implementation of the Cartagena declaration. The roadmap for the implementation of the Cartagena declaration was endorsed by OEWG9, but the decision on the implementation of the roadmap will be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at the twelfth meeting, in May 2015.

Q. What will be the timing of the publication of the official documents related to the work of the Expert Working Group, including the manuals and other guidance?

A. A report on the activities of the Expert Working Group, its work programme and the practical manuals on the implementation of ESM which were developed by the Expert Working Group will be translated into the five remaining languages of the UN and published as pre-session documents during the month of April 2015. In addition to these documents, an information document containing waste stream fact sheets and a report on private sector incentives will also be issued (in English only).

Q. During the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in May 2015, will a contact group be created to discuss the documents and the work programme of the Expert Working Group on ESM?

A. During the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, a contact group may be proposed for this agenda item. It is a possibility that a contact group on strategic matters be requested to discuss matters associated with the Expert Working Group, i.e. the report of the Group’s activities, its work programme and outputs, and the road map for the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration.