

THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

Learning centre on Overcoming new challenges in
chemicals and hazardous wastes management

CSD-19

NLB Conference Room B

6 May, 3-6 pm



Overview (1)

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- A framework for Life Cycle Management
 - ▣ The 3 conventions together cover elements of “cradle-to-grave” management
 - ▣ Common thread = POPs (pesticides and industrial chemicals)
 - ▣ Common objective = to protect human health and the environment
- Interlocking scope and coverage

Basel

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- **Basel** Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Adopted 1989 in response to concerns about developed country companies dumping hazardous wastes in developing countries
- Entered into force on 5 May 1992
- To date it has 176 Parties

Rotterdam

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- **Rotterdam** Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- Adopted in 1998 in response to dramatic growth in chemicals trade, and vulnerability of developing countries to uncontrolled imports
- Entered into force on 24 February 2004
- To date it has 143 Parties

Stockholm

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- **Stockholm** Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Adopted in 2001 in response to an urgent need for global action on “POPs” (chemicals that are “persistent, bioaccumulate in fatty tissues and biomagnify through the food chain”)
- Entered into force on 17 May 2004
- To date it has 173 Parties

Scope and coverage (1)

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- **Basel** covers hazardous wastes that are explosive, flammable, reactive, poisonous, infectious, corrosive, toxic or ecotoxic
- **Rotterdam** covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons by Parties
- **Stockholm** covers 14 pesticides, and 7 industrial chemicals and by-products

Common Link

- Most POPs are covered by all three Conventions
- Many pesticides are subject to the three Conventions

Import/export (Basel)

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- **Basel** contains a prior informed consent procedure for the export and import of hazardous and other wastes
- Strengthened by later decisions to ban export of hazardous wastes from OECD to non OECD countries (ban amendment not in force)
- Strict requirements for transboundary movements – TBM (notification and movement documents)
- TBM not following the appropriate notification and consent procedures constitutes illegal traffic, which is to be considered criminal
- Party has the right to prohibit the import or to limit/ban the export of hazardous and other wastes
- TBM between Parties and non-Parties, including transit, not permitted (exception: Article 11 agreements)

Import/export (Rotterdam)

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- **Rotterdam** establishes a compulsory Prior Informed Consent procedure
- Provides mechanism for Parties to take informed decisions on future import of chemicals assisted by Decision Guidance Documents (DGDs)
- Improves capacity to prevent unwanted imports and avoid future stockpiles of obsolete pesticides

Import/export (**Stockholm**)

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- **Stockholm** restricts import/export of POPs
- Okay if for environmentally sound disposal or for an exempted use that is permitted for the importing Party

Waste management (Basel 1)

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- **Basel** underlying objective: Environmentally sound management (“ESM”) of hazardous and other wastes
- ESM: “taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes” (Art. 2)
- ESM further defined through technical guidelines, for instance on ESM of POPs as wastes

Waste management (Basel 2)

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- **Basel** requires each Party:
 - To minimize waste generation and transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes
 - To ensure availability of disposal facilities for ESM located, to the extent possible, within its own territory
 - To strictly control transboundary movements and disposal operations (including storage, treatment, reuse, recycling, recovery and final disposal)
 - To prevent pollution from hazardous waste management and, if occurs, minimise the consequences thereof for human health and the environment

Waste management (Stockholm)

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- Parties must develop strategies to identify POPs wastes and manage them in an environmentally sound manner
 - ▣ POPs content of wastes generally to be destroyed or irreversibly transformed
- Prevent the creation of POPs in waste management practices
 - ▣ Requirement to apply Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP)

Technical assistance (2)

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- **Basel** and **Stockholm** provide for regional centres for training and technology transfer:
- **Rotterdam** works closely with existing regional structures: FAO/UNEP regional offices

Other institutional issues

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- **COPs:** similar roles, including keeping under continuous review and evaluation the effective implementation of the Convention
- **Technical and scientific bodies:**
 - **SC:** POPs Review Committee;
 - **RC:** Chemical Review Committee;
 - **BC:** Open Ended Working Group;
- **Implementation and compliance/non-compliance mechanisms:**
 - **BC:** Implementation and Compliance Committee since 2002;
 - **RC** and **SC:** Under negotiation
- **Dispute settlement** provisions (**SC, RC, BC**)
- **Secretariats:** Similar roles, including to facilitate assistance to Parties on request



Thank you!!

For further information please visit us at:

www.basel.int

www.pic.int

www.pops.int