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**BASEL CONVENTION** 

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal Distr.: General 22 April 2022 English only



Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal Fifteenth meeting Geneva, 26–30 July 2021 and 6–17 June 2022<sup>\*</sup> Agenda item 6 Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel,

coordination among the Base Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions: clearing-house mechanism for information exchange Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade Tenth meeting Geneva, 26–30 July 2021 and 6–17 June 2022\* Agenda item 7(a) Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm

coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions: clearing-house mechanism for information exchange Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Tenth meeting Geneva, 26–30 July 2021 and 6–17 June 2022\* Agenda item 7(a)

Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions: clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

# Workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2022–2023

#### Note by the Secretariat

1. As is mentioned in the note by the Secretariat on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange (UNEP/CHW.15/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/18-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/22), the annex to the present note sets out the workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2022–2023.

2. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>\*</sup> In accordance with decisions BC-15/1, RC-10/2 and SC-10/2 of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the 2021/2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties are being held in two segments: an online segment held from 26 to 30 July 2021 and a face-to-face segment to be held from 6 to 17 June 2022, in Geneva.

#### Annex

# Workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2022–2023

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### I. Information exchange needs of Parties

1. In line with the clearing-house mechanism strategy,<sup>1</sup> the Secretariat has collected, through various processes and documents as described below, information and comments from Parties and other stakeholders on the joint clearing-house mechanism. A number of Parties and other stakeholders expressed the usefulness of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the importance of a balance between benefits obtained and invested resources. Therefore, any activity undertaken by the Secretariat on the joint clearing house-mechanism involves first the collection and consideration of the actual information needs and priorities of Parties and others.

2. Information exchange needs and priorities expressed by Parties and others have been collected through the following processes and documents:

(a) Decisions BC-14/23, RC-9/11 and SC-9/21 on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange in which Parties requested the Secretariat to implement the maintenance activities outlined in section II.A of the workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2020–2021<sup>2</sup>, and to implement, subject to the availability of resources, new activities outlined in section II.B of the same workplan. A number of activities of the workplan have been implemented by the Secretariat as funding became available;

(b) Report of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (online segment)<sup>3</sup> held from 1 to 3 September 2020, in particular section III.B.5 on wastes containing nanomaterials;

(c) Report of the fifth meeting of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)<sup>4</sup> held online on 26 and 27 January 2021;

(d) Note on responses received from Parties to the questionnaire for the calendar year 2017 and 2018 on the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 11 and Articles 12 and 14 of the Rotterdam Convention outlined in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/7;

(e) Note on the information dissemination strategy for increasing the understanding and usefulness of tools and guidance to effectively address obligations and procedures relevant to the Rotterdam Convention outlined in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/14;

(f) Conclusions of the subregional workshop to enhance science-policy-industry interaction and to support Parties in science-based decision-making for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions outlined in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/49-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/54, and submissions received from Parties on actions taken to promote the implementation of the roadmap for science to action;<sup>5</sup>

(g) Report of the annual joint meetings of the directors of the regional centres held online on 23 and 24 November  $2021.^{6}$ 

3. Pursuant to decisions BC-14/23, RC-9/11 and SC-9/21, Parties requested the Secretariat to continue the work to implement strategy of the joint clearing-house mechanism; to implement maintenance activities outlined in the clearing-house mechanism workplan for the biennium 2020–2021;<sup>7</sup> and, subject to availability of resources, to implement the new activities outlined in same workplan for the biennium 2020–2021. Thanks to the generous financial contributions provided by the European Union and the Government of Norway, as is mentioned in document UNEP/CHW.15/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/18-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/22, a number of the related activities have been, or are being, implemented. Activities still ongoing, or for which funding was not available during the biennium 2020-2021, are outlined in sections II.B.1 and II.B.2 of the present document.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.14/INF/39-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/32-UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW/ENFORCE.5/3 (available from www.basel.int/tabid/8712).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/6132.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/8958.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> UNEP/CHW.14/INF/39-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/32-UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/41.

4. Pursuant to section III.B.5 of the report of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention<sup>8</sup> related to wastes containing nanomaterials, Parties emphasized the importance of continuing to exchange information, including on case studies and best practices, among the Parties and others.

5. Pursuant to paragraph 33 of the report of the fifth meeting of ENFORCE<sup>9</sup>, the proposed activity 7 outlined in section II.B.3 below has been re-focused compared to the previous joint-clearing-house mechanism workplan.<sup>10</sup> Members of the ENFORCE agreed that the library of training tools and activities should be further updated and cross-linked.

6. In section V of the note by the Secretariat on responses received from Parties to the questionnaire for the calendar years 2017 and 2018 on the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 11 and Articles 12 and 14 of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/7), Parties have identified publicly available, and missing, categories of information relevant to the Convention. In Appendix III of the same note, Parties have listed the links to specific websites where information relevant for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention is publicly available.

7. In section VI of the note by the Secretariat on an information dissemination strategy for increasing the understanding and usefulness of tools and guidance to effectively address obligations and procedures relevant to the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/14), a list of dissemination tools and activities is outlined, which some could complement the clearing-house mechanism tools.<sup>11</sup>

8. In Appendix I of the report of the subregional workshop on science-based decision-making and Parties' submissions on the science to action roadmap referred to in paragraph 2 (f) of the present document, Parties have indicated the need to further improve the access to and availability of scientific and technical information, including from early warning systems.

9. In Appendix I of the report of the 2021 annual joint meeting of the directors of the regional centres,<sup>12</sup> referred to in paragraph 2 (g) of the present document, regional centres indicated that the Secretariat would participate in the projects that are being implemented to enhance information exchange with the Secretariat through its clearing-house mechanism.

### II. Description of proposed activities

10. Progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism pursuant to decisions BC-14/23, RC-9/11 and SC-9/21 is outlined in document UNEP/CHW.15/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/18-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/22. The present workplan covers activities that were not funded in the 2020–2021 biennium, and builds on activities initiated in previous bienniums, such as the portal on regional and national initiatives on marine plastics and microplastics. The present workplan also covers activities related to maintenance and updates of existing records keeping systems and websites that serve as a foundation for any joint clearing-house mechanism activity, ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts and that maintenance efforts remain minimal.

# A. Activities related to maintenance and continuity of existing clearing house mechanism services

11. Activities related to maintenance and continuity of existing clearing-house mechanism services include the maintenance and updating of effective tools for internal information management at the Secretariat level and are usually covered by core budget to ensure smooth and efficient information management operations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> UNEP/CHW/ENFORCE.5/3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> UNEP/CHW.14/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/41, in particular section II.B.6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5378.

<sup>12</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/8958.

### 1. Activity 1 – Maintenance of Secretariat records keeping systems, including documents management, correspondence tracking, meeting record systems and status of ratifications

#### (a) Needs

12. The need is to enable the Secretariat to perform its functions in a smooth and efficient manner, the Secretariat should maintain and keep up-to-date its internal information management and records keeping systems. This serves as the foundation for various information packages that the Secretariat disseminates as part of the joint clearing-house mechanism.

13. This activity contributes to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing-house mechanism strategy.

#### (b) Description

14. The Secretariat will take the necessary steps to migrate its documents management system, which includes a large amount of official meetings documents, to a new cloud-based platform in order to benefit from enhanced functionalities and security at a reasonable cost.

15. The Secretariat, where appropriate, will perform the necessary tasks to adjust its information systems so they can be hosted in the cloud in order to benefit of improved performance and enhanced security.

16. The Secretariat should also take the necessary measures and undertake data management activities to keep its information up-to-date and properly catalogued, including information on official meetings, as deemed necessary.

#### (c) Desired outcomes

17. Information exchange systems are kept efficient, interoperable and operational and contribute to supporting Parties and others in the implementation of the conventions.

#### (d) Approach, timescale and costs

18. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to program the necessary information technology tools and ensure proper data entry and cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

19. This is an ongoing or periodic activity.

20. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2022-2023: revised programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1).

## 2. Activity 2 – Maintenance of existing websites and related information dissemination systems and services

#### (a) Needs

21. The need is to keep the conventions' websites up-to-date in terms of content, tools and services, including to address the expressed need to improve access to legal, scientific and technical information across all documents referenced in section I above.

22. This activity contributes to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing house mechanism strategy.

#### (b) Description

23. The Secretariat will continue to upgrade the conventions' websites search function to provide more accurate results and direct access to online resources. To do so, the Secretariat will make use of auto-tagging tools to enhance, where necessary, indexing of web pages to provide more accurate search results.

24. The Secretariat will adjust the websites layout for a more user-friendly and responsive access to information from mobile devices.

25. The Secretariat will upgrade the websites content management system to their latest version in order to benefit from improvements and new available technologies, including an improved security against online threats.

26. The Secretariat will update its information feeds<sup>13</sup> used to provide automatic information exchange with regional centres, InforMEA and other ongoing initiatives to benefit from its taxonomy and improved tagging and indexing. The Secretariat will continue to explore possible ways to automatically exchange information with the OECD eChemPortal.

27. The Secretariat will engage Parties and others to update their joint country profiles<sup>14</sup> and joint roster of experts.<sup>15</sup>.

28. The Secretariat will maintain the prior informed consent database (PIC database) and related online submission forms on the Rotterdam Convention website to respond to necessary fixes and adjustments.

29. The Secretariat will continue to enhance the functionalities of the chemicals profiles,<sup>16</sup> the database of notifications of final regulatory actions<sup>17</sup> and the online catalogue on alternatives under development during the 2020-2021 biennium based on the needs identified by the Science to Action process and the feedback received referred to in section I above.

30. The Secretariat will continue to share most recent developments in scientific findings relevant to the conventions and to enhance its joint scientific and technical publications library.<sup>18</sup>

31. The Secretariat will continue to enhance the regional centres portal to include more information automatically provided by regional centres information systems.<sup>19</sup>

32. The Secretariat will also undertake the necessary recurrent tasks to keep the websites available and up-to-date, including data entry and data quality control.

33. The Secretariat will undertake relevant public awareness and training activities to promote the use of existing clearing-house mechanism information tools.

#### (c) Desired outcomes

34. The conventions' websites and related information exchange systems are kept up-to-date, efficient, interoperable and operational in order to support Parties and others to implement the conventions.

#### (d) Approach, timescale and costs

35. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to program the necessary information technology tools and ensure proper data entry and cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

36. This is an ongoing or recurrent activity.

37. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2022-2023: revised programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1).

#### 3. Activity 3 – Translation of the Rotterdam website into French and Spanish

#### (a) Needs

38. The need is to continue with the current practice, and to respond to the repeated recommendations from Parties and others to provide access to information in languages.

39. This activity contributes to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing house mechanism strategy.

- <sup>14</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4466.
- <sup>15</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/3791.
- <sup>16</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5341.
- 17 www.pic.int/tabid/1368.
- <sup>18</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/3790.
- <sup>19</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/8330.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5801.

#### (b) Description

40. Translation of web pages, selected documents and information systems interfaces into French and Spanish. Enhancement of multilingual search facilities.

#### (c) Desired outcomes

41. Information on the Rotterdam Convention website is provided and kept up-to-date in English, French and Spanish thereby contributing to the reduction of language barriers when it comes to accessing information related to the Rotterdam Convention.

#### (d) Approach, timescale and costs

42. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to perform the translations, complemented by staff time.

43. This is an ongoing or recurrent activity.

44. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2022-2023: revised programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1).

#### 4. Activity 4 – Hardware and software upgrades

#### (a) Needs

45. The need is to upgrade storage and processing capacity to enable the Secretariat to manage the increasing volume of information exchanged through the joint clearing house mechanism, as well as its capacity to re-package it for different target audiences, while ensuring proper security.

46. This activity contributes to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services outlined in the joint clearing house mechanism strategy.

#### (b) Description

47. Procurement, testing and deployment of information technology equipment and services required to support the joint clearing house mechanism.

48. The Secretariat will procure the necessary cloud services to test, plan and initiate the migration of its systems and servers to the cloud in order to benefit from improved performance and enhanced security.

#### (c) Desired outcomes

49. Information exchange systems are efficient, interoperable and operational in order to support Parties and others in implementing the conventions.

#### (d) Approach, timescale and costs

50. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will purchase required information technology equipment and software licenses.

51. This is an ongoing or periodic activity.

52. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2022-2023: revised programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1).

# **B.** Priority areas and new information exchange tools beyond the maintenance activities

#### 1. Activity 5 – Portal on regional and national initiatives on marine plastic litter and microplastics

(a) Needs

53. The need is to gather and provide access to information about regional and national initiatives on marine plastic litter and microplastics (see decisions OEWG-11/8 and BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29 paragraphs 5 (a) (i) and 5 (a) (ii)).

54. By continuing the work initiated in the biennium 2020-2021 to include a web portal on regional and national initiatives on marine plastic litter and microplastics in the clearing house mechanism, the Secretariat is contributing to the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and

services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing house mechanism strategy.

#### (b) **Product description**

55. The Secretariat will continue to work in collaboration with existing initiatives, including regional centres and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), to develop and keep up-to-date a searchable portal collecting information produced by the Secretariat, regional and national initiatives and others while reducing duplication of efforts. This portal will be accessible from the conventions' websites. It will aggregate in one place information produced and collected by all identified stakeholders, including those related to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as plastic can be contaminated by persistent organic pollutants or chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention. The portal will use technologies and standards as outlined in the guidance document for Parties and other stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of the joint clearing house mechanism at the national and regional levels

(UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/19) to keep the content automatically synchronized, where feasible, reducing administrative burden and costs. This approach will also ensure compatibility with the InforMEA portal.

56. The portal on regional and national initiatives on marine plastic litter and microplastics will leverage and make use of information collected by regional centres through the portal on information from regional centres that is under development in the biennium 2021-2022. This portal on regional centres will also benefit from information on marine litter and microplastics.

#### (c) Desired outcomes

57. Strengthened common regional and national documentation centres and websites, regional structures and regional centres, regional delivery of information relevant to the conventions in languages; information gaps related to marine plastic litter and microplastics identified and addressed.

#### (d) Approach, timescale and costs

58. To continue to implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to identify information providers and establish data collection processes; and to program the necessary information systems and ensure proper data entry and cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

59. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is twelve months.

60. Thanks to the generous financial contribution provided by the Government of Norway, funds have been made available for this activity for the biennium 2020-2021 as well as for the year 2022 and are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2022-2023: revised programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-

UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1).

#### 2. Activity 6 – Online information library on wastes containing nanomaterials

#### (a) Needs

61. The need is to provide access and to disseminate information related to wastes containing nanomaterials under the Basel Convention, including case studies and best practices about the management of wastes containing nanomaterials (see report of the twelfth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention (online segment)<sup>20</sup>, in particular section III.B.5).

62. By including an online information library with case studies and best practices related to wastes containing nanomaterials in the clearing house mechanism, the Secretariat is contributing to the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing house mechanism strategy.

#### (b) **Product description**

63. The online information library on wastes containing nanomaterials will be accessible from the conventions' websites. It will contain information related to wastes containing nanomaterials, including case studies and best practices about the management of wastes containing nanomaterials. It

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/16.

will be composed of a searchable database and a web application that can be updated online by the Secretariat. The database could also be updated directly by selected providers of information.

#### (c) **Desired outcomes**

64. Increased information exchange related to wastes containing nanomaterials and related success stories relevant for the implementation of the conventions; increased awareness on wastes containing nanomaterials; addressed information gaps.

#### (d) Approach, timescale and costs

65. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to identify information providers and establish data collection processes; and to program the necessary information systems and ensure proper data entry and cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

66. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is five and half months.

67. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2022-2023: revised programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1).

### 3. Activity 7 – Enhancement of the ENFORCE library of activities and tools into the joint clearing house mechanism

#### (a) Needs

68. The need is to enhance the library of activities and tools of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE)<sup>21</sup> (see paragraph 33 of the report of the fifth meeting of the ENFORCE<sup>22</sup>), in order to improve exchange of information among Parties and outreach to other science-policy groups to enhance collaboration, address knowledge gaps and improve awareness of illegal traffic issues under the Basel Convention.

69. With this activity, ENFORCE members and the Secretariat are contributing to the implementation of the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing house mechanism strategy.

#### (b) **Product description**

70. The ENFORCE library of activities and tools will be enhanced and cross-linked with other tools, ensuring that there is no duplication of efforts, and will provide access to relevant activities and tools collected by ENFORCE, with the aim to deliver capacity-building activities on preventing and combating illegal traffic in hazardous chemicals and wastes.

#### (c) Desired outcomes

71. Information on illegal traffic issues under the Basel Convention is complemented by the information collected and prepared by ENFORCE members; Parties and other stakeholders can access information on capacity-building activities and tools to prevent and combat illegal traffic.

#### (d) Approach, timescale and costs

72. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of a consultant to ensure updating and publishing of information on the ENFORCE library of activities and tools.

73. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is five and half months.

74. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2022-2023: revised programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> www.basel.int/tabid/8787.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> UNEP/CHW/ENFORCE.5/3.

## 4. Activity 8 – Online resource catalogue covering national websites containing scientific, technical and regulatory information relevant for the conventions

#### (a) Needs

75. The need is to further improve the access to, and availability of, scientific and technical information on chemicals as well as on regulatory measures relevant for the implementation of the conventions as outlined in the road map on from science to action<sup>23</sup> and to fill knowledge gaps as outlined in UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/7.

76. By developing a catalogue of national websites with scientific, technical and regulatory information relevant for the conventions, the Secretariat is contributing to the first goal on enhancement of infrastructure and services and the second goal on the establishment of a global network of information providers and users outlined in the joint clearing house mechanism strategy.

#### (b) **Product description**

77. Several processes under the conventions, such as national reporting or the yearly questionnaires on the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 11 and Articles 12 and 14 of the Rotterdam Convention, are collecting information on national websites relevant for the implementation of the conventions. The information collected is packaged through notes presented to the conferences of the Parties which are not ideal for dissemination to diverse target audiences. Bringing all this information in a user-friendly and searchable online catalogue, accessible from the Secretariat website shall help Parties and other audiences to access publicly available national resources relevant for the implantation of the conventions. Similar information is also often provided by Parties and others through other online questionnaires as well as national reporting. The information collected will also complement other information tools, including the joint country profile.<sup>24</sup>

78. The Secretariat will complement the information with data provided by selected partners, such as regional centres to enhance information access and fill knowledge gaps.

#### (c) Desired outcomes

79. Enhanced information tools to support Parties' decision making, strengthen information exchange and networking among Parties and others, and fill knowledge gaps.

#### (d) Approach, timescale and costs

80. To implement this activity, the Secretariat will seek the support of consultants to automatically extract and harmonize data collected from various processes and to ensure proper data cataloguing, complemented by staff time.

81. The estimated timescale for the implementation of this activity is three months.

82. Estimated costs for this activity are outlined in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2022-2023: revised programmes of work activity fact sheets" (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> UNEP/CHW.14/INF/40-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/44.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4466.