

**Questions and Answers during the webinar sessions on “Briefing on the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention”**

**March 2015**

Q 1. Regarding the credentials to be presented by parties at the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in case the Head of State, the Head of Government and the Minister of Foreign Affairs are not in the position to sign the credentials, is it possible for the Permanent Representative of a country in Geneva to sign the credentials?

A. The rules of procedure do not include this option among those available. If neither the Head of State, the Head of Government or the Minister of Foreign Affairs are in a position to sign the credentials, the representatives of the Party should contact the Secretariat. If needed, the Secretariat will give advice on possible solutions following consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations.

Q2. We would like to participate and present our works during the Science Fair; can we select the presentation style or the layout of a poster for a session? Is the Science Fair organized in cooperation with other international organizations? Does the Science Fair provide space to country delegations to present their experience?

A. In order to receive information and request space in the exposition booths during the Science Fair, it is necessary to contact the science fair coordinator: Katarina Magulova at: [Katarina.magulova@brsmeas.org](mailto:Katarina.magulova@brsmeas.org).

Q3 On the agenda item on admission of observers will there be an opportunity to revise the decision adopted by the parties to the three conventions at the previous COPs, in 2013, or will the discussion only focus on admission of new observers?

A. There are two parts in this agenda item: The conferences of the parties will consider a report on using the application forms and on the practices followed for the admission of observers to meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The meetings will also consider requests for admission of new observers.

Q4. Is it possible to find a provisional scheduling of the contact groups that may be created during the COPs?

A. The tentative schedule of work of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm convention contained in the information document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/2-

UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/2-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/2 (joint document), includes a tentative scheduling of the contact and other groups that could be set up during the meetings of the conferences of the parties in 2015.

Q5. Is it still possible for Regional Centre's directors to request assistance to participate in the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions?

A. It is still possible to register for the meetings, by sending the registration form to Ms. Stephanie Cadet at [Stephanie.cadet@brsmeas.org](mailto:Stephanie.cadet@brsmeas.org). Requests for financial assistance can be submitted and will be considered taking into account the availability of funding and the necessary timing required to arrange for participant's travel.

Q6. What is the objective of the regional preparatory meetings: will the regional preparatory meetings include pre-negotiations prior to the upcoming meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions?

A. The aim of the regional preparatory meetings is to provide participants with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the items on the agendas of the upcoming COPs and to undertake regional consultations. Therefore, the regional meetings will allow for the exchange of information and discussion of the issues under negotiations during the upcoming COPs.

Q7. Regarding the inclusion of new chemicals in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, is it expected that at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention the Parties reach agreement by consensus on the inclusion, or could the parties vote on this matter?

A. At the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, the parties will consider five chemicals recommended for inclusion in Annex III of the Convention by the Chemical Review Committee. The parties need to reach consensus in order to adopt a decision to include a new chemical in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention. If consensus cannot be achieved, the parties can decide to continue discussing the inclusion of the chemical at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Q8. When will the nominated participants in the GRULAC regional preparatory meeting receive the confirmation of their participation from the Secretariat?

A. The confirmation letters are scheduled to be sent by the Secretariat in the week of 23 March 2015. Any questions on travel and accommodation will have to be addressed to the Basel and Stockholm

Conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay. The Centre is making arrangements to facilitate the delivery of the visa to meeting participants.

Q9. Are discussions on the compliance mechanisms under the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions included in the programme of the GRULAC regional preparatory meeting scheduled to take place in Montevideo?

A. Two agenda items on the compliance procedures and mechanisms under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are included in the programme of the GRULAC regional preparatory meeting, taking place in Montevideo.