

Outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

*2015 Asian Network Workshop for the Prevention of Illegal Transboundary
Movement of Hazardous Wastes 23 – 25 Nov 2015, Republic of Singapore*

Juliette Voinov Kohler
Legal and policy advisor
BRS Secretariat

Overview

- BC COP-12, RC COP-7 and SC COP-7 held back-to-back during two weeks (4-15 May 2015) with joint sessions on cross-cutting issues;
- Theme of the meeting: **‘From science to action, working for a safer tomorrow’**;
- Around 1,200 participants (169 country parties, 13 UN organizations, 5 IGOs, 15 regional centres, 84 NGOs, 19 industry associations);
- Science Fair: highlighted scientific basis of the BRS conventions, with dozens of events involving various partners;
- Total of 73 decisions adopted; advance meeting reports available.

Outcomes on joint issues

– BRS decisions on technical assistance:

- Welcomed technical assistance programme and requested Secretariat to implement it;
- Invited parties to provide information on needs or availability of technical assistance and technology transfer.

– BC and SC decisions on regional centres:

- Noted that the centres had been evaluated and that their performance had been noted;
- SC COP endorsed all SC centres for another period of 4 years;
- Requested Secretariat to prepare an evaluation report of centres for 2019, and to consider possible adjustments on the evaluation methodology;
- Invited Parties to consider opportunities for effective and efficient cooperation with the regional centres in implementing the regional sound management of chemicals and wastes projects;
- Invited centres undertaking mercury-related activities under the conventions to provide information about it.

Outcomes on joint issues (ctd.)

- **BRS decisions on implementation of the integrated approach to financing:**
 - Joined UNEA in welcoming an integrated approach to the financing of chemicals and wastes, emphasizing the importance of implementing its three components: mainstreaming, industry involvement, and dedicated external finance; requests the Secretariat to assist parties in that respect, subject to the availability of resources, and recognizes the importance of the joint programme of work to that end;
 - Welcomed UNEA resolution that established the special programme and looked forward to early start of its operations;
 - Welcomed that according to the terms of reference of the special programme the Executive Secretary may participate as an observer in the meetings of the executive board of the special programme, requested him to attend such meetings and requests the Secretariat to cooperate, as appropriate, with the secretariat of the special programme.

Outcomes on joint issues (ctd.)

- **BRS decisions on budget:**
 - Approved the budget of each convention for biennium 2016-2017 at zero nominal growth;
 - Invited ED to provide information on implications of establishing a single account for staff costs and a single joint general trust fund to bureaux and make proposals on changes to financial rules for consider by next COPs;
 - Decided new measures to be applied to parties that are in arrears for 4 or more years.
- **BRS decisions on enhancing cooperation among conventions:**
 - Adopted TOR for the review of synergies arrangements to be carried out by an independent assessor;
 - Requested Secretariat to submit the report on the review and to make proposals in response to this review for consideration by the 2017 COPs.

Outcomes on joint issues (ctd.)

- **BRS decisions on international cooperation:**
 - ES requested to inform process to define post-2015 development agenda about relevance of conventions;
 - Requested enhanced cooperation within and outside chemical cluster.
- **BRS decisions on clearing-house mechanism:**
 - Took note of the joint CHM strategy and invited comments on strategy which is to be revised for 2017 COPs;
 - Requested Secretariat to provide access to thematic information in priority areas.

Outcomes on joint issues (ctd.)

- **BRS decisions on science to action:**
 - Requested the development of a road map to further engage parties and stakeholders to enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions.
- **BRS decisions on venue and date of next meetings:** 24 April 2017 – 5 May 2017, back-to-back with a one-day HLS, regional preparatory meetings.
- **BRS decisions on draft MOUs:** Decided to wait for UNEP/MEAs task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the MOUs (post UNEA-2).

Strategic issues

- **Country-led initiative : EWG on ESM**
 - Adopted the work programme of the expert working group on ESM; each region to nominate one expert on waste prevention and minimization;
 - Welcomed the set of draft practical manuals and fact sheets and invited parties and other to submit comments on them;
 - Requested the EWG to revise the set of draft practical manuals and fact sheets and submit them to OEWG-10 and COP-13.
 - *EWG on ESM 4th meeting: San Francisco, 10-12 November 2015, funding from Japan*

Strategic issues (ctd.)

- **Country-led initiative: Ban Amendment**

- Secretariat to continue to assist parties, upon request, that are having difficulties in ratifying the Ban Amendment

- **Country-led initiative : legal clarity**

- **Glossary of terms** to be finalized for consideration by OEWG-10 and COP-13

- *SIWG-3 meeting on 21-22 September 2015 in Geneva Switzerland, funding from Japan: glossary finalized available in meeting report:
<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/LegalClarity/Meetings/3rdmeetingoftheSmallIntersessionalWorkingGr/tabid/4582/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModalID/11663/EventID/555/xmid/13958/Default.aspx>*

- Initiation of a process for the **review of Annexes I, III, IV and related aspects of Annex IX** (comments and or lead Party by 30 November); consideration of the matter by OEWG-10 and COP-13

Strategic issues (ctd.)

- **Strategic Framework**
 - Conclusions in meeting report and intersessional work included in OEWG programme of work for 2016-2017
 - Low level of reporting of baseline information against which to measure progress
 - OEWG-10 to review the progress report on the preparation of the mid-term evaluation of the strategic framework.
- **Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes:**
 - Adopted the road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration; expert working group on ESM to develop guidance.
 - *EWG on ESM 4th meeting: San Francisco, 10-12 November 2015*

Scientific and technical matters

- **National reporting:**

- Adopted the revised format of the national reporting questionnaire to be used as of the year 2016;
- Decided to extend the mandate of the SIWG on national reporting to develop a user manual for the electronic reporting system and the revised format in the 6 official UN languages;
- Decided to mandate OEWG-10 to agree on a list of waste streams for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories should be developed; based on the report prepared by the Secretariat.

- **Technical guidelines**

- Adopted 7 technical guidelines on POPs wastes; review of provisional low POP content values to be done before BC COP-13;
- Agreed to develop technical guidelines on new POPs (PCP, HCBd and PCN);
- Adopted the updated technical guidelines on mercury wastes;
- Adopted the technical guidelines on TBM of e-wastes on an interim basis; need to look further into distinction between waste and non-waste.

Legal, compliance and governance matters

•Implementation and Compliance Committee

- Adopted the methodological guide for development of inventories; the revised guide to control system and the updated manual for the implementation of the Convention;
- Approved work programme of the Committee for 2016-2017;
- Elected 10 new ICC members to serve until the close of COP-14.

-Chair: Alberto Capra (Argentina), officer from Asia and the Pacific region: Geri Geronimo R. Sañez (Philippines)

-Funding from Japan for activities on illegal traffic and insurance bond and guarantee

-Questionnaire on transit issues forthcoming

-ICC-12 to be held on 4-6 June 2015 in Nairobi back-to-back to OEWG-10 (funding from Japan)

Legal, compliance and governance matters (ctd.)

- **National legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic:**
 - Encouraged parties to provide the Secretariat with texts of national legislation and other measures to implement and enforce the Convention;
 - Invited parties to share information on best practices in preventing and combating illegal traffic and to report confirmed cases of illegal traffic;
 - Requested Secretariat to prepare recommendations on possible synergies between BRS conventions in preventing illegal traffic and trade (similar conclusions from RC and SC COPs-7)

Partnerships for Technical Assistance

- **PACE**
 - Requested PACE complete the outstanding tasks from the 2014–2015 work programme
- **Creating innovative solutions for the ESM of household wastes**
 - Included in the work programme of the OEWG the development of a workplan on the ESM of household waste with a focus on the needs of developing countries and countries with EITs
 - Established an informal group to develop the workplan
 - *1th teleconference held on 5 November 2015, physical meeting planned for February 2016 (co-funding from Japan)*
- **ENFORCE**
 - Elected five representatives of parties as members (Asia and Pacific region represented by Mr. Abbas Torabi from the Islamic Republic of Iran) and designated SPREP as BCRC from the region
 - Encouraged members of ENFORCE to continue collaborating by exchanging experiences
 - Requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to organize annual meetings of ENFORCE
 - *4th teleconference held on 4 November 2015, next physical meeting planned for early 2016 (funding from Japan)*

Open-ended Working Group

- Adoption of programme of work for 2016–2017
- OEWG-10: 4 days with up to 3 days of plenary sessions with interpretation
- OEWG-10 to place from 30 May to 2 June 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya (funding from Japan), back to back to UNEA-2 and ICC-12
- Parties and others to submit to the Secretariat, within two months of the end of OEWG-10, comments on experiences with regard to the arrangements for that meeting
- COP-13 to adopt decision on future institutional arrangements for the operations of the OEWG

Thank you for your attention!

www.basel.int