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**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**
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Item 4 (c) of the provisional agenda*

**Strategic plan for the implementation of the
Basel Convention to 2010: capacity-building**

Strategic plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention: capacity-building

Note by the Secretariat

I. Background

1. In its decision V/5, on the Basel Convention regional centres, the Conference of the Parties recognized the usefulness and efficiency of ensuring that, whenever feasible, regional, subregional and national seminars, training courses and workshops funded through the Secretariat were being implemented within the framework of the regional centres network.
2. In its decision VI/11, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to continue, subject to availability of funds, promoting public awareness on the Basel Convention through conferences, workshops, preparation of audio, audio-visual and printed materials, enhancement of the Basel Convention web site and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions at global, regional or national levels. The decision also requested the Secretariat to continue developing training programmes and organizing national and regional training activities on the implementation of the Basel Convention, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and other intergovernmental organizations as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations.
3. Capacity-building – the process of assisting countries in building their capacities to make progress towards sustainable development – includes such issues as training, project activities, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, awareness-raising and the development of methodologies, tools and instruments for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes. Consequently, capacity-building-related activities are also addressed in the documentation concerning the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the implementation of the activities and the business plans of the Basel Convention regional centres, namely documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/2, 5 and 6.

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/1.

II. Implementation

4. The Secretariat has worked closely with several partners, in particular the Basel Convention regional centres, the Parties, several United Nations bodies and other international agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations for the preparation and implementation of capacity-building and training activities linked to the implementation of the Basel Convention. In line with decision V/5, whenever feasible, the capacity-building activities funded by and through the Secretariat were implemented within the framework of the regional centres network.

5. Following decision VI/11, public awareness of the Basel Convention has been promoted through the publication of several relevant materials, as listed in section A of the annex to the present note, the publication of three newsletters since the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, and the contribution of other material to several publications, listed in section B of the annex. In addition, the web site of the Basel Convention has been further developed and much improved (www.basel.int).

6. The Secretariat has published existing documentation, including 11 technical guidelines of the Basel Convention and other documents, also listed in section C of the annex, and, with the help of Parties and experts from Governments, specialized agencies, the industrial sector and universities, is developing, or contributing to, training manuals, instruments and decision-supportive tools concerning the implementation of the Basel Convention and the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, such as:

(a) Training manual for the preparation of PCB management plans – already finalized, in English, French and Spanish;

(b) Database for the inventory and environmentally sound management of PCB-containing equipments – still under finalization, in English, French and Spanish;

(c) Training manual for the preparation of health-care management plans in sub-Saharan Africa, prepared jointly by the Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO) – still at the drafting stage;

(d) Training manual for the preparation of used lead-acid battery management plans, prepared jointly by the Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Lead Management Centre (ILMC) and the University of the West Indies – also still at the drafting stage;

(e) Electronic (web-based) waste-tracking system, prepared jointly by Semarnat-Mexico, the Secretariat and Gedden Co.

7. In line with the provisions of paragraph 2 of decision VI/11, the Basel Convention Secretariat has continued developing training programmes and organizing the following national and regional training activities, as appropriate:

(a) Regional workshop on national reporting and the undertaking of national inventories of hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention (Moscow, 25–29 August 2003);

(b) Workshops for the Basel Protocol on Liability and Compensation (as described in documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/11 and 33);

(c) Regional training seminars for customs, port and law enforcement officers, Dar-es-Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, September 2002, and Port Said, Egypt, 15–19 September 2003.

8. The Secretariat has been closely involved in the preparation and conduct of several workshops on the coordinated implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and wastes, namely:

(a) Pacific regional workshop on the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention held in parallel with the Basel and Waigani conventions workshop for competent authorities on the use of the control system and the awareness-raising workshop on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) for non-governmental organizations, 26–30 May 2003, Nadi, Fiji;

(b) Third joint meeting of senior officials and legal experts on multilateral environmental agreements, 19–21 June 2003, Tulcea, Romania;

(c) Subregional workshop on the coordinated implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) on chemicals and wastes in English-speaking African countries, Pretoria, South Africa, 17–19 September 2003. The workshop was organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in South Africa and the UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network;

(d) Regional workshop on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Montevideo, Uruguay, 28–30 January 2004. The workshop was organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Uruguay and the UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network;

(e) Regional workshop on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in central and eastern Europe, Riga, Latvia, 6–8 April 2004. The workshop is being organized by the UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network and the embassy of Switzerland in Latvia.

9. The Secretariat has participated in several national workshops related to the implementation of the Basel Convention, namely:

(a) National workshop for the implementation of the Basel Convention, Busteni, Romania, 29–30 September 2003, organized by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe;

(b) National workshop for the implementation of the Basel Convention, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 30–31 October 2003, organized by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe;

(c) Training workshop on the monitoring and control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes in the context of the Basel Convention and European Union regulation, Sofia, Bulgaria, 11–12 December 2003, organized by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe;

(d) UNEP capacity-building training seminar on communications and the environment for the Palestinian Environmental Quality Authority, 13–18 December 2003;

(e) National workshop for the implementation of the Basel Convention, Kotor, Serbia and Montenegro, 26–27 March 2004, organized by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe;

(f) National workshop on the implementation of the Basel Convention, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 22–24 July 2003, organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in San Salvador.

10. The Secretariat is supporting the implementation of several regional, subregional and regional capacity-building and demonstration projects, currently being implemented in close collaboration with the Basel Convention regional centres concerned and other stakeholders, which include:

(a) National project for the preparation of a national health-care waste-management plan in Nigeria, implemented jointly with WHO and the Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria;

(b) Pilot project for the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes in the Asian region. In this context, the secretariat participated in national workshops in Colombo (4–6 December 2003), Beijing (23–25 December 2003), Jakarta (27–29 January 2004), Bangkok (3–5 February 2004), with the financial support of Japan;

(c) Project for the preparation of a regional disposal plan for obsolete pesticides in the Caribbean, co-funded by UNEP Chemicals and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, implemented by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Trinidad and Tobago;

(d) Regional project for the preparation of national inventories, action plans and strategies for the environmentally sound management of PCBs and PCB-containing equipment in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) subregion, funded by UNEP Chemicals and with the participation of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Pretoria;

(e) Regional project for the environmentally sound management of PCBs and PCB-containing equipment in Central America, co-funded by the Secretariat and UNEP Chemicals and coordinated by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in El Salvador;

(f) Establishment of a polychlorinated dibenzodioxin (PCDD) and polychlorinated dibenzofuran (PCDF) release inventory in a sub-Saharan context, with a particular focus on specific local practices. This is a demonstration project mounted jointly by UNEP Chemicals and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, fully funded by UNEP Chemicals, with the participation of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Senegal.

11. The Secretariat is contributing to the preparation of prominent regional project activities and programmes in close collaboration with other important stakeholders, namely:

(a) Africa Stockpile Project – a joint project of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, CropLife, the African Union, UNEP Chemicals and other bodies;

(b) Inter-agency cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) to initiate project activities in countries where ship dismantling occurs, with a view to assisting those countries in implementing the technical guidelines adopted in the context of the Basel Convention, IMO and ILO.

III. Proposed action

12. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to submit a draft decision along the following lines to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision VI/11 on capacity-building and decision V/5 on the regional centres for training and technology transfer,

Welcoming the specific activities carried out by the Basel Convention regional centres and Parties in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to implement the Strategic Plan,

Emphasizing the importance of aiming at the mutually supportive implementation of related multilateral environmental agreements in the context of the life-cycle management approach of chemicals and wastes,

Recognizing in particular the need for close collaboration with 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 with regard to the life-cycle management of persistent organic and inorganic pollutants and hazardous chemicals,

Bearing in mind that capacity-building, information exchange, awareness-raising and education in all sectors of society are of paramount importance for achieving the aims of the Basel Convention,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the Basel Convention regional centres, Parties, non-Parties, international organizations, the industry sector and non-governmental organizations, to enhance the worldwide knowledge and the practical implementation of the Basel Convention through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, subject to the availability of funds;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collaborate closely with UNEP Chemicals, the secretariats of the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention and other partners, including the Basel Convention regional centres, with regard to the organization of joint training and capacity-building activities;

3. *Encourages* the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional centres, to continue to develop capacity-building activities such as workshops, project activities, training materials and decision supportive tools, in close consultation and partnership with key

partners from Governments, specialized agencies, the industry sector, universities and non-governmental organizations, with a view to addressing the needs of Parties for the environmentally sound management of priority waste streams, including, but not limited to, electronic wastes, lead and used lead-acid batteries, used oils, obsolete stocks of pesticides, PCBs, dioxins and furans, asbestos and materials resulting from the dismantling of ships, biomedical and healthcare wastes;

4. *Invites* Parties, non-Parties, intergovernmental organizations, members of the industry and business sectors, and non-governmental organizations to provide financial resources or assistance in kind, to assist countries in need of such assistance in the development of specific capacity-building projects, training, information and awareness-raising activities;

5. *Also invites* Parties to inform the Secretariat of their capacity-building activities and awareness and educational materials related to the implementation of the Basel Convention, to enable it to disseminate such information to other Parties and stakeholders;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit a report on the activities related to capacity-building to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

Annex I

Publication of technical guidelines, awareness-raising materials and contributions to other publications

A. Awareness-raising materials

1. The Secretariat has published the following materials designed to raise public awareness of the Basel Convention:

- (a) Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management;
- (b) Outline of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation;
- (c) Minimizing hazardous wastes: a simplified guide to the Basel Convention.
- (d) Booklet entitled: "What does the Basel Convention mean for water?"

B. Contributions to other publications

2. In addition, the Secretariat has contributed materials to the following publications:

- (a) International Geneva Yearbook, 2003;
- (b) Yearbook of International Cooperation on Environment and Development, 2003/2004;
- (c) United Nations Handbook 2003;
- (d) UNEP 2003 Annual Report.

C. Technical guidelines

3. The following table lists the technical guidelines already published, or under preparation, by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention:

No.	Title	Languages	No. of pages ²
2003/1	Training Manual for the Preparation of a National Environmentally Sound Management Plan for PCBs and PCB-contaminated Equipment in the Context of the Basel Convention	E	98
2003/2	Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of the Full and Partial Dismantling of Ships	E, F, S, A, C, R	106
2003/3	Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Biomedical and Healthcare Wastes	E, F, S, A, C, R	71
2003/4	Interim Guidelines on the Hazardous Characteristics H12 – Ecotoxic	E, F, S, A, C, R	20
2003/5	Compilation of Country Fact Sheets for the Year 2000	E	482
2003/6	National Reporting under the Basel Convention (2000) Compilation Part I: Status of Information	E	198
2003/7	Restrictions on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes (as reported by Parties in response to the 2000 questionnaire on transmission of information in accordance with article 13 of the Convention)	E	123
2003/8	National Definition of Wastes and Hazardous Wastes Used for the Purpose of Transboundary Movements	E	93
2003/9	Technical Guidelines for the Environmentally Sound Management of Waste Lead-acid Batteries	E	63
2003/10	National Reporting under the Basel Convention (2000) Compilation Part II: Annual Reporting	E	
2003/11	Diagnostic et plan d'action national pour la gestion des déchets biomédicaux – Une étude de cas	F	48