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**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**
Third session
Geneva, 26–30 April 2004
Item 16 (f) of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretariat

I. Background

1. Reference is made to Conference of the Parties decision VI/40 on follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Johannesburg Summit), including implementation of the Plan of Implementation adopted at the Summit.

II. Implementation

2. The Secretariat has worked closely with United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), other international agencies, the private sector and non-governmental organizations on the preparation and implementation of activities that contribute to the main goals of the Plan of Implementation for the next ten years adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) as well as those of the Strategic Action Plan of the Basel Convention.

3. In line with the aim of the Plan of Implementation to “achieve sound management of chemicals, with particular focus on hazardous chemicals and wastes ...” (para. 68), the Secretariat of the Basel Convention has been contributing actively to the process currently under way for developing a strategic approach to international chemicals management (SAICM). The Secretariat, in line with decision VI/40, has actively participated in the preparation and conduct of five workshops on the coordinated implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and wastes (see details in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/4).

4. The Secretariat is coordinating the development of an important initiative for a sustainable partnership with industry and non-governmental organizations on environmentally sound management of end-of-life mobile phones. This initiative was launched by the President of the Conference of the Parties and received strong support from the Parties. In the context of the proposed partnership, a concrete work programme for the environmentally sound management of mobile phones is being

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/1.

developed and implemented jointly with major manufacturers and other stakeholders from the mobile phone sector.

5. In addition, the Secretariat has initiated consultations with industry, Parties, Basel Convention regional centres, specialized United Nations agencies and others with a view to developing a partnership for the environmentally sound management of electronic wastes.

6. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention has been collaborating closely with the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) secretariat, the Basel Convention regional centres in Africa, UNEP and Parties in Africa in the development of the NEPAD Environment Initiative, in particular its action plan, as well as activities that support the further implementation of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention.

7. Further to the recommendations made by parties and other stakeholders at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the need to enhance collaboration between local authorities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other waste in urban areas, the secretariat, in close collaboration with Basel Convention regional centres, Parties, United Nations specialized agencies, including the United Nations Institute for Training and Research's (UNITAR) decentralized cooperation programme, industry and non-governmental organizations, has facilitated and launched several pilot project activities concerning the development of new partnerships with local authorities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other waste in the context of the Basel Convention.

8. The Secretariat will prepare a consolidated report on activities carried out to implement decision VI/40 for the consideration of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

III. Proposed action

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

The Conference,

Recalling decision VI/40 on follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the concrete activities carried out by the Secretariat, Basel Convention regional centres, Parties and others to contribute to the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit¹,

Welcoming the support expressed at the World Summit for the concept of type II partnerships between Governments, business and civil society,

Mindful of the call in the Plan of Implementation for coherence and cooperation between international regimes for wastes, hazardous wastes and chemicals,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to pursue cooperation with interested stakeholders in support of the Plan of Implementation and type II partnerships between Governments, business and civil society;

¹ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development*, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

2. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting on progress and deliverables.
