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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

Seventh meeting

Geneva, 25–29 October 2004

Item 6 of the provisional agenda *

**Report on the implementation of the decisions
adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting**

Basel Convention Partnership Programme

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted two decisions in relation to partnerships which require the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting:

(a) Decision VI/31, which established the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative;

(b) Decision VI/32, which mandated the Secretariat, in consultation with the Open-ended Working Group, to develop and implement a work plan for cooperation with the industry and business sectors and non-governmental organizations.

2. Reference is also made to decision OEWG-I/5, in which the Open-ended Working Group, pursuant to decision VI/31, adopted the 2003–2004 work programme of the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, and decision OEWG-III/2, in which the Open-ended Working Group adopted the 2004 work plan of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

II. Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (decision VI/31)

A. Implementation

3. The second meeting of the Mobile Phone Working Group was held in Geneva on 16 and 17 February 2004. The group reviewed progress made on projects being implemented under the aegis of the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) and considered a range of other issues. Key outcomes from the meeting included agreement to Alcatel, Sharp and Vodafone joining the

* UNEP/CHW.7/1.

group and to further expand the group's membership and observers. It was agreed that invitations to become members would be sent to a limited number of other key network operators.

4. Aside from the Secretariat, the Mobile Phone Working Group comprises representatives from the following countries, Basel Convention regional centres and firms: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland (Chair), the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; the regional centres in Beijing and Bratislava; and Alcatel, LG, Mitsubishi, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Panasonic, Philips, Samsung, Sharp, Siemens, Sony Ericsson and Vodafone.

5. Others involved at the project level and as observers include: Basel Action Network, Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI), Greener Solutions Group, GSM Association, Inmetco, International Precious Metals Institute, Institute of Environment and Resources, Noranda, Princeton University, Recellular, Shields Environmental Group and Umicore.

6. At the time of the drafting of this paper, three MPPI project groups had prepared guidance papers for the consideration of the Mobile Phone Working Group and the Parties. Together with a glossary of terms for use in this area, these were placed on the Basel Convention web site in early August 2004 with an open invitation for comment. They are:

- (a) MPPI project group 1.1 (chaired by Australia): Refurbishment;
- (b) MPPI project group 3.1 (chaired by Switzerland): Recovery and recycling;
- (c) MPPI project group 4.1 (chaired by the United States of America): Awareness raising and training (design and use).

7. The fourth project group, MPPI project group 2.1 (chaired by Germany and Samsung): Collection and transboundary movement, has been late in starting owing to the reassignment of its chair. It started its work in August 2004.

8. Following receipt of comments on the three draft texts currently available, a consolidated text will be prepared for the consideration of the Parties.

B. Proposed action

9. As Chair of the Mobile Phone Working Group, Switzerland will be presenting a draft decision on this matter.

III. Work plan for the Basel Convention Partnership Programme (decision VI/32)

A. Implementation

10. As indicated in the draft resource mobilization strategy, Mobilizing Resources for a Cleaner Future, a robust partnership programme capable of engaging a wide range of stakeholders is of critical importance to the effective implementation of the Basel Convention.

11. Implementation of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme to date has been contingent on voluntary contributions from three Parties and one private sector partner. Work since the provisional adoption of the work programme at the second session of the Open-ended Working Group has focused on the first handful of activities listed in the work programme. Importantly, initial contacts have been made during this period with the United Nations Global Compact Office, which links approximately 1,600 companies worldwide interested in private-public partnerships under the direction of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Global Compact Office has agreed to link the Basel Convention web site and its web site and has expressed its willingness to support the partnership programme in whatever way it can.

12. Completion of the partnership programme and realization of its full potential benefits to the Basel Convention will require sustained support from Parties and others through the next biennium.

13. The pilot phase of the partnership programme has seen the successful establishment of a first initiative (the MPPI), the forging of key contacts with industry and other stakeholders and an increased understanding of the manner in which this important element of the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention should be implemented. There have been valuable lessons learnt during the year that will be important factors in the development of further initiatives.

14. It is now clear that a successful partnership programme:

(a) Is an essential ingredient for the success of the Basel Convention in its second decade of implementation;

(b) Is important for improving the capacity of the Convention to assist developing countries;

(c) Is a key plank for a successful resource mobilization strategy that can engage industry, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and other significant stakeholders in the needs of developing countries and the work of the Convention;

(d) Requires sustainability in terms of resources and effort;

(e) Requires greater active participation by Parties and, in particular, developing country Parties.

15. Given time, the partnership programme will raise the profile of the Convention and improve political support; provide an avenue for practical project activity informed by industry and non-governmental organization experience; and link the hazardous waste challenge of the Basel Convention, its Parties and regional centres to other significant policy agendas, more allies and new funding sources focused on developing capacity in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

16. For the time being, given the available resources within the Secretariat and from Parties, progress with the Basel Convention Partnership Programme has focused on a limited number of areas, which are described in the following paragraphs.

Used oils in Africa

17. The Secretariat has been in contact with the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association about the establishment of a partnership on used oils in Africa where both the major international and local oil companies do operate. Used oils are important because of the large quantities generated globally, their potential for direct reuse, reprocessing, reclamation and regeneration, and because they may cause detrimental effects to human health and the environment if not subject to environmentally sound management, including collection, handling, treatment and disposal.

Electrical and electronic waste

18. The Secretariat has commenced development of a partnership in the computing industry under the working title of "e2e: The Global Partnership on Computing and the Environment". It will build upon other initiatives under the Basel Convention such as the high level roundtable held during the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the environmentally sound management of e-waste and work on e-waste undertaken through the Basel Convention regional centre in Beijing and funded through the Strategic Plan.

19. A first preparatory meeting was held in June 2004 in New York to discuss the parameters of the partnership, including membership, expectations and aims and possible elements of a work programme. The meeting was attended by representatives of China, the European Union, France, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, the United States of America; the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, the United Nations Global Compact Office, United Nations University; Basel Action Network, Digital Partnership, Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), International Precious Metals Institute; Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Intel, Microsoft, Sony, Noranda, Inc. and Umicore.

20. Parties and signatories to the Basel Convention are encouraged to participate.

Obsolete stocks of pesticides in Africa

21. The goal of the Africa Stockpiles Programme is to eliminate existing obsolete stocks of pesticides throughout Africa and prevent their future accumulation. Country-specific activities have been undertaken to develop the first phase of the programme that will cover seven countries. Some US\$50 million has been raised for phase I of the programme; half of this amount was provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Improved stakeholder participation

22. Partnership programme initiatives are steadily broadening the base of stakeholders interested in the Basel Convention. These include United Nations specialized agencies and programmes such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Health Organization; industry leaders such as Alcatel, Dell, IBM, Intel, LG, Matsushita/Panasonic, Microsoft, Mitsubishi, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Philips, Samsung, Sharp Telecommunications, Siemens, Sony Ericsson, Vodafone and Sony; academic institutions such as United Nations University and Princeton University; non-governmental organizations such as the Basel Action Network, INFORM, the Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum and the Digital Partnership.

23. A first non-governmental organization roundtable was held in November 2003 in Bangkok, concurrent with the fourth session of Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management. Around forty participants considered the relationship between waste minimization, the Basel Convention, 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.

24. Discussions with the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and participants at a regional experts group meeting On e-wastes in Asia and the Pacific, held in June 2004 in Bangkok, have resulted in an informal UNEP/Basel Convention network on e-wastes in Asia and the Pacific. This network could provide valuable intellectual input from the academic and non-government sectors into continuing work on e-waste issues.

25. As requested by the Open-ended Working Group at its third session, the Secretariat prepared a decision based on the elements proposed by the Working Group.

B. Proposed action

26. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision VI/32,

1. *Adopts* the work plan of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme for 2005-2006 as contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue implementation of this work plan in cooperation with all relevant and interested partners and to keep the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties regularly informed on progress as well as initiatives to include new projects in order to adopt a decision on this matter;

3. *Encourages* Parties and signatories to follow the lead of Australia, Japan and Switzerland in providing funding to the Basel Convention Partnership Programme and becoming actively involved in the programme;

4. *Encourages* broader civil society, including environmental non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in particular industry, to provide technical and financial support for the Basel Convention Partnership Programme and to become involved in specific activities at the regional, national and international levels.

Annex

Basel Convention Partnership Programme: 2004–2006 work plan

A. Background

1. At its sixth meeting, in Geneva in December 2002, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention agreed to develop a work programme for cooperation with industry and business sectors and environmental non-governmental organizations with the aim of developing strategic partnerships relevant to the implementation of the Convention, its amendments and protocols (decision VI/32).
2. This document outlines a work programme that responds to those decisions. In particular, it:
 - (a) Takes into account activities for 2003-2004 under the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention;
 - (b) Takes into account the Basel Convention regional centres as potential delivery mechanisms for the promotion and nurturing of public-private partnerships that take into consideration regional or subregional specificities;
 - (c) Supports the aims of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management;
 - (d) Recognizes and complements existing initiatives and projects.

B. Introduction

3. The worldwide environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes as called for in the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management requires action at all levels of society. Training, information, communication, methodological tools, capacity-building with financial support, transfer of know-how, knowledge and sound and proven cleaner technologies and processes are driving factors to assist in the concrete implementation of the Basel Declaration.
4. The effective involvement and coordination by all concerned stakeholders is seen as essential for achieving the aims of the Basel Declaration.
5. The challenge is to find and develop practical, sustainable solutions to de-link economic development and the waste it traditionally generates. Alternative development models do exist. Industry and Governments have begun to embrace cleaner production technologies and extend producer liability, which provides built-in incentives for greener, less wasteful production and products.
6. Growth in partnerships is hindered by a broad perception that the Basel Convention deals only with hazardous wastes and/or only with the transboundary movement of such wastes. This is particularly acute when the Convention seeks to engage industry in the end-of-life implications of products, which during their life are not hazardous, or wastes. Conversely, considerable potential exists for a broader interpretation of the role of the Basel Convention as an instrument contributing to effective life cycle management of materials and products – e.g., in areas of waste minimization, design for environment, cleaner production and changing consumption patterns, as well as management of wastes, including municipal wastes.

C. General principles

1. Rights and responsibilities

7. Partnerships cannot create or abrogate rights or responsibilities of Parties under the Basel Convention.
8. The Partnership Programme is under the authority of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

2. United Nations guidelines for cooperation with the business community

9. Irrespective of any situation-specific nature, the Partnership Programme supports and is consistent with the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Global Compact. United Nations guidelines¹ stipulate that cooperative arrangements should be guided by the following general principles:

- (a) Advance United Nations goals: The objectives need to be articulated clearly and must advance United Nations goals as laid out in the Charter of the United Nations;
- (b) Clear delineation of responsibilities and roles: The arrangements must be based on a clear understanding of respective roles and expectations, with accountability and a clear division of responsibilities;
- (c) Maintain integrity and independence: Arrangements should not diminish the United Nations' integrity, independence and impartiality;
- (d) No unfair advantage: Every member of the business community should have the opportunity to propose cooperative arrangements, within the parameters of these guidelines. Cooperation should not imply endorsement or preference of a particular business entity or its products or services;
- (e) Transparency: Cooperation with the business sector must be transparent. Information on the nature and scope of cooperative arrangements should be available within the organization and to the public at large.

D. Programme objectives

10. Given the size and nature of the waste challenge, and the call on both expertise and resources (internal and external), the Basel Convention Partnership Programme is focused on the following objectives:

- (a) To initiate and oversee practical project activity in priority areas, with particular regard to the generation, movement and environmentally sound management of waste and active promotion of the transfer and use of cleaner technologies;
- (b) To broaden the resource and support base of the Convention, particularly through:
 - (i) Improved local and regional participation;
 - (ii) Improved analysis, understanding and political support for the broadest programme perspective of the role of the Basel Convention in the waste challenge;
 - (iii) Enhanced access to external expertise and resources (for example, from industry, environmental non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and other United Nations agencies and regional and national authorities);
- (c) To improve stakeholder participation and communication.

E. Priority areas

11. The Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010, adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (December 2002), identifies priority waste streams as including electronic wastes, used lead-acid batteries, used oils, obsolete stocks of pesticides, PCBs, dioxins/furans, by-products from the dismantling of ships, biomedical wastes and healthcare wastes. At the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (April–May 2003) it was agreed to fund a new partnership with municipalities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste in urban areas². These priorities are included in the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

¹ *Building Partnerships: Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Community* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.I.12).

² Decision OEWG-I/1.

12. Other partnership opportunities will arise periodically that require a timely response from the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The Secretariat will assess and initiate responses to these opportunities as required.
13. Existing and planned programme activity encompassed within the above programme objectives is represented in table 1.

F. Stakeholders

14. The engagement of civil society is a priority for the Partnership Programme. Partnership initiatives should fully involve environmental and other non-governmental organizations, along with industry leaders.
15. The Basel Convention Partnership Programme recognizes old friends but acknowledges that sustained interest in the waste challenge and the broadening programme perspective needed of the Convention will require additional partners.
16. There is also a need to look beyond the traditional environmental non-governmental organizations if the Basel Convention is to succeed in developing strategic alliances with organizations with potentially related agendas (e.g., non-governmental organizations involved in poverty reduction, economic or social development, health promotion or occupational health and safety issues) and foundations involved in broader philanthropic work.
17. Basel Convention regional centres have a key role to play both in promoting the Convention amongst potential partners and in providing capacity-building, training and other services at the regional level.
18. Stakeholders will vary according to the particular project or initiative. The criteria for selection of partners will include:
 - (a) Demonstrated commitment to the principles, practice and promulgation of the concept of environmentally sound management;
 - (b) Demonstrated commitment to engage in meaningful dialogue and cooperation with other partners, the Parties and signatories to the Basel Convention, Basel Convention regional centres, and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention;
 - (c) Demonstrated expertise or standing in the subject of the particular project or initiative;
 - (d) Demonstrated networking capacity.
19. The involvement of partners will at all times be voluntary.

Table 1

**Basel Convention Partnership Programme
Work plan 2004–2006**

	Objective	Programme elements	Key activities	Performance indicators
1	Initiate and oversee practical project activity in priority areas, with particular regard to the generation, movement and environmentally sound management of waste and active promotion of the transfer and use of cleaner technologies	Cooperative project development and implementation Awareness-raising Stakeholder participation	Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative Used Oils Partnership for Africa Electrical and electronic waste Obsolete stocks of pesticides in Africa Greenhouse gases from landfill (climate change and the environmentally sound management of waste) Biological and medical waste Used lead-acid batteries Partnerships with municipalities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in urban areas Dismantling of ships PCBs; dioxins/furans Ongoing promotion of ratification and implementation of the Basel Convention, its protocols, amendments and decisions	Effective partnerships established with relevant stakeholders to support environmentally sound management activities for priority waste streams identified in the strategic plan Ratifications and implementation of the Basel Convention, its protocols, amendments and decisions
2	Broaden the resource and support base of the Convention	Awareness-raising Fund-raising Stakeholder participation	Development of a project: 1. To encourage the development and use of data on waste trends at the national level; 2. To identify, collate and disseminate data on global waste trends (Tentatively called “WasteWatch”; the project would assist the mobilization of political support and benchmark progress in the waste challenge) Development of a fund-raising programme Development of a recognition programme for donors	Improved local and regional participation Improved analysis, understanding and political support Enhanced access to external expertise and resources (for example, from industry, environmental non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and other United Nations agencies and regional and national authorities)
3	Improve stakeholder participation and communication	Stakeholder participation Communications and public affairs activities	Establishment of a Basel Convention partners forum (Aimed at formalizing regular discussion between non-governmental organization partners of the Convention)	Improved support from key industry and non-governmental organization leaders for the aims of the Basel Convention Improved support for Basel Convention Regional Centres Improved Convention newsletter