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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**

## **Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development**

### **Report on progress**

#### **Note by the Secretariat**

### **I. Background**

1. In its decision VI/40, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to identify those areas of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the Johannesburg Summit) that are relevant to the Basel Convention and the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management, with a view to exploring cooperation with Parties and other stakeholders in support of the plan. The Conference also requested the Secretariat to identify the most efficient ways of cooperating with relevant stakeholders, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations. Finally, the Conference requested the Secretariat to propose to the Open-ended Working Group a way forward in implementing concrete activities in this field within available resources.

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\* UNEP/CHW.7/1.

## II. Implementation

2. The Secretariat prepared two notes reporting on follow-up activities to the Johannesburg Summit and proposing a way forward in implementing concrete activities in this area within available resources, which were submitted to the Open-ended Working Group at its first and at its third sessions (see documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG/1/15 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/29).

3. At its first meeting, the Open-Ended Working Group requested the Secretariat to undertake a review of ongoing and planned activities funded under the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention with a view to identifying activities that supported the objectives of the World Summit either directly, in an incremental way or indirectly. It also requested the Secretariat to review the business plans prepared by the Basel Convention regional centres to identify how each centre was supporting or planned to support the objectives of the Johannesburg Summit. It further requested the Secretariat to identify the principal international initiatives and programmes in which the waste dimension should be adequately taken into account to meet the expectations and objectives of the Johannesburg Summit in respect of the life-cycle management of materials (refer to decision OEWG-I/14).

4. The Conference of the Parties approved follow-up activities to the Johannesburg Summit at its sixth meeting, subject to availability of funds (refer to decision VI/40). In that connection, at its twenty-second session, the UNEP Governing Council recognized the Basel Convention's support for the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in the form of cooperation between the secretariats of 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, as providing the basis for a coherent, comprehensive, effective and efficient approach to international hazardous chemicals and waste management.<sup>1</sup> Severe resource limitations have, however, prevented the Secretariat of the Basel Convention from participating actively in many such joint activities. Limited financial and human resources have also prevented the Secretariat from carrying out an in-depth analysis of the principal international initiatives and programmes in which the waste dimension should be adequately taken into account to meet the expectations and objectives of the Johannesburg Summit in respect of the life-cycle management of materials.

5. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the Secretariat has undertaken several activities relevant to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. A report on the Secretariat's implementation of decision VI/40 is contained in the annex to the present note.

## III. Proposed action

6. Please refer to document UNEP/CHW.7/2, which contains a compilation of draft decisions for possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 22/4 IV, para. 7.

## Annex

### Report on progress<sup>2</sup>

#### A. Review of the activities of the Secretariat relevant to the follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

##### 1. Consumption and production patterns initiative

1. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation calls, in paragraph 15, for the development of “a 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production ...”. The Secretariat attended what was to be the first international expert meeting on the 10-year framework, which took place in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 19 June 2003 and was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UNEP. The meeting launched the so-called Marrakech Process, which is to include regular global and regional meetings supported by informal expert task forces and roundtables to promote progress on the 10-year framework. UNEP and the DESA Division for Sustainable Development have been identified as the lead offices for promoting and developing the 10-year framework at the global and regional levels. At regional meetings in the Asia-Pacific region, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa, regional needs and priorities have been identified and regional strategies on sustainable consumption and production have been developed. A European stakeholder meeting on sustainable consumption and production is planned for November 2004.

2. The Basel Convention could contribute concretely to the Marrakech Process and the ongoing efforts to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns through its partnership programme, in particular the mobile phone initiative and the electronic waste initiative. Under the mobile phone initiative, thematic project groups chaired by Parties and companies conduct the activities of the partnership on various aspects of the environmentally sound management of mobile phones, including reuse (Australia), collection and transboundary movements (Germany, Samsung), recovery and recycling (Switzerland) and awareness raising and training (United States of America).

3. Activities on the dismantling of ships carried out in the context of the Basel Convention, in close collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), are also relevant to the objectives of the Johannesburg Summit. A proposed ILO/IMO/Basel Convention joint working group will address such upstream issues and preventive actions as ship design and hazardous products substitution, as well as environmentally sound recycling and disposal.

4. Efforts are being made to enhance synergies between the above-mentioned Basel Convention activities, the International Initiative on Consumption and Production Patterns and the Marrakech Process, including at the regional level. In this regard, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics are seeking ways of improving collaboration and developing a joint approach. For this purpose, the Secretariat attended an informal meeting of an advisory task force on the 10-Year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production held at the UNEP Paris offices in March 2004.

##### 2. Enhanced collaboration with relevant multilateral environmental agreements

5. Regional workshops on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in French and English speaking West Africa, English Speaking Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Northern Africa are contributing to objectives a), b) and d) of article 22 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, entitled “Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production”. The

<sup>2</sup> See also document UNEP/CHW.7/29 on international cooperation.

Secretariat played an active role in these meetings, which were organized by the Geneva Environment Network (GEN) and funded by the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (see also document UNEP/CHW.7/4). GEN has further prepared, in consultation with the secretariats of the conventions concerned, a booklet entitled "Managing hazardous chemicals and wastes: A guide to the coordinated national implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions". The document will be published by GEN and will be distributed to all parties to the three above conventions and observer States.

### **3. SAICM**

6. The Secretariat participated in a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Development of a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), which took place in Bangkok in November 2003, as well as an African regional meeting on SAICM in Abuja, Nigeria, in June 2004. Of major interest is the identification of the main initiatives and programmes – e.g., the International Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS), the Inter-Organizational Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), SAICM, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and pollutant release and transfer registers – in which the waste dimension needs to be adequately taken into account to meet the goals of the strategic approach to international chemicals management, as well as those of the Convention in the context of the life-cycle management of materials. At the present stage of the preparation of SAICM, it is generally agreed that its overarching goal should be the stated Johannesburg Summit objective concerning the use and production of chemicals and management of hazardous waste in a way that cause no adverse effect on human health or the environment by 2020 (paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation).

### **4. Partnership with local authorities and industry (type II agreements)**

7. As a follow up to the discussion held at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with local authorities (side-event) and further to the encouragement expressed by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting to strengthen collaboration with local authorities in the field of management of hazardous waste and other waste, the Secretariat has initiated several activities with municipalities. One project was developed with the Chinese authorities and was funded in part under the Strategic Plan, namely the municipality project on the collection and recycling of electronic waste in Qingdao, China. Two projects in Ecuador and South Africa are being developed in consultation with the local authorities in the city of Guayaquil and the city of Johannesburg, the private sector, the Basel Convention regional centres (BCRCs) concerned and the Decentralized Cooperation Programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. At the time of preparation of the present report, the agreement for the project in Ecuador was close to being signed. The purpose of these projects is to launch demonstration activities for facilitating the signing of public-private partnership agreements (type II) for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other waste as a follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### **5. Regional approach for small island developing States (SIDS)**

8. The Johannesburg Summit Plan of Implementation promotes the development of regional initiatives for sustainable development in developing countries. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation promotes the undertaking of initiatives by 2004 aimed at implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to reduce, prevent and control waste and pollution and their health-related impacts in small island developing States.

9. In this regard, the Secretariat's efforts have been two-fold. Firstly, to strengthen institutional links with several relevant international agencies with a view to developing synergies and strengthening collaboration for the benefit of the Parties to the Basel Convention and the BCRCs. Two memoranda of understanding were signed in 2004 with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme (UNEP/GPA) as well as with the secretariat of the Cartagena Convention. A memorandum of understanding promoting collaboration with the secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan is also under way. Secondly, the secretariat has been consulting with the parties concerned and its main partners in the Caribbean region and in the South Pacific region with the aim of identifying the best way forward for the

development of regional approaches for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other waste. Efforts are being made in the Caribbean to develop synergies between ongoing Basel Convention-led activities and other regional initiatives for solid waste management. Similar efforts are underway in the South Pacific region, where funds have been raised for the review of the preliminary elements for a regional integrated waste management strategy. This project will be jointly carried out by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme BCRC, the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and the Basel Convention Secretariat. The results of these initiatives should be made available on the occasion of the international meeting for the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action to be held in Mauritius from 10 to 14 January 2005.

**6. Regional approach for Africa**

10. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation also supports Africa's efforts to implement the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The secretariat has participated in several regional expert groups and ministerial meetings concerning the preparation and further adoption of the action plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. The importance to be given to chemicals and waste management, and the critical role to be played by the BCRCs in Africa in the implementation of the action plan have been discussed and highlighted in the plan. Also, several projects directly relevant to the objectives of the Johannesburg Summit, such as the development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals and wastes, were prepared in consultation with BCRCs and selected as priority projects under the action plan. More detailed information on this subject was reported to the Open-Ended working Group at its third session in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/3/6.

11. Decision 5 of the tenth regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, which took place in Sirte, Libya from 26 to 30 June 2004, concerns the development of a strategic approach to international chemicals management and other chemicals and hazardous waste management issues. In their decision 5.5, the AMCEN ministers expressed support for "the efforts to strengthen the capacity of the regional centres of excellence in Africa, including the Basel Convention regional centres in Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, as key regional instruments for the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to call upon interested States and other stakeholders to provide further support to the centres of excellence in Africa".

**B. Review of ongoing and planned activities funded in the context of the Strategic Plan with a view to identifying activities that support the objectives of the WSSD**

12. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation renewed the commitment to sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment. This commitment from Agenda 21, among other things, aims to achieve by 2020 the goal that chemicals be used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment. The Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention aims to assist parties to the Basel Convention to achieve the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste and other wastes, emphasizing the minimization of such wastes and the strengthening of capacity-building. The Strategic Plan as a whole should therefore be considered to contribute to the main goal of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation regarding the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes.

13. Furthermore, several projects and activities funded in the context of the Strategic Plan and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session are directly supportive of the specific objectives of the Plan of Implementation. These projects, listed below, are clustered in accordance with their relevance to the priority actions identified in paragraph 23 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation concerning the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes. These projects represent 40 per cent of the total number of projects that received funding under the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention and of the funds allocated by the Conference of the Parties for the Strategic Plan at its sixth meeting.

14. The projects, grouped under the goals they are meant to serve, are as follows:

- (a) Promote the ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments on chemicals and hazardous waste:
  - (i) Workshop on strengthening cooperation between the chemical and hazardous waste conventions (Slovakia BCRC);
  - (ii) Regional workshop for the preparation of a regional approach for the environmentally sound management of POPs as wastes in selected Central and Eastern European countries (Slovakia BCRC);
- (b) Encourage partnerships to promote activities aimed at enhancing environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, implementing multilateral environmental agreements, raising awareness of issues relating to chemicals and hazardous waste, and encouraging the collection and use of additional scientific data:
  - (i) A new partnership with local authorities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in urban areas (China);
  - (ii) Preparation of a regional strategy for the environmentally sound management of used lead-acid batteries in Central America and the Caribbean (El Salvador BCRC and Trinidad and Tobago BCRC);
  - (iii) Hazardous waste management in small and medium-sized enterprises in the context of integrated life cycle management of materials (Jordan);
  - (iv) Implementation of waste minimization cleaner production project – training (Uruguay BCRC);
  - (v) Pilot program for the minimization of impacts generated by hazardous waste;
  - (vi) Regional workshop on successful case studies of recycling, reuse and recovery methods towards the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes and implementation of the Basel Convention in Africa (Nigeria BCRC);
- (c) Promote efforts to prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes and to prevent damage resulting from the transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous wastes in a manner consistent with obligations under relevant international instruments such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal:
  - (i) Implementation of the control, detection and prevention of illegal traffic in hazardous wastes (Argentina BCRC).

**C. Review of the business plans prepared by the Basel Convention regional centres to identify how each centre is supporting, can support or will support the objectives of the Johannesburg Summit**

15. Almost all business plans of the BCRCs for 2003 and 2004 contain activities and projects relevant to the objectives of the Johannesburg Summit in the field of chemicals and hazardous wastes. The main areas of relevance include the prevention of illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous waste, the promotion of ratification and implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, the enhancement of partnerships to enhance environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes and the development of coherent and integrated information on chemicals and waste. These planned activities represented only a limited part of the business plans which, to a significant extent, have not been fully implemented because of financial constraints.

16. An account of BCRC coordinated activities that are relevant to the objectives of the Johannesburg Summit and have been carried out since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is presented below.

**BCRC Senegal**

17. A fact-finding mission took place in January 2004 in Benin and Senegal concerning the import into West Africa of second-hand vehicles containing asbestos. The study aimed at identifying the scope of the problem and reviewing the conditions of the management of the asbestos-containing material and waste in the sub-region. The mission made recommendations for the development of a subregional strategy for the environmentally sound management of asbestos-containing waste by following a life cycle approach and suggesting preventive measures, including sensitization of policy makers on this matter.

**BCRC South Africa**

18. The BCRC in South Africa completed successfully its planned work programme. Several activities directly contributed to the objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, such as national workshops on the promotion of the ratification of and accession to the Basel Convention. Other training and capacity-building activities, including commercial courses for industry, were in line with the objective in paragraph 22 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to “support developing countries in strengthening their capacity for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes by providing technical and financial assistance support.”

**BCRCs in Uruguay and South Africa**

19. The BCCC in Uruguay and the BCRC in South Africa have organized workshops on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in their respective regions (See document UNEP/CHW.7/4). The meetings highlighted the benefits in coordinating the implementation at the national level and the regional level of the three closely related conventions and also promoted the ratification of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions among those countries which had not ratified them at the time of the event.

**BCRCs in Argentina, Trinidad and Tobago, Senegal and South Africa**

20. UNEP Chemicals, together with the Basel Convention regional centres in Port of Spain and Pretoria, organized regional awareness-raising workshops on mercury pollution. These meetings contributed to the objective of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of reducing the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies such as the UNEP global assessment of mercury and its compounds. Similar meeting will be organized by the BCRCs in Argentina and Senegal in 2004.

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