

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

**Rotterdam Convention on Rotterdam Convention on the Prior  
Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous  
Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade**

**Stockholm Convention Stockholm Convention on Persistent  
Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

**BC-RC-SC /AHJWG.1/INF/4**

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**Ad hoc joint working  
group on enhancing  
cooperation and  
coordination among  
the Basel, Rotterdam and  
Stockholm conventions**

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**First meeting**

Helsinki, 26-28 March 2007

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

**Consideration of the supplementary report on  
enhancing cooperation and coordination among  
the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

**Chronology of the consideration by Parties to the Basel,  
Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions on cooperation and  
coordination between the three Conventions**

1. At its first meeting, held from 2 to 6 May 2005, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants ("SC COP 1") adopted decision SC-1/18, which, among other things, welcomed the proposal made at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention for a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and the Rotterdam conventions and decided that further possibilities for additional synergies should be explored. In paragraph 3 of decision SC-1/18, the Conference of the Parties requested:

"... the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on how the cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and other relevant programmes could be improved, taking into account the special nature of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, which is jointly provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of the role common structures might play".

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2. Decision SC-1/18 invited the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and the Basel Conventions to consider the results of the study.<sup>1</sup> The secretariat of the Stockholm Convention, therefore, prepared a study on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (“the Synergies Study”).<sup>2</sup>
3. In response to SC-1/18, by its decision OEWG-IV/10, the fourth session the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, held from 4 to 8 July 2005, requested the secretariat of the Basel Convention to cooperate with the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention secretariats, taking into account decision SC-1/18, in exploring cooperation and synergies and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting.
4. The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, held from 26-30 September 2005, *inter alia*, in its decision RC-2/6 welcoming the request in decision SC-1/18 for the Synergies Study, requested the United Nations Environment Programme (“UNEP”), in consultation with the secretariats of the conventions, to prepare a supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that might be proposed in the study requested in decision SC-1/18 (“the Supplementary Analysis”). The decision also requested that the Supplementary Analysis be considered at the next meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, and that the Synergies Study and the Supplementary Analysis should be considered by the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting. UNEP, accordingly, prepared the Supplementary Analysis.<sup>3</sup>
5. Following these decisions of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention bodies, the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, held from 3 to 7 April 2006, requested the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, by its decision OEWG-V/6, to transmit the annex to its note entitled “Recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies” (“the Recommendations”) to the Secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, and to invite them to make the annex available as an information paper for their respective Conferences of Parties.<sup>4</sup>
6. Thus, the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention all had before them: the Synergies Study; the Supplementary Analysis; and the Recommendations.
7. The second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (“SC COP 2”), held from 1 to 5 May 2006, adopted decision SC-2/15 on synergies, which is contained in the annex to the present document. Decision SC-2/15, *inter alia*, requested the President of SC COP 2 to prepare a report, supplementing the documents identified in paragraph 6 above and “exploring the specific areas in which cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the programmatic level would be to the mutual advantage of all three conventions and without prejudice to their autonomy”. The decision also:

“... suggests the establishment of an ad hoc joint working group as a possible way forward and invites the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions to consider that option and, in the event of their endorsement, agrees to its establishment. It is suggested that the working group consider the supplementary report referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision and prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels to be forwarded to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to each convention;”

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<sup>1</sup> Decision SC-1/18 also invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to consider the results of the study, as well as the considerations and decisions of the above-mentioned bodies at its next session. Furthermore, in paragraph 7 of decision SC-1/18, SC COP 1 invited the Executive Director of UNEP, when making arrangements for the performance of the Secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention, to provide for the future adaptation of these arrangements to any decisions regarding this issue that might be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12.

<sup>3</sup> Contained in document UNEP/FAO/PIC/COP.3/20.

<sup>4</sup> Contained in documents UNEP/OEWG/5/2/Add.8 and UNEP/CHW.8/INF/30.

8. The establishment of an ad hoc joint working group, comprising 15 representatives for each convention, was endorsed by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, held from 9 to 13 October 2006, in its decision RC-3/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions. Decision RC-3/8 is contained in the annex to the present document. In addition, by its decision VIII/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Basel Convention, held from 27 November to 1 December 2006, agreed to participate in the process. Decision VIII/8 is also contained in the annex to the present document.

9. At the time of preparation of the present document, the nomination process for the representatives of the ad hoc working group is being finalized, and the arrangements for its first meeting are being undertaken jointly by the secretariats of the three conventions. The following forthcoming meetings, which may be of relevance to the process initiated by these three decisions, are:

26-28 March 2007	First meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Working Group, Helsinki, Finland
30 April - 4 May 2007	Stockholm Convention COP 3
3-7 September 2007	Sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
June/July 2008	Basel Convention COP 9
20-25 October 2008	Rotterdam Convention COP 4

## Annex

### **Decision SC-2/15 on synergies adopted by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decision SC-1/18 and welcoming decision RC-2/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and decisions OEWG-IV/10 and OEWG-V/6 of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,

*Mindful* of the recent adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management<sup>5</sup> and the ongoing reform process in the United Nations,

*Taking note* of the information in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.2/25, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/19,<sup>6</sup> as well as the provisions of Article 20 of the Stockholm Convention,

*Believing* that the issue of synergies and cooperation should be subject to a process that is transparent and inclusive and recognizes the autonomy of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions,

1. *Calls for* further improved cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
2. *Requests* the President, supported by the Secretariat and in consultation and cooperation with the Presidents and Secretariats of the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions, to ensure that the reports contained in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12, UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/19 are supplemented by a further report exploring the specific areas in which cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the programmatic level would be to the mutual advantage of all three conventions and without prejudice to their autonomy;
3. *Also requests* that the supplementary report to be prepared pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision be submitted to the ad hoc joint working group referred to in paragraph 6 of the present decision and that it explore the following areas, *inter alia*: joint training activities; joint field activities and capacity-building; the use of regional centres as well as other centres of excellence; joint planning and joint implementation of activities; exchange of information; organization of joint meetings of subsidiary bodies and working groups and back-to-back conferences of the parties;
4. *Further requests* that the supplementary report analyse the advantages, relevant considerations and possible disadvantages of each specific area of coordination and cooperation, and reflect the outcomes of the consultative process outlined in paragraph 2 of the present decision;
5. *Requests* that the supplementary report outline any other improvements in any administrative or organizational matter that may be required in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency and to implement programme synergies identified pursuant to paragraph 2 of the present decision, including analysis of the need for and implications of a possible joint head of the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, taking into account the special nature of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, which is jointly provided by the Executive Director of the

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<sup>5</sup> Report of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on the work of its first session (SAICM/ICCM.1/7), annexes I-3.

<sup>6</sup> Incorporating document UNEP/OEWG/5/2/Add.8.

United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

6. *Decides* to make available the supplementary report to the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions as soon as available and suggests the establishment of an ad hoc joint working group as a possible way forward and invites the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions to consider that option and, in the event of their endorsement, agrees to its establishment. It is suggested that the working group consider the supplementary report referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision and prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation and coordination among the three conventions at the administrative and programmatic levels to be forwarded to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to each convention;

7. *Requests* that the supplementary report be made available to Parties and observers to the three conventions through their respective Secretariats and invites Parties and observers to the three conventions to submit their views on the supplementary report through their respective Secretariats to the ad hoc joint working group proposed in paragraph 6 of the present decision;

8. *Decides*, in the event of the establishment of such an ad hoc joint working group, that the Parties, through the Bureau, shall nominate by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties fifteen representatives, i.e., three representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions, to participate in an ad hoc joint working group of the three conventions;

9. *Invites* the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions each to nominate fifteen representatives, giving due consideration to the five United Nations regions;

10. *Invites* Parties and others to make contributions through the special trust fund to ensure the participation of representatives of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the ad hoc joint working group;

11. *Also invites* Parties to coordinate fully at the national and regional levels on enhancing cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the three conventions and encourages them to share experiences in that regard;

12. *Encourages* the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to continue to enhance synergies with other relevant international institutions and organizations and requests that experience gained in this regard be reported to the Conference of the Parties;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, mindful of the present decision, to staff without delay the previously approved position of joint head of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and all other positions in the Stockholm Convention Secretariat approved at the first and second meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention and the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Persistent Organic Pollutants.

## **Decision RC-3/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision SC-2/15 of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and noting that the President of the Conference at that meeting was requested, in consultation and cooperation with the Presidents and the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Rotterdam Convention, to ensure the preparation of a supplementary report on

cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, and recalling further that such a report was subsequently prepared,<sup>7</sup>

*Agreeing* with the call for improved cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam Convention, the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention,

*Mindful* of the recent adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the ongoing reform process in the United Nations,

*Believing* that the issue of improved cooperation and coordination should be subject to a process that is efficient, transparent and inclusive and recognizes the autonomy of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions,

*Having considered* the terms of decision SC-2/15,

1. *Agrees* to participate in the process specified in decision SC-2/15, including the establishment of an ad hoc joint working group, and encourages the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to do the same at its eighth meeting, believing that it is highly desirable that all three conventions be fully involved in the process in order to ensure further improved cooperation and coordination;

2. *Notes* that the ad hoc joint working group will make joint recommendations to the Conferences of the Parties of all three conventions, including the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its fourth meeting;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to invite Parties and observers to the Convention to submit their views on the supplementary report through the secretariat to the ad hoc joint working group by 31 January 2007;

4. *Decides* to nominate, through the Bureau, three representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions by 31 January 2007 to participate in the ad hoc joint working group of the three Conventions;

5. *Recognizes* the need to make resources available from the operational budget for 2007–2008 to support the participation of representatives of the Rotterdam Convention from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the ad hoc joint working group.

## **Decision VIII/8 on cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision SC-2/15 of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and noting that the President of the Conference at that meeting was requested, in consultation and cooperation with the Presidents and the secretariats of the Basel Convention and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, to ensure the preparation of a supplementary report on cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and recalling further that such a report was subsequently prepared,<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.3/INF/18.

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/CHW.8/INF/31.

*Recalling* also decision RC-3/8 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting on cooperation and coordination between the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm Conventions,<sup>9</sup>

*Agreeing* with the call for improved cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions,

*Mindful* of the recent adoption of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the ongoing reform process in the United Nations,

*Believing* that the issue of improved cooperation and coordination should be subject to a process that is efficient, transparent and inclusive and recognizes the autonomy of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions,

*Having considered* the terms of decision SC-2/15,

1. *Agrees* to participate in the process specified in decision SC-2/15, including the establishment of an ad hoc joint working group, acknowledging that it is highly desirable that all three conventions be fully involved in the process in order to ensure further improved cooperation and coordination;
2. *Notes* that the ad hoc joint working group will make joint recommendations to the conferences of the Parties of all three conventions, including the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its ninth meeting;
3. *Requests* the secretariat to invite Parties and observers to the Convention to submit their views on the supplementary report through the secretariat to the ad hoc joint working group by 31 January 2007;
4. *Decides* to nominate, through the Bureau, three representatives of Parties from each of the five United Nations regions by 31 January 2007 to participate in the ad hoc joint working group of the three Conventions;
5. *Invites* Parties and others to make contributions to the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention in order to ensure the participation of representatives of the Basel Convention from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the ad hoc joint working group.

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<sup>9</sup> UNEP/CHW.8/INF/11.