



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

Distr.: General
25 October 2007

English only



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



**Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**
Second meeting
Vienna, 10–13 December 2007
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of the intersessional work undertaken by the
members of the ad hoc joint working group and by the
Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention**

**Submission by Switzerland and Nigeria on joint managerial functions
including joint head of secretariat**

Note by the secretariats

Attached is a submission by Switzerland and Nigeria on “Joint managerial functions including joint head of secretariat” for consideration by the meeting. It is presented as received and has not been edited by the secretariats.

* UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.2/1.

Draft for a thought starter on joint managerial functions including joint head of secretariatLeads: Switzerland and Nigeria

I. Introduction

The first meeting of the ad hoc joint working group (AHJWG) on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions was held in Helsinki, Finland from 26 to 28 March 2007. The mandate of this group is to prepare joint recommendations on enhanced cooperation among the three Conventions for submission to the conference of the Parties of all three Conventions. The AHJWG agreed that particular areas for additional cooperation and coordination should be further analyzed intersessionally to allow an informed discussion at its second meeting.

This thought starter analyzes a possible reform of the managerial structure of the three Convention secretariats by establishing a joint head of the UNEP-administered secretariats. It is thus limited to the managerial structure and functions of the Basel and Stockholm and the UNEP part of the Rotterdam secretariats. The document follows the format suggested by the guidance document on intersessional work, of the AHJWG prepared by the AHJWG co-chairs which was circulated on June 11.

Running a secretariat with a joint managerial structure for more than one Convention or protocol is not a new practice. There exist already joint secretariats in the field of multilateral environmental agreements and they function well. For example the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has one secretariat servicing two Conventions (the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and the London Convention on the Prevention on Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter). Other examples are the Climate Changes Secretariat which is in charge for both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol and the joint secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocol on Biosafety. In the same way the Ozone Secretariat services both the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Experience has shown that these combined secretariats are working well and have achieved considerably improved efficiency in supporting more than one Convention.

However, while these examples involve a single secretariat servicing more than one legally binding instrument, this thought starter will not propose a full merger of the existing Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm secretariats but discuss a less ambitious proposal to develop a structure with a common head and certain common shared functions. As several thought starters prepared by others will address the advantages and disadvantages of sharing certain specific secretariat functions such as legal service, financial services of conference services, this paper will focus on the idea of a common head for the three secretariats.

II. Scope of obligations under the three Conventions respectively legal framework as established by the Conventions and relevant COP decisions

While each of the three Conventions regulates a different area of the environmental sound management of hazardous substances and wastes their final goal remains the same: to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects of these substances and wastes. All three conventions address the same fundamental challenge: toxic chemicals and their products must be carefully managed during their entire life-cycle, from production to disposal; where possible, they must be minimized or replaced with safer alternatives. Therefore the three Conventions together provide an international framework governing the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes throughout their lifecycle. As a consequence there are many core activities that are in common to the three secretariats. These activities include: servicing meeting of conferences of Parties, facilitating assistance to Parties and especially capacity building for the implementation of the conventions, ensuring the coordination or cooperation with other relevant international bodies and entering into any necessary administrative and contractual arrangements, and legal and financing services. These common functions are prescribed in SC article 20, RC article 19, BC article 16.

In reflections of the common secretariat functions, the COP of the Rotterdam Convention has invited the COP of the Stockholm Convention to consider co-financing the position of a joint head of the secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions (decision 1/17 RC). This proposal for a joint head for the Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention secretariats was endorsed by the COP of the Stockholm Convention (decision 1/18 SC).

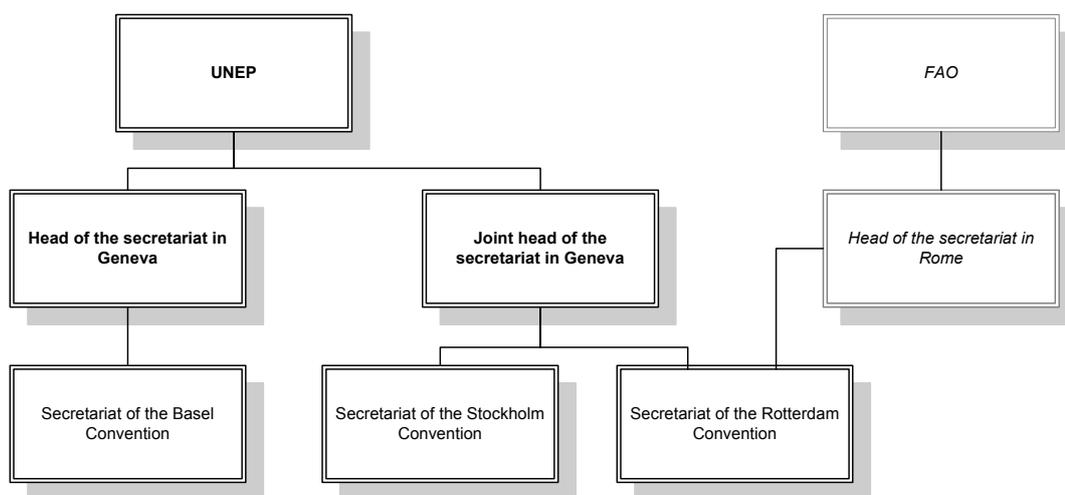
Each of the three conventions asks the Executive Director of UNEP to perform the (or some of the) functions of its secretariat (BC, article 16.2, SC article 20.3; RC, article 19.3). The RC Convention clarifies that the secretariat functions for this Convention shall be performed jointly by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO, subject to such arrangements as shall be agreed between them and approved by the Conference of the Parties (RC article 19.3). Moreover, the Conferences of Parties of the Stockholm Convention and of the Rotterdam Convention have the possibility to decide by three-fourths majority of the Parties to entrust the secretariats functions to another international organizations (SC, article 20.3; RC article 19.4).

The Conventions do not prescribe the managerial organisation of the secretariats. UNEP’s executive director has to ensure that the secretariats are fulfilling these functions and responsibilities. Thereby, he is entirely free in any decision he might take on how to organize the three Convention secretariats as long as this does not have any additional financial implications for the conventions in addition to the budgets agreed by the COPs.

III. Brief overview of current status respectively the current secretariat structure

UNEP fulfils the functions of the Basel and Stockholm secretariats. The functions of the Rotterdam Conventions Secretariats are jointly provided by UNEP and FAO. The Basel secretariat is situated in Geneva and is managed by one head. The Stockholm Convention and the part of the Rotterdam Convention secretariat provided by UNEP are similarly based in Geneva, whereas the Rotterdam Secretariat under FAO management has its domicile in Rome. The Stockholm and the UNEP-part of the Rotterdam secretariats have a joint head in Geneva whereas the FAO-part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat in Rome has its own executive secretary.

Current structure of the conventions’ secretariats



IV. Lessons learnt

- The three conventions – each with its own separate secretariat – do not benefit from the same political visibility and weight as the Climate Change and Biodiversity Conventions. This can only partly be explained through a different relevance of the issues addressed by the conventions. The chemicals and wastes cluster is not having one single figure head and is not speaking with one voice. There have been numerous cases where it has been represented by three different persons presenting sometimes different or even competing positions. This has reduced the impact, weight and appreciation of its interests.
- Cooperation between the three secretariats takes place on ad hoc basis, based on informal “regular” consultations between the heads of the secretariats. However the transaction costs of such an ad hoc cooperation are relatively high and the potential for synergies and cooperation might not be fully used. Furthermore the approaches towards

cooperation have sometimes been rather defensive with the three secretariats fearing to lose individual autonomy or resources.

- At this moment there is no single person who has the broad overview of the activities of the three Conventions and their secretariats and who would be able to foster the coordination and cooperation among the Conventions in an efficient and effective way. The ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (AHJWG) has been set up by the three Conventions due to this absence of effective oversight. But it is a finite body and has no day to day oversight of the ongoing activities.
- Until now, specific activities with a high potential for synergies such as partnerships, collaboration on fund raising (including liaison with the GEF), scientific advice, regional outreach and representation or joint resource mobilization have not always been developed jointly.
- While successful joint implementation workshops for the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions involving also the Basel secretariat have been organized in the past, it seems that this joint activity was rather donor than secretariat driven. Moreover, no follow-up was developed to build on the lessons learnt from these initial joint implementation workshops.

V. Issues to consider in preparing AHJWG recommendations to the COPs

The following important needs of the Parties will have to be taken into account when addressing a reform of the structures of the Convention secretariats:

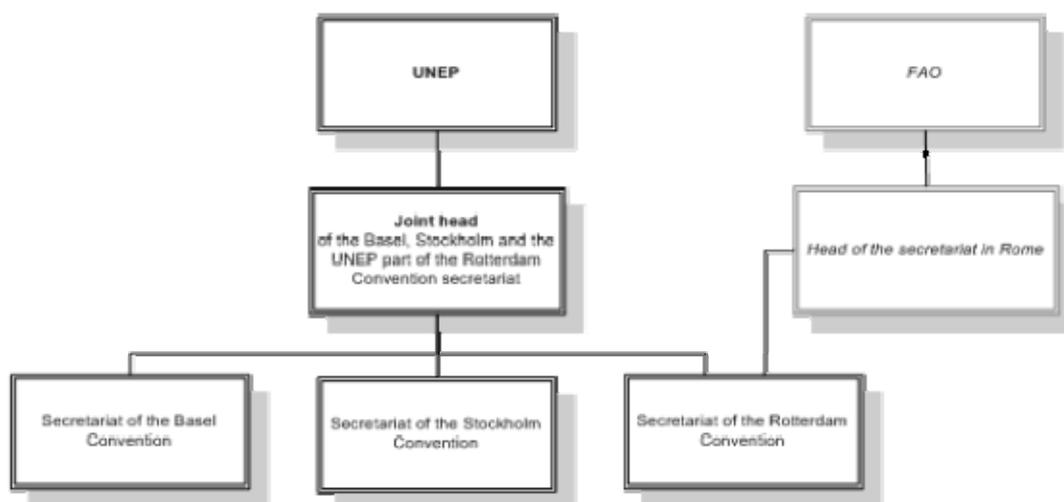
- Efficient and prompt service delivery.
- Good oversight of the work of the three conventions.
- Ensuring high political visibility and weight.
- Making best use of potential administrative synergies and cost savings.
- Avoiding micro-management of the secretariats by the COPs.
- Improved capacity for resource mobilisation.
- Promotion of coherence between the chemicals and waste management policies and activities at national and regional level.

Moreover, any reform of the existing secretariat structure will have to ensure that the legal and financial autonomy of the three conventions is fully respected.

VI. The option of a joint head

The option of a joint head for the Basel, Stockholm and UNEP-Rotterdam Secretariats would not require that specific functions of the three secretariats are merged. It only suggests that one single person is heading and ensuring the overview of the Basel, the Stockholm and the UNEP part of the Rotterdam secretariat. This would allow ensuring synergies and cooperation in the daily secretariat activities and enhancing implementation. If however it would be decided to establish certain joint managerial secretariat functions for the three conventions, a joint head would provide an effective and efficient management structure for such a reform.

Joint managerial Structure with a common head



In order to strengthen the position of the joint head as representative of the chemicals and waste conventions, it should be a D-2 position. Moreover, deputies could be nominated for the Basel secretariat and the Rotterdam & Stockholm secretariat at the D-1 level. As this structure involves only the UNEP part of the Rotterdam Convention, nothing would change with regard to the head of the FAO-part of the Rotterdam Secretariat ¹.

- A joint head would have a positive impact on efficient and prompt service delivery. In fact, it would provide opportunities for better coordination and complementation of support and capacity building services for the three conventions.
- The establishment of a joint head for the three conventions would ensure that the top management of the three secretariats has a good oversight of the work of the three conventions and could better promote coherence in the work of the three conventions including potential for the development of a simplified common reporting system.
- A joint head of the three conventions would give a single voice and a single face to the whole chemicals and waste cluster and thus enhance political visibility and weight of the cluster.
- A joint head would be in the best position to identify potential administrative synergies between and cost savings for the three conventions. It would free up resources for implementation.
- A strong common head would make micromanagement of the secretariat by the COPs to enhance synergies and efficiencies unnecessary.
- A joint head would allow a more coherent and more credible approach to resource mobilisation. It would minimize the risk of competing and overlapping requests for finances. It would increase donors' confidence. And, it would allow a common approach to the GEF and would fit better with the GEF's emerging sound management of chemical framework strategy.
- Such enhanced structure with a common head would facilitate and promote coordination at the national level.
- The legal autonomy – including the right to determine the budget for its secretariat services – of the three conventions would not be limited.

¹ However, if desired, the option to include also the FAO part of the Rotterdam secretariat could be pursued at a later stage.

VII. Conclusion

Establishing a joint head for the three convention secretariats would achieve a valuable joint managerial function and so minimize the need for “micro-managerial” decisions by the COPs. Also it would reflect the integration of the chemicals and waste policies at both a practical and institutional level that would increase the visibility, weight and appreciation of the chemicals and waste cluster. At the same time, it is clear that it would not resolve all challenges that the international regime is facing and that it would not replace strong commitment and support for the sound management of chemicals and wastes by each single state.

Several different options seem to be available to implement the proposed managerial structure of the three convention secretariats with a common head:

1. UNEP’s Executive Director could decide to establish and fund a position of a common head for the three conventions. UNEP’s Governing Council could support or request such a decision ².
2. The COPs of the three conventions, based on the recommendation of the AHJWG, could take synchronic and sequential decisions to co-finance a new position of a common head for the three conventions’ secretariats. Such a decision could be taken for a probational period with a view of reviewing the effectivity and efficiency of this new structure after a period of e.g. 4 years ³.

² If it would be decided at a later stage to include the FAO part of Rotterdam in this structure, the UNEP ED would have to take such decision jointly with the FAO Director-General.

³ A possible third option could be that the UN General Assembly would recommend a joint managerial structure with a common head. Such a recommendation could be, e.g., the result of the ongoing discussions within the UN General Assembly to strengthen international environmental governance.

Sources

Study on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. May 2006. UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12.

Report of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of its first meeting. 18 April 2007, UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/JWG.1/4.

Recommendation on improving cooperation and synergies prepared by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. October 2006. UNEP/CHW.8/INF/30.

Enhancing synergies and cooperation. April 2006. UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/2/Add.8

Annex: relevant convention articles and decisions mentioned in the thought starter.

Basel Convention

ARTICLE 16

Secretariat

1. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:
 - (a) To arrange for and service meetings provided for in Articles 15 and 17;
 - (b) To prepare and transmit reports based upon information received in accordance with Articles 3, 4, 6, 11 and 13 as well as upon information derived from meetings of subsidiary bodies established under Article 15 as well as upon, as appropriate, information provided by relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental entities;
 - (c) To prepare reports on its activities carried out in implementation of its functions under this Convention and present them to the Conference of the Parties;
 - (d) To ensure the necessary coordination with relevant international bodies, and in particular to enter into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its function;
 - (e) To communicate with focal points and competent authorities established by the Parties in accordance with Article 5 of this Convention;
 - (f) To compile information concerning authorized national sites and facilities of Parties available for the disposal of their hazardous wastes and other wastes and to circulate this information among Parties;
 - (g) To receive and convey information from and to Parties on:
 - sources of technical assistance and training;
 - available technical and scientific know-how;
 - sources of advice and expertise; and
 - availability of resources
 - with a view to assisting them, upon request, in such areas as:
 - the handling of the notification system of this Convention;
 - the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes;
 - environmentally sound technologies relating to hazardous wastes and other wastes; such as low- and non-waste technology;
 - the assessment of disposal capabilities and sites;
 - the monitoring of hazardous wastes and other wastes; and
 - emergency responses;
 - (h) To provide Parties, upon request, with information on consultants or consulting firms having the necessary technical competence in the field, which can assist them to examine a notification for a transboundary movement, the concurrence of a shipment of hazardous wastes or other wastes with the relevant notification, and/or the fact that the proposed disposal facilities for hazardous wastes or other wastes are environmentally sound, when they have reason to believe that the wastes in question will not be managed in an environmentally sound manner. Any such examination would not be at the expense of the Secretariat;
 - (i) To assist Parties upon request in their identification of cases of illegal traffic and to circulate immediately to the Parties concerned any information it has received regarding illegal traffic;
 - (j) To co-operate with Parties and with relevant and competent international organizations and agencies in the provision of experts and equipment for the purpose of rapid assistance to States in the event of an emergency situation; and
 - (k) To perform such other functions relevant to the purposes of this Convention as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.
2. The secretariat functions will be carried out on an interim basis by UNEP until the completion of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties held pursuant to Article 15.

3. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall designate the Secretariat from among those existing competent intergovernmental organizations which have signified their willingness to carry out the secretariat functions under this Convention. At this meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall also evaluate the implementation by the interim Secretariat of the functions assigned to it, in particular under paragraph 1 above, and decide upon the structures appropriate for those functions.

Rotterdam Convention

ARTICLE 19

Secretariat

1. A Secretariat is hereby established.
2. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:
 - (a) To make arrangements for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and to provide them with services as required;
 - (b) To facilitate assistance to the Parties, particularly developing Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of this Convention;
 - (c) To ensure the necessary coordination with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies;
 - (d) To enter, under the overall guidance of the Conference of the Parties, into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions; and
 - (e) To perform the other secretariat functions specified in this Convention and such other functions as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.
3. The secretariat functions for this Convention shall be performed jointly by the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO, subject to such arrangements as shall be agreed between them and approved by the Conference of the Parties.
4. The Conference of the Parties may decide, by a three-fourths majority of the Parties present and voting, to entrust the secretariat functions to one or more other competent international organizations, should it find that the Secretariat is not functioning as intended.

RC-1/17: Financing and budget for the biennium 2005–2006

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling paragraph 4 of article 18 of the Convention,

1. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish on an interim basis for the period 2005-2006:
 - (a) A general trust fund for the operational budget;
 - (b) A voluntary special trust fund;
2. *Approves* the operational budget of 3,667,041 United States dollars for 2005 and an indicative operational budget of 3,542,159 United States dollars for 2006 for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
3. *Decides* that the indicative figure for 2006 will be reconsidered at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the basis of recommendations made by the head(s) of the Convention secretariat;
4. *Welcomes* the annual contribution of 1.2 million euros pledged by the host Governments of the Convention secretariat to offset planned expenditures;
5. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for 2005 and provisionally for 2006 as contained in table 2 of the present decision, and authorizes the head(s) of the Convention secretariat, in keeping with the financial rules, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for

- which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2005 for 2005, and before 1 January 2006 for 2006;
6. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and the contributors to the trust fund established for the interim phase of the Convention to transfer the unused balance of that fund to one of the trust funds referred to in paragraph 1 above, and requests the head(s) of the Convention secretariat to account for the funds thus transferred;
 7. *Invites* the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue their financial support for the operation of the Convention and its secretariat in 2005 and 2006;
 8. *Approves* the staffing table of the Convention secretariat for the operational budget for 2005 and indicative staffing table for 2006 as contained in table 3 of the present decision;
 9. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its first meeting to consider, if feasible and appropriate, co-financing in 2006 the position of a joint head of the secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions at the level of D-1;
 10. *Authorizes* the head(s) of the Convention secretariat to make transfers of up to 20 per cent of one main appropriation line of the approved budget to other main appropriation lines;
 11. *Authorizes* the head(s) of the Convention secretariat to make commitments up to the level of the approved operational budget, drawing on available cash resources;
 12. *Decides* to set the minimum working capital reserve for 2005–2006 at a level of 8.3 per cent of the estimated expenditure of the operational budget, including programme support costs;
 13. *Decides further* that designated contributions from the surplus of the General Trust Fund for the interim phase of the Convention should, and any contributions from non-Parties in accordance with paragraph 14, shall, be added to the working capital reserve for 2005–2006 for the purpose of increasing its level to 15 per cent of the estimated expenditure of the operational budget, including programme support costs, for the year 2006;
 14. *Decides* that a non-party to the Convention may contribute to the General Trust Fund in 2005–2006 for the purpose of augmenting the working capital reserve;
 15. *Takes note* of the funding estimates for activities under the Convention to be financed from the voluntary special trust fund included in table 4 of the present decision; and urges Parties and invites non-parties as well as other sources to contribute to this fund;
 16. *Decides* that, on an exceptional basis and subject to available resources, funding for participation from the voluntary special trust fund may be made available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, and to countries with economies in transition which provide a clear commitment towards becoming parties to the Convention. Evidence of such political commitment may, among other things, take the form of a written assurance to the head(s) of the Convention secretariat that the country intends to become a party to the Convention;
 17. *Invites* Parties to note that contributions to the operational budget for a calendar year are expected on 1 January of that year, and urges Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions promptly and in full, and in this regard requests that Parties be notified of the amount of their contributions for a given year by 15 October of the previous year;
 18. *Invites* Parties to notify the head(s) of the Convention secretariat of all contributions that they make to the operational budget at the time such payments are made;
 19. *Requests* the head(s) of the Convention secretariat to publish a list of assessed contributions received on the web site of the Convention and to keep this list up to date;
 20. *Requests* the head(s) of the Convention secretariat to report on the secretariat's activities, income and budget for 2005 and 2006, to prepare a budget for the biennium 2007–2008 and to make recommendations on the future trusteeship of the Convention trust funds to the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting;
 21. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of different options, taking into account paragraph 18, and, to this end, requests the head(s) of the Convention secretariat to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2007–2008 three alternatives based on:

- (a) His or her assessment of the required rate of growth of the operational budget;
- (b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2005–2006 level in nominal terms;
- (c) Increasing the operational budget at the 2005–2006 level by 10 per cent in nominal terms;

22. *Requests* the head(s) of the Convention secretariat to provide the Parties with an indication of the staffing and financial implications of recommendations that have been forwarded to the Conference of the Parties at its future meetings;

23. *Requests* the head(s) of the Convention secretariat, in the light of the decision on the location of the secretariat and the experience of other international agreements and institutions, and within available resources, to undertake a study of the advantages and disadvantages of using the euro, the Swiss franc or the United States dollar as the currency of the accounts and budget of the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting.

Stockholm Convention

ARTICLE 20

Secretariat

1. A Secretariat is hereby established.
2. The functions of the Secretariat shall be:
 - (a) To make arrangements for meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and to provide them with services as required;
 - (b) To facilitate assistance to the Parties, particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, on request, in the implementation of this Convention;
 - (c) To ensure the necessary coordination with the secretariats of other relevant international bodies;
 - (d) To prepare and make available to the Parties periodic reports based on information received pursuant to Article 15 and other available information;
 - (e) To enter, under the overall guidance of the Conference of the Parties, into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions; and
 - (f) To perform the other secretariat functions specified in this Convention and such other functions as may be determined by the Conference of the Parties.
3. The secretariat functions for this Convention shall be performed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, unless the Conference of the Parties decides, by a three-fourths majority of the Parties present and voting, to entrust the secretariat functions to one or more other international organizations.

SC-1/18: Enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 and 23/9 of 25 February 2005 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which stress the need to enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergies among multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats where common issues arise in chemicals and waste issues,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal made at the first meeting 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, for a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and the Rotterdam conventions;

2. *Decides* that further possibilities for additional synergies should be explored;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant Secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on how 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;

4. *Decides* to consider the results of the study referred to in paragraph 3 at its second meeting;
 5. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting to consider the results of the study;
 6. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session to consider the results of the study as well as the considerations and decisions from the above-mentioned bodies;
 7. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, 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;
 8. *Invites* contributions from those Parties in a position to contribute to the voluntary trust fund to finance the study.
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