



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

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



**Stockholm Convention on Persistent  
Organic Pollutants**

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

**Fifteenth meeting**

Geneva, 26–30 July 2021 and  
6–17 June 2022\*  
Agenda item 5 (b)

**International cooperation and  
coordination: cooperation and  
coordination with other  
organizations**

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Rotterdam Convention on the  
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**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. In their decisions BC-14/21, RC-9/9 and SC-9/19, on international cooperation and coordination, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, 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, respectively, requested the Secretariat:

\* In accordance with decisions BC-15/1, RC-10/2 and SC-10/2 of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the 2021/2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties are being held in two segments: an online segment held from 26 to 30 July 2021 and a face-to-face segment to be held from 6 to 17 June 2022 in Geneva.

(a) To continue to make available to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to continue to cooperate with UNEP, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the conventions;

(b) To continue to assist Parties, subject to the availability of resources, upon request, in their efforts to integrate relevant elements of the conventions into their national plans and strategies for sustainable development, and, as appropriate, legislation;

(c) To continue to work closely with other international organizations, within the scope of their mandates, on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics;

(d) To continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and, more generally, with other international bodies in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(e) To cooperate, should the e-waste coalition be established, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, with those members of the coalition that belong to the United Nations system.

2. In the same decisions, the conferences of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of UNEP in fostering the implementation of relevant United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions in areas relevant to the conventions.

3. In addition, the conferences of the Parties invited the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to consider inviting the conventions to become members of IOMC and requested the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps in that regard. The conferences of the Parties also requested the Secretariat to continue to participate as an observer, upon invitation, at relevant meetings of IOMC, pending the outcome of their invitation.

4. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted decision BC-14/13 on further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention, in which it requested the Secretariat to communicate the decisions of the fourteenth meeting of its Conference of the Parties related to plastic waste, including marine plastic litter and microplastics,<sup>1</sup> to the United Nations Environment Assembly, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, and the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

5. The memorandums of understanding between each Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director of UNEP as well as, for the Rotterdam Convention, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), adopted at the respective 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties,<sup>2</sup> also provide a framework for programmatic cooperation between the secretariats, UNEP and FAO.<sup>3</sup>

## II. Implementation

### A. Cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster

#### 1. Cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme

6. The Secretariat has continued to engage with UNEP at the programmatic level with a view to contributing to the implementation of certain aspects of the UNEP medium-term strategy for 2018–2021, the UNEP programme of work for 2020–2021 and resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly of relevance to the conventions. Programmatic cooperation has also aimed at the provision by UNEP of programmatic support to the conventions.

7. Cooperation has taken place through the participation of UNEP and the Secretariat as observers in meetings of the respective governing bodies, on a bilateral basis and through the use of coordination mechanisms such as the UNEP Senior Management Team; the joint task force on programmatic cooperation on chemicals and waste between the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and

<sup>1</sup> Decisions BC-14/12, BC-14/13, BC-14/18, BC-14/21 and BC-14/23.

<sup>2</sup> By decisions BC-14/26, RC-9/14 and SC-9/24.

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the implementation of the memorandums of understanding, see documents UNEP/CHW.15/27, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/23 and UNEP/POPS/COP.10/27.

Stockholm conventions, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Chemicals and Health Branch of the UNEP Economy Division; and the multilateral environmental agreement focal points network between the UNEP Law Division and multilateral environmental agreements whose secretariat functions are administered by UNEP. A report by the above-mentioned joint task force on its work is available in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/67–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/46–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/43.

8. The Executive Secretary participated in the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held in Nairobi from 11 to 15 March 2019, and participated in numerous high-level forums, panel discussions and other events at the session. At that session, the Environment Assembly adopted a ministerial declaration on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production<sup>4</sup> and a number of resolutions of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in particular resolution 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastics,<sup>5</sup> resolution 4/7 on environmentally sound management of waste,<sup>6</sup> resolution 4/8 on the sound management of chemicals and waste,<sup>7</sup> resolution 4/9 on addressing single-use plastics products pollution<sup>8</sup> and decision 4/2 on the provisional agenda, dates and venue of the fifth session of the Environment Assembly.<sup>9</sup> The Executive Secretary also participated in the online and in-person segments of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, held respectively on 22 and 23 February 2021 and in Nairobi from 28 February to 2 March 2022. The Environment Assembly adopted a number of resolutions relevant to the conventions, in particular resolution 5/1 entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”,<sup>10</sup> resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste,<sup>11</sup> and resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution.<sup>12</sup> The Executive Secretary further participated in the special session of the Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNEP, held on 3 and 4 March 2022 in Nairobi, at which a political declaration was adopted<sup>13</sup> (see section II.B.2 of the present note for more information).

9. Among the activities undertaken to engage in the implementation of relevant resolutions, the Secretariat has continued its cooperation with UNEP by observing or contributing information to various processes, such as the work of the ad hoc open-ended expert group on marine litter and microplastics, the review by the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP of the efficiency and effectiveness of UNEP governing bodies with regard to ways of enhancing cooperation between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements,<sup>14</sup> and UNEP follow-up to General Assembly resolution 73/333 on the follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277.<sup>15</sup> The Secretariat also cooperated on various programmatic technical issues by providing input to the development of various reports, assessments, tools,<sup>16</sup> the proposed UNEP medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and the proposed UNEP programme of work and budget for the biennium 2022–2023, alongside other outputs such as the UNEP Executive Director’s report, prepared for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session.<sup>17</sup> The Secretariat also engaged with UNEP as part of its technical

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/EA.4/HLS.1.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/EA.4/Res.6; see, in particular, paras. 2, 3 and 5–8.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/EA.4/Res.7; see, in particular, paras. 2 and 3.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/EA.4/Res.8; see, in particular, paras. 10–12 and 14.

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/EA.4/Res.9; see, in particular, para. 8.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/EA.4/2, annex II, decision 4/2; see, in particular, paras. 10 and 15.

<sup>10</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.1.

<sup>11</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.7, in particular paras. 3, 7–8, 16 and 24.

<sup>12</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.8.

<sup>13</sup> UNEP/EA.SS.1/4.

<sup>14</sup> See Environment Assembly decision 4/2, paras. 9–14.

<sup>15</sup> See section II.B.2 of the present note. For more information on the UNEP process see the page on the UNEP website on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 73/333, entitled “Follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277”, available at [www.unep.org/environmentassembly/follow-up-on-ga-res-73-333](http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/follow-up-on-ga-res-73-333).

<sup>16</sup> For instance, the manuals on green chemistry and sustainable chemistry, the assessment report on issues of concern, the assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level, and the global waste management outlook and regional outlooks, as requested by resolutions 4/8 and 4/9.

<sup>17</sup> The fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly was held in two parts: a first part held online on 22 and 23 February 2021, with a limited agenda, and a second part held face to face from 28 February to 2 March 2022, during which the Assembly adopted the resolutions, decisions and outcome document of the session. For updated information, see [www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5](http://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5).

assistance and capacity-building activities to support Parties to enhance the implementation of the conventions (e.g., on reporting, legislation, financing, enforcement, monitoring, information exchange, or specific chemicals and waste types). Further information on the follow-up to resolution 4/6 on marine plastic litter and microplastics is included in the note by the Secretariat on further consideration of plastic wastes.<sup>18</sup>

10. The Secretariat is a member of the United Nations Environment Management Group and has provided input to several issue management groups, such as those on tackling e-waste and on environmental sustainability management, as well as to the consultative process on biodiversity, the consultative process on advancing environmental and social sustainability in the United Nations System and the Task Team on Marine Litter and Microplastics. Since the last meetings of the conferences of the Parties, the letter of intent to provide a framework for coordination and collaboration on system-wide support for e-waste management through an e-waste coalition was re-signed, on 12 July 2019, to allow additional organizations to join the framework. At the twenty-sixth Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group, held on 28 October 2020,<sup>19</sup> the decision was taken to transfer the coordination of the e-waste coalition to its member agencies, in the light of the progress made by the coalition and the completed mandate of the Environment Management Group. At the time of drafting of the present note, the members of the coalition were finalizing terms of reference for the coalition as well as a workplan, a communications strategy and a fundraising strategy. The interim secretariat of the coalition was hosted by the International Telecommunication Union for the period November 2020–June 2021.<sup>20</sup> Thereafter, UNEP took over the hosting of the interim secretariat for the period September 2021–February 2022. The discussion about the permanent secretariat is ongoing.

11. Information provided by the Executive Secretary regarding programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the Secretariat is set out in the report on activities pertaining to international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2021.<sup>21</sup> Supplemental information is provided in the report by the Executive Director of UNEP to the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on programmatic cooperation.<sup>22</sup>

## **2. Cooperation and coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

12. The part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention that is hosted by FAO has continued to further enhance and strengthen its cooperation across FAO, including with representatives of FAO country, regional and subregional offices. That approach has leveraged work and resources, increased the impact of activities on the ground and enhanced coherence in the implementation of the FAO strategic framework, the mandate of the Rotterdam Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals.

13. The Secretariat also cooperated very closely with the FAO pest and pesticide management team in a number of areas, in particular the development of a global action plan on highly hazardous pesticides, which is expected to be launched at the fifth session of the International Conference for Chemicals Management, and technical assistance and training activities, such as the third phase of the multilateral environmental agreement programme in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, whose third component is led by FAO and relates to biodiversity and sound chemicals management, with a focus on pesticide risk reduction. Additionally, the Secretariat has carried out several national and subregional training activities on the FAO pesticide registration toolkit, developed by the FAO pest and pesticide management team.

14. The Secretariat has facilitated the linkage of FAO field projects on risk reduction for highly hazardous pesticides with the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention.

15. The Secretariat participated as an observer in the FAO task force focusing on reduction of plastic use in agriculture. Some of the specific topics addressed were plastic mulching films and recommendations for policy measures.

<sup>18</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/10.

<sup>19</sup> For more information, see <https://unemg.org/about-emg/senior-officials-meeting-som/>.

<sup>20</sup> For more information, see <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/innter-agency-issue-management-group-on-tackling-e-waste/>.

<sup>21</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45.

<sup>22</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/56–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/25–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/46.

### 3. Cooperation with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

16. The Secretariat has continued to cooperate with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, providing relevant input to the Strategic Approach and taking part in the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, including by providing relevant input to the intersessional process, participating in meetings such as the third meeting of the intersessional process held in Bangkok, from 1 to 4 October 2019, and taking part in the virtual groups set up between October 2020 and February 2021. Information on the Strategic Approach and the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, submitted by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach, is provided in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/43–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/47.

### 4. Cooperation with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals

17. On 10 October 2019, the Secretariat sent a letter to the member organizations of IOMC communicating the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their meetings in May 2019 that were of relevance to IOMC, in particular the invitation to IOMC participating organizations to consider inviting the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to become members of IOMC. On 31 October 2019, the Chair of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee informed the Secretariat that the matter had been considered at the IOMC meeting on 16 and 17 October 2019, during which it was noted that IOMC was still awaiting receipt of legal clarifications from the organizations hosting the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions regarding the request, and therefore a reply to that request was still pending. On 15 January 2021, the Executive Director of UNEP informed the IOMC participating organizations of the consent by UNEP for IOMC to invite the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to become participating organizations of IOMC on behalf of their respective conferences of the Parties and that such participation should be considered separate from that of UNEP.

18. The Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee of IOMC was expected to address the matter during the closed session of its 56th meeting, held on 26 and 27 October 2021. However, at the time of drafting of the present note, the Secretariat had not received any information on the meeting outcomes.

19. The Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee of IOMC has continued to extend invitations to the Secretariat to participate regularly in the open sessions of the meetings of the Committee as an observer, and the Secretariat has continued to accept those invitations.

## B. Cooperation and coordination within the broader environment and sustainable development agendas

### 1. Contributions of the conventions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

20. In response to the above-mentioned mandates, the Secretariat has continued to work with UNEP, the Statistics Division and other organizations towards the development of methodologies for relevant indicators, in particular Sustainable Development Goal indicators 12.4.1,<sup>23</sup> 12.4.2<sup>24</sup> and 12.5.1.<sup>25</sup>

21. For indicator 12.4.1, in 2020, the Secretariat made available to UNEP the data collected under the conventions for the period 2015–2019, based on the methodology presented at the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties.<sup>26</sup> In addition, in 2021 the Secretariat provided input for updating the Sustainable Development Goals metadata for indicator 12.4.1 in the context of the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database. Furthermore, the Secretariat provided input to the preparation

<sup>23</sup> Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.

<sup>24</sup> (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment.

<sup>25</sup> National recycling rate, tons of material recycled.

<sup>26</sup> See UNEP/CHW.13/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/45, as well as the metadata repository for Sustainable Development Goal indicators, available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>.

of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 reports of the Secretary-General on progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and to their statistical annexes with regard to indicator 12.4.1.

22. The Secretariat supported the Government of the Republic of Moldova in a pilot project to strengthen its capacities for data collection for national reporting under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, for import responses under the Rotterdam Convention and for the Sustainable Development Goals, thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union.

## 2. General Assembly resolution 73/333

23. On 30 August 2019, the General Assembly adopted resolution 73/333 on follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277.<sup>27</sup> In the resolution, the General Assembly, among other things, welcomed the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277 and endorsed all its recommendations, as set out in the annex to the resolution. The recommendations include a section setting out the objectives guiding the recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group, a section setting out substantive recommendations directed to, among others, the governing bodies and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, and a section on further work pertaining to, among other things, the circulation of the above-mentioned recommendations to the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements for their consideration and action, as appropriate.

24. The substantive recommendations specifically addressed to the governing bodies and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements are set out in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the recommendations, as follows:

(a) Invite the governing bodies of the multilateral environmental agreements, while preserving their independence and respective mandates, to increase their efforts to promote policy coherence across environmental instruments at all relevant levels and to consider identifying and addressing implementation challenges in their regimes, with a view to strengthening implementation at the national and international levels;

(b) Invite the governing bodies and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements to enhance cooperation and collaboration among themselves within the scope of their respective mandates, as well as between themselves and the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Environment Assembly, building on work already done;

(c) Encourage the governing bodies of multilateral environmental agreements and scientific, technical and technological bodies to exchange information and experiences, including with a view to considering the streamlining of reporting and/or monitoring processes.

25. Information on the outcome of the UNEP follow-up to General Assembly resolution 73/333, which led to the adoption of the political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, is set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/66–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/47–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/69.

## 3. Other cooperation and coordination under the broader environmental and sustainable development agendas

26. To highlight the contributions of the conventions to the broader environmental agenda, the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention jointly developed an exploratory study on the four conventions' linkages to biodiversity and an assessment report on the conventions' linkages to climate change.

27. The study, entitled "Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity",<sup>28</sup> explores the interlinkages between chemicals and waste and biodiversity and how, by promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, the four conventions contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the services provided by ecosystems. The study also assesses the relationship of the four conventions with the subjects focused on by the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, in particular ongoing discussions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. On the basis of the conclusions of the exploratory study, some actions for the

<sup>27</sup> See UNEP/CHW.15/INF/66–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/47–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/69.

<sup>28</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48.

consideration of the conferences of the Parties have been included in the proposed draft decision set out in section III of the present note.

28. The report entitled “Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action”<sup>29</sup> explores the links between climate change and releases and transportation of hazardous chemicals, the relationships between hazardous chemicals production and use and climate change, synergies and trade-offs between greenhouse gases and hazardous chemicals mitigation options, the links between the environmentally sound management of waste and climate change, and provides an overview of opportunities for aligning emissions accounting and inventories for greenhouse gases and hazardous chemicals. Based on the assessment, a set of conclusions and technical recommendations to guide policy and decision makers in streamlining action on those issues are also included in the report. Some actions for the consideration of the conferences of the Parties have been included in the proposed draft decision set out in section III of the present note.

### C. Other cooperation and coordination

29. The Secretariat has continued its cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the assignment of Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System customs codes to waste types listed under the Basel Convention and to the chemicals listed in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention. Information on activities related to waste types listed under the Basel Convention is set out in document UNEP/CHW.15/7. Information on the activities related to the chemicals listed in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention is set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/15.

30. The Secretariat has continued to enhance cooperation and coordination with international bodies in areas of relevance to the conventions and with those organizations listed in its previous report to the conferences of the Parties on activities pertaining to international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2017–31 December 2018.<sup>30</sup>

31. Additional information on all the cooperative activities described in sections A–C of the present note is provided in the report on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2021.<sup>31</sup> Information on cooperation and coordination with international bodies on specific programmatic issues is also set out in relevant meeting documents.

### D. Strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021

32. Reference is made to document on the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021,<sup>32</sup> the report on the final evaluation of the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2012–2021<sup>33</sup> and the executive summary of the report.<sup>34</sup> The latter, in its paragraphs 69 and 87, sets out several recommendations relevant to the topic of cooperation and coordination with other organizations. The recommendation in paragraph 69 of the executive summary is given effect in document UNEP/CHW.15/12 on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance. The recommendation in paragraph 87 of the executive summary has been reflected in paragraph 6 of the draft decision in section III of the present note.

## III. Proposed action

33. Each Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

#### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal at its fourteenth meeting related to plastic waste, including marine plastic litter and microplastics,<sup>35,36</sup> the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination

<sup>29</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/45–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/49.

<sup>30</sup> See UNEP/CHW.14/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/38.

<sup>31</sup> See UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45.

<sup>32</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/3.

<sup>33</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/5.

<sup>34</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/3/Add.1.

<sup>35</sup> Decisions BC-14/12, BC-14/13, BC-14/18, BC-14/21 and BC-14/23.

<sup>36</sup> Applies only to the decision to be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2021,<sup>37</sup> the update provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020,<sup>38</sup> and the information on activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme on programmatic matters pertaining to the conventions;<sup>39</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session, including resolution 5/1 entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”;<sup>40</sup> resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste;<sup>41</sup> and resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution;<sup>42</sup>

3. *Also welcomes* the political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme;<sup>43</sup>

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to participate in the ad hoc open-ended working group mentioned in paragraph 5 of resolution 5/1, to prepare for the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, and in the intergovernmental negotiating committee itself, mentioned in paragraph 1 of that resolution, and to closely cooperate and coordinate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee; and invites Parties participating in the ad hoc open-ended working group and in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to ensure that the international legally binding instrument is fully coherent with and complementary to 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, that it avoids the duplication of actions set out in the relevant provisions of those conventions, and that it promotes cooperation and coordination with those conventions;

5. *Encourages* Parties to provide, on a voluntary basis, statistical information on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste;<sup>44,45</sup>

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to participate in the ad hoc open-ended working group mentioned in paragraph 4 of resolution 5/8, to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel mentioned in paragraph 1 of that resolution, and to cooperate closely with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the science-policy panel; and invites Parties participating in the ad hoc open-ended working group to ensure that the functions of the panel respect the mandates of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, avoid overlap and duplication of work and promote coordination and cooperation; that the panel will undertake work that is complementary to and

<sup>37</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45.

<sup>38</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/43–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/47.

<sup>39</sup> See UNEP/CHW.15/INF/56–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/25–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/46.

<sup>40</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.1.

<sup>41</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.7.

<sup>42</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.8.

<sup>43</sup> UNEP/EA.SS.1/4.

<sup>44</sup> See para. 15 of resolution 5/1.

<sup>45</sup> Other items of the agenda of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention addressing the issue of plastic waste are as follows: 4 (b) (i) on technical guidelines (documents UNEP/CHW.15/6 and UNEP/CHW.15/6/Add.7); 4 (b) (ii) on classification and hazard characterization of wastes (document UNEP/CHW.15/7); 4 (b) (iii) on national reporting (UNEP/CHW.15/8); 4 (b) (v) on further consideration of plastic waste (document UNEP/CHW.15/10); 4 (c) (ii) on providing further legal clarity (document UNEP/CHW.15/13); 4 (d) on technical assistance (document UNEP/CHW.15/16); and 4 (e) on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme (UNEP/CHW.15/18/Rev.1). The Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, in advance of the face-to-face segment of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and during the face-to-face segment of its twelfth meeting, is expected to make progress on several items on the agenda for that meeting addressing plastic waste, including agenda item 3 (b) (iv) on plastic waste (documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/7 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.12/INF/20/Rev.1).

does not duplicate the work of the conventions; and that the panel will cooperate closely with science-policy bodies under the conventions, as appropriate;<sup>46</sup>

7. *Notes* the invitation by the United Nations Environment Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, for the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider further the issue of increasing levels of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other waste, as reported by developing countries, and draws attention to the relevant decisions adopted at past meetings of the Conference of the Parties and at its present meeting;<sup>47,48</sup>

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions related to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

9. *Recalls* the provisions on programmatic cooperation of the 2019 memorandums of understanding between the respective conferences of the Parties to 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 and the Executive Director of UNEP and, for the Rotterdam Convention, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

10. *Welcomes* the programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on programmatic matters of mutual interest;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue such programmatic cooperation efforts;

12. *Notes* the progress achieved towards the establishment and operationalization of the e-waste coalition;

13. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretariat, should the coalition be established, to cooperate, as appropriate and within available resources, with the members of the coalition that belong to the United Nations system and partners that are State and non-State actors;

14. *Notes with concern* that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have not yet become participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

15. *Welcomes* the support of the United Nations Environment Programme for the full participation of the conventions in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

16. *Reiterates* its invitation to other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to consider inviting the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to become participating organizations as soon as possible;

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue taking the necessary steps for membership and participation in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

18. *Reiterates* the requests contained in paragraphs 6 (a)–(c) of decisions BC-14/21, RC-9/9 and SC-9/19 to the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the conventions;

<sup>46</sup> See paras. 5 (c), 6 (d) and 8 of resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

<sup>47</sup> See decisions BC-15/[--], BC-14/17 on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic; BC-14/19 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme; and BC-14/24 on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.

<sup>48</sup> Only for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

19. *Requests* the Secretariat and invites the relevant custodian agencies<sup>49</sup> to strengthen their collaboration to ensure appropriate linkages between the reporting system of the Basel Convention and that of the Sustainable Development Goals, including commonalities in terminology, in order to enable data-sharing;
20. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue:
- (a) To work closely with other international organizations, within their mandates, on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics;
- (b) To enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and with other international bodies in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including in the areas and with the organizations listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2021;
- (c) To continue to participate as an observer, upon invitation, at relevant meetings of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, pending the outcome of the actions mentioned in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the present decision;
21. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly set out in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the annex to its resolution 73/333 on the follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277;<sup>50</sup>
22. *Notes* that decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties over the years and at the present meeting satisfactorily address those recommendations;
23. *Takes note* of the exploratory study entitled “Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity”, including its conclusions,<sup>51</sup> and of the report entitled “Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action”;<sup>52</sup>
24. *Requests* the Secretariat to forward those reports to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, respectively, with an invitation to bring the reports to the attention of the respective conferences of the Parties to those conventions, as appropriate;
25. *Invites* Parties to take into account the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
26. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the conventions could contribute to the post-2020 biodiversity framework for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;
27. *Invites* Parties and others to consider the conclusions and technical recommendations of the report entitled “Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action”<sup>53</sup> in their actions to address the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes and climate change mitigation;
28. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

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<sup>49</sup> The United Nations Environment Programme and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

<sup>50</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/66–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/47–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/69.

<sup>51</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48.

<sup>52</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/45–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/49.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*