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**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 4 (d)
**Matters related to the implementation
of the Convention: technical assistance**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade
Tenth meeting**
Geneva, 26–30 July 2021 and 6–17 June
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Agenda item 5 (e)
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implementation of the Convention:
technical assistance**

**Conference of the Parties to the
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Agenda item 5 (f)
**Matters related to the
implementation of the
Convention: technical assistance**

**Technical assistance plan for the implementation of the
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period
2022–2025**

Note by the Secretariat

As is mentioned in the note by the Secretariat on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/CHW.15/16–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/13), the annex to the present note sets out the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the three conventions for 2022–2025. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* 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.

Annex

Technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025

I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to the mandates set out in Article 16, paragraph 1 (g) of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, Article 19, paragraph 2 (b) of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and Article 20, paragraph 2 (b) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants respectively, the request in paragraph 8 (d) of decisions BC-14/18, RC-9/8 and SC-9/14, on technical assistance, and based on the four-year technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021¹ as well as on the needs expressed by Parties in 2020,² the Secretariat has developed a four-year technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 to address these needs and to provide a general framework for strengthened support to Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in their implementation of the conventions. The plan will assist Parties to address their needs in a strategic, systematic and forward-looking manner.
2. The plan identifies interventions for the implementation of the conventions at national and regional levels that are in line with the strategic directions and priorities set by Parties through their respective decisions and adopted programmes of work. The plan seeks to engage Parties, non-Party States, Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), including their regional offices, and other relevant actors, such as the organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), intergovernmental or other organizations, in line with relevant mandate and expertise, for implementation of specific activities contained therein. The implementation of the plan will be subject to the availability of resources.
3. Considering the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, the technical assistance plan seeks to support Parties in integrating chemicals and wastes into national strategies for sustainable development. It also includes enabling activities that will support Parties to develop their statistical capacities on reporting with a view to making data and information available for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. The plan also aims at supporting Parties to the three conventions in engaging in inter-ministerial processes on strengthening chemicals and waste management in the long-term, contributing thereby to important framework processes such as prevention of climate change and protection of biodiversity. A coherent and efficient strategy promoting the full engagement of key actors in the chemicals and wastes cluster, as outlined in the plan, is an important consideration to support developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in meeting their obligations under the conventions and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other important global environmental protection commitments, as adopted under the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).
5. The effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions continues to be hampered by the lack of capacity in many developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.
6. The Secretariat continuously identifies needs for technical assistance based on information from previous programmes of work; feedback on the guidance on technical assistance under the Stockholm Convention; Parties' responses to needs assessment questionnaires for each Convention; the individual requests by and formal correspondence with Parties, including import responses forms; conclusions and recommendations from the effectiveness evaluation processes of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and from the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for 2010-2021; requests included in decisions of the conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies; feedback from intersessional processes under the conventions and needs identified through the Secretariat's face-to-face and online activities, meetings and projects. With regard to the

¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/30-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/18-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/30.

Basel Convention’s strategic framework, the final evaluation report, in its paragraphs 13, 27, 39, 55, 56 and 63, sets out several recommendations relevant to technical assistance and capacity-building under the Basel Convention which have been duly taken into account in preparing the proposed plan. Depending on their nature, these needs are included in the plan for future technical assistance to be provided by relevant actors. Detailed information on the technical assistance needs is available in the document (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/30-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/18-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/30).

7. On the basis of information provided by Parties in 2020 in their needs assessment questionnaires for each of the three conventions, and supported by information from other sources, Parties’ main needs and challenges include the following:

(a) Parties to the Basel Convention indicated that their highest priority was the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, followed by the prevention and control of illegal traffic, waste prevention and minimization, and control procedures for the transboundary movements of waste. Other areas highlighted were national coordination and legal and institutional frameworks;

(b) Parties to the Rotterdam Convention indicated their highest priorities were as follows: monitoring and surveillance of national exposure situations to support possible decisions on banning or severely restricting chemicals, support for Designated National Authorities and customs officers in implementing the Convention, legal and institutional frameworks, national coordination (including national action plans), monitoring and reporting of pesticide poisoning incidents related to severely hazardous pesticide formulations, as well as obligations related to risk evaluation, labelling, and alternatives to chemicals listed in Annex III to the Convention;

(c) Parties to the Stockholm Convention indicated as areas of priority need: persistent organic pollutants stockpiles and wastes, unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, legal and institutional frameworks, industrial persistent organic pollutants and national implementation plans. To a lesser extent, their priorities included national coordination, national reports and persistent organic pollutant pesticides.

8. When comparing the priority areas for technical assistance identified in 2014 and 2016 with those identified in 2020, they remain relatively consistent. At the same time, the focus of the technical assistance needs shifts towards the emerging priority waste streams under the Basel Convention, such as e-waste and plastic waste, and towards the chemicals newly listed in the annexes to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

9. The database on technical assistance needs available online³ allows for analysis of the information related to the technical assistance needs of Parties on global, regional as well as national levels, thus enabling all interested technical assistance providers to tailor their assistance in response to the needs of the benefiting countries or regions, while considering various matters related to the implementation of the three conventions in a cross-cutting manner.

10. In terms of the delivery of technical assistance, Parties across the regions specified a preference for face-to-face training (workshops or “training the trainers”), support for the development and implementation of specific projects and support through the availability of tools and guidance. Taking into consideration difficulties in delivering technical assistance resulting from COVID-19 pandemic crisis, Parties showed increasing interest in online training courses on specific themes as well as webinars providing guidance on implementation. Nevertheless, despite some regional disparities, Parties were generally less interested in e-learning tools such as online courses without trainer support or toolkits, online training such as webinars and videos.

II. Guiding principles

11. The technical assistance plan promotes a dynamic, progressive and long-term process of capacity development, applying an adaptive approach. The implementation of the activities under the plan will catalyze and facilitate capacity development involving Parties, non-Party States, Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, UNEP and FAO, including their regional offices, other implementing agencies, such as the IOMC organizations, and other relevant organizations, by providing guidance aimed at:

(a) Fostering a strategic, coherent and coordinated approach to capacity development for the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in the context of a life-

³ <http://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/NeedsAssessment/tabid/4898/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

cycle approach for the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes. Technology transfer will also be considered where appropriate, so as to achieve the goals of the conventions;

(b) Promoting the development and implementation of targeted, synergistic and integrated activities at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) Facilitating the mobilization and leveraging of financial, technical and technological resources and expertise in support of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition.

12. The plan promotes a life-cycle approach to chemicals and wastes management based on the legal-policy-science-business interface. This includes considering socio-economic implications, developing business cases, making use of social and economic incentives, and encouraging cooperation with academia and the private sector.

13. The plan takes into account relevant activities undertaken by subsidiary bodies and/or intersessional processes, such as the intersessional working groups on reviewing of chemicals proposed for listing under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the expert working group on environmentally sound management of waste, the Committee administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance with the Basel Convention, the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention, the working groups of the various Basel Convention Partnerships and the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants under the Stockholm Convention.

14. Technical assistance activities should:

(a) Be country-driven and be based on the needs identified by the recipient countries;

(b) Promote national ownership and leadership, including the setting of priorities, design, implementation and evaluation of the initiatives;

(c) Apply a holistic approach, integrating convention-specific activities with relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies and programmes;

(d) Maximize synergies in the implementation of the conventions through coordination of technical assistance activities implemented by various actors such as Parties, the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, UNEP and FAO, including through their regional offices, and implementing agencies such as the IOMC organizations, as well as civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders;

(e) Promote, as appropriate, regional delivery of technical assistance.

III. Approach to technical assistance

15. The overall approach to technical assistance focuses on developing, strengthening and maintaining the capabilities of Parties needed for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the individual, organizational and systemic levels.

16. The North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation between Parties should be facilitated by:

(a) Organizing face-to-face, virtual and online training opportunities for the exchange of experience and knowledge among countries in relation to implementation of the conventions;

(b) Involving resource persons, experts and trainers from different regions and countries in the conduct of activities;

(c) Enhancing cooperation among regional centres with a view to ensuring their involvement and participation in the delivery of technical assistance activities and promoting their work and activities;

(d) Continuing to cooperate with UNEP and FAO regional and subregional offices and FAO country representations;

(e) Providing support to various cooperation forums, particularly South-South and Party-to-Party forums.

17. While using a harmonized approach across the three conventions, specific characteristics of technical assistance for each Convention are considered. Technical assistance activities for each Convention and cross-cutting issues are presented through outcomes, outputs and indicators. Following the strategic direction defined by Parties, the activities will be implemented using the most appropriate means of implementation depending on the topic at hand, resources available and national

and/or regional circumstances, taking into consideration, among other things, Parties’ capacities for the implementation of the conventions.

IV. Theory of change

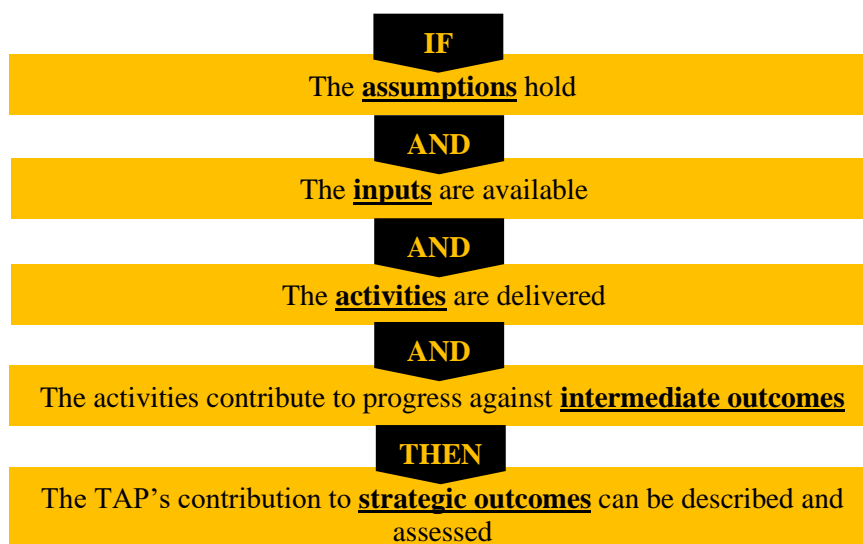
18. Theories of change (TOC) are a common management tool expressing the basic rationale behind an intervention. They describe the results that an intervention is aiming to achieve, how the intervention works towards those results, and the main assumptions behind the intervention’s approach. In turn, TOCs also support the identification of key elements and results areas that should be monitored and evaluated.

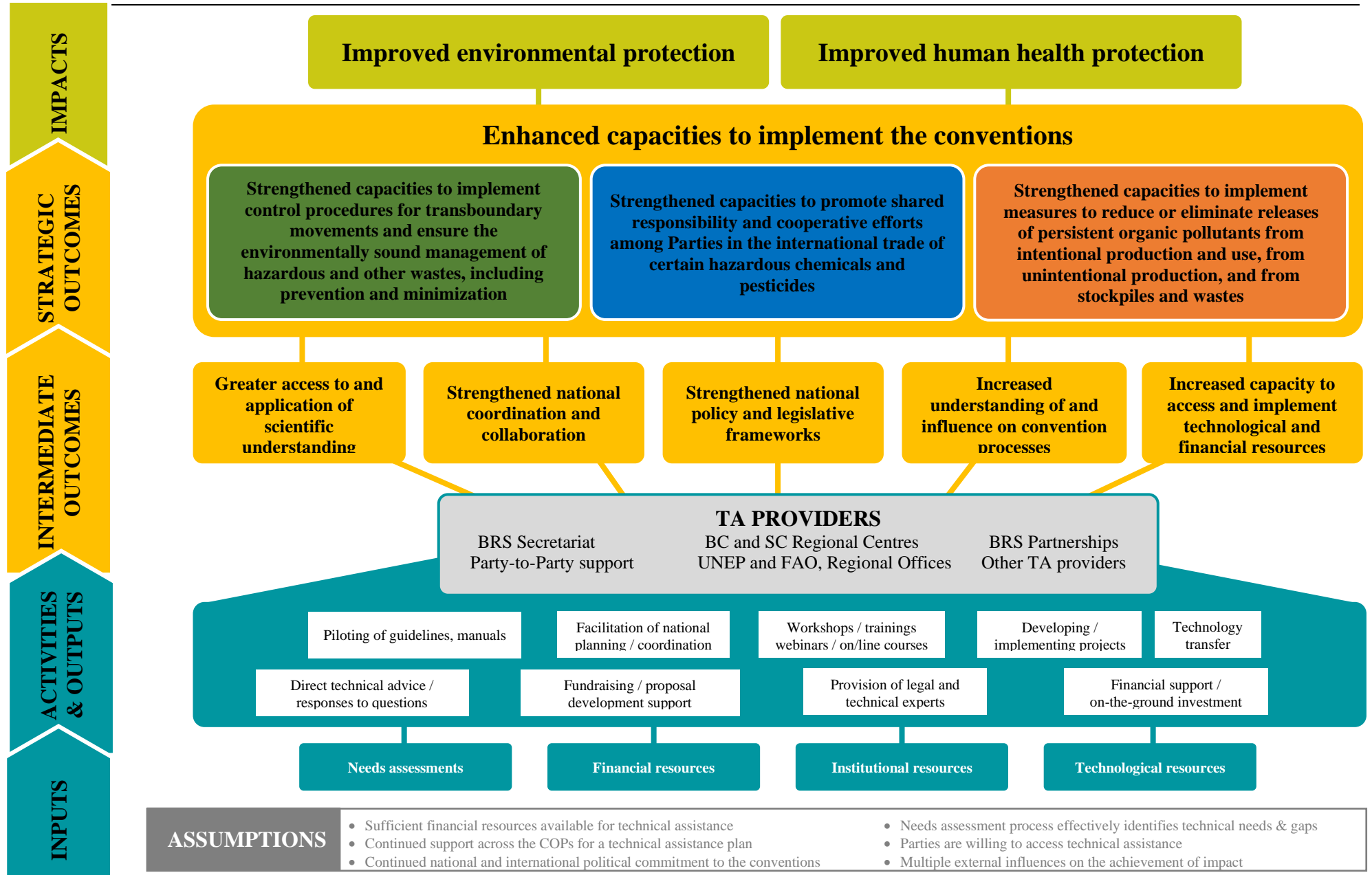
19. Presented below, the technical assistance plan’s TOC is centered on the generic outcomes (the desired changes) that the technical assistance plan (TAP) works towards, rather than the underlying activities (means of delivery) or the thematic/technical focus of each Convention. By emphasizing generic outcomes, the TOC describes the shared intervention logic that is common to all three conventions’ technical assistance.

20. The theory of change is comprised of the following components:

Components	Description
Assumptions	The ground conditions that need to be in place for the TAP’s logic to hold.
Inputs	The raw materials (i.e financial and human resources etc.) required to deliver the TAP.
Activities & Outputs	Rather than listing every convention-specific activity to be delivered through the TAP, the TOC classifies activities into broader groups. This better supports the development and application of generic indicators and monitoring tools, which in turn can be applied across all conventions, and by different TA providers.
TA Providers	The partners, institutions and platforms that provide TA directly to Parties.
Intermediate Outcomes	Five generic outcomes that describe how the TAP’s activities contribute to capacity development, regardless of convention. Any TAP activity should contribute to at least one of the five intermediate outcomes.
Strategic Outcomes	The big, high-level changes that the TAP aims to achieve. There is one strategic outcome per convention, plus one overall strategic outcome for the whole TAP.
Impacts	The highest-level changes that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions strive to deliver (i.e. improved environmental protection, improved human health protection). These impacts are included in the TOC to illustrate where the TAP fits into the ‘bigger picture’ of the BRS conventions.

The overall logic chain expressed through the TOC can be summarised as:





V. Overall goal and objectives

21. The overall goal of the technical assistance plan is to strengthen the capacities of Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

22. Achieving the overall goal of the plan means improved environmental and human health protection through enhanced capacities to implement the conventions by meeting the following objectives:

(a) Under the Basel Convention, the objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to strengthen the capacities of Parties to implement control procedures for transboundary movements and ensure the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, including prevention and minimization;

(b) Under the Rotterdam Convention, the objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to strengthen Parties' capacities in promoting shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides and to contribute to their environmentally sound use;

(c) Under the Stockholm Convention, the objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to strengthen Parties' capacities to implement measures to reduce or eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants from intentional use, from unintentional production and from stockpiles and waste;

(d) For cross-cutting issues among the three conventions, the objective of the delivery of technical assistance is to enhance the capacities of Parties to increase coordination and cooperation at the national level and to strengthen greater access to scientific understanding to enhance informed decision-making on the implementation of the conventions.

VI. Outcomes, outputs and indicators

A. Basel Convention

1. Outcome: Increased capacities of Parties to implement control procedures under the Basel Convention

(a) Outputs

- (i) Measures taken in relation to transit, import/export restrictions or prohibitions, national definitions of hazardous wastes based on long-term national hazardous waste strategies;
- (ii) Development of legal and institutional frameworks implementing the control regime, including with respect to the roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities;
- (iii) Enhanced engagement of Parties with partners involved in the enforcement chain at the national level;
- (iv) Prevention, identification, investigation and punishment of cases of illegal traffic at the national, regional and global level;
- (v) Technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Guidance on control of transboundary movements used or pilot-tested and experiences shared by a number of Parties;
- (ii) Number of Parties that have been supported in their efforts to develop or strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks;
- (iii) Number of pilot projects implemented on the coordination at the national and regional level among entities involved in the enforcement chain;
- (iv) Number of activities to support Parties in preventing and combatting illegal traffic through guidelines, projects and initiatives, including through ENFORCE;
- (v) The technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electrical and electronic waste and used electrical and electronic equipment used and experiences shared by a number of Parties.

2. Outcome: Strengthened capacities of Parties for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, including prevention and minimization

(a) Outputs

- (i) Environmentally sound management of specific waste streams, such as e-waste, POPs waste, mercury waste, plastic waste or other hazardous wastes is enhanced at the national level through strategies, legislation, technical norms and practical standards, as well as best practices for minimization, recycling, recovery and final disposal;
- (ii) National inventories of hazardous and other wastes are available in an increased number of developing countries for the purpose of national reporting;
- (iii) Tools and guidance on the environmentally sound management of specific waste streams are disseminated, applied and tested by Parties and others;
- (iv) Parties have access to practical guidance documents and manuals developed by the expert working group on environmentally sound management; and by the Partnerships under the Basel Convention (i.e. the Plastic Waste Partnership, the Household Waste Partnership and the follow-up partnership to PACE);
- (v) Enhanced submission rate of national reports from Parties that participated in technical assistance activities;
- (vi) Environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes activities initiated and implemented through partnerships and networks led by various actors.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Number of Parties that have implemented activities on the environmentally sound management of e-waste, POPs waste, plastic waste, mercury waste or other hazardous wastes;
- (ii) Number of pilot projects implemented on the development of national inventories of hazardous and other wastes;
- (iii) Number of Parties using and/or pilot testing tools and guidance on the ESM of specific waste streams;
- (iv) Number of activities to disseminate technical guidelines, guidance documents, manuals and factsheets;
- (v) Number of Parties trained on the use of a new reporting format under the Basel Convention;
- (vi) Number of interventions per year that promote the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in cooperation with partners and networks managed by partners and other actors such as UNEP (e.g., on mercury, PCB elimination, DDT Global Alliance, waste management, Global Partnership on Marine Litter), the United Nations University (i.e. on electrical and electronic waste), the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (e.g. on measuring ICT/electronic waste).

B. Rotterdam Convention

1. Outcome: Availability of new and updated guidance documents and online training courses as well as webinars and other tools under the Rotterdam Convention

(a) Outputs

- (i) Updated guidance for the the identification of elements of national action plans on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention available and disseminated to Parties and others;
- (ii) Guidance on the use of bridging information for final regulatory actions available and disseminated to Parties and others;
- (iii) Guidance materials on vulnerable groups made available and disseminated to Parties and others;
- (iv) Information on alternatives to chemical substances considered under the Rotterdam Convention prepared and disseminated to Parties and others.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Guidance tools for development of national action plans applied by a number of Parties;
- (ii) Guidance tools on bridging information made available to Parties in three languages;

- (iii) Guidance tools on work with vulnerable groups made available to and applied in a number of pilot countries;
- (iv) Information tools on alternatives field tested in by a number of countries.

2. Outcome: Strengthened functions and procedures for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention

(a) Outputs

- (i) National legislative and regulatory frameworks and sub-regional approaches are consistent with the requirements of the Rotterdam Convention;
- (ii) Compliance with export notification requirements for chemicals banned or severely restricted at national level;
- (iii) Risk evaluation and reduction methodologies for hazardous chemicals and pesticides, monitoring and surveillance so as to take decisions on final regulatory action (FRAs) and preparation of notifications;
- (iv) Submission of Import Responses;
- (v) Integrated approach on pesticide management both the work on identification of Severely Hazardous Pesticide Formulations (SHPF) and on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs) on the national level.

(b) Indicators

- (i) National legislative and regulatory frameworks and sub-regional approaches, including National Action Plans, that are available in a number of countries;
- (ii) Number of Parties that have developed a plan or strategy to implement the provisions relating to export of chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention;
- (iii) Number of Parties that have identified and evaluated chemicals for FRAs;
- (iv) Number of Parties that have prepared Import Responses, as needed;
- (v) Number of Parties that monitored and reported problems caused by SHPFs and have identified joint activities on identification of SHPFs and HHPs.

C. Stockholm Convention

1. Outcome: Legal and institutional frameworks and national implementation plans (NIPs) are reviewed and updated, supported by guidance for newly listed chemicals

(a) Outputs

- (i) Parties have access to user-friendly and updated guidance documents to develop, review and update their NIPs;
- (ii) Inventory and management guidance for the newly listed POPs is developed, tested and validated;
- (iii) Parties are trained on the review and update of NIPs addressing topics such as the use of relevant guidance, inventories, strategies, priorities, and the formulation of action plans to take relevant measures to address obligations with regard to the newly listed chemicals;
- (iv) Development of legal and institutional frameworks implementing the Stockholm Convention, including with respect to the elimination and environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) throughout their life cycle.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Inventory guidance developed on new POPs and the existing guidance updated, subject to COP decisions;
- (ii) Number of Parties that have transmitted their revised and updated NIPs;
- (iii) Project proposals on follow-up activities to implement NIPs are developed in a number of Parties.
- (iv) Number of Parties that have developed or strengthened their legal and institutional frameworks.

2. Outcome: Strengthened capacities of Parties to address technical issues pertaining to the chemicals listed in the annexes to the Stockholm Convention

(a) Outputs

- (i) Identification, collection and sharing of information on POPs, in particular those still in use and those newly listed and to make informed decisions on newly listed POPs;
- (ii) Alternatives to DDT promoted and need for the use of DDT reduced;
- (iii) Technical guidance related to the elimination of POPs including phasing out of POPs (e.g. guidance on alternatives), sound management of POPs in waste streams, application of Toolkit is widely disseminated, tested and practically applied by Parties;
- (iv) Application of best available techniques and best environmental practices;
- (v) Parties are able to perform regional monitoring activities and to process and evaluate monitoring data;
- (vi) Phasing in safer and affordable alternatives for selected POPs;
- (vii) Data on stockpiles and contaminated sites are available for specific POPs, e.g. DDT, PCB.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Number of Parties that have collected and shared information on newly listed POPs;
- (ii) Support provided to a number of Parties to implement projects in the framework of the roadmap for the development of alternatives to DDT;
- (iii) Number of Parties have participated in the training on technical guidance related to the elimination of POPs;
- (iv) Case studies on the application of best available techniques and best environmental practices available in a number of Parties;
- (v) Number of regional experts involved in monitoring of POPs in sampling, laboratory analysis, data processing and data evaluation trained;
- (vi) Case studies on phased in safer and affordable alternatives for selected POPs is available in a number of Parties;
- (vii) Number of regional inventories on stockpiles and contaminated sites of selected POPs are available.

D. Cross-cutting areas

1. Outcome: Enhanced capacities of Parties to increase national coordination and cooperation for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

(a) Outputs

- (i) Roles and responsibilities of various government agencies for issues addressed by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and information exchange mechanisms are established in institutional frameworks;
- (ii) National legislation and trade control procedures are strengthened;
- (iii) Engagement with customs and other law enforcement entities is enhanced at the national, regional and global levels;
- (iv) Submission of information and comments relevant to review of chemicals under the Chemical Review Committee and the POPs Review Committee;
- (v) National experts are trained on collecting data for the national reporting under the Basel and Stockholm conventions;
- (vi) Data transmitted by Parties are used for the monitoring of the implementation of the specific targets and indicators under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (vii) A pool of skilled government officials from different regions is available for chairing meetings;
- (viii) National and regional capacity to use scientific information in decision-making to implement the Conventions is strengthened;

- (ix) National strategies and plans on chemicals and wastes management and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions include gender issues and gender focus is included in activities tackling specific challenges faced by men, women, girls and boys as well as indigenous people and other groups;
- (x) Parties are trained on prevention, preparedness for hazardous and chemicals emergencies in cooperation with / organized by partners, such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNEP Disasters and Conflicts and others.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Institutional frameworks and information exchange mechanisms are established in a number of Parties;
- (ii) Number of Parties that have participated in the technical assistance activities have addressed challenges related to the development of legislation and import/export procedures and/or illegal traffic;
- (iii) Number of training workshops targeting customs and other law enforcement entities;
- (iv) Number of information submitted to the Chemicals Review Committee and the POPs Review Committees by Parties, members and stakeholders in the regions that received training;
- (v) Number of Parties participating in the technical assistance activities that submit national reports under the Basel and Stockholm conventions;
- (vi) Cooperation between relevant agencies and statistical offices enhanced in a number of Parties;
- (vii) Number of participants trained on chairing and negotiations;
- (viii) Number of Parties providing scientific inputs to the various processes under the conventions;
- (ix) Number of Parties that are aware of the importance of gender issues when mainstreaming chemicals and wastes and Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions into the national strategies and plans;
- (x) Number of Parties that are trained and received assistance on prevention, preparedness and response to emergencies caused by hazardous chemicals and wastes in the scope of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

2. Outcome: Enhanced effectiveness of the regional centres

(a) Outputs

- (i) Increased coordination between activities undertaken by regional centres through the annual meetings of their directors;
- (ii) Skills for preparing project proposals by the regional centres strengthened and cooperation between regional centres and the donor community established or enhanced;
- (iii) Enhanced visibility of the regional centres through their information exchange platforms, web portals.

(b) Indicators

- (i) Number of joint programmes of the regional centres developed and/or further strengthened (e.g. regional coordination and division of specialized work areas, follow-up partnership to PACE) during meetings of the directors of the regional centres;
- (ii) Number of regional centres receiving funds to implement chemicals and waste projects;
- (iii) Web portals of regional centres are updated on regular basis.

VII. Resources for implementation

23. Resources for implementation of the technical assistance plan will come from various sources, depending on the actors involved in its implementation and the donors supporting their activities:

- (a) The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions is planning its technical assistance activities in the framework of its biennial programme of work. For example, the annexes to document UNEP/CHW.15/INF/53/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/34/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/57/Rev.1 sets out proposed operational budgets for the biennium 2022-2023. The programme of work activity factsheets in documents UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.1-

UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.1 provide further details on the proposed budget of the individual technical assistance activities. Technical assistance activities rely entirely on voluntary funding, and fundraising by the Secretariat is needed. Hence their implementation is subject to the availability of funding;

(b) To perform interventions for strengthening national capacities for the implementation of the conventions at national and regional level, the plan strives to attract the programming capacity and financial resources of a multitude of relevant actors for implementation of specific activities contained therein, in line with their capabilities, capacities, mandate and expertise.

24. The plan also acknowledges and encourages support provided to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition through the activities financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

VIII. Monitoring and evaluation

25. As mentioned in section VII. above, the technical assistance plan is implemented by various actors and the resources for implementation come from multiple donors. Therefore, monitoring and evaluation of the particular activities implemented by the Secretariat and other actors will be performed according to the requirements, rules and procedures of the particular donors which provide financial support for their implementation.

26. In addition, the Secretariat, UNEP and GEF are reporting on implementation of relevant activities supporting Parties in fulfilling their obligations under the three conventions to the conferences of the Parties at their biennial meetings.

27. Monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the technical assistance plan in its entirety is not performed due to practical reasons.

IX. Updating of the technical assistance plan

28. The technical assistance plan covers a period of four years from 2022 to 2025. The Secretariat is planning to collect information on technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the year 2024, to analyze such information and to propose a technical assistance plan for the next four-year period for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2025.
