



UNEP/CHW.13/25
UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/24
UNEP/POPS/COP.8/28



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

Distr.: General
1 December 2016

Original: English



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
Thirteenth meeting**
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
**Enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Rotterdam Convention on the
Prior Informed Consent
Procedure for Certain
Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade
Eighth meeting**
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017
Item 6 of the provisional agenda**
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From science to action: road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in an informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. By their decisions BC-12/22, RC-7/12 and SC-7/30 entitled “From science to action”, 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 recognized the importance of the science-policy interface for the effectiveness of the conventions and the need for greater access to scientific understanding in developing countries to enhance informed decision-making on the implementation of the conventions.

* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

** UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/1.

*** UNEP/POPS/COP.8/1.

The conferences of the Parties also stressed the need for scientific underpinning for decision-making and policymaking in the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the national and regional levels.

2. In the same decisions, the conferences of the Parties requested the Secretariat, taking into account the roles of the scientific bodies of the conventions, within available resources, to develop and present to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2017 a road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the regional and national levels, noting that the road map should consider:

(a) Exploring new activities within the mandates of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to enhance science-based action to implement the conventions;

(b) Addressing the gaps in access to scientific information and knowledge, the lack of capacity to provide scientific inputs to the various processes under the conventions and the need for scientific and technical advice in relation to the implementation of the conventions;

(c) Facilitating the exchange of scientific and technical information among Parties and other stakeholders and promoting the understanding of the scientific and technical aspects of the three conventions;

(d) Possibilities for cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders.

3. In that context, Parties may wish to note that, through their subsidiary bodies, expert groups and other international partners, the conferences of the Parties have established the necessary processes for the effective implementation of the conventions and are working to support Parties in their efforts to acquire understanding of scientific matters relevant to decision-making in the implementation of the three conventions.

II. Implementation

4. The Secretariat conducted an online survey from 3 August to 10 October 2016 to collect information from Parties and other stakeholders on the challenges of and opportunities in bringing science and policy together.¹

5. Taking into account the results of the online survey, the Secretariat prepared a draft road map as set out in annex I to document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52. A summary of the results of the online survey is set out in annex II to the same document.

III. Proposed action

6. Each of the three conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the draft road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions;²

2. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to initiate action that promotes the implementation of the road map;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties and others in taking science-based action in the implementation of the conventions;

4. *Decides* to establish a joint intersessional working group on science to action, to revise, working by electronic means, the draft road map based on feedback received during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2017, to initiate the identification of specific work areas and the implementation of initial activities of the road map, such as the development of draft guidance,

¹ <http://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/5276/Default.aspx>.

² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52, annex I.

to monitor progress and to make recommendations to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2019;

5. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate experts to participate in the joint intersessional working group established in paragraph 4 above and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 15 September 2017;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat to facilitate and provide expertise to the joint intersessional working group, to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders towards strengthening the science-policy interface and to report to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2019 on the implementation of the present decision.
