

RC-11/11: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes¹

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions BC-15/27, RC-10/16 and SC-10/23, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes,

I²

1. *Reiterates* its encouragement to Parties to voluntarily provide information about cases of international trade in hazardous chemicals occurring in contravention of 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, using the forms adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their tenth meetings;³

2. *Takes note* of the report on existing cooperative arrangements with international organizations or entities with a mandate to prevent and combat illegal trade in hazardous chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including recommendations on strengthening such arrangements, taking into account relevant experience with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;⁴

3. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue collecting information about confirmed cases by Parties concerned by illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes occurring in contravention of the Convention submitted by Parties on a voluntary basis and to make such information available on the website of the Convention;

(b) To develop, subject to the availability of resources, case studies on action taken by Parties to implement and enforce the trade control measures of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) To strengthen, subject to the availability of resources, its cooperation with relevant entities with a mandate to prevent and combat the illegal trade in hazardous chemicals covered by the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

II⁵

4. *Reminds* Parties to the Basel Convention to report cases of illegal traffic to the Secretariat using the prescribed form for confirmed cases of illegal traffic⁶ or through table 9 of the format for national reporting for cases of illegal traffic that have been closed in the reporting year;⁷

¹ The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions BC-16/24 and SC-11/23, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

² This section is only relevant to the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

³ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/52.

⁴ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/60.

⁵ This section is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

⁶ See www.basel.int/tabid/1544/Default.aspx.

⁷ Taking note of responsibilities of Parties under Article 9 of the Basel Convention.

III

5. *Invites* Parties to provide best practices for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to voluntarily share information through the Secretariat on action taken to implement and enforce the trade control measures, as well as on challenges Parties may be facing;⁸

6. *Takes note* of the report on best practices from Parties for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and related lessons learned;⁹

7. *Encourages* the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,¹⁰ the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, and relevant global and regional enforcement networks to undertake activities aimed at assisting Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, and to inform the Secretariat thereof;

8. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to provide advice and, subject to the availability of resources, undertake technical assistance activities to strengthen the capacity of Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(b) To collect best practices from Parties for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to present a compilation thereof and lessons learned for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

(c) To provide Parties, upon request, with assistance in identifying cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals as well as in identifying cases of illegal traffic in wastes;

(d) Based on the information submitted under paragraph 3 (a) and (b) of section I, and under paragraph 4 of section II, of the present decision, subject to the availability of resources, to propose a workplan, outlining timelines and associated action, to strengthen Parties' capacity to provide information about confirmed cases and experience related to preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and waste, to be considered by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively, for possible adoption;

(e) To explore, subject to the availability of resources, the needs related to amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to identify substances and products that contain the chemicals listed in Annexes A and B to the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the current work conducted under the Basel and Rotterdam conventions on those matters, and to present recommendations to be considered by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

(f) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

⁸ In the light of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

⁹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/43–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/48.

¹⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; World Health Organization; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; World Bank.