



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

Distr.: General

18 July 2017

Original: English

**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**

**Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam
Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International
Trade on the work of its eighth meeting**

Introduction

1. By decisions BC-12/23, RC-7/13 and SC-7/31, 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, decided to hold the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention back to back from 24 April to 5 May 2017 (hereinafter, “the 2017 meetings”). The conferences of the Parties also decided that their 2017 meetings would “include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues” and would feature a high-level segment of no more than one day’s duration.

I. Opening of the meetings (agenda item 1)

2. Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, Chief, Scientific Support Branch of the Secretariat, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed participants to the 2017 meetings.

3. The meetings began with a performance of Swiss yodelling.

A. Opening remarks

4. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Mohammed Oglah Husseini Khashashneh (Jordan), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, speaking also on behalf of Mr. Franz Perrez (Switzerland), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention; Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Bill Murray, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention; Mr. Marc Chardonnens, State Secretary, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment; and Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

5. In his remarks Mr. Khashashneh said that positive outcomes from the current meetings would be vital to addressing the enormous challenges faced by the world, which were exemplified by the figures showing the small fraction of chemicals that had undergone environmental assessments and the

statistics on deaths from pesticide poisoning, particularly in developing countries, and on deaths among children under five years of age as a result of unhealthy environments and, notably, the effects of pollution. Progress in preventing and minimizing waste generation had been achieved through the approach, plans and guidelines developed and implemented under the Basel Convention, demonstrating the benefits of cooperation with its sister chemical conventions and indeed its status as a model to be emulated with regard to implementation and compliance. As to the Rotterdam Convention, it was crucial to increase its effectiveness because chemicals meeting the requirements for listing in Annex III to the Convention were sometimes not listed. More determined efforts must also be made to enhance implementation of the Stockholm Convention through elimination of the chemicals listed thereunder. Concerning the review of the synergies arrangements, it showed that the synergies process had provided a model for policy consistency among the three conventions, particularly with regard to the life cycle of chemicals and wastes, and had achieved efficiencies in the implementation of the conventions. While national and regional synergies continued to need improvement, synergies at the international level had been remarkably successful, which might be seen as evidence supporting the inclusion of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in the same framework as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

6. In his remarks, Mr. Payet said that the outcomes of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties would be crucial to tackling the nexus between development and planetary health and, hence, to improving the quality of life in a sustainable environment. He had been encouraged by the spirit of commitment that had characterized the regional preparatory meetings organized with the support of the Government of Switzerland. The relevance of the three conventions to sustainable development and poverty eradication had been recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in several key decisions and resolutions adopted since the 2015 meetings by, among others, the International Conference on Chemicals Management, the United Nations Environment Assembly and the World Health Assembly, and in a report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes. In addition, some of the fruits of private sector commitment to engage with Governments in seeking sustainable solutions would be showcased at the current meetings, at the first ever technology fair.

7. Urging the Parties to address the continued decrease in voluntary contributions to the conventions and the increase in arrears in assessed contributions for the core funding of the Secretariat, he thanked those donors that had remained strongly committed to supporting the conventions such as Australia, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Moldova, Sweden and Switzerland. He also commended the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies on making available the financial resources and technical expertise needed for updating national implementation plans and for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, which, according to the needs assessment report to be considered by the Conference of the Parties, would require over \$4.3 billion for the period 2018–2022. He urged the GEF secretariat and donor countries to take into consideration the recommendations of the report when negotiating the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund.

8. Mr. Murray, in his remarks, drew attention to the major impacts that agriculture had on the state of the environment and vice versa. While the projected increase in the world's population to 9.2 billion by 2050 would, he said, require a 50 per cent increase in global food production, some 80 per cent of it from land already under cultivation, the input-intensive approach of the past had proved unsustainable in view of its deleterious effects on natural resources and biodiversity. Meanwhile, many millions around the globe were currently facing extreme hunger and most of the worst affected depended directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods and were at the greatest risk from the adverse effects of climate change and hazardous pesticides, chemicals and wastes. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, among other things, had placed food security and agriculture at the centre of the global development agenda but there was no standard solution. Successful approaches must be context-specific and tailored to the needs of particular regions or communities, drawing on traditional knowledge and advances in science and technology, which required greater cooperation and collaboration at all levels, as in the case of the synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the results of which would be discussed in the coming days. Recalling the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in capacity development and institution building for national governance frameworks that reduced the risks to human health and the environment from pesticides and associated wastes while facilitating regional collaboration, he said that the technology fair and side events at the current meetings would provide opportunities to learn about partnerships and to share knowledge and experience in promoting the sound management of chemicals and wastes and a detoxified future.

9. Mr. Chardonens, in his remarks, welcomed the participants to the 2017 meetings in the city of Geneva, which had a long history of hosting those championing the protection of nature and hoped to be home not only to the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions but also that of the Minamata Convention. The multilateral system, he said, had to adjust to meet the many new challenges arising from the large-scale production and use of chemicals so as to ensure global governance frameworks that were more effective in protecting human health and the environment. To that end, the 2017 meetings offered an excellent opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions through, among other things, the adoption of compliance mechanisms and decisions on the listing of hazardous chemicals and to strengthen the synergies between them. They also offered the opportunity to pave the way for additional synergies with the Minamata Convention, which could contribute to a more coherent effort by the international community to ensure the sound management and use of resources. Commending the Secretariat and the presidents of the three conferences of the Parties to the conventions on organizing the 2017 meetings, and expressing appreciation to UNEP and FAO for their support in furthering implementation, he called on the Parties, civil society and industry to support the multilateral processes in the intensive work of the coming two weeks. Given that communication over borders was important and fruitful, as evidenced by the prior informed consent procedure, he invited all participants to send the available postcards home to colleagues, friends and family to report about the meetings and their time in Geneva.

10. In his remarks, Mr. Thiaw said that, in contrast to their predecessors, young people lived in a heavily polluted world in which the prospect of enjoying safe air and water in the future seemed remote. The humans that were destroying the planet through pollution were not doing enough to prevent the millions of pollution-related deaths, in which chemicals played a significant part. Chemicals unquestionably improved lives but their use across the planet was outpacing the efforts to assess and address their impact on humans, wildlife and the entire food chain. Swift action was needed yet the process was slow and difficult. The existence of irrefutable scientific data placed a moral responsibility on all stakeholders to act where doubt existed. To that end, a rethink in the life-cycle approach to chemicals and adaptation to react to new findings must be triggered, including by working in various ways with Governments, scientists, the private sector, schools and the general public. The power of concerted action had been proven with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as had the importance of precautionary action, which could furthermore generate profit through the increasing demand for true life-cycle alternatives and renewable energy, mobile technology and electric transport. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions provided a crucial opportunity for taking the collective action needed to phase out some of the world's worst pollutants. That opportunity to achieve the sound management of chemicals by 2020, add important new chemicals to the conventions and accomplish global progress must therefore be seized immediately to avoid regret later.

B. Regional statements

11. Representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries and individual countries made general statements on the issues to be discussed during the meetings.

C. Formal opening

12. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 11.45 a.m. on 24 April 2017 by Mr. Khashashneh, Mr. Perrez, and Mr. Adu-Kumi, respectively.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

13. The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted the following agenda for its eighth meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Organization of work;

- (c) Report on the credentials of representatives to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 4. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties.
- 5. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Status of implementation;
 - (b) Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention;
 - (i) Consideration of chemicals for inclusion in Annex III;
 - (ii) Intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III;
 - (c) Compliance;
 - (d) Technical assistance;
 - (e) Financial resources;
 - (f) International cooperation and coordination.
- 6. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
- 7. Programme of work and budget.
- 8. Venue and date of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- 9. Other matters.
- 10. Adoption of the report.
- 11. Closure of the meeting.

14. In adopting its agenda the Conference of the Parties agreed to discuss under item 9, Other matters, a possible memorandum of understanding between UNEP, FAO and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, the admission of observers to meetings under the Convention and guidelines on conduct for meeting participants.

15. During the discussion of the agendas for the 2017 meetings one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the matter of memorandums of understanding should be set out as separate items on the agendas for the three meetings rather than be discussed under the agenda items for “other matters”. He said that the issue had been brought up at previous meetings of the conferences of the Parties and that the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, as reflected in its decisions RC-6/15 and RC-7/14, adopted in 2013 and 2015, had already decided twice that such a memorandum of understanding would be necessary. Given the importance of the issue, it should be presented as a separate agenda item. One representative supported the proposal, but others opposed it. It was agreed that the matter would remain under other matters and that the proposal to list it as a separate item would be noted in the reports of the 2017 meetings.

III. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)

A. Attendance

16. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 144 Parties: Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic,

Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

17. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of seven Parties that did not submit valid credentials: Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Rwanda, Suriname. It was also attended by representatives of two States that were not Parties to the Convention: the Holy See and the United States of America.

18. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Economic Commission for Europe, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations University, the World Bank Group, World Health Organization.

19. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Association of Southeast Asian Nations, League of Arab States, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, South Centre, World Trade Organization.

20. A number of non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/70-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/53-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/66).

B. Election of officers

21. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that the Parties would need to elect the officers of the three conferences of the Parties whose terms of office would start at the closure of the 2017 meetings, as well as officers and members of subsidiary bodies. Continuing the introduction the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in documents UNEP/CHW.13/2, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/2 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/2, noting, among other things, that curricula vitae should be provided for nominees for membership on the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention.

22. Following that introduction one representative said that in the past there had been some flexibility regarding the provision of curriculum vitae and that they should not be required because each Party had the right to decide who would best represent it. The President said in response that it was up to each region to decide on its nominations and that the requirement to submit curricula vitae had been communicated at the regional meetings that had been held in preparation for the 2017 meetings.

23. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the following members of the Bureau elected at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention served during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President: Mr. Franz Perrez (Switzerland)

Vice-Presidents: Ms. Trecia David (Guyana)

Ms. Silvija Nora Kalniņš (Latvia)

Ms. Caroline Theka (Malawi)

24. Mr. Hassan Rahimi Majd (Islamic Republic of Iran), elected Vice-President at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, pursuant to rule 22, to serve as Rapporteur, was unable to complete his term of office. Pursuant to rule 25, his compatriot, Mr. Mohammad Hematyar, served in his stead.

25. Also in accordance with rule 22, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the new Bureau, whose terms would commence upon the closure of the current meeting and terminate upon the closure of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President:	Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez (Chile)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Nicolas Encausse (France)
	Mr. Heidar Ali Balouji (Islamic Republic of Iran)
	Ms. Suzana Andrejević Stefanović (Serbia)
	Mr. Abderrazak Marzouki (Tunisia)

26. Ms. Stefanović was elected to serve as Rapporteur.

C. Organization of work

27. The discussion summarized in the present section, on organization of work (agenda item 3 (b)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 28–32 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 30–34, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 29–33.

28. The three conferences of the Parties agreed to conduct their meetings in accordance with the scenario note set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/1, the schedule set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/2-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/2-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/2 and the arrangements for the high-level segment described in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/3-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/3-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/3. The schedule and conduct of the meetings would be adjusted by the bureaux each day, as necessary, in the light of the progress of the meetings.

29. In accordance with the agreed arrangements, and as described in the scenario note, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would hold both joint and separate sessions during their meetings. During the joint sessions, the conferences of the Parties would discuss cross-cutting issues affecting at least two of the three conventions. In addition, the conferences of the Parties would establish such joint and separate contact and other groups as they deemed necessary for the various meetings, including a joint contact group on budget matters. All decisions would be adopted pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2018–2019. The total number of contact groups meeting at any one time would be limited to facilitate participation by all delegations. The conferences of the Parties also agreed that the presidents of the three conferences would take it in turn to preside over joint sessions and that each, when so presiding, would act on behalf of all three.

30. A high-level segment of the meetings would be held on the afternoon of 4 May and the morning of 5 May. A ministerial dinner would take place on the evening of 4 May. A report on the high-level segment is set out in annex II to the present report.

31. In carrying out their work at the current meetings, the conferences of the Parties had before them working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the agendas for the meetings. Lists of those documents for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, are set out in information documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/4, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/4 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/4, respectively.

32. During discussion of the organization of work one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern that there might not be sufficient time for careful consideration of all issues in plenary sessions. He also expressed concern with regard to the scheduling of a single session of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on Thursday, 27 April, with the remaining sessions of that meeting to take place the following week, saying that as had been previously agreed the meetings of the conferences of the Parties should be held back to back, i.e., one after the other. He concluded by voicing concern that some documents had been circulated late.

D. Credentials

33. The discussion summarized in the present section, on credentials (agenda item 3 (c)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the

eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 34–37 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 36–39, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 35–38.

34. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that during the period leading up to the 2017 meetings the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had agreed to take the same common approach to their consideration of credentials for the current meetings as had been taken during the 2015 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions. Pursuant to that approach each Bureau would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies, on the understanding that, in the case of the latter, originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

35. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the requirements in respect of credentials set out in rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, saying that in accordance with those rules the bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions would examine the credentials of the representatives of the Parties present at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively, and that each Bureau would present its report to its Conference of the Parties on the afternoon of Thursday, 4 May.

36. The President added that the three presidents were of the view that credentials were essential to multilateral environmental negotiations and served an important function that should be taken seriously. At the current meetings, he said, it would be important to have an early indication of possible problems with regard to credentials, and he therefore called on Parties to submit the credentials of their representatives by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 26 April. Information on the status of credentials would be provided on Friday 28 April.

37. Also under the item it was announced that, as at the start of the 2017 meetings, there were 185 Parties to the Basel Convention, 157 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 181 Parties to the Stockholm Convention. At a later stage in the meetings, on the morning of 2 May 2017, it was announced that Turkey had recently ratified the Rotterdam Convention and would deposit its instrument of ratification in the near future.

38. On 28 April 2017 the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at noon on that day, indicating that the Bureau had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 148 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 138 had been issued by a Head of State or Government or a minister for foreign affairs and were therefore in good order. The credentials of 124 of those 138 representatives were originals, while 14 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

39. It was also reported that the following 10 Parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives: Albania, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Rwanda, Suriname, United Arab Emirates. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials.

40. On the afternoon of 5 May 2017 the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at 1 p.m. on that day, indicating that the Bureau had further examined the credentials of the representatives of the 151 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 144 had been issued by a Head of State or Government or a minister for foreign affairs and were therefore in good order. The credentials of 133 of those 144 representatives were originals, while 11 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

41. It was also reported that the following seven Parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives: Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Rwanda, Suriname. Those seven Parties were therefore participating as observers in the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and would be recorded as such in the report of the meeting and list of participants.

42. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials, which superseded the report adopted on 28 April 2017.

IV. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 4)

43. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that at its first meeting the Conference of the Parties had adopted its rules of procedure, as set out in the annex to decision RC-1/1, in their entirety with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45. That sentence, which provided for the adoption of decisions on substantive matters by a two-thirds majority vote in the absence of consensus, had been enclosed in square brackets to indicate that it had not been adopted. At its second through seventh meetings the Conference of the Parties had considered the same issue and had agreed to defer adopting a formal decision on that matter.

44. As at previous meetings, the Conference of the Parties agreed that it would not adopt a formal decision on the item at the current meeting, that the square brackets around the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45 would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide substantive matters by consensus.

V. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention (agenda item 5)

A. Status of implementation

45. Introducing the sub-item, the President indicated that it comprised three parts: general issues related to the implementation of the Convention; proposals to increase the number of notifications of final regulatory action; and issues relevant to exports, export notifications and information exchange.

1. General issues related to the implementation of the Convention

46. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, drawing attention to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/6, which she said provided information on progress in the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. She also noted that, beginning with the publication of volume 44 in December 2016, the PIC Circular referred readers to an online database providing up-to-date data on all import responses instead of providing such information in the Circular itself. A survey on the user-friendliness of the PIC Circular had generated 42 responses from 36 Parties, of which a majority appeared to be satisfied, while about a third had indicated a need for additional support from the Secretariat in the form of training and reminders. Finally, document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/7 provided a summary of Party responses to a questionnaire on definitions of the term “pesticides” circulated by the Secretariat as requested by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21, para. 47).

47. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged all Parties to nominate their designated national authorities if they had not yet done so and to keep their contact details up to date, saying that they were essential for communications among Parties. He also encouraged Parties to submit import responses, saying that they were crucial for protection against unwanted imports of dangerous chemicals and that the Convention only provided protection for one year in the absence of an import response. Finally, noting the low level of response to the Secretariat’s questionnaire on the definition of the term “pesticides” and stressing the importance of the issue to proper implementation of the Convention, he encouraged Parties who had not responded to the questionnaire to do so. Another representative described his country’s efforts to implement the Convention and called for the creation of a mechanism under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the assessment of a country’s success in implementing the conventions.

48. The representative of the European Union and its member States expressed support for the draft decision presented in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/4 on general issues related to the implementation of the Convention and introduced a conference room paper that would request the Secretariat to collect relevant data on the international and national trade in chemicals listed or recommended for listing in Annex III to the Convention. He also introduced a second conference room paper on definitions of the term “pesticides”, proposing further work to be carried out by the Secretariat to provide complete information on the existence of various definitions of the term and their implications for the implementation of the Convention, including continuation of the survey on different definitions and the preparation of a comprehensive analysis of the replies and a description of the potential implications of the use of different definitions and options for how to address them.

49. One representative, opining that different understandings of the prior informed consent procedure undermined its implementation, suggested that the Secretariat enrich the information in the “Frequently Asked Questions” section of the website, make the information easier to read and make that section of the website easier to find.

50. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information presented and decided that the Secretariat, in undertaking its work, should take into account the suggestions contained in the conference room papers and the subsequent discussion in plenary.

2. **Proposals to increase the number of notifications of final regulatory action**

51. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/5/Rev.1 and noting that the number of Parties that submitted notifications of final regulatory action continued to be low. According to the results of a survey circulated by the Secretariat pursuant to decision RC-7/1 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/8), Parties faced difficulties in developing adequate legislation and establishing functional national decision-making processes leading to bans or restrictions of chemicals of concern, in developing mechanisms for data analysis and chemical risk assessment and in submitting notifications of final regulatory action meeting the criteria of Annex II to the Convention. Guidance on preparing notifications of final regulatory action, including a final regulatory action evaluation toolkit prepared with financial assistance from the European Union, was available on the Convention website.

52. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper setting out elements of a draft decision that built on the draft decision in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/5/Rev.1. He encouraged Parties, as appropriate, to submit notifications of final regulatory action, to submit proposals for the listing of severely hazardous pesticide formulations in Annex III and to make use of the final regulatory action evaluation toolkit and the toolbox of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. He also appealed for feedback on the new toolkit. Hailing capacity-building as a priority, he welcomed broader use of online tools and webinars and requested that the Secretariat take additional steps to provide advice and technical assistance to Parties, including through collaboration with the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, the regional and subregional offices of FAO and other partners.

53. Two representatives highlighted the limited capacities and resources of developing countries, in particular African countries, to evaluate the risks related to substances and to prepare notifications of final regulatory action and thus the need for technical assistance. Another representative welcomed the support from the Secretariat contemplated in paragraph 2 (b) of the draft decision in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/5/Rev.1, saying that his country would gladly avail itself of that support.

54. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information presented and decided that the Secretariat, in undertaking its work, should take into account the suggestions contained in the conference room paper and the subsequent discussion in plenary.

3. **Exports, export notifications and information exchange**

55. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/6 and reporting that, as requested in decision RC-7/2, the Secretariat had collected information on the exchange of information on exports and export notifications pursuant to paragraph 2 (c) of Article 11 and on the implementation of Articles 12 and 14 of the Convention.

56. In the ensuing discussion the representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper. He expressed concern regarding what he said was the low rate of response to the Secretariat questionnaire, the low rate of acknowledgement of receipt of export notifications and the low rate of response to explicit consent to import under Article 11 of the Convention. Given the importance of information exchange pursuant to Articles 11, 12 and 14, he urged all Parties to meet their obligations under those articles, highlighting Article 11 also as a means of reducing illegal trade. He also invited the Secretariat to provide assistance to Parties on the matter and to facilitate the exchange of information.

57. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information presented and decided that the Secretariat, in undertaking its work, should take into account the suggestions contained in the conference room paper and the subsequent discussion in plenary.

B. Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention

1. Consideration of chemicals for inclusion in Annex III

(a) Membership of the Chemical Review Committee, cooperation between the Committee and other scientific bodies and effective participation in the work of the Chemical Review Committee

58. The representative of the Secretariat reported that the 14 members of the Committee whose designations were subject to confirmation by the Conference of the Parties had begun their terms of office in May 2016, while the remaining 17 members would conclude their terms in April 2018. Therefore, at the current meeting the Conference of the Parties would need to confirm the positions of the 14 members of the Committee and elect 17 new members. In addition, the second of two consecutive terms of office of the current Chair of the Committee would expire on 30 April 2018. The Conference of the Parties would therefore need to elect a new Chair or follow the approach that it had taken at its sixth meeting and request the Committee to select an interim chair for its fourteenth meeting and thereafter elect a Chair at its ninth meeting, in 2019.

59. Regarding the effective participation of new members in the work of the Committee, the Secretariat had conducted an orientation workshop in Rome in April 2016, at which new members had been familiarized with the operations of the Committee.

60. Mr. Jürgen Helbig (Spain), Chair of the Chemical Review Committee, reported that in accordance with Articles 5, 6, and 7 of the Convention, the Committee had completed its review of, finalized draft decision guidance documents in respect of and decided to recommend that the Conference of the Parties consider listing in Annex III to the Convention four chemicals, in addition to the two chemicals and two severely hazardous pesticide formulations that it had previously recommended for listing but on which final decisions had not been adopted by the Conference of the Parties. With regard to chemicals currently under consideration, he reported that the Committee had reviewed notifications of final regulatory action for atrazine submitted by the European Union, Cabo Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo at its eleventh and twelfth meetings but had not reached consensus as to whether the notifications met the criteria set out in Annex II and decided to defer further consideration of the chemical to its thirteenth meeting. At its twelfth meeting, the Committee had also reviewed a proposal from Colombia to list carbofuran suspension concentrate 330 g/L and had concluded that it met the criteria set out in part 3 of Annex IV for listing in Annex III as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation. The Committee had decided to defer work on preparing a draft decision guidance document because the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting would consider listing carbofuran as a pesticide in Annex III, which listing would, should it occur, negate the need to include carbofuran formulation in Annex III as it would already fall within the scope of the listing of carbofuran as a pesticide. He concluded by noting that the Committee was currently scheduled to undertake the review of the pesticides phorate and triazophos and the industrial chemicals carbon tetrachloride, hexabromocyclododecane and polychlorinated naphthalenes at its next meeting.

61. In the ensuing discussion a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the work of the Committee, its Chair, and its outgoing members. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries expressed support for allowing the Committee to elect an interim chair at its next meeting, subject to confirmation by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting. He also urged Parties to provide resources to enable the Secretariat to continue to organize orientation workshops to acquaint new Committee members with the operations of the Committee, which were considered very useful.

62. The Conference of the Parties then adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/7, as orally amended, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

63. Decision RC-8/1, on the operation of the Chemical Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

64. It was agreed that a nomination for a third member of the Chemical Review Committee from the Latin America and Caribbean region would be communicated to the Secretariat and thence to Parties following the close of the current meeting.

(b) Carbofuran

65. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documents, recalling that the Chemical Review Committee at its eleventh meeting had recommended carbofuran for listing in Annex III to the Convention based on nine notifications of final regulatory action from the European Union, Canada, Cabo Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. The seven African Parties were all members of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee, and their notifications all related to a single final regulatory action applicable to the Sahelian region. At its twelfth meeting the Chemical Review Committee had finalized a draft decision guidance document on carbofuran and had decided to forward it, together with a recommendation for the inclusion of the chemical in Annex III, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the current meeting.

66. In the ensuing discussion most of those who spoke, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for listing carbofuran in Annex III under the pesticide category, saying that all the listing criteria had been met. One representative said that carbofuran had considerable adverse effects on the environment and wildlife in Africa, and another that listing of the chemical would encourage the use of safe alternatives.

67. One representative said that her country opposed the listing because carbofuran was widely used in the country as a systemic insecticide for a variety of crops and because there was a lack of effective alternatives. The chemical was primarily used in a soil mix rather than through aerial spraying, and few adverse effects had been observed from its use in that manner. Subsequently another representative of the same Party said that, taking into account the recommendations of the Chemical Review Committee and the views of other Parties, his country would support the listing of carbofuran in Annex III to the Convention. He emphasized, however, that it would be necessary to continue the use of the chemical in his country, which he said would take all necessary measures to ensure that such use was subject to safeguards.

68. The Conference of the Parties adopted the decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/14 approving the draft decision guidance document for carbofuran and listing the chemical in Annex III to the Convention.

69. The Conference of the Parties also decided that the Chemical Review Committee should discontinue its consideration of a proposal by Colombia to list carbofuran suspension concentrate 330 g/L in Annex III as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation, as the formulation at issue fell within the scope of the listing of carbofuran in Annex III at the current meeting.

70. Decision RC-8/2, on the listing of carbofuran in Annex III to the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(c) Trichlorfon

71. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documents, recalling that the Parties had deliberated on the inclusion of trichlorfon in Annex III to the Convention at their seventh meeting but had been unable to reach consensus. The President, observing that the Parties had been very close to agreement at their seventh meeting, asked whether the Conference of the Parties was prepared to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/9 and to approve the associated draft decision guidance document set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/9/Add.1.

72. In the ensuing discussion, all representatives who took the floor expressed support for listing the chemical in Annex III to the Convention.

73. The Conference of the Parties adopted the decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/9 approving the draft decision guidance document for trichlorfon and listing the chemical in Annex III to the Convention.

74. Decision RC-8/3, on the listing of trichlorfon in Annex III to the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(d) Short-chain chlorinated paraffins

75. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documents, recalling that the Chemical Review Committee at its tenth meeting had recommended short-chain chlorinated paraffins for listing in Annex III to the Convention based on two notifications of final regulatory action from Canada and Norway. At its eleventh meeting the Chemical Review Committee had finalized a draft decision guidance document on short-chain chlorinated paraffins and had decided to forward it, together with a recommendation for the inclusion of the chemical in Annex III, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the current meeting.

76. In the ensuing discussion, all representatives who took the floor expressed support for the listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins in Annex III to the Convention.

77. The Conference of the Parties adopted the decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/12 approving the draft decision guidance document for short-chain chlorinated paraffins and listing the chemical in Annex III to the Convention.

78. Decision RC-8/4, on the listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins in Annex III to the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(e) Tributyltin compounds

79. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documents, recalling that the Chemical Review Committee at its tenth meeting had recommended tributyltin compounds for listing in Annex III to the Convention in the industrial category based on a notification of final regulatory action for tributyltin compounds in the industrial category from Canada and taking into account that the Committee at its second meeting had concluded that earlier submitted notifications pertaining to the pesticide category had met the criteria of Annex II to the Convention.

80. In the ensuing discussion, all representatives who took the floor expressed support for the listing of tributyltin compounds in Annex III to the Convention in the industrial category. One representative supporting the listing said that notifications of final regulatory action could be in different use categories.

81. The Conference of the Parties adopted the decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/13 approving the draft decision guidance document for tributyltin compounds and listing the chemical in Annex III to the Convention.

82. Decision RC-8/5, on the listing of tributyltin compounds in Annex III to the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(f) Carbosulfan

83. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documents, recalling that the Chemical Review Committee at its eleventh meeting had recommended carbosulfan for listing in Annex III to the Convention based on nine notifications of final regulatory action from the European Union, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, the Gambia, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. The eight African Parties were all members of the Sahelian Pesticides Committee, and their notifications all related to a single final regulatory action applicable to the Sahelian region. At its twelfth meeting the Chemical Review Committee had finalized a draft decision guidance document on carbosulfan and had decided to forward it, together with a recommendation for the inclusion of the chemical in Annex III, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the current meeting.

84. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the listing of carbosulfan in Annex III to the Convention, with several citing the health concerns associated with the chemical and one noting the link between carbosulfan and its metabolite carbofuran, which was also being considered for listing.

85. A number of representatives opposed the listing, including one who said that it would undermine food security and have a high social and economic cost for millions of people in his country and another who had questions regarding the risk evaluation underlying one of the notifications of final regulatory action on carbosulfan reviewed by the Chemical Review Committee.

86. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the listing of a chemical in Annex III to the Convention did not constitute a ban on that chemical, but rather enabled those importing it to use it safely and sustainably; that the risk evaluation required by Annex II to the Convention encompassed both comprehensive scientific risk assessments and simpler evaluations demonstrating that risks had been assessed; and that experience had shown that the listing of a chemical in Annex III did not hinder exports of that chemical.

87. Following its discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision by which it decided that the requirements for listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention set out in Article 5 and Article 7 of the Convention had been met in respect of carbosulfan and, given that there was no consensus in favour of listing carbosulfan in Annex III, that it would defer further consideration of the chemical to its ninth meeting.

88. Decision RC-8/6, on the consideration of carbosulfan for listing in Annex III to the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(g) Fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L)

89. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documents, recalling that the Parties had deliberated on the inclusion of fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) in Annex III to the Convention at their seventh meeting but had been unable to reach consensus.

90. In the ensuing discussion, one representative said that at an African subregional meeting in Khartoum several countries had opposed the listing of fenthion in Annex III to the Convention on the grounds that the chemical was used to control quelea birds and that there were no available alternatives to fenthion for that use. He said that listing the chemical would pose problems for crops such as sorghum and millet and would adversely affect food security. Another representative, noting that the African region had the highest level of pesticide poisoning according to a WHO report, said that at that subregional meeting participants had not discussed the listing of fenthion but only reviewed alternatives to fenthion. Another representative said that participants at the meeting had agreed to adopt and promote alternatives to fenthion when possible, that fenthion should be used as a last resort at a maximum concentration of 600 g active ingredient/L and that countries would require financial support to enable them to use alternatives. A number of representatives suggested that fenthion at a concentration of 600 g active ingredient/L was as effective as 640 g active ingredient/L and could be used until more suitable alternatives were identified.

91. Several representatives opposed the listing of fenthion, saying that it was necessary for controlling quelea birds and ensuring food security, that there were a lack of suitable alternatives, that listing could result in a scarcity of the chemical and an increase in its price and that it was currently being used in a controlled and safe manner. One representative proposed that in the absence of alternatives, instead of listing, awareness raising and community engagement could address some of the concerns voiced.

92. Many representatives supported the listing of fenthion in Annex III, saying that it met the requirements of Article 6 and Article 7 of the Convention, that people had a right to information and a right to health and that listing would spur the identification of suitable alternatives. In addition, one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that the country proposing listing had demonstrated a real problem with the use of fenthion under national conditions and that the criteria of Annex IV had therefore been met; there was no need for another country to demonstrate a problem with use of the same substance. One representative, while supporting the listing of fenthion, said that the listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention should only be achieved by consensus. She said that Parties should react with understanding to the concerns of those opposing listing and work with such Parties to address their concerns.

93. Following its discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision by which it decided that the requirements for listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention set out in Article 6 and Article 7 of the Convention had been met in respect of fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) and, given that there was no consensus in favour of listing that formulation in Annex III, that it would defer further consideration of fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) to its ninth meeting.

94. Decision RC-8/7, on the consideration of fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) for listing in Annex III to the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(h) Chrysotile asbestos

95. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documentation, noting that a draft decision on the matter was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/11 and recalling that the Conference of the Parties had deliberated on the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention at its third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh meetings but had been unable to reach consensus.

96. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, supported listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention. They argued, inter alia, that all the criteria, procedures and requirements mandated by the Convention for listing a chemical in Annex III had been met; that listing chrysotile asbestos would allow for enhanced information exchange that would assist Parties to mitigate the environmental and health risks associated with its use; that listing a chemical in Annex III did not constitute a ban on its use or an international trade barrier but did allow Parties to make better informed decisions and to apply the prior informed consent procedure to protect human health and the environment; and that failing to reach agreement on listing

chemicals that met the criteria for listing ran contrary to the purpose of the Convention, violated its principle of shared responsibility, harmed its credibility and compromised its effectiveness.

97. Several other representatives opposed the listing of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III, arguing, inter alia, that there was no conclusive scientific evidence of negative human health effects; that the documentation on which the Chemical Review Committee had based its work was flawed; that listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III would create significant economic hardships; that safety regulations in their countries allowed for the safe manufacture and use of chrysotile asbestos; and that there were no safe and cost-effective alternatives to chrysotile asbestos for many uses. Several representatives said that because the Conference of the Parties had been unable to achieve consensus on the listing of chrysotile asbestos despite discussing it at numerous meetings, and because the scientific case for listing had not been made, the Conference of the Parties should not discuss the listing of chrysotile asbestos at future meetings in the absence of new scientific information that convincingly demonstrated a need to reopen the issue.

98. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, argued that there was abundant and sound scientific evidence of the harmful effects of chrysotile asbestos on human health, with several noting that the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization (WHO) had classified all forms of asbestos, including chrysotile asbestos, as carcinogenic and that WHO had concluded that the scientific evidence regarding its hazard to human health was overwhelming and that there was no safe level of exposure to chrysotile asbestos. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries noted that the Convention did not require the conduct of risk assessments or comprehensive scientific assessments of chemicals but rather the review of notifications of final regulatory action against the criteria set out in Annex II to the Convention.

99. Several representatives who supported listing, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, described their national policies and experiences relevant to chrysotile asbestos, including, inter alia, the health problems and deaths that it had caused in their countries; various pathways through which citizens were exposed to chrysotile asbestos, including exposure related to its manufacture and use and the destruction by storms of buildings and materials that contained it; the difficulties associated with monitoring its international trade; the technical challenges and significant economic expenses associated with the removal of chrysotile asbestos; and the availability of substitutes. One called for the development of manuals to provide guidance on the environmentally sound management of asbestos residues. Several representatives who opposed listing outlined the manufacture or use of chrysotile asbestos in their countries, its important economic impact, the regulations designed to protect human health and the safety record in relevant industries.

100. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of chrysotile asbestos to its ninth meeting.

(i) Liquid formulations (emulsifiable concentrate and soluble concentrate) containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L

101. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documents, noting that a draft decision on the matter was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/10, and outlined technical assistance activities of the Secretariat aimed at strengthening the capacity of Parties with regard to alternatives to newly listed and candidate pesticides under the Rotterdam Convention, including paraquat dichloride. As with chrysotile asbestos, the President then recalled that at its sixth meeting the Conference of the Parties had concluded in decision RC-6/8 that the requirements of Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention for listing the paraquat dichloride formulations in Annex III had been met but, owing to the concerns of several Parties, had been unable to reach consensus on their listing. Again recalling that the listing of a chemical in the Convention merely facilitated the exchange of information about the chemical and did not prohibit its trade between consenting countries, and stressing that the proposed listing would only cover paraquat dichloride formulations with concentrations of the chemical at or above 276 g/L, he asked whether the Conference of the Parties was prepared to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/10 and to approve the associated draft decision guidance document set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/10/Add.1.

102. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, supported the listing of liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L, in Annex III to the Convention, saying that all the criteria for listing had been met. Several representatives drew attention to its toxicity and impact on human health and the environment, and several said that its use had been banned or restricted in their countries. Several representatives said that while their countries allowed the import

and use of the paraquat dichloride formulations under discussion they supported listing in order to facilitate information exchange and safe use of the chemical. One representative said that listing would facilitate the alignment of import conditions with domestic measures already in place to promote the safe use of paraquat formulations. One representative said that listing of the paraquat dichloride formulations under discussion would assist advocacy efforts in the representative's country to ban the use of the chemical.

103. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed that listing did not constitute a ban but instead would merely assist those countries that continued to use it to make informed decisions on the conditions applied to its import and use. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and responding to an assertion by an observer that the listing of a chemical resulted in negative economic impacts, said that evidence to support the assertion should be provided to the Secretariat as the claim was not in line with that Party's own investigations.

104. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, spoke in favour of listing paraquat dichloride formulations in Annex III, stating that the chemical was used for weed control in those countries, often without adequate protection and with limited understanding of proper application procedures or its adverse health effects. In addition, the proper management and legal infrastructure for protecting human health and the environment was lacking, requiring further financial, technical and legal assistance and information exchange to ensure the safer use of pesticides and herbicides and the promotion of alternatives.

105. One representative, opposing listing of the paraquat dichloride formulations under discussion, said that the findings of independent research in his country were not in line with those of the Burkina Faso study considered by the Chemical Review Committee and had not demonstrated the need for regulatory measures more stringent than those already in place. The Government would nevertheless undertake a further technical study of the use and effects of paraquat, and the findings of that study would inform his Party's stance on the issue at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Another representative opposed the listing of paraquat dichloride formulations in Annex III to the Convention in the form proposed, on the grounds that the Chemical Review Committee had not considered a sufficient body of evidence and that WHO had only classified the chemical as class II, moderately hazardous. Further scientific evidence was needed to supplement and update the information currently available.

106. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of liquid formulations (emulsifiable concentrate and soluble concentrate) containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L, to its ninth meeting.

2. Intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention

107. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/16 and recalling that at its seventh meeting the Conference of the Parties had established an intersessional working group with the mandate to review the cases in which the Conference of the Parties had been unable to reach consensus on the listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention by identifying the reasons for and against listing, and to use that and other information, such as that set out in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/12 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/13, to develop options for improving the effectiveness of the process for listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention. The group was also to develop proposals for enabling improved information flows that supported the prior informed consent procedure for such chemicals. The group comprised 80 experts from 35 Parties and 15 observers. Australia had volunteered to act as lead country for the intersessional process and in that capacity had facilitated the preparation of a workplan and an initial discussion document and, together with the Government of Latvia, had organized a workshop in Riga in July 2016. The workshop had been co-funded by the Governments of Australia, Germany and Latvia. The workshop had resulted in a report, including a non-exhaustive list of proposals and options for improving the effectiveness of the process for listing chemicals in Annex III, which was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/20. At the request of the workshop participants the Secretariat had also prepared a study of information on the impacts of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention, which was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/21.

108. She then reported that on 11 October 2016 the Secretariat had received two proposals to amend the Convention. The first related to Article 16, on technical assistance, and had been submitted by Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The second related to Article 22, on the adoption and amendment of annexes, and had been submitted by Botswana, Cameroon, Ghana,

Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The Secretariat had communicated both proposals to the Parties on 18 October 2016, more than six months before the start of the current meeting. The amendment proposals were set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/16/Add.1, explanatory notes by the proponents in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/40 and comments on the proposals submitted by Parties in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/41.

109. The representative of Australia then presented the report of the workshop. Summarizing the discussions, he said that they revealed a general sense that the Convention and multilateralism continued to play an important role in facilitating information exchange in relation to international trade in chemicals and that there was broad overall support for the objectives of the Convention and general agreement that the listing of chemicals in Annex III was important but was a complement to and should not replace domestic processes. Among the matters discussed were the question of whether listing in Annex III resulted in bans of listed chemicals; ideas for improving the listing process and the implications of listing; and improving the effectiveness of the process by looking outside the scope of the Convention at matters such as possible means of influencing public perception.

110. He then turned to the proposals for improving the process, which included a more proactive approach to identifying potential chemicals for Annex III listing; supporting the development of final regulatory action in developing countries; increasing the number and quality of notifications of final regulatory action; and making better use of notifications submitted to the Secretariat, such as through increased awareness. With regard to the consideration of chemicals by the Chemical Review Committee, proposals on alternatives to listed chemicals, translation of documents, opportunities for outside consultation and the role of observers had been discussed. With regard to the consideration of chemicals for listing in Annex III by the Conference of the Parties, the intersessional group had discussed proposals on improving the operation of the Conference of the Parties, consideration of socioeconomic factors, building awareness, industry engagement, compliance, enforcement, technical assistance and the impacts of listing, with the last subject leading to the preparation of the study set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/21. There were also proposals related to decision-making in the absence of consensus, including the need to explore the understanding of consensus, Party opt-outs from listing amendments, the development of new legal instruments, new voluntary annexes, voluntary prior informed consent procedures and voting. Some of the proposals resulting from the workshop, he said, might help the Conference of the Parties to focus on ways to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention.

111. The representative of Nigeria then introduced the proposal to amend Article 22 of the Convention. A majority of Parties, he said, were frustrated with the failure to list certain chemicals despite undisputed evidence of their adverse effects on human health and the environment. With the number of chemicals increasing, the proponents were concerned that the Convention would become ineffective if decisions to list other chemicals were similarly delayed. Interpreting consensus as absolute agreement effectively gave a few Parties a veto over the majority. Like others, the proponents strongly favoured consensus but felt that provisions for voting as a last resort promoted earnest negotiations. The proponents were open to further discussion, and an amendment to Article 22 could even be avoided if Parties could agree that consensus meant general rather than absolute agreement.

112. The representative of Cameroon then presented the proposal to amend Article 16, saying that it was intended to ensure that developed countries and countries with capacity provided both technical and financial assistance – the latter through the GEF trust fund – to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition to build their chemicals management capacities. The proposal was linked to the proposal to amend Article 22 insofar as some countries did not support the listing of chemicals because they did not have the means to find or accommodate alternatives, including because of their cost.

113. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, lauded the work done by the intersessional working group and expressed appreciation to the Governments of Australia, Germany and Latvia for supporting its work, noting that it had allowed for a broad discussion of key issues and saying that discussions on ways to improve the effectiveness of the Convention should continue. Several, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the intersessional process should continue.

114. Many representatives said that developing country Parties required additional financial and technical assistance to enable them to implement the Convention effectively and to manage hazardous pesticides and other chemicals and wastes in an environmentally sound manner. One representative said that only Parties that were members of the European Union had transmitted export notifications to his country, which showed that the Convention was not being fully implemented.

115. Many representatives expressed support for the proposed amendment to Article 16. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that their countries were willing to explore ways to improve the provision of financial and technical assistance within existing mechanisms that supported the effectiveness of the Convention. One representative said that GEF had become too politicized in its evaluation of projects and was unlikely to provide transparent and effective support to all Parties requiring assistance.

116. In the discussion on the proposed amendment to Article 22 the views expressed differed, with many representatives supporting and many others opposing it. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they shared the concerns underlying the proposed amendment to Article 22. Several said that the ability and willingness of a small number of Parties, and sometimes a single Party, to prevent the listing of a chemical in Annex III despite a recommendation by the Chemical Review Committee that the substance met the criteria established by the Convention, negatively affected the effectiveness of the Convention, was not in keeping with its original intent or spirit and prevented the majority of Parties from benefiting from its provisions.

117. Many representatives expressed support for the proposed amendment to Article 22, saying among other things that it would enhance the effectiveness of the Convention; provide increased protection to human health and the environment; enhance shared responsibility; bring the operations of the Convention into line with relevant scientific findings; prevent a few Parties from overriding the will of the great majority; allow Parties to receive valuable information and other assistance that would build their capacity to manage hazardous chemicals; and not prevent any country from producing, using, exporting or importing a listed substance.

118. Several representatives, while expressing support for certain arguments of the proponents, expressed concern that the proposed amendment might have unintended consequences that would undermine the operation of the Convention, including the probability that all Parties would not be subject to the same prior informed consent procedures for the same chemicals.

119. Many other representatives expressed opposition to the proposed amendment, saying that consensus-based decision-making protected the sovereign rights and legitimate individual interests of Parties; that voting on the listing of chemicals would violate a basic principle of the Convention; that entry into force would take too long and result in logistical problems; that the Convention consisted of a balanced set of provisions agreed to as a unit, with each article linked to another, such that changing the decision-making procedures would undermine that balance and perhaps require the renegotiation of other aspects of the Convention; and that listing chemicals in the absence of consensus would harm Parties that opposed listing. Several Parties said that the proposed amendment had not been endorsed by all Parties of the African region. One representative said that the listing of additional chemicals in Annex III should not be considered the only measure of the Convention's effectiveness.

120. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of the proponents of the Article 16 amendment, said that the two amendment proposals were linked. A number of others said that the proposals should not be considered at the current meeting because they had not had the opportunity to examine them. In response the representative of the Secretariat confirmed that the Secretariat had communicated the proposals to the Parties more than six months before the current meeting as required by Article 21 of the Convention.

121. Following the discussion the President underscored the importance of having expert rather than politicized discussions in an informal setting. The Conference of the Parties then established an informal open-ended contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Andrew McNee (Australia) and Ms. Silvija Kalnins (Latvia), that would be open to participation by representatives of Parties and non-Party States. The mandate of the contact group was to develop an outcome on the way forward to enhance the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention, taking note of all the relevant documents including documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/16 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/20.

122. The Conference of the Parties subsequently adopted a draft decision submitted by the contact group.

123. Decision RC-8/8, on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

124. During discussion of the draft decision one representative said that proposals submitted by a group of countries from his region had not been considered and that the proponents of the proposals agreed to the adoption of the decision on the understanding that the proposals would be taken up at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He also said that the outcome of the discussion on the effectiveness of the Convention demonstrated that the general interest could be thwarted by a few or even one Party because of the way the rules of procedure and the concept of consensus were being

applied. No Party, he said, should have a veto power with regard to matters related to the protection of human health and the environment, on which there was general agreement.

C. Compliance

125. The discussion summarized in the present section, on compliance (agenda item 5 (c)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 126–157, below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 118–149, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 191–222.

126. Introducing the item, the President indicated that matters relating to compliance under each of the three conventions would be discussed sequentially, with each President presiding over the discussions pertaining to his convention.

1. Basel Convention

127. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, indicating that the principal subjects to be considered at the current meeting were the report of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance on its activities during the biennium 2016–2017 (UNEP/CHW.13/9, sects. II B and II C), which included recommendations in respect of both the Committee's general review mandate and its specific submission mandate, and the election of five new members of the Committee. Draft guidance on illegal traffic (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1) and proposed revisions to the revised reporting format and the forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions or prohibitions (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2) were also before the Conference of the Parties for consideration. She highlighted the generous financial support for the Committee that had been provided by the Governments of Colombia, Japan, Norway and Switzerland and by the European Union.

128. Mr. Juan Simonelli (Argentina), Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee, gave a presentation, highlighting some of the activities and recommendations detailed in document UNEP/CHW.13/9. Regarding the work of the Committee on specific submissions, he outlined the progress made in dealing with the 13 specific submissions considered at the Committee's twelfth meeting. He added that the Committee recommended that it be mandated to explore options for strengthening institutional links with the executive board of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to ensure mutual support between the two bodies and the efficient use of resources. As to the work under the general review mandate, he drew attention to the activities and recommendations related to national reporting, national legislation, illegal traffic, guidance on insurance, bonds and other guarantees and the control system. On the matter of reporting he pointed out that the targets set at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to improve the completeness and timely submission of national reports had not been met, with only nine of the 178 Parties with an obligation to submit full reports for 2013 having done so by the stated deadline. In concluding, he drew attention to the Committee's proposed programme of work for 2018–2019, which included new areas of work for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties, and expressed appreciation for, among other things, the cooperation of Parties in the activities of the Committee and the financial support provided by Parties, including through the implementation fund.

129. In the ensuing discussion, many participants voiced appreciation for the work of the Implementation and Compliance Committee. One representative said that the mechanism should assist Parties to implement the Convention and be simple, transparent and not overly rigid. He said that it should help Parties to provide reports with the required information within required timelines and improve coordination between all authorities such that information could be provided on product inventorying and scheduling, and he added that additional guidelines for the preparation of reports and inventories should be developed. Another representative said that the mechanism worked well and that Parties viewed it as supportive rather than punitive. He added that his country was pleased to continue to support the implementation fund. Another representative urged that work towards the development of guidance on Article 11 agreements and arrangements with non-Parties continue. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Committee should keep its activities consistent with its programme of work and mandate. He drew attention to conference room papers submitted by the European Union and its member States that contained suggestions for amendments to the guidance on illegal traffic and the format for national reporting, saying that another

conference room paper would be submitted proposing changes to the draft decision and to the Committee's programme of work. Supported by another representative he expressed concern regarding the proposed further work on electronic approaches to the control system and said that the possible establishment of an intersessional group as well as the previously mentioned issues could be discussed in a contact group. Another representative said that amending the terms of reference of the Committee merited further discussion and that she would have some recommendations on a few items of the work programme.

130. One representative said that he had submitted a conference room paper reflecting concerns with the reporting format. Regarding the classification of Parties' compliance performance with regard to reporting, he objected to the naming of Parties and, suggesting that even developed countries did not always have the capacity to complete their national reporting, said that the mechanism must retain the spirit of the Convention by building the capacity of countries to implement its objectives. Another representative said that the proposed additional paragraph for the terms of reference of the Committee should reflect a non-punitive, non-adversarial and conciliatory mechanism, which was not the way it was currently drafted.

131. A few representatives drew attention to the low level of reporting, with one adding that it was not clear whether the Committee had carried out a study to understand the reason why there had been so little reporting and another suggesting that the reason was that there was no new information to report. One representative said that since the existing reporting system was not being well implemented it might not be effective to impose additional requirements that might improve the process but would require additional funding that had not yet been identified.

132. Several representatives said that there was a need for technical and financial assistance, training and capacity-building in respect of reporting. One representative said that the Special Programme could assist countries with such needs. He added that it was important to accelerate the mechanism so that reporting could be carried out in a timely manner and consistently between the three conventions.

133. Several representatives outlined their countries' experience in matters related to compliance and identified challenges faced, including a lack of infrastructure resulting in hazardous waste needing to be treated abroad, national situations that led to the spread of hazardous wastes and chemicals, a need for assistance with the return of illegal goods to their points of origin, improvement of feedback on reports submitted and a lack of national legislation and inventories of all processes for fighting against waste products.

134. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties established a contact group on Basel Convention compliance and legal matters, co-chaired by Mr. Simonelli and Mr. Geri-Geronimo Romero Sañez (Philippines). The group was asked to prepare for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at a subsequent session a draft decision using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/9 as a starting point and taking into account the discussion outlined above; a revised draft of the guidance set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1; and revised proposed revisions to the revised reporting format and the forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions or prohibitions set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2 and the conference room papers submitted by the European Union and its member States and India.

135. Following the establishment of the contact group the President said that it was vital for all Parties to the Convention, especially those not in a position to participate in intersessional processes, to have the time to review the outcomes of such processes so that they could come to meetings of the Conference of the Parties prepared for their consideration and possible adoption. The regional preparatory meetings were key to that preparatory work, as was careful planning to ensure that the outcomes of intersessional processes were finalized in a timely manner. To that end, he had asked the Secretariat to prepare a schedule for intersessional work to ensure that all products of intersessional groups under the Basel Convention were complete by the end of October 2018 so that they would be ready for consideration and possible adoption at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

136. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019, the draft decision prepared by the contract group, in which, among other things, it adopted a revised version of the draft guidance on illegal traffic (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1/Rev.1) and further revised versions of the reporting format and forms for notifying the designation of country contacts and import/export restrictions and prohibitions (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1).

137. Decision BC-13/9, on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28).

2. Rotterdam Convention

138. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18 and recalling that at its seventh meeting, as at all its previous meetings, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had discussed but had not achieved consensus on adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention. By its decision RC-7/6, the Conference of the Parties had accordingly decided that it would further consider the procedures and mechanisms for adoption early in the course of its eighth meeting, using the draft text in the annex to the decision (reproduced for the current meeting in annex I to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18) as the starting point for its discussions, and had invited the Bureau to facilitate consultations among Parties in the period between its seventh and eighth meetings to promote a policy dialogue on outstanding issues. In the course of those consultations, following the submission of views by Parties, the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties had submitted to the bureaux of the three Conventions a proposal that the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention consider for adoption the procedures and mechanisms on compliance in plenary at the beginning of the 2017 meetings. Concluding the introduction of the document, she said that the compromise text and draft decision by the co-chairs of the contact group that had considered the matter at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties was set out in annex II to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18.

139. The President said that as a result of the consultations held since the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, it appeared that there was no longer any objection to the adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance. He proposed that the Conference of the Parties adopt the draft decision set out in annex II to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18, with minor adjustments to reflect that it was being adopted at the eighth rather than the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

140. In the ensuing discussion, it was widely acknowledged that the establishment of compliance procedures was required by the Convention, that compliance with the Convention was crucial to its success, and that the compliance procedure to be established should contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention and be facilitative, transparent and non-punitive in nature. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized that the provision of adequate financial and technical assistance was closely linked to the effective implementation of the Convention and thus compliance.

141. Several representatives called for the examination of the draft text on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention and the links between compliance and financial resources and technical assistance, including with regard to how the term compliance should be defined. One called for amending the Convention to create a dedicated financial mechanism to support implementation. Other representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that compliance procedures could be agreed to at the current meeting based on the compromise text and draft decision achieved at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Several of those representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that discussion should be limited to issues on which there was disagreement at the end of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as indicated by the presence of square brackets around relevant paragraphs in the draft text. Another representative underscored that, at the seventh meeting of the Parties, his country had not agreed to the text on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention.

142. Following the discussion, it was agreed that the matter would be further considered during the separate sessions of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

143. Following resumption of the consideration of the matter of compliance a regionally balanced friends-of-the-President group chaired by the President was established to look at the way forward. The President subsequently presented for adoption a compromise version of the annexes to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18 that he had prepared following consultations in the friends-of-the-President group in an effort to accommodate the concerns of those opposing the proposed compliance mechanism and procedures in their current form while respecting the position of others that matters on which tentative agreement had been reached at the sixth and seventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties should not be reopened. In introducing the compromise version he noted in particular that a Party-to-Party trigger could only be effected following consultation with the Party concerned to allow

it to correct any misunderstandings and that the proposed compliance committee would have to ensure that it was taking into account the Party's national circumstances in drafting its recommendations; that while the committee could adopt decisions by a four-fifths majority, any recommendations put forward by the committee to the Conference of the Parties for adoption would need to be approved by the Conference of the Parties by consensus; and that any Party being reviewed should receive information and advice from the committee to facilitate its preparation of a voluntary plan for meeting its obligations under the Convention. He also highlighted a new paragraph in the related draft decision stating that the procedures and mechanisms should be facilitative, non-punitive and non-adversarial.

144. In the ensuing discussion one representative said that the President's compromise version did not adequately capture his country's position. Supported by several other representatives, he said among other things that only a few Parties had had a chance to examine it in detail; that it therefore reflected the views of a relatively small group of Parties; and that debate should continue and not be limited to provisions enclosed in square brackets in the draft text in annex I to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/18. One representative, supported by another, called for further discussion in a contact group.

145. Several other representatives, on the other hand, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended the President on his work and, expressing dismay at the failure to achieve consensus, opposed any further discussion of text on which tentative agreement had been reached at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

146. The President then indicated that while some representatives had expressed concern regarding his compromise proposal none had objected to its adoption, and he accordingly announced that it had been adopted. Several representatives, asking that their comments be reflected in the present report, argued strongly in response that they had indeed objected to the adoption of the compromise proposal. They also said that the President's announcement that his proposal had been adopted was invalid, with one Party objecting to the announcement.

147. At a subsequent session, one Party, asking that its comment be reflected in the present report, requested that the quorum for the debate to proceed be verified, which was done by the Secretariat and announced by the President. The debate then continued with the President saying that, in the light of the comments mentioned in the previous paragraph, it had become clear that there was no consensus on his proposal and that the Conference of the Parties had not in fact adopted his proposed compromise text, and he then withdrew that text as a proposed basis for further discussion.

148. Regarding the basis for further discussion of compliance at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, reiterated their position that discussion should proceed from the tentative agreement that had been reached at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, with one Party referring to the importance of incremental negotiations, that draft text set out in the annex to decision RC-7/6 that was not enclosed in square brackets should not be reopened. Citing the proposition that "nothing is agreed until everything is agreed", a number of other representatives argued that all provisions of the draft compliance procedures and mechanisms remained open for debate and that future discussions should reflect all positions put forth at the current meeting, including in relevant conference room papers. Another representative said that aspects of the consensus decision-making procedures were blocking progress in the operation and further development of the Convention.

149. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of compliance to its ninth meeting.

3. Stockholm Convention

150. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23 and recalling that at its seventh meeting and all previous meetings the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention had discussed but had not achieved consensus on adoption of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention. By its decision SC-7/26, the Conference of the Parties had accordingly decided that it would further consider the procedures and mechanisms for adoption early in the course of its eighth meeting and had invited the Bureau to facilitate consultations among Parties in the period between its seventh and eighth meetings to promote a policy dialogue on outstanding issues. In the course of those consultations, following the submission of views by Parties, the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties had submitted to the bureaux of the three conventions a proposal that the issue of compliance be taken up by a friends-of-the-President group early in the course of the 2017 meetings. She also noted that in considering the draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance the Conference of the Parties might wish to take into account relevant recommendations of the effectiveness

evaluation committee (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/22/Add.1, paras. 151–169, 179 and 180), which included a recommendation that the Conference of the Parties adopt procedures and mechanisms on compliance at the current meeting.

151. Continuing the introduction the President said that the Conference of the Parties could commence its work based on either of the two versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23: the first version as it stood at the close of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which time there were four principal issues outstanding, and the second as it stood at the close of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which reflected several additional outstanding issues raised at that meeting.

152. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, underscored the importance of establishing an effective compliance mechanism. A number of representatives said that compliance and the provision of adequate financial and technical assistance to developing countries were linked. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that discussion of the matter should move forward on matters on which agreement had not yet been reached and should not reopen previous discussions. Another representative proposed the establishment of a contact group to discuss remaining substantial issues and views.

153. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties established a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada) and Mr. Humphrey Mwale (Zambia), to consider the matter for a period of three hours, after which the co-chairs would report to the plenary on the outcome of the group's discussions.

154. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties decided that a regionally balanced friends-of-the-President group co-chaired by Ms. Daniel and Mr. Mwale would consider the matter further with a focus on the outstanding issues and with the aim of preparing for its consideration a draft decision taking into account the discussions in plenary and in the contact group.

155. At a subsequent session, the co-chair of the friends-of-the-President group reported that the group had continued the discussions initiated in the contact group on the outstanding issues common to both versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23, namely, triggers and measures, until one delegation had expressed strong concern over the operating format that had been set for the group. The Conference of the Parties therefore decided to resume consideration of the matter in the contact group. At a subsequent session, the co-chair of the contact group reported that the group had held general discussions on 16 elements put forward by a group of countries, and subsequently discussed, without reaching agreement, how to further consider the matter of compliance at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

156. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, given that no agreement on any issue had been reached at the present meeting, future discussions of the matter should be based on the two versions of the draft procedures and mechanisms text set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/23. Several other representatives said that deliberations on the matter at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties should also give equal consideration to the discussions, and the proposals introduced, at the current meeting. One representative said that the entire text was open for further negotiation and requested that the Secretariat compile all relevant documents, including proposals introduced and views expressed at the current meeting, to produce a comprehensive text as the basis for future discussions.

157. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of the matter of compliance to its ninth meeting.

D. Technical assistance

158. The discussion summarized in the present section, on technical assistance (agenda item 5 (d)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 159–165, 169–174 and 177–179 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 156–162, 166–171 and 177–179, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 128–134, 138–143 and 147–149.

159. Introducing the matter, the President said that technical assistance was essential to the successful implementation of the conventions, that the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional and subregional offices of UNEP and FAO continued to play a vital role

in its delivery and that it was one of the areas of work that benefited most from enhanced coordination and cooperation among the three conventions. The main matters to be considered at the current meetings were technical assistance in general, including the technical assistance plan prepared by the Secretariat for the delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions; the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres; and the implementation of decision V/32 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention.

1. Technical assistance

160. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17 and recalling that since the 2013 meetings of the conferences of the Parties the Secretariat had implemented a common technical assistance and capacity-building programme for the three conventions aimed at avoiding duplication and thus increasing the effectiveness of delivered assistance. Based on past experience and information provided by Parties about their needs, the Secretariat had developed a four-year technical assistance plan to replace the current biennial programme with a view to allowing for improved impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation while advancing capacity development and assisting Parties to address their needs in a strategic, systematic and forward-looking manner.

161. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives said that technical assistance and technology transfer were crucial to implementation of the three conventions by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition. Examples of the achievements to which technical assistance had contributed included regulation and standard-setting relating to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) under the Stockholm Convention and data collection for the preparation of a proposal on carbofuran as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation under the Rotterdam Convention. Several representatives said that there was a need for increased technical assistance, in relation, for example, to dealing with new industrial persistent organic pollutants, e-waste and plastics, including microplastics in the marine environment.

162. There was general support for the Secretariat's four-year technical assistance plan, including its cross-cutting nature in respect of many issues. Several representatives, however, suggested changes to the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17, and others said that they would like to discuss the matter further in a contact group.

163. Several representatives said that there was a need for more resources for technical assistance, from both existing and new sources, to ensure that the plan could be implemented successfully. Their proposals included leveraging public-private partnerships; drawing on the expertise and resources of implementing institutions such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and ensuring coordinated programme planning with international organizations implementing programmes on chemicals and wastes.

164. One representative proposed that the technical assistance plan should build on the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and that it should incorporate the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Several representatives made comments in relation to training support, calling for more dynamic, hands-on learning as opposed to a traditional workshop format; saying that there was a need for more research, training, education and scientific and technical support in specialized fields relevant to implementation of the conventions; and calling for more support on reporting, which was currently only available from the Secretariat, which had limited time and capacity to provide it. One representative said that there was a need to ensure that the plan was a living document that was updated and adjusted as needed and implemented according to the resources available.

165. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V E 3 below (para. 198) should consider the matter further.

166. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision submitted by the contact group.

167. Decision RC-8/9, on technical assistance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

168. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on technical assistance that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the

Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-13/11 (sections I and IV) and SC-8/15 (sections I and III), as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

2. Regional centres

169. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in documents UNEP/CHW.13/11 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1, on the activities undertaken by the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, the Secretariat and others in response to the requests of the conferences of the Parties to the two conventions, and highlighting information about the number of regional centres that had submitted their business plans, work plans and activity reports, the 2015 and 2016 annual joint meetings of the directors of the regional centres under the two conventions and the status of framework agreements with a number of regional centre host country Governments, including the decision by the Government of El Salvador to terminate the framework agreement between the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and the Government of El Salvador.

170. In the ensuing discussion several members said that regional centres played a critical role in enabling the sound management of chemicals and wastes and that the need for support provided by the centres was increasing with the constant development of new products. It was also said that the regional centres should take into account the specific requirements for technical assistance identified at the current meetings when developing their work plans.

171. One representative said that the regional centres could play a role in collecting and verifying information not only on best available technologies but also on the operators using such technologies, with the aim of developing a register to assist countries in stemming the spread of dubious technologies.

172. Several representatives said that there was a need to ensure that the regional centres had the resources that they needed to support Parties. In that respect, several representatives expressed concern at the closure of a regional centre in the Latin America region, saying that others should be saved from the same fate. In that context the representative of Brazil proposed that the Stockholm Convention regional centre based in the environment agency of the State of São Paulo, (Companhia do Tecnologia do Saneamento Ambiental do Estado de São Paulo), which had also developed a number of initiatives in support of the Basel Convention, become a regional centre for the latter convention. The representatives of several countries hosting existing regional centres expressed their continued support for those centres.

173. One representative said that language-related difficulties prevented her country from benefiting fully from the services of the centre in her region, and she proposed that the regional centre located in Moscow be strengthened to allow it to support countries from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

174. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V E 3 below (para. 198) should consider the matter further.

175. Subsequently the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019, draft decisions on Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and on Stockholm convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, as section II of decisions BC-13/11 and SC-8/15, respectively, on technical assistance.

176. Decisions BC-13/11 (section II) and SC-8/15 (section II), as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

3. Implementation of decision V/32 on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention

177. In the interests of time, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention decided not to discuss the implementation of decision V/32, on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to

Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention, in plenary. Instead the matter would be taken up directly by the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V E 3 below (para. 198).

178. Following the discussion in the contact group the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision on the matter set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/12, without change, as section III of decision BC-13/11, on technical assistance.

179. The decision, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28).

E. Financial resources

180. The discussion summarized in the present section, on financial resources (agenda item 5 (e)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 181–198 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 231–248, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 151–168.

181. Under the item the conferences of the Parties first considered issues relating to the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and second the integrated approach to financing for chemicals and wastes and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach.

1. Financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention

182. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18 and noting that it comprised five issues: first, guidance from the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism; second, the fourth review of the financial mechanism; third, cooperation between the Secretariat and the GEF secretariat and reciprocal representation at relevant meetings; fourth, the assessment of the funding needed by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention during the period 2018–2022; and fifth, reporting by the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties.

183. Regarding the first issue, he said that a non-exhaustive list of proposed elements of guidance to the financial mechanism was before the Conference of the Parties for consideration in the draft decision set out in the document, along with newly proposed guidance that took into account proposed programme priorities for 2018–2022 and that was based on the recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee. The Conference of the Parties, he added, might wish to consider further additional guidance to the financial mechanism. For the second and third issues, the Conference of the Parties had before it a draft report on the fourth review of the financial mechanism (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/30) prepared by an independent evaluator, and information on cooperation between the Secretariat and the GEF secretariat (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18, paras. 22–27) and the GEF co-financing policy (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/29). With regard to the fourth issue, document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/32 contained a full report on the assessment of funding needs prepared by two independent experts. Echoing the President, he added that the outcomes of the deliberations on the assessment of funding needs for the period 2018–2022, the additional guidance to the financial mechanism and the fourth review of the financial mechanism would constitute important inputs for the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund.

184. Finally, regarding reporting by the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties, he noted that a report by the GEF Council was before the Parties in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/28. Following the Secretariat's introduction, the representative of GEF introduced the report, which provided information on GEF activities between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2016 and how GEF had responded to existing guidance from the Conference of the Parties. During the period, she noted, GEF had provided funding of approximately \$187 million, leveraging an additional \$753 million from private sector and other sources, for 81 projects in the chemicals and wastes focal area, including \$131 million for projects aimed at reducing human exposure to persistent organic pollutants. More than 45 per cent of the approved projects for the sixth replenishment period related to chemicals, including projects relating to unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, PCBs, persistent organic pollutant pesticides, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl

fluoride, effectiveness evaluation, national implementation plans, capacity-building, green chemistry, reducing chemical emissions in the context of sustainable urban growth and chemicals management in the industrial sector. In the more than 15 years of implementation of the Stockholm Convention, GEF had provided over \$1 billion in resources and leveraged an additional \$3 billion in co-financing for implementation of the Convention. Evaluations of those projects, including the fourth review of the financial mechanism, had shown that GEF support was exceeding performance targets with positive impacts, but GEF looked forward to working with all partners to further improve its operations during its seventh replenishment period.

185. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, indicated their general support for the draft decision, although a number, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they wished to propose minor changes or additions.

186. A number of representatives said that predictable funding was critical to the successful implementation of the conventions. One suggested that new sources of predictable, sustainable and adequate financing would need to be identified due to the interim nature of the role of GEF with regard to the financial mechanism. He also said that the approach of GEF was politicized and should be more technical. Another representative said that GEF should improve access to funding by allowing various national agencies to participate and to bear in mind the practices of other international financial institutions with regard to access to funding.

187. Several representatives said that there was a need for diversified sources of funding. A number of representatives said that the private sector should play a greater role in financing, with one calling for the development of strategies in that regard. Another said that private sector participation should form part of a broader co-financing effort and asked that GEF support developing countries in identifying and mobilizing co-financing for implementation projects. He also encouraged GEF to seek alternative international funding sources that could allow for joint efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner. Another representative said that in addition to diversified sources of funding, countries with economies in transition needed access to very low interest loans.

188. One representative, saying that GEF was a crucial tool for catalysing resource mobilization at the domestic level, expressed concern about a decision taken at the latest meeting of the GEF Council regarding a possible reduction of resources as a result of exchange rate fluctuations and the possibility that such a situation might recur during the seventh replenishment period.

189. One representative called for countries to more accurately assess both the volumes of persistent organic pollutants subject to ultimate disposal and the financial means required for that, at the same time expressing appreciation for the needs assessment work done by the Secretariat and other stakeholders.

190. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V E 3 below (para. 198) should consider the matter further.

191. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

192. Decision SC-8/16, on the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32).

2. Integrated approach and Special Programme

193. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/40-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/44-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/35 and reporting that, in accordance with decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22, the Secretariat had continued to take the integrated approach as a reference in its mandated activities and its support for the Parties to the three conventions and had participated in the internal task team of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach, including by attending the first two meetings of the Special Programme executive board as an observer.

194. The representative of UNEP then reported on the implementation of the Special Programme, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/41-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/45-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/36.

195. The conferences of the Parties were invited to take note of the information provided.

196. In the ensuing discussion a number of representatives, speaking on behalf of groups of countries, praised the achievements of the Special Programme to date. Along with the fact that GEF was already taking into account possible co-benefits for the implementation of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, said one, the implementation of the Special Programme showed the good progress made in the external financing component of the integrated approach. He called for further progress in the other two components, namely, mainstreaming and private sector involvement, pointing to the recent adoption by several Parties of legislation imposing taxes and levies in accordance with the polluter pays principle as an example to be followed. Another representative called for continued improvement of the programme, in particular by including a needs assessment to ensure that country needs and stated goals were met and by raising the current cap on funding.

197. The representative of India said that efficient implementation of the conventions required the dissemination of appropriate technologies to developing countries, supported by effective capacity-building and technical assistance. Consequently, his delegation intended to introduce a conference room paper proposing a framework for the development of a mechanism along the lines of the technology facilitation mechanism under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A second representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the view that technology transfers were essential and that the technology facilitation mechanism was a good means of facilitating them but said that the mobilization of new, additional and predictable financial resources remained key to the implementation of the conventions in developing countries.

3. Establishment of a contact group

198. Following the discussion in section 2 above, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources co-chaired by Ms. Leticia Reis de Carvalho (Brazil) and Mr. Niko Urho (Finland). The group was mandated to prepare for consideration at a subsequent session of the meetings draft decisions on technical assistance using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/17-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/17 as a starting point; on Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres using the draft decisions in documents UNEP/CHW.13/11 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1; on the implementation of decision V/32 using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/12; on the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention using the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18. The group was also tasked with considering the integrated approach and Special Programme and the conference room paper on the financial mechanism for technology transfer to be submitted by India.

F. International cooperation and coordination

199. The discussion summarized in the present section, on international cooperation and coordination (agenda item 5 (f)), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 200–211 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 207–218, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 224–235.

200. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the documents relevant to the sub-item, which outlined the activities of the Secretariat in respect of international cooperation and coordination undertaken in response to decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27, including contributions that the three conventions could make to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, cooperation with UNEP in the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and cooperation with other entities both within and beyond the chemicals and waste cluster. She also introduced information documents setting out reports submitted by the Executive Director of UNEP, the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention. Observing that the aim of cooperation was to enhance the effectiveness of the implementation of the conventions and to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources and expertise, the President opened the floor, suggesting that Parties, building upon the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24, might wish to consider additional efforts under the conventions to support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

201. In the ensuing discussion there was general consensus that enhanced international cooperation and coordination were essential to the implementation of the three conventions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One representative said that the management of chemicals and wastes under the three conventions was aligned with the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 12, and with the three pillars of sustainable development. Another representative said that the 2030 Agenda included many Sustainable Development Goals related to the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes and that their associated targets could only be achieved through the effective and efficient use of resources through enhanced cooperation and collaboration involving all actors and that the three conventions had already demonstrated what could be achieved through a synergistic approach. Another representative said that the complexity and ambition of the 2030 Agenda should not divert attention from the universality and interdependence of the Sustainable Development Goals. One representative said that synergies between the three conventions and other United Nations entities should lead to actual direct cooperation rather than just the identification of areas of mutual interest. Another representative said that it was essential that countries fully comply with their obligations under the chemicals and waste conventions as they committed to delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.

202. Several representatives offered proposals for further elements that might be included in the draft decision. The representative of the European Union and its member States, introducing a conference room paper on the matter, said that reference should be made to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integration of the sound management of chemicals and waste in a number of the Sustainable Development Goals and work under the Strategic Approach. Another representative said that the draft decision should draw on the work of other entities, such as UNDP and FAO, to assist Governments in mainstreaming sound chemicals and waste management into their development activities. Another representative said that the draft decision should include those organizations and entities with which the Secretariat was requested to enhance cooperation and coordination, including the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes.

203. Several representatives commented on the balance between obligations under international agreements and the right of individual countries to follow their own development agendas. One representative said that the Sustainable Development Goals were aspirational rather than binding and that countries retained flexibility regarding the development of national indicators. While synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals were to be welcomed, linkages with national reporting related to the three conventions should be avoided. Another representative called for further study of the implications for Parties of bringing the Sustainable Development Goals into the domain of the three conventions. Another representative stressed the voluntary nature of the national review processes that would form part of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda.

204. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged Parties and regional and intergovernmental organizations with experience in implementing measures in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals to provide inputs to the Secretariat for subsequent circulation among the Parties to guide them in implementing the three conventions within the context of the 2030 Agenda.

205. The representative of UNEP highlighted some issues discussed in the Executive Director's report to the conferences of the Parties (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59), including the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and priority matters that would be considered during the third session, the theme of which – “pollution-free planet” – was closely aligned with the objectives of the three conventions. In addition, he said, several of the elements of the UNEP programme of work provided opportunities for integration with work under the three conventions.

206. The representative of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach highlighted the main areas of cooperation between those entities and the three conventions, particularly in the context of the lead-up to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, the efforts to achieve the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management and the recent launch of an intersessional process for preparing recommendations on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

207. The representative of UNIDO gave a statement on the Joint Declaration of Intent on Chemical Leasing signed in November 2016 between UNIDO, Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Chemical leasing, he said, was a new and innovative business model that could contribute to inclusive and sustainable industrial development and sound chemicals management. The initiative was closely aligned with the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the objectives of the three conventions and could

contribute to and stimulate the engagement of industry and the public sector to translate those objectives into business opportunities.

208. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe gave an update on activities under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, which was the first convention to deal with air pollution on a regional basis. Its protocol on persistent organic pollutants currently covered 16 substances. The convention gave a prominent role to science, not just in providing information but also in guiding policy. The protocol's long-term strategy called for greater linkages with the work of the Stockholm Convention.

209. The representative of the United Nations Environment Management Group gave a report on the group's work to enhance coordination in the United Nations system to address the global challenge of e-waste. The Environment Management Group had established an Inter-agency Issue Management Group on Tackling E-waste in 2016 to facilitate further synergies, including with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in promoting e-waste prevention and environmentally sound management. A draft report had been prepared by the inter-agency issue management group on a coordinated approach to e-waste management in the United Nations system.

210. Following the discussion, the President noted that the proposals referred to in footnote 16 of document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 could be further considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention during its discussion of national reporting.

211. The conferences of the Parties decided that the joint contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues, established as described in section VI A below (para. 221), should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing for their consideration at a subsequent joint session a draft decision based on the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24, taking into account the discussion on the matter and the content of the conference room paper presented by the European Union and its member States.

212. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 prepared by the contact group.

213. Decision RC-8/10, on international cooperation and coordination, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

214. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on international cooperation and coordination that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-13/16 and SC-8/20, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

215. During the consideration of the decision, one representative said that while he supported its adoption he regretted that neither it nor document UNEP/CHW.13/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/24 made reference to the Samoa Pathway. Such a reference would facilitate linkages between secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, small island developing States and the wider sustainable development agenda, in the light of a report by the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations system and the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

VI. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 6)

216. The discussion summarized in the present section, on enhancing cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 6), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 217–221, 225–226, 230–231, 235–236 and 240–241 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 260–264, 268–269, 273–274, 278–279 and 283–284, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm

Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 241–245, 249–250, 254–255, 259–260 and 264–265.

217. Introducing the item, the President said that it encompassed five topics: the reviews of the synergies arrangements between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange; mainstreaming gender; illegal traffic and trade; and “from science to action”. Each topic would be discussed separately.

A. Review of the synergies arrangements

218. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25 and recalling that by decisions BC-12/20, RC-7/10 and SC-7/28 the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had mandated three reviews of the three conventions’ synergies arrangements: a review of the matrix-based management approach and organization of the Secretariat; a review of the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO to enhance synergies arrangements; and a review of the overall synergies arrangements, including joint activities and joint managerial functions. A steering committee, comprising the Presidents of the three conferences of the Parties, the executive secretaries and Deputy Executive Secretary of the three conventions, the Corporate Services Division of UNEP and the Evaluation Office of UNEP, had overseen the conduct of the three reviews by an independent consulting company. Reports on the results of the reviews, including 40 recommendations on various thematic issues directed to various audiences, were before the conferences of the Parties in documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/44-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/30-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/47, UNEP/CHW.13/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/48 and UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46, respectively, and a compilation of the recommendations and actions proposed in response thereto was set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1.

219. In the ensuing discussion several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the reviews, saying that the synergies process had provided important benefits for the operation and management of the Secretariat and the implementation of the conventions, including in advancing the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycles. Many said that the synergies process and its benefits should be focused on assisting countries to implement key provisions of the conventions more effectively, including with regard to, inter alia, reporting, technology transfer, financial resources, administrative costs and burdens and the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the intent of the draft decision on the matter, with several representatives introducing proposals for amendments and calling for their discussion in a contact group. The representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper on the subject and the representative of Kenya, speaking on behalf of the countries of his region, indicated that those countries would also submit a conference room paper.

220. Some representatives underscored what they said were the potential advantages of including the Minamata Convention in aspects of the synergies arrangements, including potentially co-locating its secretariat with, or integrating its secretariat into, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and expressed support for requesting the Secretariat to examine the potential impact of, and potential modalities for, doing so. While only the parties to the Minamata Convention could take decisions regarding their secretariat, and nothing that occurred at the current meetings would prejudice such decisions, it would be appropriate to signal to the parties to the Minamata Convention that the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were open to exploring the issue. Several other representatives said that it was premature to hold formal discussions of synergies with the Minamata Convention before the Conference of the Parties to that convention had discussed issues related to its secretariat at its first meeting.

221. Following the discussion the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues, co-chaired by Ms. Jane Stratford (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Mr. Nguyen Anh Tuan (Viet Nam), to prepare for their consideration at a subsequent joint session a draft decision using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25 as a starting point and taking into account the conference room papers introduced relevant to the issue and the discussion in plenary.

222. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

223. Decision RC-8/11, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

224. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-13/18 and SC-8/21, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

B. Clearing-house mechanism

225. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/23-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/26 and recalling that by decisions BC-12/21, RC-7/11 and SC-7/29 the conferences of the Parties had taken note of the proposed joint clearing-house mechanism strategy prepared by the Secretariat, invited Parties and others to comment on the strategy and requested the Secretariat to make information in 11 priority thematic areas available through the clearing-house mechanism and to revise the proposed strategy. A revised version of the proposed strategy (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50) and a draft biennial workplan prepared by the Secretariat based on the draft revised workplan (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/48-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/39-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/43) were before the conferences of the Parties.

226. Following the introduction, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 221) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/23-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/26 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

227. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

228. Decision RC-8/12, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

229. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the clearing-house mechanism that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-13/19 and SC-8/22, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

C. Mainstreaming gender

230. In the discussion of the sub-item, one representative said that the issue of mainstreaming gender was important both to the operation and effectiveness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and offered several amendments to the relevant draft decision. A number of other representatives said that those amendments and those in a conference room paper submitted by the European Union and its member States warranted further discussion.

231. The conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 221) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/20-

UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/19-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/19 as a starting point and taking into account the discussion in plenary and a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

232. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

233. Decision RC-8/13, on mainstreaming gender, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

234. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on mainstreaming gender that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-13/20 and SC-8/23, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

D. Illegal traffic and trade

235. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/24-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/23-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/27 and recalling that at their 2015 meetings the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to prepare recommendations on possible synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, building on lessons learned under the Basel Convention. In the absence of financial support for such work the Secretariat had developed a number of such recommendations based on an analysis of possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/51) that it had prepared for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its 2015 meeting.

236. Following the introduction the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 221) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/24-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/23-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/27 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

237. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, as orally amended and pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

238. Decision RC-8/14, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

239. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-13/21 and SC-8/24, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

E. From science to action

240. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/25-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/28 and recalling that at their 2015 meetings the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to develop 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, taking into account the roles of the scientific bodies of the conventions. In response to the decision the Secretariat, in consultation with the experts of the scientific bodies of the conventions, regional centres and other

relevant stakeholders and taking into account the results of an online survey of Parties and other stakeholders, had prepared a draft road map for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at the current meetings. The draft roadmap was 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 and a summary of the results of the online survey in annex II to the same document.

241. Following the introduction, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of the synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 221) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing a draft decision for their consideration at a subsequent joint session using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.13/25-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/28 as a starting point and taking into account a conference room paper previously submitted by the European Union and its member States.

242. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decision had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

243. Decision RC-8/15, on from science to action, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

244. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on from science to action that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-13/22 and SC-8/25, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

VII. Programme of work and budget (agenda item 7)

245. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the programme of work and budget (agenda item 7), took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 246–252 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 289–295, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 270–276.

246. Introducing the item, the President said that it was key to ensuring that the 2018–2019 programmes of work included the activities and resources needed to support the implementation of the three conventions, while ensuring the continuation of the activities of the previous biennium, and that the Secretariat's staff and financial resources were managed efficiently and effectively in a way that responded to the needs of the three conventions and in conformity with United Nations policies and procedures.

247. The representative of the Secretariat then continued the introduction, outlining the information in document UNEP/CHW.13/26-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/25-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/29 and the related tables in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/51-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/53. He said that in preparing the budget proposal the executive secretaries had attempted to assure the core capacity of the Secretariat to service meetings of the Parties and to provide technical assistance and scientific, technical and legal support to Parties; to strengthen the science-based action required for implementing the conventions; to ensure adequate capacity to mobilize, manage and efficiently administer resources; to prioritize core budget resources for essential activities; and to provide a conservative and realistic assessment of the requirements for 2018–2019. In response to decisions BC-12/25, RC-7/15 and SC-7/33, the Secretariat was presenting two budget scenarios for consideration by the conferences of the Parties. The first assumed zero nominal growth compared with the budget for 2016–2017, while the second represented the executive secretaries' assessment of the amount necessary to provide a similar level of services to those provided during the 2016–2017 biennium.

248. Regarding the implications of the two scenarios, the executive secretaries' scenario would allow the continuation of the approved programme of work for 2016–2017, along with a number of new activities, and would involve an average increase of 3 per cent across the three conventions. The zero nominal growth scenario envisaged a reduction in the core services provided by the Secretariat,

including a 42 per cent reduction in the number of translated pages of pre-session documents for the meetings of the conferences of the Parties and the replacement of face-to-face meetings of the three individual bureaux with video conferences. The scenario also envisaged that certain activities currently funded from the core budgets would henceforth be funded from the voluntarily-funded budgets. In addition, based on an analysis of recent trends in voluntary funds raised during the preceding years, the voluntary fund budget proposal was reduced by 37 per cent to reflect the shortfalls that had been experienced in recent years. It was noted that the staff requirements were the same in the two scenarios.

249. As to the format of the budget, it had been necessary to change it owing to the adoption by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in 2014 and the implementation of the Umoja enterprise resource planning system in June 2015. Umoja's cost-sharing functionality enabled the equitable sharing of staff costs and savings among the conventions, and it was thus considered unnecessary to establish a single operational account for staff costs as had been recommended by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services. In addition, it was noted that the detailed information previously provided in the budget proposals was available in activity fact sheets on the activities in the proposed programme of work (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/52-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/37-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/54).

250. He also drew attention to the financial reports for the current biennium (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/38/Rev.2) and highlighted issues with regard to difficulties caused by the implementation of Umoja, growth in arrears in contributions to the Conventions, which had increased beyond the amount of the working capital reserve and a drop, as noted above, in voluntary contributions. Information on donors that had contributed to the implementation of the three conventions and the activities that they had funded was provided in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/55-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/43-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/57. He expressed particular thanks to those countries that had generously supported the participation of representatives of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in the current meetings.

251. In conclusion, he recalled that FAO continued to provide the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat with \$1.5 million per biennium and noted that during the period 1999–2015 the FAO part of the Secretariat had accumulated an unspent balance of \$994,524 that would be returned to the Rotterdam Convention general trust fund in 2017 (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/51).

252. Following the presentation the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on budget matters for the three conventions, chaired by Mr. Osvaldo Álvarez-Pérez (Chile). The group was asked to prepare for consideration and separate adoption by the conferences of the Parties draft programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2018–2019 and related draft decisions.

253. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

254. Decision RC-8/17, on the programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

255. In addition the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the programmes of work and budgets for those conventions for the biennium 2018–2019. Decisions BC-13/24 and SC-8/27, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

VIII. Venue and date of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 8)

256. The conferences of the Parties decided to hold their next meetings in Geneva from 29 April to 10 May 2019 in a format similar to that of the 2017 meetings, with joint sessions covering matters of relevance to at least two of the three conventions and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the three conferences of the Parties. They also decided that the 2019 meetings would not feature a high-level segment and that such segments would occur only at every second set of meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

IX. Other matters (agenda item 9)

A. Memorandums of understanding between UNEP, FAO and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

257. The discussion summarized in the present section, on memorandums of understanding between UNEP, FAO and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 258–263 below are substantially identical to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 301–306, and the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 282–287.

258. Introducing the matter, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that at their previous meetings the three conferences of the Parties had reviewed draft memorandums of understanding with UNEP regarding the provision of secretariat services, following which they had, in decisions BC-12/24, RC-7/14 and SC-7/32, noted that many of the issues addressed in the draft memorandums of understanding were being discussed by a task team established by the Executive Director in response to decision 27/13 of the UNEP Governing Council, on the effectiveness of the administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provided secretariat services, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; decided to wait for the task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the memorandums of understanding; and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the Environment Assembly at its second session, revised draft memorandums of understanding for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings. At its second session, in its resolution 2/18, the Environment Assembly, noting the work of the task team, had requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop for consideration by the governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements a draft flexible template of options for the provision of secretariat services. In the same resolution the Environment Assembly had also requested the Executive Director, when delegating authority to the heads of the multilateral environment agreement secretariats, to maintain the flexibility required on a case-by-case basis, including reflecting the size of the secretariats.

259. As had been reported to and discussed with the bureaux during the intersessional period, work on the draft template of options was expected to be completed in time for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its third session, in December 2017. Accordingly, no revised draft memorandums of understanding had been prepared for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at the 2017 meetings. As to delegations of authority, a policy and framework on that subject had entered into force on 1 November 2016 and, on 30 January 2017, had been supplemented by a direct delegation of authority to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; both the policy and framework and direct delegation covered matters covered by the draft memorandums of understanding, and the full extent of that overlap would be examined during the development of the draft template of options.

260. The representative of UNEP then provided additional information about the delegation of authority policy and framework and related matters, confirming that UNEP had taken administrative actions pursuant to decisions BC-12/24, RC-7/14 and SC-7/32, as well as in accordance with Environment Assembly resolution 2/18, and saying that the new delegation of authority policy and framework simplified, standardized and streamlined the delegation of authority from the Executive Director to the heads of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and of other bodies for which UNEP provided the secretariat or secretariat functions.

261. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the memorandums of understanding were a long-standing issue to which his delegation attached great importance. He noted with concern that no draft memorandums of understanding were being presented for consideration and possible adoption at the current meetings.

262. As to the statement in paragraph 9 of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/26 that FAO saw no need for a memorandum of understanding between the Director General of FAO and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention “unless the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention holds different views”, he said that as reflected in its decisions RC-6/15 and RC-7/14 the

Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had already twice determined that such a memorandum of understanding was necessary.

263. Following those comments, the conferences of the Parties decided that the contact group on the review of synergies arrangements and other joint issues established as described in section VI A above (para. 221) should consider the matter further with the aim of preparing draft decisions for consideration by the conferences of the Parties.

264. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group.

265. Decision RC-8/16, on the draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

266. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on draft memorandums of understanding with UNEP. Decisions BC-13/23 and SC-8/26, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), respectively.

B. Admission of observers

267. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the admission of observers, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 268–270 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 311–313, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 292–294.

268. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, recalling that at their meetings in 2015 the conferences of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to maintain its current practices with regard to the admission of observers to meetings under the Conventions, including the use of the previously approved application forms to be used by bodies or agencies wishing to be represented as observers at such meetings. She then briefly outlined the procedures by which the requests were transmitted by such bodies and agencies and reviewed by the Secretariat. She also drew attention to documents UNEP/CHW.13/INF/57/Rev.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/9 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/56/Rev.1, which set out lists of the bodies and agencies requesting admission to participate in the respective meetings as observers. The attention of the meeting was drawn to a number of additional bodies and agencies that were also requesting admission to participate in the meetings as observers but that had transmitted their applications after the deadline to be included in the relevant documents.

269. Following the presentation one representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the current report, said that the Secretariat should strive to ensure that the participation of observers that were non-governmental organizations was in conformity with relevant United Nations resolutions.

270. The conferences of the Parties took note of the information provided.

C. Guidelines on conduct for meeting participants

271. The discussion summarized in the present section, on guidelines on conduct for meeting participants, took place during joint sessions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 272–275 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its thirteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.13/28), paragraphs 315–318, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eighth meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32), paragraphs 298–301.

272. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to two sets of guidelines that had been prepared by the Secretariat, the first on the use of cameras and audio and video recording devices at meetings of the conferences of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies and the second on the

participation of observers in such meetings. The guidelines, which had been brought to the attention of the bureaux of the three conferences of the Parties at their meetings in June and July 2016, were available on the convention websites and were reproduced in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/58-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/47-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/24.

273. In the ensuing discussion, one representative requested clarification as to whether the guidelines had been presented for adoption or approval or whether they were already applicable to all meeting participants, suggesting also that paragraph 2 of annex I to the document should be amended to prevent negotiations from being disrupted by incidents of the kind that had occurred at the current meetings, in which the representative of an observer had disseminated pictures taken during contact group discussions via social media. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called on all observers to respect the rules of conduct, and a number of others said that there must be serious consequences for failing to do so, including in the current case, as it threatened to undermine the spirit of mutual trust prevailing among the government representatives participating in the meetings.

274. The representative of the Secretariat said in response that the guidelines had been developed by the Secretariat based on the standard practices of other multilateral environmental agreements; that they had been developed in response to expressions of concern regarding similar incidents at the 2015 meetings; and that they were not intended for adoption and had been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to its inherent prerogative and responsibility to ensure the smooth running of meetings under the conventions. The Secretariat, she concluded, considered that the incident that had taken place at the current meeting was covered by the guidelines as they stood.

275. The conferences of the Parties took note of the information provided.

X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 10)

276. The Conference of the Parties adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report set out in documents UNEP/CHW.13/L.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/L.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/L.1, as orally amended, and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/L.1/Add.1, on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, under the authority of the President of the Conference of the Parties.

XI. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 11)

277. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 6.40 p.m. on Friday, 5 May 2017.

Annex I

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting

- RC-8/1: Operation of the Chemical Review Committee
- RC-8/2: Listing of carbofuran in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-8/3: Listing of trichlorfon in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-8/4: Listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-8/5: Listing of tributyltin compounds in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-8/6: Consideration of carbosulfan for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-8/7: Consideration of fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-8/8: Enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-8/9: Technical assistance
- RC-8/10: International cooperation and coordination
- RC-8/11: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- RC-8/12: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange
- RC-8/13: Mainstreaming gender
- RC-8/14: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes
- RC-8/15: From science to action
- RC-8/16: Draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- RC-8/17: Programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019

RC-8/1: Operation of the Chemical Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the reports of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its eleventh and twelfth meetings;¹
2. *Appoints* the 14 designated experts listed in the note by the Secretariat² to serve as members of the Committee from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2020 and confirms the appointment of Mr. Iftikhar-ul-Hassan Shah Gilani (Pakistan) to replace his compatriot, Ms. Khalida Bashir, as a member of the Committee to serve for the balance of Ms. Bashir's term, i.e., until 30 April 2018;
3. *Also appoints* the 17 designated experts listed in the annex to the present decision to serve as members of the Committee with terms of office from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2022;³
4. *Requests* the Chemical Review Committee at its thirteenth meeting to identify an interim chair of the Committee for its fourteenth meeting and decides to consider the election of the Chair of the Committee at its ninth meeting;
5. *Notes* that the Secretariat conducted an orientation workshop for new members and requests the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to organize further such workshops and to report on their results to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

Annex to decision RC-8/1

Experts designated by Parties who are appointed as members of the Chemical Review Committee with terms of office commencing on 1 May 2018

African States

Mr. Victor N'Goka (Congo)
 Mr. Joseph Cantamanto Edmund (Ghana)
 Mr. Christian Sekomo Birame (Rwanda)
 Ms. Noluzuko Gwayi (South Africa)

Asian-Pacific States

Ms. Sun Jinye (China)
 Mr. Shankar Prasad Paudel (Nepal)
 Mr. Iftikhar-ul-Hassan Gilani (Pakistan)
 Mr. Nuansri Tayaputch (Thailand)

Central and Eastern European States

Ms. Līga Rubene (Latvia)
 Ms. Dorota Wiaderna (Poland)

Latin American and Caribbean States

Ms. Cristina Alexandra Salgado Torres (Ecuador)
 Mr. Suresh Amichand (Guyana)
 [to be nominated]

Western European and other States

Mr. Jeffery Goodman (Canada)
 Mr. Timo Seppälä (Finland)
 Mr. Peter Korytár (Malta)
 Mr. Peter Alistair Dawson (New Zealand)

¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.11/9 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.12/9.

² UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.12/INF/3/Rev.1.

³ The curricula vitae of these experts are set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/52.

RC-8/2: Listing of carbofuran in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make carbofuran subject to the prior informed consent procedure and accordingly to list it in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as a pesticide,

Satisfied that all the requirements for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention have been met,

1. *Decides* to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to list the following chemical:

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
Carbofuran	1563-66-2	Pesticide

2. *Also decides* that this amendment shall enter into force for all Parties on 15 September 2017;

3. *Approves* the decision guidance document on carbofuran.⁴

⁴ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/14/Add.1, annex.

RC-8/3: Listing of trichlorfon in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make trichlorfon subject to the prior informed consent procedure and accordingly to list it in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,

Satisfied that all the requirements for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention have been met,

1. *Decides* to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to list the following chemical:

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
Trichlorfon	52-68-6	Pesticide

2. *Also decides* that this amendment shall enter into force for all Parties on 15 September 2017;

3. *Approves* the decision guidance document on trichlorfon.⁵

⁵ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/9/Add.1, annex.

RC-8/4: Listing of short-chain chlorinated paraffins in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make short-chain chlorinated paraffins subject to the prior informed consent procedure and accordingly to list those chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as industrial chemicals,

Satisfied that all the requirements for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention have been met,

1. *Decides* to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to list the following chemicals:

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
Short-chain chlorinated paraffins	85535-84-8	Industrial

2. *Also decides* that this amendment shall enter into force for all Parties on 15 September 2017;

3. *Approves* the decision guidance document on short-chain chlorinated paraffins.⁶

⁶ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/12/Add.1, annex.

RC-8/5: Listing of tributyltin compounds in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make tributyltin compounds subject to the prior informed consent procedure and accordingly to list those chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as industrial chemicals,

Satisfied that all the requirements for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention have been met,

1. *Decides to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to list the following chemicals:*

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
All tributyltin compounds including:		Industrial
- Tributyltin oxide	56-35-9	
- Tributyltin fluoride	1983-10-4	
- Tributyltin methacrylate	2155-70-6	
- Tributyltin benzoate	4342-36-3	
- Tributyltin chloride	1461-22-9	
- Tributyltin linoleate	24124-25-2	
- Tributyltin naphthenate	85409-17-2	

2. *Also decides that this amendment shall enter into force for all Parties on 15 September 2017;*

3. *Approves the revised decision guidance document on tributyltin compounds.⁷*

⁷ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/13/Add.1, annex.

RC-8/6: Consideration of carbosulfan for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee in its consideration of carbosulfan, in particular the technical quality and comprehensiveness of the draft decision guidance document for that chemical,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make carbosulfan subject to the prior informed consent procedure and accordingly to list it in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention,

Taking into account that the Conference of the Parties is not yet able to reach consensus on whether to list carbosulfan,

Aware that the failure to reach consensus so far has caused concern in many Parties,

1. *Decides* that the agenda for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall include further consideration of a draft decision to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to include the following chemical:

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
Carbosulfan	55285-14-8	Pesticide

2. *Decides* that the requirements set out in article 5 of the Convention, including the criteria set out in Annex II to the Convention as referred to in paragraph 6 of article 5, the requirements set out in paragraph 1 of article 7 of the Convention and the requirements set out in the first sentence of paragraph 2 of Article 7 of the Convention on the process for listing in Annex III to the Convention have been met;

3. *Encourages* Parties to make use of all available information on carbosulfan to assist others, in particular developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to make informed decisions regarding the import and management of carbosulfan and to inform other Parties of those decisions using the information exchange provisions laid down in Article 14.

RC-8/7: Consideration of fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee in its consideration of fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L), in particular the technical quality and comprehensiveness of the draft decision guidance document for that chemical,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) subject to the prior informed consent procedure and accordingly to list it in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention,

Taking into account that the Conference of the Parties is not yet able to reach consensus on whether to list fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L),

Aware that the failure to reach consensus so far has caused concern in many Parties,

1. *Decides* that the agenda for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties shall include further consideration of a draft decision to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to include the following chemical:

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
Fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L)	55-38-9	Severely hazardous pesticide formulation

2. *Decides* that the requirements set out in Article 6 of the Convention, including the criteria set out in part 3 of Annex IV to the Convention as referenced in paragraph 5 of Article 6, the requirements set out in paragraph 1 of Article 7 and the requirements set out in the first sentence of paragraph 2 of Article 7 on the process for listing in Annex III to the Convention have been met;

3. *Encourages* Parties to make use of all available information on fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) to assist others, in particular developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to make informed decisions regarding the import and management of fenthion (ultra low volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) and to inform other Parties of those decisions using the information exchange provisions laid down in Article 14.

RC-8/8: Enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision RC-7/5 and welcoming the intersessional work undertaken to enhance the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention, including the process of listing chemicals in Annex III,

Taking into account the circumstances and particular requirements of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in particular the need to strengthen national capabilities and capacities for the management of chemicals, including transfer of technology, providing financial and technical assistance and promoting cooperation among the Parties,

Recalling the discussions during its eighth meeting and noting all the efforts and proposals to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention undertaken and put forward to date,

1. *Takes note* of the various options for enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention, including by improving the prior informed consent procedure, improving the listing process and considering cross-cutting issues such as the provision of technical and financial assistance;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to develop an online survey to gather information on priority actions to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention and key information gaps related to such actions, to be sent to Parties by 30 June 2017 with an invitation to complete the survey by 31 October 2017;
3. *Also requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to compile the results of the survey mentioned in paragraph 2 above and to prepare by 15 January 2018 a report analysing the legal and operational implications of the priority actions received pursuant to paragraph 2 above;
4. *Further requests* the Secretariat to make the report referred to in paragraph 3 above available to Parties and others for comments by 31 March 2018 and to compile the comments received;
5. *Decides* to establish a working group with membership composed of representatives from Parties to identify, on the basis of the report developed pursuant to paragraph 3 above and the comments received pursuant to paragraph 4 above, a set of prioritized recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention and to prepare a report identifying further steps for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
6. *Invites* Parties to nominate representatives to participate in the working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 September 2017;
7. *Decides* that the abovementioned working group shall operate by electronic means, be open to participation by non-Party States and, subject to the availability of resources, hold face-to-face meetings;
8. *Notes* that paragraph 1 of rule 45 of the rules of procedure states that “Parties shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. [If all efforts to reach consensus have been exhausted and no agreement has been reached, the decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a two-thirds majority vote of the Parties present and voting, unless otherwise provided by the Convention, by the financial rules referred to in article 18, paragraph 4 of the Convention, or by the rules of procedure.]”

RC-8/9: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the recommendations contained in the report on the overall review of the synergies arrangements,⁸

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect, through the database established for that purpose, information on the technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;
2. *Welcomes* the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2018–2021⁹ and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement it in cooperation with relevant actors, striving to attract the programming capacity and financial resources of relevant international organizations;
3. *Encourages* Parties, regional centres and others:
 - (a) To make financial or in-kind contributions to facilitate the availability of capacity-development materials and activities in appropriate official regional languages;
 - (b) To undertake capacity-building activities in official local languages, as appropriate;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with other international organizations to explore additional ways of facilitating North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in its technical assistance plan referred to in paragraph 2 above;
5. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres, as set out in the provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering, upon request, technical assistance at the regional level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and in facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;
6. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution highlighting the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in assisting the regions in the implementation of the two conventions and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve;¹⁰
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021, including, as appropriate, adjustments to the plan;
8. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46.

⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

¹⁰ See United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

RC-8/10: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;¹¹ the note by the Secretariat on integrating chemicals and waste management into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;¹² and the information provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020;¹³
2. *Welcomes* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the sound management of chemicals and wastes as an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development;
3. *Emphasizes* the important contributions of 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 to supporting the Parties to those conventions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets;
4. *Takes note* of the methodology for the collection of data relevant to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of other chemicals and wastes-related multilateral environmental agreements to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of the methodology;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available to the United Nations Environment Programme information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted to it by Parties, as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
6. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;¹⁴
7. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to assist Parties, 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;
8. *Welcomes* the adoption of relevant resolutions by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the conventions in the implementation of those resolutions, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of those resolutions;
9. *Welcomes* the resolutions adopted at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including in particular the endorsement of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, and the resolution to launch an intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in this respect and to participate in and provide relevant input to the Strategic Approach intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

¹¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

¹² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/39-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/28-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/45.

¹³ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/54-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/42-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/58.

¹⁴ In accordance with the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as with the international organizations and the activities listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;¹⁵

11. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

¹⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

RC-8/11: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of, respectively, 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,

Reaffirming that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance and enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to Parties with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels, taking into account national-level activities, circumstances and priorities, as appropriate,

Mindful that several of the follow-up actions to the recommendations presented in the reports on the reviews called for in decisions BC-12/20, RC-7/10 and SC-7/28¹⁶ are addressed in decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the further review of the synergies arrangements;¹⁷
2. *Also welcomes* the report on the review of the matrix-based management approach and organization¹⁸ undertaken by the Executive Director in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;
3. *Further welcomes* the report on the review of the proposals to enhance synergies arrangements set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;¹⁹
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to seek opportunities for enhanced coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in order to ensure policy coherence and enhance efficiency with a view to reducing the administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;
5. *Invites* Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 June 2018, suggestions for possible further action to enhance cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and requests the Secretariat to inform the Conference of the Parties about the specific suggestions received in the documents to be considered under each relevant agenda item for its next meeting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to include information on progress achieved in enhancing cooperation and coordination in its reports on the implementation of relevant decisions.

¹⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/22/Add.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/21/Add.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/25/Add.1.

¹⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46, annex.

¹⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/44-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/30-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/47, annex.

¹⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/48, annex.

RC-8/12: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism;
2. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretariat in revising the draft joint clearing-house mechanism strategy²⁰ and in preparing a draft workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2018–2019;²¹
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To start the work to implement the strategy of the joint clearing-house mechanism²² in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
 - (b) To implement the activities of the workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To ensure that activities undertaken in the development of the clearing-house mechanism are cost-effective, proportionate and balanced and in line with the capacity and resources of the Secretariat;
 - (b) To prioritize recurring activities, in particular in respect of maintenance;
 - (c) To implement activities in house whenever possible and to resort to the use of consultants only in justifiable cases;
 - (d) To link with other relevant existing mechanisms and sources of information without having to redo the content already contained in them;
 - (e) Where possible, to participate in meetings through electronic means and to use translations already available in the six official United Nations languages;
5. *Further requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination activities with existing partners in the area of information exchange, to explore possible cooperative activities with new partners as appropriate and to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication with existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
6. *Invites* Parties and others to participate, as appropriate, in the development of the strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan in accordance with the present decision;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments with regard to matters such as the multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

²⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

²¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/48-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/39-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/43.

²² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

RC-8/13: Mainstreaming gender

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015 in its resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Recalling also United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/5 of 27 May 2016, entitled “Delivering on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which, among other things, stresses the importance of respecting, protecting and promoting gender equality in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Welcomes* the Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan²³ and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts in respect of gender mainstreaming in its activities, projects and programmes;

2. *Recognizes* that, notwithstanding the efforts of Parties and the Secretariat to promote gender equality, efforts are still needed to ensure that women and men from all Parties are equally involved in the implementation of the three conventions and are represented in their bodies and processes and thus inform and participate in decision-making on gender-responsive hazardous chemicals and wastes policies;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) In accordance with decisions BC-12/25, RC-7/15 and SC-7/33, to continue to report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2019 and at subsequent meetings;

(b) To update, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings, the Gender Action Plan for mainstreaming gender considerations in the programme of work with indicators for monitoring progress so as to enable the conferences of the Parties to follow up on the plan’s implementation.

²³ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/46-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/32-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/49, annex.

RC-8/14: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to strengthening legislation and regulations for the implementation and enforcement of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Mindful of decision BC-13/10 on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and efforts to combat illegal traffic under the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the analysis of possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, building on lessons learned under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;²⁴
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the effective implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, in particular Articles 11 and 12, for preventing and combating illegal trade in hazardous chemicals;
3. *Underlines* the importance of adequate legal and institutional frameworks at the national level in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes under the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention;
4. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure complementarity and consistency and to avoid duplication of the work on illegal traffic and trade under the conventions with similar work by the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations;
5. *Urges* Parties to strengthen action under the conventions, including cooperation with other Parties, to combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
6. *Emphasizes* the importance of the information provided by Parties to the Secretariat under each convention on the measures that they have adopted in order to implement the convention and requests the Secretariat to make the information relevant to illegal traffic and trade, if not identified as confidential by Parties involved, available on the website of the convention, without duplicating related requests under the other conventions;
7. *Encourages* Parties to two or more of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:
 - (a) To establish, where they do not yet exist, coordinating mechanisms at the national level with a view to facilitating the exchange of information among relevant authorities responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of the chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions, other relevant institutions and the private sector;
 - (b) To review, through those coordinating mechanisms, the lessons learned under each convention that could benefit the implementation and enforcement of the others and, as appropriate, to adjust their legal and institutional frameworks accordingly;
8. *Invites* Parties to share with other Parties, through the Secretariat, while avoiding duplication:
 - (a) Their experiences pursuant to paragraph 7 above;
 - (b) Information on cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
9. *Invites* the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and relevant global and regional enforcement networks to provide the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, with information on their activities aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes as well as lessons learned from those activities for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

²⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/49-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/34-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/51.

10. *Requests the Secretariat:*

(a) To seek, subject to the availability of resources, comments from Parties and others on further areas, including areas common to two or three of the conventions, in which legal clarity could be improved as a means of preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes and, based on those comments, to prepare a report, including recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

(b) To support Parties, upon request and within available resources, on matters pertaining to the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of chemicals and wastes covered under the three conventions, including on the development and updating of national legislation or other measures;

(c) To develop examples of the integration of the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions into national legal frameworks and to organize training activities, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with partners, to assist Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in the development of national legislation and other measures to implement and enforce the provisions of the conventions aimed at controlling the export and import of chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions;

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

RC-8/15: From science to action

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Emphasizes* that, through its subsidiary bodies, expert groups and other related mechanisms, including with other partners, the necessary processes are in place to ensure science-based work and decision-making under 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 and welcomes their work in that regard;
2. *Emphasizes* the importance of, and the need to enhance, the interaction between scientists, policymakers and other actors in the policy process to promote the exchange, development and joint construction of knowledge with the aim of achieving more informed decision-making for reaching the objectives of the conventions;
3. *Encourages* Parties and other stakeholders to initiate action to promote science-based decision-making and action in the implementation of the conventions at the national level;
4. *Takes note* of the Secretariat's draft road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions;²⁵
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and in collaboration with regional centres, as appropriate, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in science-based decision-making and action in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
6. *Welcomes* the progress made to date and requests the Secretariat, by 30 September 2017, to further revise the draft road map with a focus on moving from multilateral dialogue to action at the national and regional levels while avoiding duplication and inconsistencies with existing mechanisms and taking into account the views expressed by Parties during the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions;
7. *Invites* Parties and others to submit comments on the further revised road map by 28 February 2018;
8. *Invites* Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to nominate through their bureau representatives up to four experts per United Nations region, by 30 June 2017, to assist the Secretariat in further revising the draft road map, working through electronic means, and requests the Secretariat to prepare a final draft, with a focus on enhancing science-based action at the national and regional levels, in particular with regard to section 4.2 and appendix 1 of the current draft road map,²⁶ for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions at their next meetings;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders to strengthen 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.

²⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/52, annex I.

²⁶ Ibid.

RC-8/16: Draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and 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 have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Recalls* its request in decision RC-7/14 for the preparation of draft memorandums of understanding concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Convention and notes with concern that no such draft has been submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties in 2017;
2. *Reiterates* its request in decision RC-7/14 for the preparation by the Secretariat of such draft memorandums of understanding for consideration and possible adoption at its next meeting;
3. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/18 on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats and of the progress report prepared by the Executive Director of UNEP;²⁷
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to engage actively in the work of the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of other UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, taking into account the UNEP delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the draft memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director;²⁸
5. *Decides* that if the work of UNEP under paragraph 4 above is not finalized in time for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties it should not delay consideration of the draft memorandum of understanding;
6. *Acknowledges* the continued application of the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning arrangements for performing jointly the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention, which was approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision RC-2/5 and entered into force on 28 November 2005 and is distinct from the draft memorandum of understanding requested in decision RC-7/14 to be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;
7. *Decides* to include the draft memorandum of understanding as an item on the provisional agenda of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with rule 10 (b) of the rules of procedure.

²⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59.

²⁸ UNEP/CHW.12/25, annex; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex; UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9, annex.

RC-8/17: Programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the financial reports on the Rotterdam Convention trust funds for 2016 and estimated expenditures for 2017 from the Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund),²⁹

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

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 of 8,239,100 United States dollars for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the executive secretaries of the Rotterdam Convention to make commitments in an amount up to the approved operational budget, drawing upon available cash resources;
3. *Decides* to maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for the biennium 2018–2019;
4. *Invites* the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue and, where possible, increase their financial and other support for the operation of the Convention and its Secretariat in the biennium 2018–2019;
5. *Welcomes* the continued contribution by Italy and Switzerland, the host countries of the Secretariat, of 1,200,000 euros each for the biennium to the Secretariat to offset planned expenditures;
6. *Notes* that 50 percent of Switzerland's host country contribution of 1,200,000 euros for the biennium, equivalent to 651,466 United States dollars,³⁰ will be apportioned to the Rotterdam Convention General Trust Fund and the remainder to the Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
7. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2018–2019 set out in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the executive secretaries, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2018 for 2018 and before 1 January 2019 for 2019;
8. *Recalls* that contributions to the Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund are expected by or on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, requests Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2017 for the calendar year 2018 and by 16 October 2018 for the calendar year 2019 and requests the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;
9. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund for 2016 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules;

²⁹ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/38/Rev.2.

³⁰ The 50 per cent host country contribution of Switzerland to the General Trust Fund of 600,000 euros for 2018–2019 is equivalent to 651,466 United States dollars using the United Nations operational exchange rate of 1 May 2017, according to which 1 United States dollar equals 0.921 euros.

10. *Urges* Parties to pay their contributions promptly by or on 1 January of the year to which the contributions apply and requests the Secretariat to present at regional meetings information on the state of play³¹ regarding arrears and their consequences;

11. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of decision RC-7/15 and decides to continue the practice, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards, that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties or a member of any subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, provided, however, that this shall not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States or to any Party that has agreed on and is respecting a schedule of payments in accordance with the financial rules;

12. *Also recalls* paragraph 15 of decision RC-7/15 and decides to continue the practice that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for four or more years and that has not agreed on or is not respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of rule 5 of the financial rules shall be eligible to receive financial support for attendance at intersessional workshops or other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years must be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

13. *Takes note* of the efforts of the executive secretaries and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers of foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, requests that this practice continue and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

14. *Also takes note* of the indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2018–2019 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

15. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, should the annual increase applied to real staff costs and used to determine the staffing envelope not be adequate, on an exceptional basis and as a last resort to draw additional funds, not exceeding 100,000 United States dollars, from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions' three general trust funds' net balance to cover any shortfall in the approved staffing envelope for the biennium 2018–2019, provided that the balances are not reduced below the respective working capital reserves, except in the case of the Stockholm Convention, the working capital reserve for which may temporarily be used for this purpose;

16. *Authorizes* the executive secretaries to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its audit report,³² provided that the executive secretaries remain within the overall cost of the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2018–2019;

17. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to continue cooperating on programmatic matters with the interim secretariat to the Minamata Convention and to provide any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;

18. *Requests* the Secretariat to ensure the full utilization of the programme support costs available to it in 2018–2019 and, where possible, to offset those costs against the administrative components of the approved budget;

II

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

19. *Takes note* of the funding estimates included in table 1 of the present decision for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides

³¹ For the present decision, "state of play" consists of the current status of arrears, difficulties with paying assessed contributions due to restrictions that go beyond national jurisdiction and the status of any payment plans agreed on with the Secretariat.

³² Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at <https://oios.un.org/page/download/id/120>.

in International Trade (voluntary Special Trust Fund) in the amount of 3,957,125 United States dollars for the biennium 2018–2019;

20. *Notes* that the voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget represents the Secretariats' best efforts to be realistic and reflects priorities agreed upon by all Parties and urges Parties and invites non-Parties and others to make voluntary contributions to the voluntary Special Trust Fund so as to encourage contributions from donors;

21. *Invites* Switzerland to include in its contribution to the voluntary Special Trust Fund support for, among other things, the participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in meetings of the Convention and joint activities between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

22. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute urgently to the voluntary Special Trust Fund with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

III

Preparations for the next biennium

23. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2019 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2018–2019, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

24. *Takes note* of the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the joint secretariat and encourages the executive secretaries to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

25. *Requests* the executive secretaries to prepare a budget for the biennium 2020–2021, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the 2020–2021 period in a programmatic format;

26. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of various options and, to that end, requests the executive secretaries to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2020–2021 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 24 above and are based on:

(a) Their assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms, to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms;

27. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to report to the Conference of the Parties which activities were financed from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations contribution in the implementation of the 2018–2019 programme of work and to identify which activities are going to be implemented, funded or co-funded from that contribution in the 2020–2021 programme of work and budget;

28. *Requests* the executive secretaries at the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions before the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

29. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the 2020–2021 voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;

30. *Requests* the Secretariat to identify elements of programmatic cooperation with other organizations of the chemicals and wastes cluster for the programme of work for 2018–2019 in line with decision RC-8/10 on international cooperation and coordination.

Table 1

Programme budget, reserves and financing for the 2018–2019 biennium (United States dollars)**Programme budget**

	General trust fund			Voluntary trust fund		
	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
1 Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention	557 575			1 014 871		
2 Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention		557 575			1 014 871	
3 Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention			557 575			1 014 871
4 Eleventh meeting of the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group	347 982			669 512		
5 Fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Rotterdam Convention Chemical Review Committee and orientation workshop for members of the Chemical Review Committee		517 208			89 535	
6 Fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Stockholm Convention Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee			952 962			111 552
7 Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and joint meeting of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	50 900					
8 Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and joint meeting of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions		30 200				
9 Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and joint meeting of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions			44 000			
10 Thirteenth meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee	35 000			30 280		
12 Support for the work of and coordination between the scientific bodies of the conventions				40 000	40 000	40 000
13 Technical assistance and capacity development programme of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions ¹				516 000	636 500	637 500
14 Training and capacity development activities under the Basel Convention				1 000 000		
15 Training and capacity development activities under the Rotterdam Convention					1 000 000	
16 Training and capacity development activities under the Stockholm Convention						1 000 000
18 Partnerships for technical assistance				566 600	278 800	39 600
19 Coordination of and support for the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres and cooperation and coordination between regional centres	44 150		44 150	300 000		300 000
20 Scientific support for Parties to the Basel Convention	275 000		20 000	235 000		
21 Scientific support for Parties to the Rotterdam Convention		60 000			130 000	
22 Scientific support for Parties to the Stockholm Convention			135 000			372 000
23 Effectiveness evaluation and the global monitoring plan			60 000			398 000
24 National reporting	42 500		70 000	107 500		20 000
25 Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, including the prior informed consent database and the Rotterdam Convention website in English, French and Spanish	42 705	92 792	42 703	83 334	83 330	83 336

	General trust fund			Voluntary trust fund		
	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
26 Publications	33 400	33 200	33 400			
27 Joint communication, outreach and public awareness	10 000	10 000	10 000			
28 Executive direction and management	122 300	225 427	204 868			
29 International cooperation and coordination, including partnerships						
30 Financial resources and mechanisms	12 000	12 000	12 000			
32 Legal and policy (specific to the Basel Convention)				402 500		
33 Joint legal and policy activities under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; national legislation, illegal traffic and trade, and enforcement under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions				20 000		
34 Coordination and provision of support to Parties in follow-up to the country-led initiative on environmentally sound management and further legal clarity				677 500		
35 Office maintenance and services	364 080	212 040	364 080			
36 Joint information technology services	100 000	80 000	100 000			
37 Staff costs	6 488 841	5 460 797	7 599 014	228 845	228 845	228 845
Total (excluding programme support costs)	8 526 433	7 291 239	10 249 752	5 891 942	3 501 881	4 245 704
Programme support costs	1 108 436	947 861	1 332 468	765 952	455 244	551 941
Total (including programme support costs)	9 634 869	8 239 100	11 582 220	6 657 894	3 957 125	4 797 645
Grand total	29 456 189			15 412 664		

¹ The impact assessment of the implementation of the technical assistance plan shall be funded as a priority using unearmarked contributions to the voluntary trust funds of the conventions.

Reserves

	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
2018–2019 approved budget from the general trust fund	9 634 869	8 239 100	11 582 220
Working capital reserve			
Current level	705 363	611 008	748 847
Required level	722 615	617 933	868 666
Approved changes to the working capital reserve	17 252	6 924	119 820
Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve			
Current level	0	292 540	0
Approved changes to the Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve	0	0	0
Total required for the approved budget and changes to reserves	9 652 121	8 246 025	11 702 039

Financing

	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
Funded from the trust fund balance	0	0	0
Funded from the Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve	0	0	0
Funded from the host country contributions of Switzerland ^{1,2}	0	651 466	1 934 389
Funded from the host country contributions of Italy ¹	0	1 302 932	0
Funded from assessed contributions of Parties	9 652 121	6 291 627	9 767 650

¹ The host country contribution for the Rotterdam Convention was pledged in Euros and converted to United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.921 euros on 1 May 2017.

² The host country contribution for the Stockholm Convention was pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.996 Swiss francs on 1 May 2017.

Table 2

Assessed contributions apportioned to Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the 2018–2019 biennium (United States dollars)

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)		
Party	United Nations scale	BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium	
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
-	<i>Per cent</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>
1 Afghanistan	0.006	1	0.008	362	1	0.010	315	1	0.010	488
2 Albania	0.008	2	0.010	483	2	0.010	315	2	0.010	488
3 Algeria	0.161	3	0.201	9 717	-	n.a.	n.a.	3	0.213	10 400
4 Andorra	0.006	4	0.008	362	-	n.a.	n.a.	4	n.a.	n.a.
5 Angola	0.010	5	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.010	488
6 Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	6	0.003	121	3	0.010	315	5	0.010	488
7 Argentina	0.892	7	1.115	53 834	4	1.131	35 595	6	1.180	57 623
8 Armenia	0.006	8	0.008	362	5	0.010	315	7	0.010	488
9 Australia	2.337	9	2.923	141 043	6	2.964	93 256	8	3.091	150 969
10 Austria	0.720	10	0.900	43 454	7	0.913	28 731	9	0.952	46 511
11 Azerbaijan	0.060	11	0.075	3 621	-	n.a.	n.a.	10	0.079	3 876
12 Bahamas	0.014	12	0.018	845	-	n.a.	n.a.	11	0.019	904
13 Bahrain	0.044	13	0.055	2 655	8	0.056	1 756	12	0.058	2 842
14 Bangladesh	0.010	14	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	13	0.010	488
15 Barbados	0.007	15	0.009	422	-	n.a.	n.a.	14	0.010	488
16 Belarus	0.056	16	0.070	3 380	-	n.a.	n.a.	15	0.074	3 618
17 Belgium	0.885	17	1.107	53 412	9	1.123	35 315	16	1.171	57 170
18 Belize	0.001	18	0.001	60	10	0.010	315	17	0.010	488
19 Benin	0.003	19	0.004	181	11	0.010	315	18	0.010	488
20 Bhutan	0.001	20	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
21 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.012	21	0.015	724	12	0.000	0	19	0.016	775
22 Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.013	22	0.016	785	13	0.016	519	20	0.017	840
23 Botswana	0.014	23	0.018	845	14	0.018	559	21	0.019	904
24 Brazil	3.823	24	4.781	230 726	15	4.849	152 554	22	5.057	246 963
25 Brunei Darussalam	0.029	25	0.036	1 750	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
26 Bulgaria	0.045	26	0.056	2 716	16	0.057	1 796	23	0.060	2 907
27 Burkina Faso	0.004	27	0.005	241	17	0.010	315	24	0.010	488
28 Burundi	0.001	28	0.001	60	18	0.010	315	25	0.010	488
29 Cabo Verde	0.001	29	0.001	60	19	0.010	315	26	0.010	488
30 Cambodia	0.004	30	0.005	241	20	0.010	315	27	0.010	488
31 Cameroon	0.010	31	0.013	604	21	0.013	399	28	0.013	646
32 Canada	2.921	32	3.653	176 288	22	3.705	116 561	29	3.864	188 695
33 Central African Republic	0.001	33	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	30	0.010	488
34 Chad	0.005	34	0.006	302	23	0.010	315	31	0.010	488
35 Chile	0.399	35	0.499	24 080	24	0.506	15 922	32	0.528	25 775
36 China	7.921	36	9.906	478 049	25	10.048	316 082	33	10.477	511 691
37 Colombia	0.322	37	0.403	19 433	26	0.408	12 849	34	0.426	20 801

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)		
Party	United Nations scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium
Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)
-	<i>Per cent</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>
38 Comoros	0.001	38	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	35	0.010	488
39 Congo	0.006	39	0.008	362	27	0.010	315	36	0.010	488
40 Cook Islands	0.001	40	0.001	60	28	0.010	315	37	0.010	488
41 Costa Rica	0.047	41	0.059	2 837	29	0.060	1 876	38	0.062	3 036
42 Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	42	0.011	543	30	0.011	359	39	0.010	488
43 Croatia	0.099	43	0.124	5 975	31	0.126	3 951	40	0.131	6 395
44 Cuba	0.065	44	0.081	3 923	32	0.082	2 594	41	0.086	4 199
45 Cyprus	0.043	45	0.054	2 595	33	0.055	1 716	42	0.057	2 778
46 Czechia	0.344	46	0.430	20 761	34	0.436	13 727	43	0.455	22 222
47 Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	47	0.006	302	35	0.010	315	44	0.010	488
48 Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.008	48	0.010	483	36	0.010	315	45	0.010	488
49 Denmark	0.584	49	0.730	35 246	37	0.741	23 304	46	0.772	37 726
50 Djibouti	0.001	50	0.001	60	38	0.010	315	47	0.010	488
51 Dominica	0.001	51	0.001	60	39	0.010	315	48	0.010	488
52 Dominican Republic	0.046	52	0.058	2 776	40	0.058	1 836	49	0.061	2 972
53 Ecuador	0.067	53	0.084	4 044	41	0.085	2 674	50	0.089	4 328
54 Egypt	0.152	54	0.190	9 174	-	n.a.	n.a.	51	0.201	9 819
55 El Salvador	0.014	55	0.018	845	42	0.018	559	52	0.019	904
56 Equatorial Guinea	0.010	56	0.010	483	43	0.010	315	-	n.a.	n.a.
57 Eritrea	0.001	57	0.001	60	44	0.010	315	53	0.010	488
58 Estonia	0.038	58	0.048	2 293	45	0.048	1 516	54	0.050	2 455
59 Ethiopia	0.010	59	0.010	483	46	0.010	315	55	0.010	488
60 European Union	2.500	60	2.500	120 652	47	2.500	78 645	56	2.500	122 096
61 Fiji	0.003		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	57	0.010	488
62 Finland	0.456	61	0.570	27 521	48	0.578	18 196	58	0.603	29 457
63 France	4.859	62	6.076	293 251	49	6.164	193 895	59	6.427	313 888
64 Gabon	0.017	63	0.021	1 026	50	0.022	678	60	0.022	1 098
65 Gambia	0.001	64	0.001	60	51	0.010	315	61	0.010	488
66 Georgia	0.008	65	0.010	483	52	0.010	315	62	0.010	488
67 Germany	6.389	66	7.990	385 589	53	8.104	254 949	63	8.451	412 725
68 Ghana	0.016	67	0.020	966	54	0.020	638	64	0.021	1 034
69 Greece	0.471	68	0.589	28 426	55	0.597	18 795	65	0.623	30 426
70 Guatemala	0.028	69	0.035	1 690	56	0.036	1 117	66	0.037	1 809
71 Guinea	0.002	70	0.003	121	57	0.010	315	67	0.010	488
72 Guinea-Bissau	0.001	71	0.001	60	58	0.010	315	68	0.010	488
73 Guyana	0.002	72	0.003	121	59	0.010	315	69	0.010	488
74 Honduras	0.008	73	0.010	483	60	0.010	315	70	0.010	488
75 Hungary	0.161	74	0.201	9 717	61	0.204	6 425	71	0.213	10 400
76 Iceland	0.023	75	0.029	1 388	-	n.a.	n.a.	72	0.030	1 486
77 India	0.737	76	0.922	44 479	62	0.935	29 410	73	0.975	47 610
78 Indonesia	0.504	77	0.630	30 417	63	0.639	20 112	74	0.667	32 558

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)		
Party	United Nations scale	BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium	RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium	SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium			
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)			
-	<i>Per cent</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>
79 Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.471	78	0.589	28 426	64	0.597	18 795	75	0.623	30 426
80 Iraq	0.129	79	0.161	7 785	-	n.a.	n.a.	76	0.171	8 333
81 Ireland	0.335	80	0.419	20 218	65	0.425	13 368	77	0.443	21 641
82 Israel	0.430	81	0.538	25 951	66	0.545	17 159	-	n.a.	n.a.
83 Italy	3.748	82	4.687	226 200	67	4.754	149 562	-	n.a.	n.a.
84 Jamaica	0.009	83	0.011	543	68	0.011	359	78	0.010	488
85 Japan	9.680	84	12.105	584 208	69	12.279	386 274	79	12.804	625 321
86 Jordan	0.020	85	0.025	1 207	70	0.025	798	80	0.026	1 292
87 Kazakhstan	0.191	86	0.239	11 527	71	0.242	7 622	81	0.253	12 338
88 Kenya	0.018	87	0.023	1 086	72	0.023	718	82	0.024	1 163
89 Kiribati	0.001	88	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	83	0.010	488
90 Kuwait	0.285	89	0.356	17 200	73	0.362	11 373	84	0.377	18 411
91 Kyrgyzstan	0.002	90	0.003	121	74	0.010	315	85	0.010	488
92 Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.003	91	0.004	181	75	0.010	315	86	0.010	488
93 Latvia	0.050	92	0.063	3 018	76	0.063	1 995	87	0.066	3 230
94 Lebanon	0.046	93	0.058	2 776	77	0.058	1 836	88	0.061	2 972
95 Lesotho	0.001	94	0.001	60	78	0.010	315	89	0.010	488
96 Liberia	0.001	95	0.001	60	79	0.010	315	90	0.010	488
97 Libya	0.125	96	0.156	7 544	80	0.159	4 988	91	0.165	8 075
98 Liechtenstein	0.007	97	0.009	422	81	0.010	315	92	0.010	488
99 Lithuania	0.072	98	0.090	4 345	82	0.091	2 873	93	0.095	4 651
100 Luxembourg	0.064	99	0.080	3 863	83	0.081	2 554	94	0.085	4 134
101 Madagascar	0.003	100	0.004	181	84	0.010	315	95	0.010	488
102 Malawi	0.002	101	0.003	121	85	0.010	315	96	0.010	488
103 Malaysia	0.322	102	0.403	19 433	86	0.408	12 849	-	n.a.	n.a.
104 Maldives	0.002	103	0.003	121	87	0.010	315	97	0.010	488
105 Mali	0.003	104	0.004	181	88	0.010	315	98	0.010	488
106 Malta	0.016	105	0.020	966	89	0.020	638	99	0.021	1 034
107 Marshall Islands	0.001	106	0.001	60	90	0.010	315	100	0.010	488
108 Mauritania	0.002	107	0.003	121	91	0.010	315	101	0.010	488
109 Mauritius	0.012	108	0.015	724	92	0.015	479	102	0.016	775
110 Mexico	1.435	109	1.795	86 605	93	1.820	57 263	103	1.898	92 700
111 Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	110	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	104	0.010	488
112 Monaco	0.010	111	0.013	604	-	n.a.	n.a.	105	0.013	646
113 Mongolia	0.005	112	0.006	302	94	0.010	315	106	0.010	488
114 Montenegro	0.004	113	0.005	241	95	0.010	315	107	0.010	488
115 Morocco	0.054	114	0.068	3 259	96	0.068	2 155	108	0.071	3 488
116 Mozambique	0.004	115	0.005	241	97	0.010	315	109	0.010	488
117 Myanmar	0.010	116	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	110	0.010	488
118 Namibia	0.010	117	0.013	604	98	0.519	16 334	111	0.013	646

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)				Rotterdam Convention (ROL)				Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
Party	United Nations scale	BC adjusted scale, per cent		Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent		Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent		Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium	
Remarks	(1)	(2)		(4)		(3)		(4)		(3)		(4)	
-	<i>Per cent</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>
119	Nauru	0.001	118	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	112	0.010		488	
120	Nepal	0.006	119	0.008	362	99	0.010	315	113	0.010		488	
121	Netherlands	1.482	120	1.853	89 442	100	1.880	59 138	114	1.960		95 736	
122	New Zealand	0.268	121	0.335	16 174	101	0.340	10 694	115	0.354		17 313	
123	Nicaragua	0.004	122	0.005	241	102	0.010	315	116	0.010		488	
124	Niger	0.002	123	0.003	121	103	0.010	315	117	0.010		488	
125	Nigeria	0.209	124	0.261	12 614	104	0.265	8 340	118	0.276		13 501	
126	Niue	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	119	0.010		488	
127	Norway	0.849	125	1.062	51 239	105	1.077	33 879	120	1.123		54 845	
128	Oman	0.113	126	0.141	6 820	106	0.143	4 509	121	0.149		7 300	
129	Pakistan	0.093	127	0.116	5 613	107	0.118	3 711	122	0.123		6 008	
130	Palau	0.001	128	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	123	0.010		488	
131	Panama	0.034	129	0.043	2 052	108	0.043	1 357	124	0.045		2 196	
132	Papua New Guinea	0.004	130	0.005	241	-	n.a.	n.a.	125	0.010		488	
133	Paraguay	0.014	131	0.018	845	109	0.018	559	126	0.019		924	
134	Peru	0.136	132	0.170	8 208	110	0.173	5 427	127	0.180		8 786	
135	Philippines	0.165	133	0.206	9 958	111	0.209	6 584	128	0.218		10 659	
136	Poland	0.841	134	1.052	50 756	112	1.067	33 560	129	1.112		54 328	
137	Portugal	0.392	135	0.490	23 658	113	0.497	15 643	130	0.519		25 323	
138	Qatar	0.269	136	0.336	16 235	114	0.341	10 734	131	0.356		17 377	
139	Republic of Korea	2.039	137	2.550	123 058	115	2.586	81 365	132	2.697		131 718	
140	Republic of Moldova	0.004	138	0.005	241	116	0.010	315	133	0.010		488	
141	Romania	0.184	139	0.230	11 105	117	0.233	7 342	134	0.243		11 886	
142	Russian Federation	3.088	140	3.862	186 367	118	3.917	123 225	135	4.085		199 483	
143	Rwanda	0.002	141	0.003	121	119	0.010	315	136	0.010		488	
144	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	142	0.001	60	120	0.010	315	137	0.010		488	
145	Saint Lucia	0.001	143	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	138	0.010		488	
146	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	144	0.001	60	121	0.010	315	139	0.010		488	
147	Samoa	0.001	145	0.001	60	122	0.010	315	140	0.010		488	
148	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	146	0.001	60	123	0.010	315	141	0.010		488	
149	Saudi Arabia	1.146	147	1.433	69 163	124	1.454	45 730	142	1.516		74 031	
150	Senegal	0.005	148	0.006	302	125	0.010	315	143	0.010		488	
151	Serbia	0.032	149	0.040	1 931	126	0.041	1 277	144	0.042		2 067	
152	Seychelles	0.001	150	0.001	60	-	n.a.		145	0.010		488	
153	Sierra Leone	0.001	151	0.001	60	127	0.010	315	146	0.010		488	
154	Singapore	0.447	152	0.559	26 977	128	0.567	17 837	147	0.591		28 876	
155	Slovakia	0.160	153	0.200	9 656	129	0.203	6 385	148	0.212		10 336	
156	Slovenia	0.084	154	0.105	5 070	130	0.107	3 352	149	0.111		5 426	
157	Solomon Islands	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	150	0.010		488	
158	Somalia	0.001	155	0.001	60	131	0.010	315	151	0.010		488	
159	South Africa	0.364	156	0.455	21 968	132	0.462	14 525	152	0.481		23 514	

United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)				Rotterdam Convention (ROL)				Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
Party	United Nations scale	BC adjusted scale, per cent		Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent		Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent		Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium	
Remarks	(1)	(2)		(4)		(3)		(4)		(3)		(4)	
-	<i>Per cent</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	No.	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>
160 Spain	2.443	157	3.055	147 440	133	3.099	97 486	153	3.231	157 816			
161 Sri Lanka	0.031	158	0.039	1 871	134	0.039	1 237	154	0.041	2 003			
162 State of Palestine	0.001	159	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.			
163 Sudan	0.010	160	0.010	483	135	0.010	315	155	0.010	488			
164 Suriname	0.006	161	0.008	362	136	0.010	315	156	0.010	488			
165 Swaziland	0.002	162	0.003	121	137	0.010	315	157	0.010	488			
166 Sweden	0.956	163	1.196	57 697	138	1.213	38 149	158	1.265	61 757			
167 Switzerland	1.140	164	1.426	68 801	139	1.446	45 491	159	1.508	73 643			
168 Syrian Arab Republic	0.024	165	0.030	1 448	140	0.030	958	160	0.032	1 550			
169 Tajikistan	0.004	166	0.005	241	-	n.a.	n.a.	161	0.010	488			
170 Thailand	0.291	167	0.364	17 562	141	0.369	11 612	162	0.385	18 798			
171 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.007	168	0.009	422	142	0.010	315	163	0.010	488			
172 Togo	0.001	169	0.001	60	143	0.010	315	164	0.010	488			
173 Tonga	0.001	170	0.001	60	144	0.010	315	165	0.010	488			
174 Trinidad and Tobago	0.034	171	0.043	2 052	145	0.043	1 357	166	0.045	2 196			
175 Tunisia	0.028	172	0.035	1 690	146	0.036	1 117	167	0.037	1 809			
176 Turkey	1.018	173	1.273	61 438	-	n.a.	n.a.	168	1.347	65 762			
177 Turkmenistan	0.026	174	0.033	1 569	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.			
178 Tuvalu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	169	0.010	488			
179 Uganda	0.009	175	0.010	483	147	0.010	315	170	0.010	488			
180 Ukraine	0.103	176	0.129	6 216	148	0.131	4 110	171	0.136	6 654			
181 United Arab Emirates	0.604	177	0.755	36 453	149	0.766	24 102	172	0.799	39 018			
182 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.463	178	5.581	269 351	150	5.661	178 093	173	5.903	288 307			
183 United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	179	0.010	483	151	0.010	315	174	0.010	488			
184 Uruguay	0.079	180	0.099	4 768	152	0.100	3 152	175	0.104	5 103			
185 Uzbekistan	0.023	181	0.029	1 388	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.			
186 Vanuatu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	176	0.010	488			
187 Venezuela	0.571	182	0.714	34 461	153	0.724	22 785	177	0.755	36 886			
188 Viet Nam	0.058	183	0.073	3 500	154	0.074	2 314	178	0.077	3 747			
189 Yemen	0.010	184	0.010	483	155	0.010	315	179	0.010	488			
190 Zambia	0.007	185	0.009	422	156	0.010	315	180	0.010	488			
191 Zimbabwe	0.004	186	0.005	241	157	0.010	315	181	0.010	488			
Total (annual)	80.490		100.000	4 826 060		100.000	3 145 813		100.000	4 883 825			
Total (biennium)				9 652 121			6 291 627			9 767 650			

Remarks:

(1) United Nations scale of assessment per General Assembly resolution 70/245, adopted at the seventieth session of the General Assembly for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 on 23 December 2015

(2) Per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Basel Convention, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by the General Assembly and should be adjusted to

ensure that (i) no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total and (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(3) Per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by the General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that (i) no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total, (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total and (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(4) This is the annual contribution to be paid by the Parties both in 2018 and 2019. It is the same for both years and is based on the total required funds for the biennium and the average requirement for the year.

Table 3

Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2018–2019

Posts funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Approved 2016–2017 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions				Total proposed 2018–2019 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions			
	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP programme support costs	Total	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP programme support costs	Total
A. Professional category								
D-2 level	1.00	0.25	–	1.25	1.00	0.25	–	1.25
D-1 level	1.00	–	–	1.00	1.00	–	–	1.00
P-5 level	7.50	–	–	7.50	7.00	–	–	7.00
P-4 level	8.00	–	2.00	10.00	7.00	–	2.00	9.00
P-3 level	17.50	1.00	–	18.50	16.00	1.00	–	17.00
P-2 level	2.00	–	–	2.00	2.00	–	–	2.00
Subtotal A	37.00	1.25	2.00	40.25	34.00	1.25	2.00	37.25
B. General Service category								
GS	13.00	1.25	6.00	20.25	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
Subtotal B	13.00	1.25	6.00	20.25	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
TOTAL (A+B)	50.00	2.50	8.00	60.50	46.00	2.50	8.00	56.50
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(3)		(1)	(2)	(3)	

Remarks:

(1) Post funded by assessed contributions.

(2) Provided by FAO as an in-kind contribution in its capacity as part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.

(3) Funded by the programme support cost of 13 per cent accrued from both assessed (core) and voluntary contributions; includes finance, administration and logistics staff.

Posts funded from voluntary special and technical cooperation trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Approved 2016–2017 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	Total proposed 2018–2019 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
A. Professional category		
D-2 level	–	–
D-1 level	–	–
P-5 level	–	–
P-4 level	1.00	
P-3 level	5.25	1.00
P-2 level	–	–
Subtotal A	6.25	1.00
B. General Service category		
GS	4.00	1.00
Subtotal B	4.00	1.00
TOTAL (A+B)	10.25	2.00
Remarks		(1)

Remarks:

(1) Voluntarily-funded staff will be recruited only if funds are available.

Projected salary costs for Geneva for the biennium 2018–2019 (United States dollars)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018–2019
A. Professional category					
D-2	332 988	339 648	346 441	353 370	699 811
D-1	332 988	339 648	346 441	353 370	699 811
P-5	295 207	301 111	307 133	313 276	620 409
P-4	224 791	229 287	233 873	238 550	472 423
P-3	183 774	187 449	191 198	195 022	386 221
P-2	144 919	147 817	150 773	153 789	304 562
B. General Service category					
GS	131 318	133 945	136 623	139 356	275 979
C. Other direct personnel costs					
Retirement and replacement recruitment costs					351 115
ASHI costs	116 000	117 624	119 271	120 941	240 211
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(3), (4)

Remarks:

(1) Average actual salary costs including staff entitlement of BRS Geneva staff for 2016 was used as basis to project future salary costs.

(2) Staff costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2016 with an increase of 2 per cent per annum to cover for salary step increase, inflation, exchange rate fluctuations and unexpected adverse movements in salary costs.

(3) The projected actual salary costs for the biennium exclude the estimated retirement and recruitment costs of a total of USD 351,115 for 4 staff members for staff due to retire and their replacements. The retirement/recruitment costs are an integral part of the staffing costs and have been added separately.

(4) After service health insurance (ASHI) is a new staff-related cost that is 3 per cent of the net base salary of every staff member and is mandatory in the United Nations Secretariat as at 1 January 2017. These costs were not yet mandatory in 2016 and thus are included separately.

Projected salary costs for Rome for the biennium 2018–2019 (United States dollars)

Staff category and level	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018–2019
A. Professional category					
P-5	220 381	224 788	229 284	233 870	463 154
P-4	228 301	232 867	237 524	242 274	479 798
P-3	185 452	189 161	192 944	196 803	389 747
P-2	136 869	139 607	142 399	145 247	287 645
B. General Service category					
GS	94 042	95 923	97 842	99 799	197 640
C. Other direct personnel costs					
ASHI costs	22 000	22 308	22 620	22 937	45 557
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2), (3)

Remarks:

- (1) Average actual salary costs including staff entitlements and improved cost recovery uplift (ICRU) in respect of Rome staff for 2016 was used as a basis to project future salary costs.
- (2) Staff costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2016 increased by 2 per cent per annum. No retirement or recruitment costs were included in the estimates.
- (3) After service health insurance (ASHI) is a new staff-related cost that is 3 per cent of the net base salary of every staff member and is mandatory in the United Nations Secretariat as at 1 January 2017. These costs were not yet mandatory in 2016 and thus are included separately.

Annex II

Report of the high-level segment of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

1. The high-level segment of the meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions took place on the afternoon of Thursday, 4 May 2017, and the morning of Friday, 5 May 2017, focusing on the theme “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”. The segment comprised a ceremony to mark recent ratifications of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment; introductory statements by the members of a high-level panel; twelve simultaneous ministerial round-table discussions; and a presentation and discussion of the key messages emerging from the round-table discussions.

I. Opening of the high-level segment

2. Following a performance of traditional Swiss music, Ms. Corinne Momal-Vanian, Director of the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva, welcomed the participants to the high-level segment.

3. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Marc Chardonens (Switzerland), Chair of the high-level segment of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, speaking also on behalf of the presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions; Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility (GEF); and Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General for Climate and Natural Resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Ms. Kate Gilmore, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, then delivered a keynote speech.

4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Chardonens welcomed the participants, extending particular greetings to the Executive Director of UNEP, the executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions. The national and international focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, he said, was contributing to the mainstreaming of sustainable chemicals and waste management in development, environmental and economic plans, and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, together with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, constituted the cornerstones of an environmental governance structure. He urged countries to ratify the Minamata Convention. While congratulating the Parties on the listing of several chemicals in the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the current meeting, he said that the conventions must either be amended or complemented by additional instruments to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their lifecycles. He called on Parties to be ambitious and to collaborate to enhance the effectiveness of the three conventions, saying that the cost of failing to do so was too high.

5. Highlighting the improvement in cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, he said that it must continue to counter fragmentation and ensure that the conventions could face the challenges of a globalized world with innovative technology. Highlighting the need for adequate means to meet the challenges, he welcomed the increased funding for chemicals and waste management in the most recent GEF replenishment. He called on Governments to lead by example, including by acting as convenors and enablers, and he stressed the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships such as the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment under the Basel Convention, in finding and implementing solutions to specific problems. As important as it was to respond immediately to pressing issues, however, he also underscored the need to think strategically about long-term objectives and to adopt the policies required to achieve them.

6. Mr. Adu-Kumi, in his welcoming remarks, said that the high-level segment provided an opportunity to reflect not only on the intensive work conducted during the 2017 meetings but also on the links between that work and the many broader environmental and sustainable development issues facing humanity. In that context, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions demonstrated synergy at its best and exemplified the beauty of unity and diversity. The theme of the meetings, “A future detoxified: sound management of chemicals and waste”, had captured imaginations and brought home the message that combined efforts and a common cross-cutting approach were key to achieving

that aim. The full commitment of all stakeholders, especially those at the highest level, was thus crucial to driving forward the global agenda on chemicals and waste.

7. Mr. Solheim said that it was gratifying that so many from around the world had gathered for the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, as they were doing in increasing numbers at other events to address global problems and improve lives. Indeed, the positive results achieved through the 2017 meetings showed that there was no limit to what could be accomplished by coordinating efforts toward a common goal, as already amply demonstrated by such successes as the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the signing and imminent entry into force of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the eradication and control of such diseases as poliomyelitis, measles and smallpox. The next great ambition of achieving a pollution-free world was likewise achievable by setting the tone and direction for the global efforts and decisive national actions that it would require. But achieving that goal would also require a fair world in which developed countries provided technical assistance to others in pursuit of shared objectives, with Governments, civil society and the private sector all playing their parts. Chemicals undoubtedly provided enormous benefits to the world but their proper control was critical, particularly in what was a rapidly changing scientific environment. It was only by working together to find solutions to such issues that humanity would fully reap those benefits.

8. Ms. Ishii began by highlighting how much the international situation had changed over the preceding two years with the adoption of milestone international agreements and a shift towards action and implementation of the sustainability agenda. The chemicals and waste agenda was emerging as the catalyst for sound economic and social systems, she said, but was tied to key economic systems and needed to be addressed systematically. With global pollution worsening at alarming rates and the continued use of toxic chemicals putting unsustainable pressure on the global environment, business as usual could not continue. With a rising world population and a growing middle class, production and consumption patterns had to be transformed; cities, industries and the food system had to be transformed to embrace supply chain interventions, innovative waste management approaches and alternatives to harmful chemicals. Economic sectors such as manufacturing, building and agriculture were highly dependent on chemicals, but also presented opportunities to reduce chemicals and waste through innovative approaches such as green chemistry and the circular economy and opportunities for synergies in climate action, responsible consumption, life on land and other areas covered by the Sustainable Development Goals. Noting that the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund would be informed by the outcome of the current meetings, she called for urgent work to bring about transformation through political leadership, coalitions for change and innovation. She closed her remarks by expressing the commitment of GEF to working with all Parties on the journey towards a future detoxified.

9. Ms. Semedo opened her remarks by saying that although access to food was the most basic human right, nearly 800 million people, most living in rural areas, still suffered from hunger. The world's poor and hungry were the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of harmful pesticides and chemicals and waste. Growth in the agriculture sector remained one of most cost-effective means for developing countries to reduce poverty and end food insecurity, but sustainable agriculture must also contribute to detoxifying the air, water and soil. As an example of the work of FAO towards that end, she drew attention to the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management, developed jointly with the World Health Organization, to help avert the negative consequences of pesticide misuse, including the decline in the populations of birds, insects and other pollinators vital to food production. She also noted efforts by FAO, in partnership with UNEP, to prevent the accumulation of microplastics in the marine environment, a growing concern for fisheries. Overall, FAO was committed to exploring innovative solutions, supporting dialogue, sharing information and enabling policies for sustainable agriculture, and promoted ecosystem approaches to achieve its aims. The farming, fishery and forestry sectors had demonstrated their ability to work together to share knowledge and expertise in finding innovative approaches to developing more effective, efficient and resilient production systems, but robust government structures, strong institutions, ministerial collaboration and international cooperation were required for countries to benefit more fully from global instruments such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. While good progress had been made in putting together mechanisms, frameworks and instruments at the national, regional and global levels, greater political will was needed to take advantage of them.

10. In her keynote speech, Ms. Gilmore likened the relationship between the sound management of chemicals and waste and the protection of human rights to a long-term marriage in which commitment had not always been strong, illustrating the point with the mercury poisoning in Minamata, Japan, that had given rise to the adoption of the Minamata Convention, the first recognized case of which had involved a child. Children were particularly vulnerable to the effects of toxic chemicals, but in what could be termed a silent pandemic the consequences might not manifest for many years. Almost every

country had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which, in Article 24, required States Parties to ensure adequate food and clean drinking water for children, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution. The story of the Minamata mercury poisoning demonstrated many issues with regard to the relationship between chemicals and waste management and human rights, including the power of community engagement to provide early warning; the rights of individuals and communities to receive information; the danger of stigmatization of and discrimination against the victims of toxic poisoning; the hindering of a prompt and effective response; the ability of large corporations to obstruct investigations into their malpractice, instil fear into their employees and neglect the rights of victims; and the harm that could result when the State sided with business over its citizens.

11. Humans were central to the inviolable, intricate relationship between biodiversity, species protection, environmental sustainability and human habitat, which broke down if humans were disconnected or disempowered. People had to be at the centre of the story, as they were the planet's greatest natural resource. Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserted the right of everyone to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. Interference with that right for political or commercial purposes was a betrayal of human rights. Legal obligations must empower the State to oblige accountability from those whose resources and activities had the potential to cause great harm, even in the context of manufacture that could create great benefit. If it abandoned those responsibilities, it was derogating from its responsibilities as a State. Collateral damage to people and their rights in the pursuit of prosperity should not be allowed. Freedom of information was a fundamental human rights obligation, and a fundamental responsibility of the State. In conclusion, she said that the chemicals and human rights sectors should be partners in using the various measures at their disposal, including international agreements and instruments, and national legislation and political responsibility, to ensure commitment to human rights within the development nexus.

II. Round-table discussions

12. Following the opening of the high-level segment ministers, deputy ministers and ambassadors engaged in 12 simultaneous round-table discussions on the theme of the session: "A future detoxified: Sound management of chemicals and waste". Each round table was served by a high-level moderator from the United Nations Secretariat or other United Nations entity. A number of resource persons also participated in the round-table discussions. The composition of the round tables is set out in appendix I to the present report.

13. For the purposes of the ministerial round-table discussions the theme was subdivided into three sub-themes:

- (a) Opportunities for a detoxified future in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
- (b) Opportunities for strengthened implementation through partnerships;
- (c) Opportunities for reducing waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity.

14. Following the round-table discussions, Mr. Tim Kasten, Deputy Director of the Economy Division of the United Nations Environment Programme, presented a compilation of the messages emerging therefrom.

15. The members of a ministerial panel – representing the round-table discussions – then reacted to the messages, with other participants from the discussions adding their views. The panel members were Ms. Arlette Sombo-Dibele, Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, Water, Forests, and Hunting and Fishing (Central African Republic); Ms. Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy, Sustainable Development and Environment (Congo); Mr. Khaled M. Fahmy, Minister of Environment (Egypt); Mr. Sydney A. Samuels, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Guatemala); Mr. Noel Holder, Minister of Agriculture (Guyana); Ms. Carole Dieschbourg, Minister of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure (Luxembourg); Mr. Etienne Didier Dogley, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (Seychelles); Mr. Singappuli Premajayantha, Minister of Environment and Renewable Energy (Sri Lanka) and Ms. O.C.Z. Muchinguri, Minister of Environment, Water and Climate (Zimbabwe).

16. In their reactions and comments, the panel members and other participants in the round-table discussions referred to some of the key issues identified as priorities across the three themes of the high-level segment, with many highlighting the role of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in promoting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and in turn the

achievement of social and economic prosperity. In that context, numerous speakers mentioned the importance of synergies and of harmonizing national development plans with the Sustainable Development Goals, including as a way of facilitating the vital task of monitoring implementation. Several emphasized chemical and waste management as a priority for all, with another saying that immediate action to reduce pollution from chemical waste would be much less costly than dealing in the future with the consequences of inaction. Several speakers said that there was a need for robust legislation and regulations to control chemical and other wastes and imports of hazardous substances.

17. Several speakers said that institutional capacity-building was vital to ensuring the enforcement of relevant laws and regulations, particularly in developing countries, which should also receive training and guidance designed to promote implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Many said that it was important to share knowledge, experiences and solutions to that end, including through scientific research and technology transfer. One speaker said that information and data must be transparent and readily available at all stages, including with regard to the life cycle of all products. In the interests of an integrated approach, numerous speakers emphasized the vital need for broad cooperation and partnership at the national, regional and global levels among all stakeholders, including Governments, ministries, civil society, academia, industry and business, with one saying that care must be taken to avoid any duplication of effort.

18. Various speakers also spoke of awareness-raising and education among the public, consumers and manufacturers as matters for attention. One said that financial assistance should be provided for that purpose and others said that simple language should be used to communicate the messages of the three conventions to the public. Other issues highlighted by speakers included a need to focus on the “3Rs” (reduce, reuse, recycle); waste management training for operators; innovative mechanisms for financing waste treatment centres; plastics and marine litter; price incentives to promote waste reduction; and, notably, the provision of financial assistance for building the capacities of small island developing States, other developing countries and least developed countries in the sound management of chemicals and waste. One said that the circular economy had its benefits but that care must be taken to ensure that recycled products did not contain toxins.

19. Speakers also said that there was a need for high-level commitment, political will, political coherence and a long-term strategic vision and framework for chemicals and waste management, with the last said to be a cross-cutting issue that called for strong institutional structures. Others placed emphasis on gender in policymaking, ethical policymaking and corruption. One speaker highlighted the problem of the dumping of used vehicles and equipment and another called for measures to stop occupying authorities from dumping chemical wastes and building chemical production facilities in the territories that they occupied.

20. The moderator then opened the floor for general discussion and comments, with responses from the panellists.

21. In the ensuing discussion many representatives spoke of a need for cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders at all levels. One panellist said that the fact that a number of countries did not produce toxic chemicals but still used them, for example in the case of fertilizers and pesticides to increase food security, was itself an argument for cooperation, including between chemical producers and end users. Another panellist spoke of a need for cooperation among entities at the national level, for example between different ministries, to facilitate coherent national action. She also said that the concept of a circular economy implied the need for all stakeholders to work together at the regional level in order to share best practices and identify opportunities and benefits, while maintaining connectivity with issues at the global and national levels.

22. Several representatives spoke of the scale of the challenge of managing chemicals and wastes in a sound and sustainable manner. One representative said that least developed countries were particularly vulnerable because they lacked the necessary infrastructure; the question was how to articulate action at the global, regional and national levels to provide effective solutions to the problems facing those countries. In response, a panellist said that the common agreement on waste management of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community served as an example of how cross-border alignment of regulatory measures could facilitate the management of wastes at the regional or subregional level. Another panellist said that controlling cross-border trade in hazardous substances was more difficult when there were disparities in the relevant regulations of neighbouring countries. One representative said that regional centres had a role to play in sharing good regulatory and policy practices among the countries of their regions. Another representative expressed concern at the lack of progress made in dealing with certain hazardous chemicals at successive meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Another representative said

that it was important to promote awareness-raising and education, including in schools and the media, in order to disseminate the messages of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

23. Several representatives spoke of the importance of gender in the sound management of chemicals and wastes. One panellist said that insufficient attention was given to the exposure and vulnerability of women in the mining sector, for example when fetching contaminated water. Another panellist said that it was important to build the capacity of women and raise awareness of gender issues so that more women filled positions of responsibility. Another panellist said that the matter of gender should be strongly institutionalized, for example in national constitutions or through the establishment of gender commissions and clear gender-inclusive policies. Another panellist said that there was a tendency to focus on the vulnerability of women rather than on the strong roles they played in many sections of society. Another panellist said that gender concerned not only the role of women but also the interaction of both sexes, including with regard to their roles at the household and community levels, for example in the area of hazardous waste management in the home. Another panellist said that as gender equality was one of the Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 5) the gender dimension should be included in chemicals and waste management planning given the indivisibility of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

24. Several participants said that developing countries would need financial, technical and other assistance to realize their goals with regard to the sound management of chemicals and waste. One panellist said that there was a danger of funding bias, whereby donors funded larger, more regionally prominent countries or blocs of countries rather than States that were smaller but just as in need. Another panellist said that fiscal measures could be utilized to ensure that funds were levied for environment-related programmes and to support capacity-building and awareness raising. One panellist said that efforts should be made to streamline the often cumbersome processes by which international financing was made available and to provide training to countries in the design of bankable projects, while another panellist highlighted the difficulties that developing countries often faced in aligning their project needs with donor requirements. Another panellist drew attention to the relationship between financial resources and compliance, stating that while there was general political will for compliance with the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, funding mechanisms were often inadequate to generate the necessary financing. Another panellist said that policy coherence was important to facilitate financing and that there was a need for donor and recipient countries to agree on such matters as the polluter pays principle, climate neutrality and waste reduction.

25. Following the discussion the moderator thanked the panellists and other participants for their contributions to what she said was a rich and interesting discussion.

26. At the conclusion of the interactive discussion, Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, presented a consolidation of the key messages that emerged from the round-table discussions, which summarized the outcomes of the high-level segment. The key messages are set out in appendix II to the present report.

III. Closure of the high-level segment

27. Closing the high-level segment, Mr. Chardonens said that the valuable ideas and global perspectives that had informed the discussions and the resulting key messages demonstrated the strength of the multilateral approach and the importance of concerted action to address challenges in an efficient and effective manner. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provided a unique opportunity for the mainstreaming of the chemicals and waste agenda, to which end he encouraged all stakeholders to continue what he described as sterling work towards the goal of protecting human health and the environment.

Appendix I

Composition of round tables

Round table 1

Moderator: Mr. Steven Stone (United Nations Environment Programme)

Ms. Jeanne Josette Acacha Akoha (Benin)
 Mr. Batio Bassière (Burkina Faso)
 Mr. Serge Karonkano (Burundi)
 Mr. Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva (Cabo Verde)
 Mr. Pierre Hele (Cameroon)
 Ms. Rosalie Matondo (Congo)
 Mr. Patrick Mayombe-Mumbyoko (Democratic Republic of Congo)
 Ms. Aya Thiam Diallo (Mali)

Round table 2

Moderator: Ms. Katharina Kummer (World Health Organization)

Mr. Apolinário Jorge Correia (Angola)
 Ms. Arlette Sombo-Dibele (Central African Republic)
 Ms. Anne Désirée Ouloto (Côte d'Ivoire)
 Ms. Chantal Abengdang Mebaley (Gabon)
 Mr. Antonio Serifo Embalo (Guinea-Bissau)
 Ms. Benedicte Johanita Ndahimananjara (Madagascar)
 Mr. Almoustapha Garba (Niger)

Round table 3

Moderator: Mr. Achim Halpaap (United Nations Environment Programme)

Ms. Khomoatsana Tau (Lesotho)
 Mr. Samura M.W. Kamara (Sierra Leone)
 Ms. Barbara Thomson (South Africa)
 Mr. Christopher Gamedze (Swaziland)
 Mr. Sam Cheptoris (Uganda)
 Mr. Lloyd Mulenga Kaziya (Zambia)
 Ms. O. C. Z. Muchinguri (Zimbabwe)

Round table 4

Moderator: Ms. Monika Linn (Economic Commission for Europe)

Mr. Kare Chawicha Debessa (Ethiopia)
 Mr. Kwabena Frimpong-Boateng (Ghana)
 Mr. Abdulla Ziyad (Maldives)
 Mr. Ibrahim Usman Jibril (Nigeria)
 Mr. Etienne Didier Dogley (Seychelles)

Round table 5

Moderator: Mr. Habib N. El-Habr (United Nations Environment Programme)

Mr. Abdul Wali Modaqiq (Afghanistan)
 Mr. Mohamed Bindaina (Bahrain)
 Mr. Khaled Mohamed Fahmy Abdelall (Egypt)
 Ms. Saja Majali (Jordan)
 Ms. Adalah Atira (State of Palestine)
 Mr. Mustafa Osman Ismail Elamin (Sudan)
 Mr. Per Ångquist (Sweden)
 Mr. Mehmet Ceylan (Turkey)
 Mr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi (United Arab Emirates)

Round table 6

Moderator: Mr. Andrey Vasilyev (Economic Commission for Europe)

Mr. Ado Lõhmus (Estonia)
Mr. Gani Sadibekov (Kazakhstan)
Mr. Mindaugas Gudas (Lithuania)
Ms. Carole Dieschbourg (Luxembourg)
Mr. Marek Haliniak (Poland)
Mr. Sergey Kraevoy (Russian Federation)
Ms. Stana Bozovic (Serbia)
Mr. Marc Henri Bruno Chardonnens (Switzerland)

Round table 7

Moderator: Mr. Stephan Sicars (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)

Mr. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob (Bangladesh)
Mr. Gigla Agulashvili (Georgia)
Mr. Noel Holder (Guyana)
Ms. Bounkham Vorachit (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Mr. Ohn Winn (Myanmar)
Mr. Jay Dev Joshi (Nepal)
Mr. Mykola Kuzyo (Ukraine)

Round table 8

Moderator: Ms. María Neira (World Health Organization)

Mr. Javier Ureta Sáenz Peña (Argentina)
Ms. Cynthia Silva Maturana (Bolivia, Plurinational State of)
Mr. Jair Tannus Junior (Brazil)
Ms. Irene Cañas (Costa Rica)
Mr. Walter Francisco Garcia Cedeño (Ecuador)
Mr. Santiago Francisco Engonga Osono (Equatorial Guinea)
Mr. Sydney Alexander Samuels Milson (Guatemala)
Mr. Carlos Pineda Fasquelle (Honduras)
Mr. Edgardo Alberto Villalobos Jaen (Panama)
Mr. Marcos Gabriel Alegre Chang (Peru)
Mr. Jesus Castillo (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)

Round table 9

Moderator: Mr. Nikhil Seth (United Nations Institute for Training and Research)

Mr. Omar Figueroa (Belize)
Mr. Ty Sokhun (Cambodia)
Mr. Ajay Narayan Jha (India)
Ms. Tuti Hendrawati Mintarsih (Indonesia)
Mr. Shigemoto Kajihara (Japan)
Mr. Joseph Caruana (Malta)
Mr. Singappuli Achchige Don Susil Premajayantha (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Surasak Karnjanarat (Thailand)
Mr. Siaosi Sovaleni (Tonga)

Round table 10

Moderator: Mr. Cosmas L. Zavazava (International Telecommunication Union)

Mr. Yury Ambrazevich (Belarus)
Ms. Beatriz Londoño Soto (Colombia)
Mr. Tae Song Han (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
Ms. Kadra Ahmed Hassan (Djibouti)
Mr. Wayne McCook (Jamaica)
Mr. Israhyananda Dhalladoo (Mauritius)

Round table 11

Moderator: Ms. Maria Luisa Silva (United Nations Development Programme)

Ms. Lucija Ljubic Lepine (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ms. Sundus Al-Bayraqdar (Iraq)

Mr. Janis Karklinš (Latvia)

Mr. Ernest Makawa (Malawi)

Mr. Robert Dufter Salama (Malawi)

Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua (Marshall Islands)

Mr. Milorad Scepanovic (Montenegro)

Round table 12

Moderator: Mr. Tim Kasten (United Nations Environment Programme)

Mr. Abdulla Nasser Al Rahbi (Oman)

Mr. Farukh Akhter Amil (Pakistan)

Mr. Ahmad Al-Sada (Qatar)

Mr. Kyong-Lim Choi (Republic of Korea)

Ms. Elena Dumitru (Romania)

Mr. François Xavier Ngarambe (Rwanda)

Mr. Yackoley Kokou Johnson (Togo)

Mr. Chi Dung Duong (Viet Nam)

Mr. Ali Mohamed Saeed Majawar (Yemen)

Resource persons

Ms. Maria Helena Semedo (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Mr. Ross Bartley (Bureau of International Recycling)

Mr. David Azoulay (Center for International Environmental Law)

Mr. Klaus Kunz (CropLife International)

Ms. Pamela Miller (International POPs Elimination Network)

Ms. Meriel Watts (Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific)

Ms. Sascha Gabizon (Women Engage for a Common Future International)

Appendix II

Key messages emerging from the high-level segment of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Overall messages

1. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals the political momentum for a detoxified planet has increased. This opportunity must be seized.
2. There can be no sustainable development without a commitment to a pollution-free planet, and that requires the sound management of chemicals and waste.
3. The key to a detoxified future is to take action now, including through the implementation by all Parties of all the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which should be translated into national legislation, policy and actions.

On opportunities for a detoxified future in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

4. The sound management of chemicals and wastes is central to achieving the three dimensions of sustainable development and should be dealt with as a priority in a mutually supportive way to achieve the 2030 goals. It is also central to addressing poverty, food security, access to water, human rights and gender issues, particularly for women, children and vulnerable populations, and is linked to addressing climate change and the protection of biodiversity. With the obvious link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and the many cross-sectoral aspects of that link, the chemicals and wastes-related Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved unless the conventions are implemented effectively.
5. The 2030 Agenda provides a unique opportunity for mainstreaming chemicals and wastes-related issues into national sustainable development plans and for the development of business cases for the sound management of chemicals and wastes. Institutional frameworks at all levels and policy coherence across all sectors must be strengthened. This requires strong political will, cooperation and community and end-user awareness, as well as partnerships at all levels.
6. Furthermore, the 2030 Agenda provides specific targets that support commitment to the sound management of chemicals and wastes in order to protect human health and the environment. The importance of increasing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through a focus on poverty reduction strategies recognizing that the poor are the most affected by pollution, including through the extensive use of chemicals in agriculture, is clear.
7. There is a need for greater commitment by industry to prevent the pollution of streams and other water bodies that are depended upon by communities, especially those in abject poverty. Industry must play a more proactive role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Different levels of development and differing country capacities to address the challenges of chemicals and waste management must be recognized, particularly in small island developing States, least developed countries and vulnerable populations that have limited capacity or access to information necessary to deal with environmental challenges.

On opportunities for strengthened implementation through partnerships

9. Increased cooperation and coordination is needed at the national, regional and global levels to implement the conventions effectively. Partnerships have a central role and civil society, business, industry and private sector investment must be fully engaged.
10. Partnerships have proved to be useful tools in the implementation of the chemicals and waste agendas and should be further encouraged. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including those involving the private sector, should be strengthened to promote new technologies, win-win partnerships and innovation in support of the implementation of the conventions.

11. Partnerships must be established with all sectors and stakeholders, including with local communities and municipal entities. A bottom-up approach is essential because citizens are the key driver for action. Regional networks can assist in monitoring and managing cross-border issues and civil society groups can help Governments monitor the environment.
12. The Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres are uniquely positioned to deliver synergistically on chemicals and wastes by engaging in capacity-building and catalysing the transfer of technology for the sound management of chemicals and waste at the national level.
13. Availability of, and access to, adequate financial resources are fundamental to ensuring the restoration of our oceans and landscapes from chemical pollution and for the adequate implementation of the chemicals and wastes agenda within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

On opportunities for reducing waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity

14. Although there has been much progress, further efforts through the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are needed to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles and to prevent or minimize significant adverse effects of hazardous wastes on human health and the environment.
15. Commitment to, and the conscientious implementation of, the chemicals and wastes conventions contributes to the achievement of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and the reduction of illegal traffic in waste and cross-border pollution, thus facilitating economic and social prosperity.
16. Raising awareness of the interlinkages between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and issues such as air pollution, plastic pollution and marine litter increases the visibility of chemicals and wastes issues in a consistent manner to stakeholders, the media and schools, thereby enhancing the conventions' contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the protection of human health and the environment.
17. Adequate technology transfer is essential to address sustainable development in fields such as agriculture, recycling, household and medical waste management, as are training and capacity-building in the management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycles. Legislation and control techniques should be in place in all sectors; currently there is limited enforcement even where relevant regulations exist.
18. Lack of financial resources, as well as limited institutional capacity, are legitimate concerns that require attention. Further scientific research is also needed in developing countries along with associated funding, including for national coordinating units, laboratories and strengthening research institutes to enhance their ability to develop new technologies for chemicals and wastes management, to establish baseline data, to develop viable alternatives, to promote science-based decisions and to enhance monitoring capacity and database management skills needed to monitor progress in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets.
19. Mechanisms such as economic and policy incentives and disincentives should be established to implement the polluter pays principle, taking into consideration the specific situation of each country.
20. Formalization of the informal recycling sector is fundamental to the creation of decent jobs and the reduction of legal and occupational risks and environmental impacts. There is a large potential for recycling to have positive economic impacts in developing countries. Related activities must be facilitated by strong regulatory frameworks and technical expertise to ensure that wastes destined for use as resources do not have an adverse impact on human health and the environment.
21. Concepts such as the circular economy and the green economy provide opportunities for developing countries to reduce waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity; they do, however, require behavioural and cultural adaptations.
22. Industry should be encouraged to develop chemicals and products based upon green and sustainable chemistry principles taking into account the precautionary principle, in particular in the case where persistence, bioaccumulation and long-range transport are of concern, in order to prevent further damage to human health and the environment.