



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 4–15 May 2015

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its seventh meeting

I. Introduction

1. By decisions BC-11/20, RC-6/12 and SC-6/25, 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 twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention back to back in 2015 (hereinafter, “the 2015 meetings”). The conferences of the parties also decided that their 2015 meetings would “include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues” and would “prioritize an agenda and schedule that focus on substantive matters related to implementation of the conventions and provide sufficient time for their consideration”.

2. In accordance with the above decisions, and as described in greater detail in section IV C below, the 2015 meetings featured joint sessions to address cross-cutting issues of concern to the three conventions as well as the opening and organization of the meetings. The present report describes both the joint sessions of the three conferences of the parties as well as the separate sessions of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. The reports of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), like the present report, cover both the joint sessions of the meetings of the three conferences of the parties as well as the separate sessions of the respective meetings.

II. Opening of the meetings (agenda item 1)

3. Mr. Jan Dusik, Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Europe, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed the meeting participants to the 2015 meetings. The participants were favoured with a musical performance by the Sam Singers.

A. Opening remarks

4. Opening remarks were made by Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Clayton Campanhola, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention; Mr. Bruno Oberle, State Secretary, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and Ms. Naoko Ishii, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

5. Mr. Payet, in his remarks, welcomed the participants to the 2015 meetings and expressed his personal commitment to the task of achieving the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The sound management of chemicals and wastes, he said, contributed not only to the economic but also the social aspects of sustainable development and all countries must prioritize its integration into the global policy agenda while ensuring that it remained high on the national agenda. To that end, he said, it was important to strengthen the role and capacity of the regional centres and to foster partnership with non-governmental organizations and the private sector and to extend the synergies process to the regional and national levels. Recalling the theme of the current meetings, moving from science to action: working for a safer tomorrow, he said that while the new sustainable development goals were likely to spark that movement, robust indicators for the chemicals and wastes cluster were needed to ensure the protection of human health and the environment without imposing unnecessary economic constraints on countries, industries and individuals.

6. Regarding the key decisions on the individual agendas for the three conferences of the parties, he drew particular attention to those on the Basel Convention technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste (e-waste), whose adoption he described as a crucial step in ensuring the sound management of the fastest growing waste stream on the planet, along with those on the listing of chemicals under the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions. In regard to the latter two conventions, particular importance must be attached to the establishment of a facilitative mechanism to assist parties in resolving their implementation and compliance issues, and he urged the parties to those conventions to strive for agreement on the remaining matters preventing the adoption of such a mechanism.

7. In conclusion, he expressed gratitude to the donor countries, including China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America, whose contributions had enabled the participation of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition in the regional preparatory meetings and the 2015 meetings, as their inputs were crucial to a successful outcome.

8. Mr. Campanhola began his remarks by offering his condolences to the delegation of Nepal in the wake of the earthquake that had struck the country with devastating consequences. He also paid tribute to the country's firm commitment to the Rotterdam Convention, as evidenced by the 18 notifications of final regulatory action that it had recently submitted for various pesticides despite that tragedy. He drew attention to the science fair that would be held in conjunction with the current meetings, at the opening of which the Director General of FAO would address the parties. At the core of every meeting of the Conference of the Parties, he said, was the consideration of chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III to the Convention by the Chemical Review Committee. If the two pesticides and two severely hazardous pesticide formulations on the agenda were added to the Convention it would demonstrate the Convention's importance, particularly to developing countries, where agriculture was a key sector and where the conditions of use of pesticides often put farmers and their families at great risk.

9. After outlining the activities of FAO in support of the work of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, he observed that the conventions were not just about chemicals but would also play an important role in helping countries to achieve the post-2015 development goals. In closing, he pledged his commitment to the secretariats' practice of working together closely to provide a high level of support to the parties and he wished them successful deliberations at the current meetings.

10. Mr. Oberle, in his remarks, welcomed the participants to Geneva and urged them to build on the success of the previous joint meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and, drawing on the review of the synergies process, to further harmonize coordination and cooperation in areas such as compliance, technical and financial assistance and guidance to the financial mechanism, thus addressing the conventions' political, technical and strategic challenges in a comprehensive manner that would provide a basis for coherent, overarching, policies while increasing the visibility of the chemicals and wastes cluster. Turning to the items on the agendas of the individual meetings, he highlighted as of particular importance the further development of guidelines on the environmentally sound management of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, given the growth in the volume of e-waste and the challenge of distinguishing it from used electrical and electronic equipment; facilitating entry into force of the Basel Convention's Ban Amendment; the adoption of efficient and effective compliance mechanisms under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to ensure that parties facing compliance difficulties received the necessary support; and the listing in the latter two conventions of all substances recommended by the Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, including those that had

been the subject of debate at previous meetings. The last issue, he said, was crucial to ensuring the effectiveness of the two conventions as well as the credibility of their scientific bodies.

11. In conclusion, he expressed confidence that the participants at the current meetings would work in the spirit of constructive engagement and pragmatism that had characterized the chemicals and wastes cluster and, in so doing, produce concrete results that would render the three conventions even more effective, efficient, coherent and comprehensive and also strengthen and develop each individual Convention.

12. Mr. Steiner welcomed the participants to a venue that had witnessed long hours of intensive negotiations. The year 2015 was undoubtedly a significant year: important decisions were to be made on issues such as the sustainable development goals and climate change, and the 2015 meetings were of crucial relevance to those negotiations. He drew attention to three figures that bore witness to their fundamental importance. First, between 1970 and 2010, the annual value of global chemicals production had grown from \$170 billion to \$4.2 trillion, showing the economic significance of the substances with which countries had to contend. Second, there were over 100,000 recognized chemical substances in circulation, affecting both the human body and the environment, and the ability to understand how they functioned was lagging far behind their economic value and development. Third, occupational poisoning in the chemicals industry killed around 1 million people each year. It was necessary, therefore, to ensure that the knowledge and capacity of international organizations was sufficient to enable policymakers, citizens and others to address the opportunities of the twenty-first century chemicals-based economy. The goal was not to retard economic development, but rather to reduce risk, improve standards and ensure accountability with regard to chemicals.

13. Drawing attention to the cost of health care and lost earnings associated with endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the European Union, he said that such costs were a clear indicator of why decisions at meetings of the chemical-related conventions were of such importance in ensuring that chemicals served their intended purpose without causing undue harm. Surely, for example, it was within our capabilities to combat malaria with something other than the outdated chemical DDT and to ensure a move away from the trade-off between damaging costs in return for certain benefits. Such a transition required international solidarity and national action centred around the principles of collaboration and solidarity. History showed that such action was not easy to achieve, and over the years a legacy of frustrations, disappointments and unfulfilled ambitions had accumulated. Currently, however, a decade-long cycle of cooperation had left the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the threshold of enormously promising breakthroughs in the management of chemicals. To cross that threshold it was necessary to approach issues such as the listing of chemicals in the conventions, compliance and finance in a spirit of good faith and trust so that a complete package of measures could be put in place to ensure the contribution of the chemicals-related conventions to the prosperity and well-being of all.

14. Ms. Ishii, in her remarks, highlighted the achievements of GEF over the previous two years, including the expansion of its chemicals portfolio and support for projects on the elimination and monitoring of persistent organic pollutants. It was crucial, she said, to aim higher in addressing the critical issues that threatened to undermine future development, such as the increased pressures on natural capital and ecosystems caused by current consumption patterns, population growth, and the exceeding of planetary boundaries. In particular, she stressed that it was important to address the effects of chemical pollution, which, as acknowledged in the continuing discussions on the sustainable development goals, must be tackled as a barrier to sustainable development. In addition to the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, she said, that called for a systemic change in approaches to dealing with chemicals, above all those contained in the rapidly proliferating electronic products and other goods in everyday use. Accordingly, GEF was encouraging investment in the prevention of pollution at its source, which would prove more cost-effective and lead to safer and more sustainable production and consumption. Placing a particular emphasis on partnership with the private sector, she drew attention, inter alia, to two projects in China aimed at preventing the upstream emission and production of persistent organic pollutants to ensure that they were eliminated from downstream products. Meanwhile, GEF had set ambitious targets for the phase-out of 80,000 tonnes of those pollutants, and several projects for the reduction of 2,000 tonnes of persistent organic pollutants per year, including two newly identified substances, had already been submitted to the GEF Council. GEF was also striving to provide more support to countries through the establishment of an integrated chemicals and waste focal area and a dedicated support programme to assist small island developing States. Paying tribute to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as committed partners, she concluded by urging the participants at the current joint meetings to roll up their sleeves and engage in the important conversation that would drive the conventions forward.

B. Ban Amendment ceremony

15. As part of the follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, Mr. Oberle (Switzerland) and Mr. Rasio Ridho Sani (Indonesia) presided over a ceremony to celebrate the ratification of the Basel Convention Ban Amendment by a further six countries since the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to that Convention: Benin, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala and Peru.

C. Opening statements by the presidents of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

16. Following the Ban Amendment ceremony Mr. Andrzej Jagusiewicz (Poland), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz (Sweden), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, made opening statements in which they highlighted the main achievements of the three conventions to date and the challenges, as reflected in the agendas for the current meetings, that must be overcome to ensure future progress. The current meetings, they said, must serve further to enhance the synergies developed over the previous two years, with a particular focus on regional cooperation and information-sharing, legal clarity, technical and financial assistance and, in the case of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the establishment of facilitative compliance mechanisms.

D. Regional statements

17. A number of representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries made general statements on the issues to be discussed during the meetings. Those statements are reproduced as submitted in document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/57-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/41-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/62.

E. Formal opening

18. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 12.35 p.m. on 4 May 2015 by Mr. Jagusiewicz, Mr. Khashashneh and Ms. Lissinger Peitz, respectively.

III. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

19. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the following agenda for its seventh meeting, on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/1:

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 at the seventh 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) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use:
 - (i) Exemptions;
 - (ii) DDT;
 - (iii) Polychlorinated biphenyls;
 - (iv) Brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;
 - (v) Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3;
 - (b) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production;

- (c) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes;
 - (d) Implementation plans;
 - (e) Listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention;
 - (f) Technical assistance;
 - (g) Financial resources and mechanisms;
 - (h) Reporting pursuant to Article 15;
 - (i) Effectiveness evaluation;
 - (j) Non-compliance;
 - (k) International cooperation and coordination.
6. Programme of work and budget.
 7. Venue and date of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Adoption of the report.
 10. Closure of the meeting.

20. In adopting its agenda the Conference of the Parties agreed to discuss under item 8, Other matters, a possible memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, the admission of observers to meetings under the Convention and official communications. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties agreed to discuss under other matters the issue of synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.

IV. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)

A. Attendance

21. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 153 parties: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, 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.

22. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of two States that were not parties to the Convention: the Holy See and the United States of America. It was also attended by representatives of seven parties that did not submit valid credentials: Barbados, Eritrea, Lebanon, Libya, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine.

23. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training

and Research, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, United Nations Office for Project Services, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, World Health Organization.

24. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Central African Interstate Pesticides Committee, League of Arab States, South Centre.

25. The following Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres were represented as observers: Basel Convention Regional Centre for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology in Indonesia (SCRC-Indonesia); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC-China)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology in China (SCRC-China); Basel Convention Regional Centre for French-speaking Countries in Africa (BCRC-Senegal)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology in Senegal (SCRC-Senegal); Basel Convention Regional Centre for English-speaking Countries in Africa (BCRC-South Africa)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology in South Africa (SCRC South Africa); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology/Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production, Mediterranean Action Plan (RAC-CP/MAP); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC Czech Republic); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC India); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC Kenya); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-Building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC Kuwait).

26. A number of non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/58-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/42-POPS/COP.7/INF/63).

B. Election of officers

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

President: Ms. Johanna Lissinger Peitz (Sweden)
 Vice-Presidents: Mr. Vaitoti Tupa (Cook Islands)
 Mr. Luis Ignacio Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador)
 Ms. Kyunghye Choi (Republic of Korea)
 Mr. Vusumuzi Simelane (Swaziland)

28. Mr. Andrew McNee (Australia), Mr. Modibo Diallo (Mali), Ms. Elena Dumitru (Romania), Ms. Tatjana Markov-Milinković (Serbia) and Ms. Nalini Sooklal (Trinidad and Tobago), elected Vice-Presidents at the sixth meeting, were unable to complete their terms of office. Pursuant to rule 25, their compatriots, Ms. Sara Broomhall, Mr. Abdoulaye Traore, Ms. Michaela Paun, Ms. Gordana Petković and Ms. Keima Gardiner, respectively, served in their stead. Ms. Kyunghye Choi (Republic of Korea) was not able to attend the entire seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Her compatriot Ms. Kim Pyeongsoon served in her stead during her absence.

29. Pursuant to rule 22, Mr. Vayas Valdivieso served as Rapporteur.

30. 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. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana)
 Vice-Presidents: Mr. Andrew McNee (Australia)
 Mr. Luis Ignacio Vayas Valdivieso (Ecuador)
 Ms. Ana Berejiani (Georgia)
 Ms. Daina Ozola (Latvia)
 Mr. Reggie Hernaus (Netherlands)

Mr. Marcus L. Natta (Saint Kitts and Nevis)

Mr. Ali Mohammed Ali Mahmoud (Sudan)

Mr. Nguyen Anh-Tuan (Viet Nam)

Mr. Ali Al-Dobhani (Yemen)

Mr. McNee was also elected to act as Rapporteur.

C. Organization of work

31. The three conferences of the parties agreed, with one amendment of the schedule proposed during discussion of the item, to conduct their meetings in accordance with the scenario note and schedule set out in documents UNEP/CHW.12/INF/1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/1 and UNEP/CHW.12/INF/2-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/2-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/2, respectively, which prior to the meetings had been agreed upon by the bureaux of the three conferences. 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.

32. 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 drafting 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications. 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.

33. 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 agenda for the meetings. A list of those documents for each meeting, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, will be set out in an annex to the report of that meeting.

34. The Secretariat informed the meeting participants of a new mobile device application, “BRS App”, which provided information about schedules and other information pertaining to the 2015 meetings.

D. Report on the credentials of representatives at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

35. Introducing the sub-item the President said that, during the period leading up to the 2015 meetings, the bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had agreed on a common approach to credentials of the representatives participating in the meetings, pursuant to which they would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies of credentials in good order, on the understanding that in the case of the latter originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

36. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat said that, in accordance with 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, the bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions would examine the credentials of the representatives of the parties present at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively, and that each Bureau would present its report on credentials to its conference of the parties during a separate session.

37. Also under the item it was announced that, as at the start of the 2015 meetings, there were 183 parties to the Basel Convention, 154 parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 179 parties to the Stockholm Convention.

38. Subsequently, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention reported that it had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 161 parties to that Convention that had registered for the meeting and had found that those of 155 parties were in order. Of the 155, six had submitted copies of their representatives' credentials, which the Bureau had

accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible. Six parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives. Those six parties were therefore participating as observers in the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and would be listed as such in the report of the meeting and list of participants.

39. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials.

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

40. 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 SC-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, third, fourth, fifth and sixth meetings the Conference of the Parties had considered the same issue and had agreed to defer taking formal decisions.

41. As at previous meetings, the Conference of the Parties agreed that it would not take 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.

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

A. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use

1. Exemptions

42. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the relevant documents, which dealt with the current status of the register of specific exemptions, as well as the registers of acceptable purposes, the process for the review of entries in the register of specific exemptions, currently set to expire in 2015, constituents of articles manufactured or already in use at the time of entry into force of relevant control measures under the Convention, and closed-system site-limited intermediates.

43. He noted that the specific exemptions for lindane and for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) for all but two parties, who had made declarations in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 25 of the Convention, would expire on 25 August 2015, and none of those parties had to date submitted a request for the extension of their exemptions. Recalling paragraph 9 of Article 4 of the Convention, which provided that “when there are no longer any parties registered for a particular type of specific exemption, no new registrations may be made with respect to it”, he noted that no parties had to date registered exemptions for the use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for carpets, leather and apparel, textiles and upholstery, paper and packaging, coatings and coating additives or rubber and plastics. In response to decision SC-6/2 the Secretariat, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), had undertaken activities to assess the availability of alternatives and the continued need for the use of lindane in the treatment of lice and scabies, the results of which were set out in a note by the Secretariat (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/4). Furthermore, India had submitted a notification of and justification for its intention to extend for another ten years its use of DDT as a closed-system site-limited intermediate in the production of dicofol. Finally, China had notified the Secretariat that as of February 2014 it had ceased the production and use of hexachlorobenzene as a closed-system site-limited intermediate. In addition, as of May 2014 it had ceased the use of DDT for an acceptable purpose and had withdrawn the use of DDT as a closed-system site-limited intermediate starting from June 2014.

44. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed satisfaction that none of the parties for which the Convention provisions on lindane and PFOS and its related chemicals entered into force in 2010 had registered specific exemptions for those chemicals and that no new registrations could be made by any such party. With regard to PFOS and related chemicals, the Secretariat should be requested by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting to prepare options for reducing the number of acceptable purposes, taking into account developments with regard to the availability of alternatives. In the meantime, as PFOS was still widely used, it was important to further refine the BAT and BEP guidance and encourage parties to use it. Finally, he said that the extension of the expiry date for the production and use of DDT as an

intermediate in the production of dicofol should be reconsidered, given that the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee had concluded that dicofol met the criteria of Annex D to the Convention.

45. One representative said that dicofol was a cost-effective pesticide and that DDT was the only known intermediate for its production. The use of DDT for that purpose occurred in a closed system site-limited process, and therefore posed no threat to human health or the environment. The notification submitted by his party fulfilled the criteria in note (iii) of Annex B to the Convention. Extension of the expiry date for the production and use of DDT for that purpose until 15 May 2024 should therefore be approved.

46. A number of other representatives praised the actions of parties in eliminating the need for exemptions for lindane and PFOS and related chemicals. Several representatives raised questions related to the extension of the expiry date for the production and use of DDT as a closed-system site-limited intermediate for dicofol, drawing attention to the decision of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that dicofol fulfilled the Annex D screening criteria.

47. In response to a question regarding the interpretation of paragraph 4 of Article 4 of the Convention, the representative of the Secretariat noted that that paragraph read: "Unless an earlier date is indicated in the Register by a Party, or an extension is granted pursuant to paragraph 7, all registrations of specific exemptions shall expire five years after the date of entry into force of this Convention with respect to a particular chemical". She said that the interpretation of the Convention was the prerogative of the parties.

48. Following the discussion a number of parties agreed to meet informally to discuss whether any part of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPRC/COP.7/4/Rev.1 might be considered further in the contact group on the listing of chemicals in the annexes to the Convention (see section III E 1, below).

49. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/4/Rev.1, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

50. Decision SC-7/1, on exemptions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. DDT

51. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that the Convention allowed as an acceptable purpose the use of DDT for disease vector control in accordance with WHO recommendations and guidelines when locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives were not available. At the current meeting, as at each of its meetings, the Conference of the Parties would evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that at its fifth meeting, in November 2014, the DDT expert group had concluded that there was a continued need for DDT for indoor residual spraying for disease vector control where safe, effective and affordable alternatives were locally unavailable. Outlining other DDT-related activities, he reported that the Secretariat, in consultation with WHO, had developed guidance on sound DDT management practices and the promotion of alternatives to DDT. In addition, UNEP had developed, in consultation with WHO, the DDT expert group and the Secretariat, a road map for the development of alternatives to DDT (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/6). It had also prepared a report on the activities of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/7). WHO had also prepared a report containing information on the continued need for DDT for disease vector control (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/8). The Conference of the Parties at the current meeting would also need to select two parties from each of the five regions to nominate new members of the DDT expert group to serve four-year terms beginning on 1 September 2015.

52. Drawing attention to its information note on the use of DDT and DDT alternatives in disease vector control, the representative of WHO said that the extraordinary progress achieved in malaria control and prevention over the previous 15 years had been the result of a remarkable increase in the coverage of WHO activities, in particular the provision of insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor residual spraying of insecticides. Mosquito resistance to insecticides threatened the gains obtained, and integrated vector management approaches involving targeted use of DDT and other insecticides constituted a proven and affordable tool for combating such resistance and should continue to be used until the new alternative vector control tools and strategies being developed became affordable.

53. In the discussion that followed, most of the representatives who spoke expressed appreciation to UNEP, WHO, the DDT expert group and the Secretariat for the information provided. There was widespread support for the proposed road map for the development of alternatives to DDT, which one said would help catalyse action to move away from DDT, as well as the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the road map would not only help malaria-affected countries to deal with malaria and pest resistance to pesticides but also contribute to strengthening country capacities to implement integrated vector management approaches based on chemical and non-chemical alternatives to DDT. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the focus in the roadmap on the development and deployment of non-chemical alternatives to DDT.

54. A number of representatives suggested that the Conference of the Parties facilitate implementation of the road map to find alternatives to DDT, with one suggesting that roadmap activities be included in the programme of work and budget of the Stockholm Convention and calling on WHO to contribute to the implementation of the roadmap as well.

55. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while the group supported the draft decision the Secretariat should give further consideration to the great potential of integrated vector management and biological control methods in combating malaria. Another representative said that since 2000 his country had implemented a successful integrated vector management programme to combat malaria without the use of DDT and had shared its experience with other countries.

56. One representative urged WHO to assess the negative health impacts of DDT. A number of representatives said that past DDT use had led to environmental pollution in their countries and that it was important to find alternatives to DDT for combating vector-borne diseases.

57. While there was widespread agreement that suitable alternatives to DDT should be developed and deployed to enable countries to move away from DDT use, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the recognition in the draft decision that countries might need to use DDT in specific cases for vector disease control when safe, effective and affordable alternatives were unavailable, with one also welcoming the recognition that assistance should be provided to countries in such cases to ensure the judicious use of DDT. A number of representatives said that their countries had made progress in combatting vector-borne diseases thanks to the targeted use of DDT, with one also describing his country's efforts to move towards alternatives to DDT.

58. The representative of WHO said that WHO was committed to supporting the development of DDT alternatives, including through the proposed road map, which she said included activities that were part of the routine work of WHO or were already planned, as well as to promoting and protecting the health of all peoples through vector-borne disease control and the safe and judicious use of insecticides, including DDT, until suitable alternatives were available.

59. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/5, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications and on the understanding that the names of the parties to be invited to serve in the DDT expert group would be added to the decision once they had been selected.

60. Decision SC-7/2, on DDT, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

61. In accordance with the decision, the following experts were nominated to serve as members of the DDT expert group, with terms to run from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2019, by the parties listed in the annex to the decision:

From African States:	Ms. Aicha Aloisia Iningoue Vendryes (Gabon)
	Ms. Salome Margaret Molefe (South Africa)
From Asian-Pacific States:	Mr. N. S. Dharmshaktu (India)
	[<i>To be nominated</i>] (Pakistan)
From Central and Eastern European States:	Mr. Artak Khachatryan (Armenia)
	Ms. Biljana Antonijevic (Serbia)
From Latin American and Caribbean States:	[<i>To be nominated</i>] (Brazil)
	Ms. Elena Ogusuku (Peru)
From Western European and other States:	[<i>To be nominated</i>]

62. By the close of the current meeting, the Western European and other States group had not identified parties to nominate experts to serve as members of the DDT expert group. Those nominations would be communicated to the Secretariat, through Bureau members, and hence to the parties subsequent to the close of the current meeting. Additionally, Pakistan and Brazil had not yet nominated experts to serve as members of the expert group at the close of the current meeting. Their nominations would therefore be communicated to the Secretariat and thence to the parties following the close of the current meeting.

3. Polychlorinated biphenyls

63. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that at its sixth meeting the Conference of the Parties had decided to undertake at its seventh meeting a review of progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A to the Convention. As requested, the Secretariat had compiled information relevant to PCBs reported by parties under Article 15 of the Convention, concluding that it was insufficient to serve as a basis for the evaluation of progress. In addition, UNEP, as leader of the PCBs Elimination Network and in consultation with the Secretariat and the Network's advisory committee, had prepared a preliminary assessment of efforts to eliminate PCBs based on additional information, concluding that, while some progress had been made, greater efforts were needed to eliminate PCB use in equipment by 2025 and ensure the sound management of PCB waste by 2028. The fifth meeting of the Network advisory committee had taken place in November 2014, and the committee's conclusions and recommendations were before the Conference of the Parties. The preliminary assessment prepared by UNEP was set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/9.

64. Following the above introduction, the representative of UNEP provided additional information on the activities of the PCBs Elimination Network and its use of funds. She noted that the Network currently had no remaining funds, and on behalf of UNEP she invited the Conference of the Parties to consider establishing a sound, solid basis for the operation of the Network by including its activities in the Convention programme of work and budget, subject to available funding, to facilitate joint fundraising and continued coordination of the PCB-related activities.

65. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed for the preliminary assessment prepared by UNEP and the work of the PCB Elimination Network. Most of those who spoke also took the opportunity to describe their countries' efforts to eliminate PCBs, with many acknowledging the need for enhanced efforts if the 2025 and 2028 targets for PCBs were to be met. In that regard, there was general support for the draft decision, although one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries proposed a change in wording aimed at supporting enhanced efforts. In addition, many representatives from developing countries said that greater technical and financial assistance were needed if the elimination and management targets were to be met.

66. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/6, taking into account the discussions in plenary.

67. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

68. Decision SC-7/3, on polychlorinated biphenyls, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

4. Brominated diphenyl ethers and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

69. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that the Conference of the Parties would consider a revised draft format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention. In accordance with paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A, the first evaluation of the continued need for the specific exemptions for those substances took place at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the next would take place at the eighth meeting in accordance with the process adopted by the Conference of the Parties in its decision SC-6/3. At the current meeting the Conference of the Parties was expected to adopt a revised draft format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers. It would also consider under the item the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B, which was to take place at the current meeting and every four years thereafter, in accordance with the process adopted in decision SC-6/4. The Conference of the Parties was expected at the current meeting to evaluate whether parties might need to continue to produce and use PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for the acceptable purposes and in accordance with the specific exemptions listed in Annex B to the Convention.

(a) Brominated diphenyl ethers

70. The representative of the Secretariat recalled that in accordance with decision SC-6/3 the Secretariat, in consultation with a working group, had prepared a revised draft format for parties to use in reporting information required for the evaluation and review of the continued need for the exemption for brominated diphenyl ethers, which was before the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at the current meeting. By decision SC-6/7 the Conference of the Parties had decided that in reporting parties should include information on their experience in implementing the recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on brominated diphenyl ethers.

71. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, took note of the report by the Secretariat on progress made and challenges encountered by parties in implementing the recommendations on the elimination of brominated diphenyl ethers from the waste stream and expressed general support for the actions proposed by the Secretariat and the proposed revised format for parties to use in reporting information required for the evaluation and review of the continued need for the exemption for brominated diphenyl ethers. Specific suggestions were offered for further refinement of the format, including proposals for simplifying, clarifying and focusing the type of information to be submitted.

72. A number of representatives said that there was a need for technical assistance to facilitate the development of the laboratory capacity needed to distinguish among brominated diphenyl ethers that were contained in various products. In response to a question, the representative of the Secretariat said that the revised draft format was designed to elicit information only on chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention.

73. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision, including a revised format, set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/7, taking into account the discussions in plenary.

74. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

75. Decision SC-7/4, on a revised format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(b) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

76. Setting the stage for the discussions, the President outlined four categories of information, listed in paragraph 5 of part III of Annex B to the Convention, to be taken into account by the Conference of the Parties in evaluating the continued need for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, including information provided in reports

submitted by parties under Article 15 of the Convention on progress made to eliminate PFOS, its salts and PFOSE; information on the production and use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE; information on the availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives to the chemicals; and information on progress in building the capacity of countries to make a safe transition to reliance on such alternatives. She noted too that the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting would also consider the recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in its decision POPRC-10/4 regarding measures to ensure that articles containing PFOS, its salts and PFOSE could be easily identified by labelling or other means throughout their life cycles, as well as a standard schedule for the evaluation. The representative of the Secretariat then listed the documents before the Conference of the Parties in respect of the sub-item.

77. In the ensuing discussion, representatives took note of the reports prepared by the Secretariat and expressed general support for the actions proposed, including the amended schedule for the process for the evaluation of the continued need for certain acceptable purposes. Suggestions were also made regarding issues that could be explored in more detail if a contact group was established.

78. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for a reduction in the number of specific exemptions for PFOS, its salts and PFOSE; they also said that the parties should consider replacing some of the acceptable purposes for PFOS with time-limited specific exemptions. The process for evaluating the continued need for PFOS should reflect the information reported by parties, as shown in the documents prepared by the Secretariat. One of those representatives, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Conference of the Parties should eliminate acceptable purposes that involved the direct release of PFOS into the environment. Another, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that as there were no longer any parties registering for the production and use of PFOS in accordance with a number of specific exemptions, no new registrations should be allowed with regard to those specific exemptions.

79. A number of representatives, each speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSE should be eliminated. In the meantime, parties using the substances for acceptable purposes should be encouraged to take measures to ensure that stocks and articles containing them were easily identifiable through labeling or other means throughout their life cycles. One representative said that the information provided by the BAT and BEP guidance on PFOS was useful for the PFOS evaluation process pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B and suggested that the PFOS BAT and BEP experts be involved in the evaluation process. Similarly, the information received from parties on PFOS alternatives was useful for the further development of the BAT and BEP guidelines and would help to avoid duplication of the work.

80. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that ending the use of PFOS in certain open applications, such as firefighting foams, should be contingent on the availability of alternatives. To that end, his region called for a more aggressive schedule for developing and deploying alternatives for the control of two species of leaf-cutting ants so that the use of persistent organic pollutants for that purpose could be curtailed.

81. One representative said that his Government had received information from the petroleum industry regarding the need for materials and mechanisms containing PFOS, which in some respects appeared to contradict information provided by other parties and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

82. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties agreed that the contact group on listing chemicals in the annexes to the Convention (see section III E 1, below) would consider the matter further. Taking into account the discussions in plenary, the group would seek to prepare a draft decision for the consideration of the Conference, taking as its starting point the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/8.

83. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties considered a revised draft decision prepared by the contact group. Following further informal consultations, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group as orally amended.

84. Decision SC-7/5, on the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

5. Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3

85. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that at its third, fourth, fifth and sixth meetings the Conference of the Parties had evaluated the continued need for the procedure set out in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention, which concerned the exports of chemicals listed in Annex A or B.

to the Convention, with permitted uses, to States not party to the Convention. It would do so again at the current meeting, taking into account a report on the subject prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/10).

86. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat explained the genesis of the report that it had prepared, recalling that at its sixth meeting the Conference of the Parties had in decision SC-6/5 concluded that the information that had been gathered to date on the experience of using the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 was insufficient as a basis for an evaluation of the continued need for the procedure. It had accordingly requested the Secretariat to prepare for consideration at its seventh meeting a report on the continued need for the procedure based on party reports submitted pursuant to Article 15, certifications received by exporting parties pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 and other relevant information.

87. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that because the provision had not yet been used for the ten chemicals most recently listed in the annexes to the Convention, the effectiveness of the procedure set out in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 could not be assessed at the current time. The next round of reporting pursuant to Article 15, which would include information on most recently listed chemicals, however, would allow for an informed evaluation of the effectiveness of the procedure at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

88. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/10, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

89. Decision SC-7/6, on evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

B. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production

90. Under the sub-item the Conference of the Parties discussed the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants and guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices.

1. Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants

91. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that by decision SC-6/9 the Conference of the Parties had requested the Toolkit experts to prepare a preliminary analysis of the information on unintentional releases of persistent organic pollutants reported by parties under Article 15, in view of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention and according to the timelines indicated in the effectiveness evaluation framework (UNEP/POPS/COP.6/27/Add.1/Rev.1, annex). The Secretariat had accordingly organized the eighth Toolkit expert meeting in November 2014, in cooperation with UNEP, at which the experts had developed a methodology and workplan for preparing the preliminary analysis requested by the Conference of the Parties. The Toolkit experts had also acknowledged that the listing of new chemicals in Annexes A or B and/or in Annex C to the Convention would trigger the need to further update or develop guidance to support parties in implementing new obligations. The conclusions and recommendations of the Toolkit experts at their eighth meeting were before the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at the current meeting.

92. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the work of the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts, as well as support for the conclusions and recommendations made by the experts following their joint meeting in November 2014. The recommendation that experts should continue to be involved in future work was welcomed.

93. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/12, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

94. Decision SC-7/7, on the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices

95. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the sub-item, outlining the activities of the Secretariat in response to decision SC-6/10, as described in the note by the Secretariat (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/14).

96. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives expressed appreciation for the work of the BAT and BEP experts, which they said had provided valuable information that would assist parties in the control of releases of persistent organic pollutants. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the draft guidance documents on BAT and BEP for the use of PFOS and for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers should be made consistent with work under the Basel Convention, in particular the technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes, and with Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention. One representative introduced a conference room paper suggesting some changes to the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/14, specifically to provide that the draft decision should include the workplan and timeline established by the experts and that the workplan should be extended to encourage broader participation and comments by parties and observers. Several representatives expressed broad support for the draft decision in the conference room paper.

97. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/14, taking into account the discussions in plenary and the conference room paper in consultation with interested parties.

98. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

99. Decision SC-7/8, on guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

C. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes

100. The President introduced the sub-items, noting that the parties would discuss technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes, on the agenda of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, together with measures to reduce or eliminate releases of persistent organic pollutants from wastes, on the agenda of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

1. Basel Convention technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes

101. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled decision BC-11/3 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, on work on technical guidelines and other matters pertaining to persistent organic pollutants. Pursuant to the decision, the small intersessional working group established under decision OEWG-1/4 had continued its work under the leadership of Canada, producing revised drafts of the various technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes for review by the Open-ended Working Group at its ninth meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting. He noted that owing to unavoidable circumstances the draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutant pesticides were available in English only. In accordance with decision OEWG-9/3, however, the draft guidelines had been circulated for comment and subsequently revised, and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention might therefore wish to adopt them at the current meeting.

102. The representative of Canada then outlined the work of the small intersessional working group on the development and updating of the technical guidelines, drawing attention to the proposed draft decision on the matter contained in document UNEP/CHW.12/5. The general technical guidelines developed by the working group were intended for use in tandem with the guidelines for individual chemicals, and efforts had been made to reduce duplication of information between the documents.

103. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives congratulated the lead countries and organizations of the small intersessional working group for their work in producing the technical guidelines, which had proved to be a positive example of synergistic collaboration between the Basel and Stockholm conventions. Some representatives said that the guidelines would be of particular use to developing countries as they developed methodologies for dealing with wastes containing persistent organic pollutants and further developed their national implementation plans under the Stockholm

Convention. Several representatives drew attention to the importance of environmentally sound management and of the definition of low persistent organic pollutant content of wastes, as referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention. Some representatives said that consideration of human health and the environment, and the safety of workers, should be given high priority in further work on the guidelines. One representative said that a number of other guidelines under the Basel Convention, for example the technical guidelines on incineration on land, were out of date and should be revised accordingly. Several representatives expressed the desire to discuss the draft guidelines further in a contact group, with one also proposing an amendment to the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.12/5 to provide for the participation of Stockholm Convention experts in the work on the guidelines under the Basel Convention.

104. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention established a contact group under the Basel Convention on technical matters co-chaired by Mr. Prakash Kowlessar (Mauritius) and Ms. Magda Gosk (Poland). With regard to the present sub-item, the contact group was to develop revised versions of the technical guidelines and a draft decision, using as a starting point the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.12/5 and taking into account the discussions in plenary.

105. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention subsequently adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group, as orally revised to correct minor editorial errors.

106. Decision BC-12/3, on technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, is set out in annex I to the report of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.12/27).

2. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes under the Stockholm Convention

107. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled decision SC-6/11, on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes. By that decision the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention had invited the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention, with regard to hexabromocyclododecane, a chemical newly listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention, to set levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to prevent waste from exhibiting the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D to the Stockholm Convention; to identify methods constituting environmentally sound disposal and establish the concentration levels necessary for defining low persistent organic pollutant content in accordance with paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention; and to update and develop, as needed, Basel Convention technical guidelines on wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, with the involvement of experts working under the Stockholm Convention; and had requested the Secretariat to continue to support parties to the Stockholm Convention in their efforts to reduce and eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes.

108. Following the adoption of decision SC-6/11 a small intersessional working group under the Basel Convention, as requested in decision BC-11/3 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, and with the involvement of Stockholm Convention experts at the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, had worked on updating the Basel Convention's persistent-organic-pollutant-related guidelines, and the Secretariat had carried out a number of capacity-building and training activities on measures to reduce and eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes.

109. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that he looked forward to the adoption of the technical guidelines, which he said would contribute to the environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutant wastes. He expressed support for the adoption of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/15, proposing minor changes. Another representative also suggested an amendment to the draft decision. Another representative drew attention to the difficulties faced by developing countries in dealing with toxic wastes, contaminated soils, obsolete stocks and empty packaging.

110. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/15, taking into account the discussions in plenary and including any chemicals newly listed in the annexes to the Convention at the current meeting, as well as any new or updated guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its twelfth meeting.

111. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention subsequently adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/15 – as orally amended, including to reflect the listing of hexachlorobutadiene in Annex A to the Convention, pentachlorophenol and its salts and

esters in Annex A to the Convention and polychlorinated naphthalenes in Annex A and Annex C to the Convention.

112. Decision SC-7/9, on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

D. Implementation plans

113. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that at the current meeting the Conference of the Parties was expected to welcome the new, revised and updated national implementation plans submitted by parties since its last meeting and to take note of three revised draft guidance documents.

114. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat provided information on the number of parties that had to date submitted their original and updated national implementation plans in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention, outlining the information in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.7/16 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/24. She also reported on the Secretariat's updating and revision of the guidance documents on the development, review and updating of national implementation plans to take into account the eleven chemicals added to the annexes to the Convention in 2009, 2011 and 2013 and the comments of the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the guidelines on preparing inventories of PFOS, its salts, PFOSF and polybrominated diphenyl ethers, as well as its preparation, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting pursuant to decision SC-6/12, of revised versions of the guidance on developing national implementation plans (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/25); the draft guidance on the inventory of PFOS and related chemicals (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/26); and the draft guidance on the inventory of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/27).

115. In the ensuing discussion, one representative introduced a conference room paper that addressed the annex to the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/16. She said the guidance documents developed by the Secretariat were a useful tool and acknowledged that countries in the process of developing their national implementation plans had requested a wide range of such guidance. Drawing attention to the process to review guidance documents, she said that the request for comments from parties and observers should continue for those documents that had not yet been reviewed and to inform new iterations of those already finalized; in addition, guidance for new chemicals could be initiated and a decision on more general guidance could be taken at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

116. All representatives who spoke expressed appreciation to GEF, the Secretariat, intergovernmental organizations and regional centres for assistance provided in developing, updating and implementing their national implementation plans. Many also thanked the United Nations Industrial Development Organization for technical assistance provided in dealing with stocks of polychlorinated biphenyls. Appreciation was also expressed for the training activities and webinars organized by the Secretariat and in particular for the guidance documents that many parties had found very useful in the development of their plans. The Secretariat was encouraged to ensure that the guidance documents remained simple and user friendly.

117. Many representatives reported on the development, updating and implementation of their countries' first national implementation plans. Most representatives stressed the need for technical and financial support, in particular in view of the difficulties faced by many parties in updating their national implementation plans to reflect the addition of the 11 chemicals most recently added to the Convention and the expected addition of three further chemicals at the current meeting. Many representatives described difficulties in implementing the plans, which were exacerbated by the need to develop inventories of the 11 chemicals, which in some cases had delayed the submission of their plans. Financial assistance and technical resources were likewise needed to enable parties to implement their national implementation plans.

118. Several representatives also noted other challenges in the updating of national implementation plans, including with regard to socio-economic assessments and the calculation of action plan costs for specific chemicals.

119. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the Secretariat maintain on the Secretariat website and periodically update the overview of national implementation plans set out in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/24, and he urged all parties to complete and update their plans. Noting the need for assistance voiced by many developing country representatives, the addition of new chemicals to the Convention and the fact that relatively few parties had met the deadline for the completion of their plans, one representative said that the deadline was not realistic and should be reviewed.

120. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/16, taking into account the discussions in plenary and the conference room paper. In addition, the Conference of the Parties agreed that technical and financial support for the preparation, updating and implementation of national implementation plans was crucial and that that message would be conveyed to the contact group discussing technical assistance and financial resources.

121. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

122. Decision SC-7/10, on implementation plans, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

E. Listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention

123. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that the Conference of the Parties would discuss recommendations by the Committee to list chemicals in the annexes to the Convention, the membership of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, cooperation between the Committee and other scientific bodies, including the Rotterdam Convention's Chemical Review Committee, and effective participation in the work of the Committee.

124. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the activities undertaken by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, which had held its ninth and tenth meetings in October 2013 and May 2014, respectively, following which Ms. Estefania Moreira (Brazil), interim Chair of the Committee, reported on the Committee's work at those meetings.

125. Ms. Moreira thanked the previous Chair of the Committee, Mr. Reiner Arndt, for chairing the ninth meeting of the Committee and recalled that at its tenth meeting the Committee had decided to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider listing chlorinated naphthalenes and hexachlorobutadiene in annexes A and C to the Convention and pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A to the Convention. She also noted that the Committee was preparing a draft risk profile for dicofol, a revised draft risk profile for short-chained chlorinated paraffins, a draft risk management evaluation for decabromodiphenyl ethers and a revised version of the guidance on alternatives to PFOS, its salts, PFOSF and related chemicals to consolidate pertinent information from other documents developed by the Committee and other sources. In addition, the Committee had completed its assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention, which the parties would consider at the current meeting. At its ninth meeting it had adopted the approach to the evaluation of chemicals in accordance with Annex E to the Convention set out in the annex to decision POPRC-9/7, guidance on assessing the impact of climate change on its work and an approach to the consideration of climate change interactions with the chemicals proposed for listing in the annexes to the Convention. She voiced her appreciation to those parties and observers that had assisted in the work undertaken in the intersessional period, emphasizing that the information provided by parties and observers during the review process was very important to the Committee's ability to make sound science-based decisions.

1. Recommendations by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list chemicals in the annexes to the Convention

126. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed for the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, with most speakers welcoming its recommendations to list chlorinated naphthalenes and hexachlorobutadiene in annexes A and C to the Convention and pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of parties, said that those chemicals were already subject to bans in their countries, and another said that her Government was considering a ban on chlorinated naphthalenes and hexachlorobutadiene. One representative, however, said that his country could not support the listing of any of the chemicals before the Conference of the Parties and that it had not yet been established that they met the criteria of having significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.

127. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of parties, expressed concern that many countries lacked the capacity to carry out initial assessments, establish monitoring mechanisms and update their national implementation plans. To that end, they said, particular emphasis must be placed on financial and technical assistance.

128. One representative suggested adding the generic Chemical Abstract Service registry number to the listing for chlorinated naphthalenes. She also called for the inclusion in the draft decision of text that clarified that monochlorinated naphthalenes were not included in the listing. One representative opposed the listing of chlorinated naphthalenes because the chemicals were still used in his country's industrial sector.

129. One representative opposed the listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters because they were effective fungicidal wood preservatives whose elimination would increase the rate of wood rot and, hence, the demand for timber. Supported by another representative, he also expressed concern about the toxicity of some of the alternatives.

130. Several representatives expressed support for listing pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters with specific exemptions to allow for the gradual phase-out of production and use in their countries in step with the development and introduction of viable alternatives.

131. One representative highlighted her country's approach to mitigating the risks of pentachlorophenol use for wood preservation, noting that her delegation would not hinder negotiations based on the recommended decision. Another suggested that parties seeking exemptions should be required to submit assessments demonstrating that pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters had no significant adverse impacts on human health.

132. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters should be listed in Annex A without specific exemptions. One representative, supported by another, said that his country was ready to assist others in phasing out those chemicals by sharing experience and guidance in, among other things, alternative timber treatments and the remediation of contaminated sites.

133. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties established a contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Bjorn Hansen (European Union) and Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia), to revise for the consideration of the Conference the three draft decisions on the listing of chlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorobutadiene and pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters set out in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.7/18–20, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

(a) Polychlorinated naphthalenes

134. Following the work of the contact group, its co-chair introduced a draft decision prepared by the group on listing polychlorinated naphthalenes in Annex A and Annex C to the Convention. One representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the present report, said that while his country would not oppose the listing of polychlorinated naphthalenes it was very concerned that chemicals continued to be added to the Convention without a concomitant increase in the provision of technical and financial assistance. Developed countries, he said, were required by the Convention to provide such assistance, and if they continued in failing to do so then the parties in need of it would be unable to agree to the addition of further chemicals to the Convention. Another representative said that his delegation could not yet agree to the proposed draft decision, reiterating the point that polychlorinated naphthalenes were still used in his country's industrial sector. During a later session the latter representative introduced a revised version of the draft decision providing for a specific exemption. The Conference of the Parties then adopted the draft decision as so revised.

135. Decision SC-7/14, on the listing of polychlorinated naphthalenes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

(b) Hexachlorobutadiene

136. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties adopted two draft decisions prepared by the group, the first of which provided for the listing of hexachlorobutadiene in Annex A to the Convention, but not Annex C, and the second of which provided for the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to further evaluate hexachlorobutadiene on the basis of newly available information and to make a recommendation in relation to its listing in Annex C for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

137. Decision SC-7/12, on the listing of hexachlorobutadiene in Annex A, and decision SC-7/11, on further consideration on hexachlorobutadiene, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are set out in annex I to the present report.

138. Following the adoption of the decisions a number of representatives noted that they had agreed only reluctantly to the decision on further work on hexachlorobutadiene, saying that the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee had undertaken a robust evaluation of the chemical and that there was no need for its further evaluation in relation to Annex C. The decision, said one, set an

unfortunate precedent, and she stressed her country's view that the work to be done under the decision was not a continuation of the Annex F process and should be limited to the consideration of new information. She also said that the time available for discussing technical matters during the current meeting had been limited and asked that the President and Secretariat take that into account in planning the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Another representative expressed concern that the failure to list hexachlorobutadiene in Annex C would prevent the development of BAT and BEP guidelines and other measures to help parties manage unintentional emissions.

(c) **Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters**

139. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties considered a draft decision prepared by the group on the listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A to the Convention. The representative that had opposed listing the chemicals in Annex A reiterated his country's concern related to the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list the chemicals, and he alluded to a related conference room paper. Several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed strong support for the work of the Committee. One representative reiterated the statement that he had made during the discussion of polychlorinated naphthalenes, saying that he was very concerned that chemicals continued to be added to the Convention without a concomitant increase in the provision of technical and financial assistance.

140. Subsequently the representative that had opposed the listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A reiterated his country's opposition. He proposed instead that they be listed in Annex B, with the use of sodium pentachlorophenate (CAS No: 131-52-2 and 27735-64-4 (as monohydrate)) as a wood preservative in the production of medium-density fibreboard and impregnated particle boards to be designated an acceptable purpose for a minimum period of ten years.

141. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and supported by others, including one speaking on behalf of another group of countries, objected to the proposal for listing in Annex B, saying that it should have been made during the lengthy contact group discussions rather than be presented for the first time in plenary in the final moments of the meeting.

142. One representative, supported by many others, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed disappointment that all efforts to reach consensus on the listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A to the Convention had been exhausted and called for a vote on the issue in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 21 of the Convention.

143. The Conference of the Parties proceeded to vote on whether to list pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A to the Convention, by show of hands. Following the tally of votes the President reported that 90 parties had voted in favour of listing pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A to the Convention, two had voted against and eight had abstained. The Conference of the Parties thus adopted by vote the draft decision prepared by the contact group on the listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A to the Convention.

144. Responding to queries following the vote, the representative of the Secretariat said that in accordance with Article 23 of the Convention, each party had one vote and the votes of those parties that belonged to a regional economic integration organization could only be counted once; that in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 21 of the Convention a vote to list new chemicals in the Convention annexes must pass with at least a three-fourths majority of the parties present and voting; that the proposal to amend the Convention to list pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters had been communicated to the parties by the Secretariat more than six months prior to the current meeting, as required by paragraph 2 of Article 21 to the Convention; and that only duly accredited parties had been counted in tallying the votes.

145. Decision SC-7/13, on the listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

146. Following the adoption of the decision, several representatives expressed regret that the Conference of the Parties had resorted to a vote, with one saying that in the future the parties should adopt their decisions by consensus to ensure their collective ownership. One representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the present report, said that his country had abstained from voting because it strongly believed that the principle of consensus should govern all matters under the Convention. In addition, it was his country's opinion that there was legal uncertainty regarding the decision-making process of the Conference of the Parties and that the vote at the current meeting could exacerbate that uncertainty and undermine future negotiations. Another representative, also requesting that his statement be reflected in the present report, said that his country had abstained from voting because the

number of parties present had not been known at the time of voting, making it impossible to know that the required majorities had been achieved.

2. Membership of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, cooperation between the Committee and other scientific bodies and effective participation in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

147. The representative of the Secretariat reported that at their ninth meeting the members of the Committee, in accordance with decision SC-6/14, had selected Ms. Moreira as interim Chair of the Committee, subject to confirmation by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. In addition, 17 new members of the Committee, whose designations were also subject to confirmation by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, had begun their terms on 5 May 2014, while the remaining 14 members of the Committee would conclude their terms on 4 May 2016. At the current meeting, therefore, the Conference of the Parties would need to decide whether to confirm the positions of Ms. Moreira and the 17 new members of the Committee. In addition, it would have to decide which parties would be invited to designate 14 new members of the Committee for terms running from 5 May 2016 to 4 May 2020.

148. With regard to cooperation with other technical bodies, he reported that the Secretariat had facilitated information sharing with the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention and the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention, including through the online database of experts for the three conventions. The Committee had in addition held its ninth and tenth meetings back to back with the ninth and tenth meetings of the Chemical Review Committee, as well as its first joint meeting with the Chemical Review Committee in October 2013. The two committees planned to hold their eleventh meetings back to back, and the committees' reaction to the joint meeting had been largely positive, with most members in favour of holding further joint meetings on an occasional basis. The two committees had also established a joint intersessional working group to prepare guidance to assist parties to the Rotterdam Convention when a chemical listed in the Stockholm Convention was being considered for listing in the Rotterdam Convention.

149. The representative of UNEP then outlined work carried out by UNEP and collaborating bodies within the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. One output had been the 2012 report on the state of the science on endocrine-disrupting chemicals. The report had been welcomed by the UNEP Governing Council at its twenty-seventh session, in 2013, at which the Governing Council had requested the Executive Director to provide leadership, in partnership with others, on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and chemicals in products. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, she said, might wish to give further consideration to the endocrine-disrupting effects of certain persistent organic pollutants.

150. In the ensuing discussion, all parties who took the floor thanked Ms. Moreira for her excellent chairing of the Committee and supported her reelection for a second term as Chair of the Committee, with many also expressing support for the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/17. There was general support for the confirmation of the members nominated to the Committee. The representative of the European Union reported that it would submit a proposal to list perfluorooctanoic acid in Annex A to the Convention and invited all parties to propose the listing of chemicals in the annexes to the Convention.

151. Appreciation was also expressed for the feedback on the experience in organizing back-to-back meetings of the Committee and the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention. One representative urged that it should not, however, result in meetings of a shorter duration that would affect the time available for discussion time or result in too many contact groups running in parallel.

152. Acknowledging the need for information from parties and observers to support the work of the Committee in the time between meetings of the Committee, the parties agreed to include a paragraph to that effect in the draft decision.

153. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/17, as orally amended to reflect the discussion in plenary and to confirm Ms. Moreira as President of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and to include the names of nominated new members of the Committee.

154. Decision SC-7/15, on the operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

155. In accordance with the decision, the following experts were nominated to serve as members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, with terms to run from 5 May 2016 to 4 May 2020, by the parties listed in the annex to the decision:

From African States:	Ms. Caroline Wamai (Kenya)
	Mr. Adama Tolofoude (Mali)
	Mr. Thabile Ndlovu (Swaziland)
	Mr. Youssef Zidi (Tunisia)
From Asian-Pacific States:	Mr. Hu Jianxin (China)
	Mr. Agus Haryono (Indonesia)
	Mr. Mineo Takatsuki (Japan)
	[To be nominated] (Nepal)
From Central and Eastern European States:	Ms. Anna Graczyk (Poland)
From Latin American and Caribbean States:	Ms. Estefania Moreira (Brazil)
	Ms. Helen Jacob (Jamaica)
From Western European and other States:	Ms. Sarah Maillerfer (Switzerland)
	Mr. Martien Janssen (Netherlands)
	Ms. Katinka Van Der Jagt (Luxembourg)

156. As indicated in the decision, it was agreed that Nepal would nominate an expert to serve as a member of the Committee. By the close of the current meeting, however, the party had not yet nominated that expert. The Conference of the Parties accordingly agreed that the nomination would be communicated to the Secretariat and thence to the parties following the close of the current meeting.

F. Technical assistance

157. The parties discussed the delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building under the three conventions, the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and implementation of decision V/32 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, on 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 to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in cases of emergencies caused by transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal. Setting the stage for the discussions, the President observed that the timely delivery of technical assistance, in which the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres played a key role, was essential to the successful implementation of the conventions and was one of the subjects that benefited most from being considered jointly for the three conventions, as many capacity-building activities for one convention yielded benefits and synergistic effects for the others.

1. Technical assistance

158. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat described the Secretariat's common technical assistance and capacity-building programme for the three conventions, outlining the information provided in document UNEP/CHW.12/13-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/13-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/13. Aimed at increasing effectiveness by avoiding duplication, it built on the previous individual programmes of the three conventions and had four main components: tools and methodologies; capacity-building and training; partnerships; and regional centres and regional delivery. She then outlined a number of information documents on the technical assistance needs of developing country parties and the assistance available from developed countries, on guidance on technical assistance and technology transfer under the Stockholm Convention and on past and planned technical assistance, training and capacity-building activities of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

159. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the activities carried out by the Secretariat and its development of a joint approach to technical assistance, which a number of representatives said was an area where the benefits of increased synergies between the three conventions were evident. They also said that technical and financial assistance were essential to the implementation of the three conventions by developing country parties. One representative urged greater attention to activities regarding technology transfer, which he said was as important as was technical assistance and capacity-building

but was not addressed in the documents prepared by the Secretariat. Another representative said that there was a need to discuss what the concepts of technical assistance and capacity-building actually meant.

160. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries suggested that in order to make the best use of available resources, technical assistance should focus on those activities that had the highest impacts. Thus, webinars and other cost-effective options should be preferred to workshops, although on-site workplace training sessions could also deliver positive and sustainable results. She welcomed the development by the Secretariat of the database on the needs of parties in implementation of the conventions, while querying its cost and the possibility of finding more effective and efficient ways of gathering such information. Another representative said that the technical assistance programme should be realistic and take into account the roles of all relevant actors, including parties, United Nations partners, the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, the private sector, financial institutions and the Secretariat, in the delivery of technical assistance.

161. Several developing country party representatives described the specific technical and financial assistance needs of their countries. Several others expressed appreciation to the Secretariat, the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, donors and other partners for the assistance already received by developing country parties and parties with economies in transition. One representative said that her country had in 2005 developed a database to facilitate the exchange of monitoring data on persistent organic pollutants in East Asia and had since 2011 continued to hold annual training workshops for laboratory personnel to build monitoring capacities in the region.

162. A number of representatives made suggestions regarding areas in which technical assistance should be provided. One suggested that under the Stockholm Convention priority be given to activities regarding chemicals newly listed in the annexes to the Convention, including the development of inventories, the assessment of socio-economic and cultural impacts and the links between persistent organic pollutants and climate change, and the building of synergies with other chemical-related conventions. Another urged a focus on the sustainable transfer of PCB destruction technologies to deal with existing PCB stockpiles.

163. One representative said that parties lacking experience with notifications under the prior informed consent procedure of the Basel Convention should receive technical support, suggesting the establishment of an electronic platform to facilitate information exchange and reduce costs. Another suggested that workshop materials be disseminated through the Secretariat website as soon as possible in order to increase the impact of workshops and that further data should be provided on the human health impacts of chemicals to persuade policymakers to take action.

164. Following the discussion, the conferences of the parties agreed that the joint contact group on financial resources and technical assistance established as described in section G 3 below should consider the sub-item further.

165. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications, the draft decision on technical assistance prepared by the contact group.

166. Decision SC-7/16, on technical assistance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

167. In addition the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on technical assistance. Decisions BC-12/9 and RC-7/8, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), respectively.

2. Implementation of decision V/32

168. Regarding implementation of decision V/32, the representative of the Secretariat reported that as requested in the decision the Secretariat had continued to strengthen cooperation with the joint UNEP/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) environment unit, organizing five webinars in English, French, Russian and Spanish to raise awareness of the support available in emergencies; and, as requested, was proposing an amendment to section IV of part I of the Interim Guidelines to provide for the UNEP/OCHA environment unit to become involved earlier in the

process of providing emergency assistance. The Secretariat had also been asked in the decision to consider whether there was a need for changes to part 3 of the interim guidelines on the implementation of decision V/32,¹ under which the Secretariat was among other things to advise and assist in the preparation and submission of proposals for projects to be implemented by parties requesting assistance. No project proposals had been submitted to date, however, and the Secretariat was accordingly proposing no changes to part 3 beyond an amendment to provide for consultation with the UNEP/OCHA joint environment unit. Further information was provided in document UNEP/CHW.12/14.

169. In ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the action proposed in the report by the Secretariat on the implementation of decision V/32 (UNEP/CHW.12/14) fell significantly short of what was needed to ensure that the Secretariat's role in emergencies was consistent with its resources and expertise. The Secretariat, she said, should play an advisory role and leave on-the-ground action to specialized agencies, and emergency-related activities should be included in the technical assistance programme to help build the capacity of countries to prevent and respond to emergencies. She also noted that because no requests for emergency assistance had yet been submitted, the resources provided by a limited number of parties had not been utilized.

170. Another representative said that decision V/32 had been the result of a compromise between donors and those who preferred the establishment of a compensation fund to support developing countries during emergencies and, supported by another representative, said that a reserve for emergencies should be maintained in the trust fund. He also argued that it was necessary to improve the mechanisms through which countries could access those reserves, saying that the experience of Côte d'Ivoire in that regard had been unsatisfactory.

171. Following the discussion, the conferences of the parties agreed that the joint contact group on financial resources and technical assistance established as described in section G 3 below should consider the sub-item further.

172. 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications, the draft decision on 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 prepared by the contact group.

173. Decision BC-12/11, on 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, 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27).

3. Regional centres

174. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat highlighted activities undertaken by the Secretariat to strengthen regional centres in response to the decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions at their eleventh and sixth meetings, respectively, including two joint meetings of the directors of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres, at which a representative of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) had provided information on GEF funding available to the centres, and the evaluation of the centres' performance during 2013–2014. Further information on regional centres was provided in documents UNEP/CHW.12/12, UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11, UNEP/CHW.12/INF/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/13 and UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14.

175. In the ensuing discussion, there was general agreement regarding the importance of regional and subregional centres for capacity-building, technical assistance, information exchange and other activities that assist parties in implementing the three conventions in a synergistic manner. A number of representatives described how particular centres had worked with their Governments and other actors on relevant activities and thanked donors for their support of specific programmes undertaken by the centres. Several host-country representatives described the financial and in-kind support that their Governments provided for centres located in their countries.

¹ UNEP/CHW.6/40, decision VI/14, appendix.

176. Many representatives, however, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, also said that it was necessary to increase the capacity of the regional centres, including their financial resources, technical expertise, technological ability and staffing levels, to enable them to fulfil their mandates, perform the tasks currently assigned to them and assume additional responsibilities. Several said it necessary to ensure predictable and adequate funding for each centre from sources in addition to the host country and other donors within the region where the centre was located. Representatives of several donor parties expressed agreement that it was important for all parties and relevant actors to support the work of the centres. One representative, noted that when the regional centres were established it was expected that host countries would fund their basic operations and that the centres themselves would seek additional external financial support for their activities. A number of representatives said that the regional centres' host countries made substantial in-kind and financial contributions to the functioning of the centres.

177. Many representatives suggested areas in which centres should develop more initiatives, including capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer, fundraising, technical training and support, research, demonstration projects, border controls, combatting illegal trade, mobilizing private sector involvement, increasing operational efficiencies, strengthening reservoirs of regional expertise, conducting risk assessments, initiating community-based programmes, expanding the use of non-chemical alternatives to persistent organic pollutants, reducing the production of hazardous waste, addressing stockpiles of obsolete substances and hazardous waste including through the development of capacity for their environmentally sound management and destruction in developing countries, promoting south-south cooperation, developing closer links with universities and relevant scientific bodies, increasing transparency and fostering information exchange and improved coordination among centres on a regional and global basis. Several representatives said that the regional centres should be used as nodes for increased technology transfer, saying that technology transfer was a part of the centres' mandate that had been ignored.

178. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the process evaluation conducted by the Secretariat provided a useful overview of strengths and challenges faced by the centres and that it was essential to foster the efficiency and effectiveness of the centres so that they could serve their role as important instruments for supporting the implementation of the conventions. The draft decisions recommended by the Secretariat were generally acceptable and should be discussed in any contact group formed, as should the evaluation of the centres and their workplans and activities. Another representative said that the centres should play a role in strengthening project formulation capabilities and increasing fundraising capacity. In that regard the evaluation of the centres aided understanding of the activities undertaken by each centre and would help the centres to learn from one another and improve their operations. His Government was ready to consider assisting projects related to environmentally sound management and implementing technical guidelines in its region via voluntary contributions. Proposals for holding joint meetings of the centres in 2016 should be considered in a contact group on the budget and programme of work. Another representative called for an independent assessment to determine and evaluate the specific activities undertaken by each centre. Two representatives said that in the evaluation of the centres the quality of their activities was more important than the quantity.

179. A number of representatives expressed concerns regarding the operation of a particular subregional centre in their region, saying that it lacked relevant expertise, carried out few activities and communicated poorly. The representative of a country hosting another centre reported that the centre, which had withdrawn as a regional centre owing to problems with staffing and resources, had since been strengthened with assistance from the new Government. As the only regional centre in the region specializing in the protection of human health it had a vital role to play as a regional centre, and the host country hoped that it would be able to continue its work with support from the parties.

180. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, introduced a conference room paper on coordination between the regional and subregional centres and requested that it be considered by a contact group should one be created. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the proposal and for its consideration by a contact group should one be established.

181. Following the discussion, the conferences of the parties agreed that the joint contact group on financial resources and technical assistance established as described in section G 3 below should consider the sub-item further.

182. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm 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 2016–

2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications, the draft decision on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology prepared by the contact group.

183. Decision SC-7/17, on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

184. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a decision on Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres. Decision BC-12/10, on Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for training and technology transfer, 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27).

G. Financial resources and mechanisms

185. The parties discussed financial resources and the financial mechanism under the Stockholm Convention and facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes under all three conventions. Setting the stage for the discussions, the President noted that the aim of the parties to the three conventions at the current meetings was to ensure the effective implementation of the procedures and mechanisms put in place with regard to the financial mechanism under the Stockholm Convention and to consider efforts to implement the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the context of the three conventions.

1. Financial resources and the financial mechanism under the Stockholm Convention

186. Recalling that the Stockholm Convention was the only one of the three conventions to have a financial mechanism, and that GEF was on an interim basis the principal entity entrusted with the operations of that mechanism, the representative of the Secretariat introduced the issue by outlining the relevant documents, which dealt with the assessment of funding needs of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition, the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the GEF Council, the latest report by the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties, the fourth review of the financial mechanism and consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism. The report on the assessment of funding needs to be undertaken at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, he said, would inform both the financial mechanism and the negotiations on the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund; at the current meeting the Conference of the Parties had before it for approval the terms of reference for the assessment, which would cover the period 2018–2022 and would be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, as well as the terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism, which would also be undertaken at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism had been adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and would be updated following the eighth meeting of the Conference to reflect any additional guidance from the Conference adopted at its seventh and eighth meetings.

187. Following the Secretariat presentation the representative of GEF presented the GEF report to the Conference of the Parties. The report included the activities undertaken by GEF during the period 1 September 2012–30 June 2014 related to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention; an update on the conclusion of the sixth GEF replenishment and the fifth session of the GEF Assembly; and details on the wider work of GEF on chemicals. Providing details of the number of projects approved and quantities of chemicals disposed of during the reporting period, he said that GEF had invested \$200 million in the persistent organic pollutant portfolio and had leveraged over \$670 million from other sources, giving a leverage ratio of 1:3. The total cumulative value of the GEF persistent organic pollutant portfolio as of 30 June 2014 was over \$3 billion. In May 2015 the sixth replenishment of GEF had been endorsed by the GEF assembly, with the chemicals and waste focal area receiving funding of \$554 million. In conclusion, he noted that at its fifth session the GEF Assembly had reformed the focal area structure of GEF, moving persistent organic pollutants and ozone-depleting substances into a new chemicals and waste focal area, which also included mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The long-term strategic vision of GEF had also been endorsed by the GEF Assembly.

188. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives welcomed the work being undertaken under the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and the leveraging of funds through GEF. One representative noted the significant evolution of financing governance for the sound management of chemicals and wastes in recent years, including through the expansion of the GEF focal area to, among others, the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, 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 adopted at the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the increased and stable funds available for the voluntary trust funds of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. On the special programme, he said that it had no institutional link with the three conventions and that specific guidance from the conventions to the special programme was therefore not needed and could create confusion.

189. Several representatives raised points that they said warranted further discussion in a contact group, including with regard to implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the GEF Council and the draft terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism. On the matter of consolidated guidance to the financial mechanism, one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that the guidance should be clear, concrete and operational; should reflect the views of beneficiary countries; and should be in line with the GEF-6 chemicals and waste focal area strategy.

190. Some representatives said that while significant GEF funding had been made available in the chemicals and wastes focal area procedures needed revision to enable timely disbursement of funding. Several representatives said that while improvements had been made there was still a significant gap between available funding and the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including with regard to short-term funding. Developed countries, said one, were obliged to provide new and additional financial resources under Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention.

191. One representative introduced a conference room paper, on behalf of a group of countries, on coordinated joint guidance to GEF from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. As GEF had expanded the focal area on chemicals and waste, implementation of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions could also be the subject of GEF support. Such guidance should be adopted at the current meetings, as the next meetings would take place too late to inform the seventh replenishment of the GEF trust fund.

192. Several representatives expressed support for the proposed joint guidance. Some expressed strong reservations, however, noting that only the Stockholm and Minamata conventions had formal financing arrangements with GEF and therefore the right to provide guidance; in addition, GEF procedures and strategy should be respected.

193. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the joint contact group on financial resources and technical assistance established as described in section 3 below should consider the sub-item further.

194. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications, the draft decisions on the assessment of funding needs, on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the GEF Council, on the fourth review of the financial mechanism and on additional guidance to the financial mechanism prepared by the contact group.

195. Decisions SC-7/18, on the assessment of funding needs, SC-7/19, on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the GEF Council; SC-7/20, on the fourth review of the financial mechanism; and SC-7/21, on additional guidance to the financial mechanism, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are set out in annex I to the present report.

2. Facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

196. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat reported that the Secretariat had been actively involved in the implementation of decisions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme on financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes and institutional strengthening at the national level, including with regard to the integrated approach and 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, which had been welcomed and adopted by the Environment Assembly in its decision 1/5. As requested in decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1 of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three

conventions (“the 2013 synergies decisions”), the Executive Secretary, among other things, was using the integrated approach as a reference in its reporting and planning, was participating in an internal task team set up by UNEP to develop the modalities for the special programme and was working to strengthen links and collaboration with regard to other entities and funding sources, including GEF, to ensure that the objectives of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions were taken into account in project planning and implementation.

197. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while dedicated external funding was basic to the aim of the integrated approach to ensure sustainable and adequate financing for management of chemicals and waste, the other two elements (industry involvement and mainstreaming of sound chemicals and waste management into national development plans) were equally important. Effective implementation required the involvement of all actors in developing effective frameworks and mechanisms on the ground, with industry meeting its responsibilities in line with national legislation.

198. Several representatives announced pledges by their parties in support of the special programme. The representative of the European Union said that her organization had committed 1 million euros to support the secretariat and for an initial contribution to the special programme trust fund, and that a further pledge of 10 million euros had been technically approved the previous week. The representative of Sweden announced an initial contribution of 1.4 million Swedish kronor to the special programme trust fund. The representative of Finland announced her country’s intention to provide financial support to the special programme.

199. Following the discussion, the conferences of the parties agreed that the joint contact group on financial resources and technical assistance established as described in section 3 below should consider the sub-item further.

200. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications, the draft decision on implementation of the integrated approach to financing prepared by the contact group.

201. Decision SC-7/22, on implementation of the integrated approach to financing, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

202. In addition the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on implementation of the integrated approach to financing that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-12/18 and RC-7/8, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), respectively.

3. Establishment of a contact group

203. Following the discussion summarized above in section F and in the present section G, on technical assistance and financial resources and mechanisms, the parties agreed to establish a joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources for the three conventions, co-chaired by Mr. Greg Filyk (Canada) and Mr. Luis Espinosa (Ecuador).

204. Taking into account the discussions in plenary, the group was to prepare draft decisions for separate consideration by each conference of the parties using as a starting point the draft decision text set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/13-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/13-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/13, with regard to technical assistance; documents UNEP/CHW.12/12 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11, with regard to regional centres and the conference room paper on coordination between the regional and subregional centres of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention; document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/22, with regard to the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the GEF Council; documents UNEP/POPS/COP.7/21, UNEP/POPS/COP.7/24 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/25, with regard to financial resources and the financial mechanism under the Stockholm Convention; document UNEP/CHW.12/20/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/14/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/26/Rev.1, with regard to facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes; and the conference room paper on joint guidance to GEF from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The group was also asked to address convention-specific issues during each meeting of the three conferences and to report to each conference of the parties during its separate meeting.

H. Reporting pursuant to Article 15

205. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information on reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/27, which covered, among other things, the enhanced electronic reporting system, the revised format for reporting and the guidance provided to parties through webinars and workshops on the reporting provisions under the Stockholm Convention held in conjunction with those under the Basel Convention. In addition, a help-desk team had been established to respond to inquiries from parties related to problems in accessing and using the system. He also drew attention to the report by the Secretariat on the information provided by parties in their third national reports (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/36).

206. In the ensuing discussion, most of the representatives taking the floor agreed that party reporting was vital to the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention and progress in its implementation at the national level.

207. General support was expressed for the proposed draft decision (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/27), and a number of amendments were suggested. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of parties, said that it was not sufficient merely to invite parties to submit their third national reports by the extended deadline of 31 August 2015, as provided in the draft decision; something stronger was needed. Supporting that suggestion, another expressed concern about the low submission rate to date and requested an update on progress in developing the draft strategy for increasing it, which had been presented to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. Several representatives said that technical and financial assistance was crucial to improving compliance with the reporting obligation, with one calling on the Secretariat to collaborate with regional centres to that end. One representative said that his country's use of the online reporting system had been hindered by an unstable Internet network and frequent power cuts, and another said that many non-English-speaking parties could not comply with their reporting obligations because the reporting format had yet to be translated into the other five official languages of the United Nations. Several representatives highlighted technical difficulties encountered in their attempts to use the online system. One of those representatives said that his country had twice filed new and updated reports under Article 15 using the online system and had received acknowledgements of their filing; his country was nevertheless unable to find any indication on the Convention website that the reports had been filed or that the country was in compliance with its reporting obligations. Two representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of parties, called for the system to be simplified, especially in regard to data requests. One representative said that the reporting format should allow for a distinction between capacitors and transformers containing polychlorinated biphenyls when reporting inventory information.

208. Meanwhile, several representatives expressed appreciation for the training and guidance received through the webinars, with one suggesting that the content be compiled and transmitted to participants at the end of each webinar.

209. Responding to the comments, the representative of the Secretariat said that every effort was being made to assist parties with online reporting. Information on system availability and access had been sent to all official contact points based on the current database of the Secretariat and reminders of the submission deadline had been sent to parties electronically. Perhaps not all information or reminders had reached their intended recipients, however, because, inter alia, either the official contact points or their addresses had been changed without notice to the Secretariat. The Secretariat was also striving to improve the reporting system, including through the implementation of elements of the draft strategy to increase the submission rate. Those efforts, however, as well as plans to produce the online reporting system in Arabic, the only official language of the United Nations in which it was not yet available, were currently hindered by resource constraints. He added that the system automatically recorded all successfully submitted reports and he offered to meet with delegations having technical problems in the margins of the current meeting.

210. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/27, taking into account the discussions in plenary. It was noted that, in view of the financial implications of some of the proposed amendments, the draft decision would have to be submitted for consideration by the contact group on budget matters.

211. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat – as orally amended to reflect the listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters and hexachlorobutadiene in Annex A to the Convention and polychlorinated naphthalenes in Annex A and Annex C to the Convention – 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

212. Decision SC-7/23, on reporting pursuant to Article 15, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

I. Effectiveness evaluation

213. Under the sub-item the parties discussed the effectiveness evaluation overall and the global monitoring plan for the effectiveness evaluation.

1. Effectiveness evaluation

214. Introducing the matter, the President recalled that the purpose of effectiveness evaluation under Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention was to assess whether the Convention was an effective tool for protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.

215. The representative of the Secretariat recalled that by its decision SC-6/22 the Conference of the Parties had adopted a revised framework for the effectiveness evaluation providing for the establishment of a committee of experts to evaluate available information and assess the effectiveness of the Convention. At the current meeting the Conference of the Parties would elect ten members of the Committee and request the Committee to perform its appointed tasks and report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

216. In the ensuing discussion, many of the representatives who spoke emphasized the importance of effectiveness evaluation to ensuring the overall effectiveness of the Convention. One representative emphasized the role of regional and subregional centres in effectiveness evaluation and called for continued support to the centres to facilitate the work.

217. One representative asked about the process that the Secretariat would follow to select the two internationally recognized experts to serve on the effectiveness evaluation committee envisaged in the draft decision, as well as the required qualifications of potential candidates. Another asked whether there was a deadline for selecting experts to serve on the committee. The representative of the Secretariat said that the Secretariat would select the two experts based on their expertise in effectiveness evaluation from the roster of experts nominated by the parties that would be established following the process described in the terms of reference of the committee (UNEP/POPS/COP.6/27/Add.1/Rev.1, appendix). There was no specific deadline for selecting the experts of the committee but it would be done as soon as possible.

218. Observing that very few parties had submitted inventory reports, one representative suggested that the Secretariat investigate why that was so and explore possible ways to encourage more parties to submit such reports to ensure robust basis for the effectiveness evaluation. He also suggested that the effectiveness evaluation report take into account possible discrepancies in reporting. Another representative said that the evaluation should include assessment of releases from key sectors such as oil and gas.

219. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/28, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications, and on the understanding that the names of the ten members of the effectiveness evaluation committee would be added to the decision once they were known.

220. Decision SC-7/24, on effectiveness evaluation, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

221. By the decision the following experts were elected to serve as members of the effectiveness evaluation committee, with terms to run from the close of the current meeting to the close of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

From African States:	Ms. Elham Refaat Abdel Aziz (Egypt)
	Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Yunnus (Nigeria)
From Asian-Pacific States:	Mr. Said Ali Issa Alzadjali (Oman)
	Ms. Kyunghye Choi (Republic of Korea)

From Central and Eastern European States:	Ms. Nermina Skejovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
	Mr. Ivan Holoubek (Czech Republic)
From Latin American and Caribbean States:	Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda)
	Ms. Alejandra Torre (Uruguay)
From Western European and other States:	Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada)
	Mr. Ramon Guardans (Spain)

2. Global monitoring plan

222. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that in decision SC-6/23 the Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat to continue to support the regional organization groups and the global coordination group in the implementation of the second phase of the global monitoring plan, to continue to support training and capacity-building activities to assist countries in implementing the plan and to work with partners and other relevant organizations to undertake implementation activities. In response the Secretariat had facilitated regional communications; supported regions with limited capacity for collecting and processing data through the regional nodes of the global monitoring plan data warehouse; and organized meetings of the global coordination group and regional organization groups in September 2013 to address implementation issues and a meeting of the global coordination group in November 2014 to evaluate progress towards the development of the regional monitoring reports for the five regions, to agree on a schedule and plan for completing the global monitoring report and to further update the guidance on the global monitoring plan. In addition, the second phase of the global human milk survey was being carried out by UNEP and WHO. The five regional monitoring reports, the guidance on the global monitoring plan and the conclusions and recommendations of the global coordination group, as well as a draft decision on the sub-item (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/29), were before the Conference of the Parties at the current meeting.

223. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the Secretariat's support for the regional organization groups and the global coordination, calling for it to continue. Another said that the global monitoring report was a key component of the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention.

224. Several representatives shared their countries' experiences in generating data or participating in the development of regional monitoring reports in their respective regions, with some outlining conclusions that could be drawn from the reports. Comments focused on gaps in persistent organic pollutant monitoring and data collection in different regions and the need for, among other things, strengthening of analytical capacity and establishment of laboratories and the training of laboratory personnel in developing countries with limited financial or technical resources for persistent organic pollutant monitoring. One representative said that the monitoring of persistent organic pollutants in breast milk in her region, led by a regional centre, had helped not only to generate data but also to build research laboratory capacities and strengthen links between various ministries and other stakeholders; continued financial support, she said, would be required to support that research.

225. One representative suggested that the global monitoring plan should include the sampling of persistent organic pollutants in fish, on which the populations of small island developing States depended for their diets, and called for support to those countries in their efforts to monitor persistent organic pollutants.

226. A number of representatives said that the data obtained during the preparation of regional monitoring reports, as well as the global monitoring report, once finalized, should be made publicly available and promptly transmitted to decision makers at all levels. Another suggested that all monitoring data be released to the public through the Secretariat website in order to raise national and regional awareness of persistent organic pollutants.

227. With regard to the proposed draft decision, one representative suggested that in the implementation of paragraph 6 of the decision parties might want to draw from the results of life-scale studies, noting that in 2011 his Government had launched the largest cohort study ever conducted in his country on the effects of persistent organic pollutants and other pollutants on children's health and development.

228. One representative proposed an amendment to the draft decision to provide that the draft global monitoring report to be submitted to the effectiveness evaluation committee in January 2016, like the final version of the report, should include conclusions and recommendations.

229. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/29, 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 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

230. Decision SC-7/25, on the global monitoring plan, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

J. Non-compliance

231. Introducing the sub-items on non-compliance under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention recalled that the conferences of the parties to the two conventions at their sixth and previous meetings had considered draft procedures and mechanisms on non-compliance without reaching agreement. The procedures and mechanisms, as they stood at the conclusion of the sixth meetings, were before the conferences for further consideration at the current meetings.

232. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat reported that the bureaux of both conferences, at separate meetings in May and June 2014, respectively, had requested the Secretariat to prepare a brief outlining the issues that had remained unresolved and approaches employed under other conventions to address similar issues. The brief (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/12–UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/40), which had been welcomed by the bureaux at a joint meeting in November 2014 and presented to the parties through five webinars, at the four regional meetings held in preparation for the 2015 meetings and at a luncheon attended by representatives of 20 parties and the presidents of the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, was before the parties for their information in further discussing the draft procedures and mechanisms.

233. At the request of the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, the representative of the Secretariat then outlined the issues on which agreement had yet to be reached. In the case of the Rotterdam Convention they were the decision-making rule on matters of substance in the absence of consensus; and the possibility of the compliance procedures being triggered by the Secretariat, including the functions that the Secretariat would be performing at the time of triggering and which provisions of the Convention could be the subject of a Secretariat trigger. For the Stockholm Convention the outstanding issues pertained to the title of the procedures; whether to specify particular provisions of the Convention to which the procedures would apply; whether the procedures could be triggered by the Secretariat or by the compliance committee itself, and if so the scope of the provisions subject to such a trigger as well as whether the sources of information to be considered by the Committee would include national implementation plans; and the action to be taken by the Conference of the Parties in respect of a party in non-compliance, as well as the extent to which any such action would apply to developing country parties and parties with economies in transition.

234. The parties then discussed the matter first with regard to the Rotterdam Convention and then with regard to the Stockholm Convention.

A. Rotterdam Convention

235. The President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention said that while there was agreement regarding the compliance committee function of examining compliance issues of general interest to all parties, it was still lacking with regard to the proposed committee's consideration of submissions regarding compliance by a specific party. Noting that the proposed procedures and mechanisms built on the experience under other multilateral environmental agreements, he stressed that they were facilitative in nature and would provide support for developing country parties in their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention. With that in mind, he urged the parties to strive to adopt compliance procedures and mechanisms at the current meeting.

236. In the discussion it was widely acknowledged that the establishment of compliance procedures was mandatory under the Convention. There was also general agreement that compliance with the Convention was crucial to its success, that the establishment of a compliance mechanism was desirable and that if established it should be facilitative in nature rather than punitive. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for the establishment of the procedures at the current meeting. They said that as the proposed mechanism was to be facilitative, rather than punitive, parties in non-compliance had nothing to fear because they would receive help in complying with the Convention. The mechanisms under the Basel and Minamata conventions were pointed to by way of example, and the representative of one country that had been in non-compliance with the Basel Convention said that his country had been helped to return to compliance and that the

experience had been positive. It was noted too that a compliance mechanism could be adjusted in the light of experience, as was the case with the Basel Convention mechanism, to remedy any perceived shortcomings. It was also suggested that as financing for chemicals and wastes was becoming more abundant, for example through the integrated approach to financing options for chemicals and wastes and 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, the time was ripe for the establishment of a compliance mechanism.

237. Other representatives, however, expressed concern, saying that while financial resources were somewhat more abundant they were still not adequate and that, until they were, developing countries could not be sure of their ability to fully implement the Convention. Another added that the main obstacle to the implementation of both the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions was financial in nature rather than a question of non-compliance. Comments were also made regarding specific proposed features of the compliance mechanism, including a Secretariat trigger, the ability of the committee to recommend punitive measures and voting on matters of substance rather than decision-making by consensus.

238. Following its discussion the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) and Mr. Karel Blaha (Czech Republic). Taking into account the discussion in plenary, the group would prepare a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, taking the draft text set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/12 as its starting point and focusing on the two outstanding issues: decision-making on matters of substance in the absence of consensus and the possibility of the compliance procedures being triggered by the Secretariat.

239. Following the work of the contact group its co-chair reported that despite lengthy discussions and after having reached agreement in a smaller group that had sought to address the concerns expressed by all delegations, the contact group had been unable to reach agreement. As a result, the co-chairs had produced a draft decision for consideration by the parties that reflected the vast majority of views expressed during the contact group discussions, the annex to which included procedures and an institutional mechanism for determining non-compliance with the provisions of the Rotterdam Convention.

240. Many representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed their full support for the proposed draft decision, saying that the establishment of a compliance mechanism under the Rotterdam Convention was long overdue and would represent a milestone for the Convention.

241. One representative, asking that her statement be reflected in the report of the meeting, asked the Executive Secretary to clarify if the review referred to in paragraph 2 of the proposed draft decision would include a review of the effectiveness of the decision-making process of the Compliance Committee. The Executive Secretary replied that it would.

242. One representative said that his country objected to the proposed decision because it did not incorporate his country's request that it provide for the establishment of a financial mechanism.

243. Given the lack of consensus on the co-chairs' draft decision, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision prepared by the President of the Conference of the Parties by which the Conference agreed to consider further at its eighth meeting, for adoption, the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention, with the draft text set out in the annex to the decision serving as the basis for its work on the issue at that meeting.

244. Decision RC-7/6, on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention, 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 Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21).

B. Stockholm Convention

245. In the discussion under the Stockholm Convention, as under the Rotterdam Convention, there was much agreement on fundamental points, i.e., that the establishment of compliance procedures was required under the Stockholm Convention, that compliance with the Convention was crucial to its success and that a compliance mechanism was desirable and should be facilitative in nature rather than punitive.

246. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for adoption at the current meeting. It was argued that a compliance mechanism was essential to the

success of the Convention and that the facilitative nature of the proposed procedures and mechanism should reassure those parties with doubts, as being in non-compliance would trigger the provision of assistance that would help a party return to compliance. It was reiterated too that it was an opportune time to establish a compliance mechanism, given the increasing funding available for chemicals and wastes.

247. Other representatives said that while financial resources had increased they still fell short, given which developing countries were reluctant to subject themselves to a compliance mechanism, especially one authorized to do more than provide assistance with regard to a party in non-compliance. They also voiced concern about a third trigger and the use by the compliance committee of information from any source other than the parties concerned; voting on matters of substance rather than decision-making by consensus; and the suggestion that the committee might recommend sanctions.

248. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Ms. Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica) and Mr. Karel Blaha (Czech Republic). Taking into account the discussion in plenary, the group would prepare a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, taking the draft text set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/30 as its starting point and focusing its efforts on the concepts in square brackets in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/30. It was noted that, while the group was to focus on the bracketed paragraphs, parties could make proposals with regard to any part of the draft text. It was also noted that while the chairs of the group would also chair the contact group on compliance matters established under the Rotterdam Convention the two contact groups were formally distinct.

249. Following the discussions in the contact group, its co-chair reported that the group had made some progress but had been unable to reach agreement and had therefore prepared a draft decision providing for the further consideration of the matter at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the basis of the draft texts set out in the annex to the decision.

250. The Conference of the Parties then adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group.

251. Decision SC-7/26, on procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

K. International cooperation and coordination

252. Introducing the sub-items, the President noted that international cooperation and coordination enhanced the effectiveness of the conventions as well as efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources and expertise, adding that most of the Secretariat's work in the area was carried out jointly for the three conventions. The representative of the Secretariat then introduced the relevant documents, which discussed ongoing cooperation activities by the Secretariat, in particular with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Minamata Convention on Mercury; other international developments relevant to the conventions, such as the relevant outcomes of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and the outcome document of the country-led consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster, which had been welcomed by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session; and the post-2015 development agenda, including efforts by the Secretariat, in cooperation with UNEP and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, to integrate chemicals and wastes into the post-2015 development agenda.

253. The representative of UNEP, outlining the information contained in document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/40-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/60, reported, as requested by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 1/12, on the progress of the task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation and its two working groups since the first session of the Environment Assembly. She outlined a road map for the completion of the work of the task team and the submission of its report through the Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP to the Environment Assembly for consideration at its second session, in May 2016. One representative, speaking on behalf of Mr. Richard Lesiyampe, President of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, spoke of how the synergies process had helped to enhance international chemicals and waste efforts, the links between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and expectations for the forthcoming fourth session of the Conference, in September 2015.

254. In the ensuing discussion there was general agreement regarding the importance of enhancing international cooperation and coordination for the purposes of the conventions. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and calling for an in-depth discussion of the sub-items,

introduced a conference paper containing an amended version of the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.12/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/15-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/31 featuring, among other things, a greater emphasis on cooperation with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Minamata Convention and emphasizing the essential role of chemicals and wastes management for sustainable development. Another representative, however, questioned the need for the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/15-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/31, suggesting that it added nothing concrete to the mandate already conferred on the Secretariat by previous decisions; the amendments to the draft decision proposed in the conference room paper, however, were of potential interest. A number of other representatives highlighted issues to be taken into account in any further discussions, including the challenges faced by developing countries with regard to cooperative arrangements; cooperation with the Association of South-East Asian Nations, including with regard to pilot projects in member States; illegal trade; hazard and risk assessment; and results-sharing.

255. The Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes and representatives of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Environment Management Group, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention then spoke on those organizations' roles, goals and actions on issues of common concern to partners to the conventions.

256. Following the discussion the conferences of the parties agreed that the contact group on cooperation and coordination established as described in section VII D below would further consider the present sub-item.

257. Following the work of the contact group the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/15-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/31 prepared by the contact group.

258. Decision SC-7/27, on international cooperation and coordination, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

259. In addition the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on international cooperation and coordination that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-12/17 and RC-7/9, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), respectively.

VII. Programme of work and budget

260. Introducing the item, the President said that it would encompass three broad subjects: the programmes of work and budgets of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions; and the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange. The items to be discussed, he said, were important to ensuring that the 2016-2017 programmes of work included the activities and resources required to support the implementation of the three conventions, while ensuring a continuation of the activities implemented in 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.

A. Programmes of work and budgets

261. Introducing the sub-item, the Executive Secretary said that as requested in decisions BC-11/26, RC-6/16 and SC-6/30, the Secretariat was presenting two budget scenarios for consideration by the conferences of the parties. The first assumed zero nominal growth of the budget compared with the budget for 2014–2015, while the second represented the executive secretaries' assessment of the amount necessary to finance all proposals before the conferences of the parties with budget implications. While the first scenario would, he said, allow for the full functioning of the Secretariat, the second included additional activities aimed at improving certain services promoting implementation of the conventions and administrative actions to improve the efficiency of the Secretariat and reduce the risk of budget shortfalls.

262. Another representative of the Secretariat then continued the presentation, drawing attention to a note by the Secretariat (UNEP/CHW.12/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/16-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/32) outlining the proposed budgets and programmes of work for the three conventions, which had been prepared in a harmonized format presenting both joint and convention-specific activities in a single document with the aim of providing an overview of the total resources required and highlighting activities that related to two or more conventions. She also drew attention to activity fact sheets (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/44) that provided, for each activity in the programme of work, information on legislative mandates, objectives, indicators, expected outputs, methods of implementation, partners, resources approved for 2014–2015 and resources required for 2016–2017. Outlining the arrangement of the budgets and programmes of work and the assumptions underlying them, she said that if adopted the zero nominal growth scenario would in fact result in an estimated drop in assessed contributions of 1.3 per cent compared to 2014–2015 owing to the adoption of new standard salary costs by the United Nations, while the second scenario would require an increase of 5.5 per cent. A comparison of the two scenarios was available in an information document (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/42). Following up on a recommendation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services that the Secretariat establish a streamlined funding mechanism for staff costs and pool the funds of the three conventions in a single operational account, the Secretariat was proposing the establishment of a joint general trust fund for the three conventions to cover all costs related to the operation of the Secretariat, including staff costs. She then went on to outline the financial reports for the conventions, providing information on income and expenditures, arrears and funding of participant travel for meetings under the conventions.

263. In the discussion that followed, most of the representatives who spoke welcomed the harmonized presentation by the Secretariat of the programmes of work and budgets of the three conventions. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the very detailed and transparent budget fact sheets provided but suggested that more information on the rationale behind the various Secretariat proposals and its plan to implement the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services would have been desirable.

264. Regarding the two budget scenarios prepared by the Secretariat, a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the zero nominal growth scenario. Another representative expressed support for the second scenario – the executive secretaries' assessment of required funding – as a starting point for discussion.

265. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the budget should reflect realistic expectations about voluntary contributions, noting that in 2014 donors had provided 70 percent of the voluntary resources budgeted for the Stockholm Convention, 60 percent of those budgeted for the Basel Convention, and only 31 percent of those budgeted for the Rotterdam Convention; unrealistic expectations about contributions had thus forced the Secretariat to make choices that the parties should have made in setting the budgets.

266. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, urged parties who were in arrears on their assessed contributions to meet their responsibilities without delay, with one suggesting that methods used in the past to deal with arrears be formalized to ensure that assessed contributions were paid on time and another suggesting that the savings achieved from building synergies should be applied toward the implementation of the three conventions rather than to offset budget shortfalls owing to arrears.

267. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the proposal to establish a single joint general trust fund for the three conventions, which one said would free up secretariat staff time for the implementation of the conventions. Two representatives, however, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the implications of creating a single fund would need to be explored further.

268. Following the discussion the parties agreed to establish a joint contact group on budget matters for the three conventions, co-chaired by Mr. Vaitoti Tupa (Cook Islands) and Mr. Reginald Hernaas (Netherlands).

269. Taking into account the discussions in plenary, the group was asked to prepare for consideration and separate adoption by the respective conferences of the parties draft programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2016–2017, and related draft decisions, using as a starting point the draft programmes and budgets set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/42 and the draft decision texts set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/16-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/32.

270. The co-chair of the joint contact group on budget matters subsequently reported that the group had reached agreement on the 2016–2017 programmes of work and budgets for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and he introduced conference room papers setting out a separate draft decision on the budget and programme of work for each of the three conventions.

271. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention then adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group on the programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention.

272. Decision SC-7/33, on the programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2016–2017, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

273. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on the programmes of work and budgets for those conventions for the biennium 2016–2017. Decisions BC-12/24 and RC-7/15, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), respectively.

B. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

274. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that in addition to changing the operations of the secretariats, the synergies process begun in 2005 was also changing the way that the conventions were implemented at the national and regional levels. The main task of the parties in respect of synergies at the current meetings was to adopt terms of reference for the further review of the synergies arrangements to take place at the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the parties. The Executive Secretary then outlined the documents for the sub-item, including a note describing the activities of the Secretariat in implementing the 2013 synergies decisions, which had been adopted by the conferences of the parties at their second simultaneous extraordinary meetings (UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1), and notes on the Secretariat's efforts to improve gender balance in the Secretariat (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/49-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/54) and to mainstream science into the work of the three conventions (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/53-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/38-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/57).

275. The parties were invited to take note of the information presented and to consider adopting the draft terms of reference for the review of the synergies arrangements, which had been revised to take into account comments by members of the bureaux at their November 2014 joint meetings and circulated to parties in advance of the regional meetings held in preparation for the 2015 meetings.

276. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the Secretariat's efforts to enhance synergies in the implementation of the conventions and their overall support for the process proposed by the Secretariat for further review of the synergies arrangements. One representative urged that an in-depth review be completed as soon as possible.

277. One representative, supported by a number of others, suggested that the scope of the review should be defined by the stated aims of the synergies process, which, he recalled, were to strengthen implementation of three conventions at the national, regional and global levels; promote coherent policy guidance; enhance efficiency in the provision of support to parties; reduce administrative burden; and maximize the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels. As such, 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 and its potential for contributing to synergies in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should not be part of the review, as that programme had been developed under the guidance of the United Nations Environment Assembly and thus had no direct institutional link to the conventions. In addition, the omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions did not call for the review of the special programme. Moreover, the special programme was not yet in operation, an additional reason that it should not be part of a review of past activities.

278. Another representative suggested that the scope of the review be broadened to include the organization of activities such as the meetings of the conferences of the parties, side events and regional seminars and workshops, as such events provided parties with valuable opportunities to share

information and lessons learned. A second representative also stressed the importance of sharing lessons learned.

279. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed the group's appreciation for the theme of the 2015 meetings and welcomed the science fair as a means of raising public awareness of the conventions and bridging the science-policy gap at the regional and national levels. He called for decisions arising from the current meetings to be linked to the theme where relevant, and said that his group had prepared a conference room paper on the matter for discussion in a contact group.

280. A number of representatives, one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, indicated that they wished to propose changes to the terms of reference and the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1.

281. Following the discussion the parties agreed that the contact group on cooperation and coordination established as described in section D below should consider the present sub-item further.

282. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1 prepared by the contact group, as well as a draft decision on the theme "from science to action".

283. Decisions SC-7/28, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and SC-7/30, entitled "From science to action", as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are set out in annex I to the present report.

284. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as decisions entitled "From science to action", that were substantially identical to the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-12/19 and BC-12/21 and decisions RC-7/10 and RC-7/12, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), respectively.

C. Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

285. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had several provisions calling for information exchange between parties and other stakeholders and recalled that the parties to the three conventions had adopted decisions calling for the development of common websites and information exchange systems, including a clearing-house mechanism, serving all three conventions. The task at the current meeting, he said, was to take note of a proposed joint clearing-house mechanism strategy for 2016–2019 that had been developed by the Secretariat for consideration during the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the parties. Continuing the presentation, the representative of the Secretariat said that progress in the establishment of the joint clearing-house mechanism was described in the relevant note by the Secretariat (UNEP/CHW.12/26-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/35) and then described the proposed strategy for continuing that progress over the period 2016–2019.

286. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, suggested that the joint clearing-house mechanism be discussed further in a contact group.

287. The parties then agreed that the contact group on cooperation and coordination established as described in section D below should consider the present sub-item further.

288. Following the work of the contact group the representative of the Secretariat reported that the group had produced a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/26-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/35, containing two sets of square brackets around text that the group had not finalized. Following further discussion in plenary the Conference of the Parties reached agreement and adopted the revised draft decision as orally amended.

289. Decision SC-7/29, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

290. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-12/20 and RC-7/11, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam

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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), respectively.

D. Establishment of a contact group on cooperation and coordination

291. As alluded to in sections VI, VII B and VII C, above, the conferences of the parties established a joint contact group on cooperation and coordination, co-chaired by Ms. Carolina Tinangon (Indonesia) and Ms. Jane Stratford (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) to further consider international cooperation and coordination, enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange. Taking into account the discussions in plenary, the group would seek to prepare for separate consideration by each of the conferences of the parties a draft decision on international cooperation and coordination, using as a starting point the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/15-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/31 and taking into account the conference room paper setting out proposed amendments thereto; draft terms of reference for the review of the synergies arrangements and a draft decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, taking as its starting point the draft terms of reference and draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1; and a draft decision on the clearing-house mechanism, taking as its starting point the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/26-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/35.

VII. Venue and date of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

292. The present item, on the venue and date of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 7) was discussed during joint sessions of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

293. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat said that the conference facilities at the Geneva International Conference Centre had been tentatively reserved for 23 April to 5 May 2017 for back-to-back meetings of the three conferences of the parties.

294. In the ensuing discussion there was general support for holding the three meetings of the conferences of the parties back to back. There was considerable debate, however, about whether the meetings should feature a high-level segment and, if so, whether the products of the meeting should include a high-level declaration.

295. Several representatives said that the involvement of ministers and other high-level delegates could help to raise political awareness of and support for the conventions and give a boost to their implementation. Others, while recognizing the potential benefits, expressed concern that a high-level segment and declaration would consume a significant part of the time needed to address the important technical and other issues on the parties' agendas.

296. It was also suggested that any high-level segment should be structured both to avoid impeding the substantive negotiations and to contribute meaningfully to the objectives of the conventions, for example by limiting length of the segment, by scheduling it at the beginning of the three meetings so that its outcomes could feed into the negotiations, by holding it simultaneously with the regular sessions of the meetings to avoid extending the length of the meetings, by holding it in the form of interactive dialogues rather than serial statements and by carefully choosing a theme for the segment that would be of interest and relevance to ministers. It was also said that the question of whether a ministerial declaration would be adopted should be left to the ministers themselves and that the final arrangements for the meetings would have to be left to the bureaux, who would make their decision bearing in mind the discussion at the current meeting.

297. One representative noted that early May was a national holiday period in his country, and it was agreed that the Secretariat and bureaux should to the extent practicable take national holidays into account in scheduling meetings. It was also recognized, however, that given the number of parties to the conventions and the number of national holidays throughout the year their ability to do so was limited.

298. Following their discussion the conferences of the parties requested the Secretariat to prepare draft decisions for their separate consideration, which they subsequently adopted as orally amended.

299. Decision SC-7/31, on the date and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, is set out in annex I to the present report.

300. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on the date and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-12/22 and RC-7/13, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), respectively.

VIII. Other matters

A. Memorandums of understanding between UNEP and the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions and memorandum of understanding between FAO and UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention

301. The President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention introduced the matters, recalling that UNEP performed the secretariat functions for the Basel and Stockholm conventions, while UNEP and FAO together performed those functions for the Rotterdam Convention. The purpose of memorandums of understanding was to clarify the responsibilities of UNEP, FAO and the conventions with regard to administrative and programmatic matters, recognizing that the efficient and cost effective operation of the Secretariat was of paramount importance for the effective implementation of the conventions.

302. Continuing the introduction, the Executive Secretary recalled that at their previous meetings the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions had reviewed draft memorandums of understanding with UNEP regarding the provision of secretariat services, while the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had in its decision RC-6/15 requested the Secretariat to prepare a first draft of such an agreement for consideration at its seventh meeting. Revised versions of the agreements for the Basel and Stockholm conventions and a first draft of the agreement for the Rotterdam Convention had been prepared in consultation with UNEP and were before the respective conferences of the parties for consideration at the current meetings. He noted that a memorandum of understanding between UNEP and FAO regarding the provision of secretariat services for the Rotterdam Convention, which had been approved by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention in its decision RC-2/5, was still in effect and that the operative text of decision RC-6/15 referred only to UNEP. The draft memorandum of understanding for the Rotterdam Convention was accordingly between the Conference of the Parties and UNEP only; FAO was not a party to the agreement.

303. In requesting the Secretariat to prepare memorandums of understanding the conferences of the parties had taken note of decision 27/13 of the Governing Council of UNEP, requesting the UNEP Executive Director to deepen consultations with the multilateral environmental agreements for which UNEP provided secretariat services. The Secretariat was participating in a task team established by the Executive Director in response to decision 27/13 on the effectiveness of the administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and a number of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. At its first session, in its resolution 1/12, the United Nations Environment Assembly had requested that a final report on the work of the task team be submitted to it at its second session and that information on the progress of the task team be provided to the relevant multilateral environmental agreements at their meetings preceding the second session of the Environment Assembly.

304. Following the introduction the representative of UNEP provided additional information on the development of the memorandums of understanding, as well as relevant information on progress in the implementation of resolution 1/12 of the United Nations Environment Assembly. In 2016 the Environment Assembly at its second session would review the work undertaken by UNEP in response to resolution 1/12 with regard to the relationships between UNEP and the secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements that it administered. The conferences of the parties might therefore, she suggested, wish to defer further consideration of the memorandums of understanding in order to take into account the relevant outcomes of that session.

305. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the conferences of the parties should note their regret that the delay in completing the relevant work would prevent the completion of the memorandums of understanding as foreseen in decisions reached during their previous meetings. The incoming presidents of the three conferences of parties should write a joint letter to the Executive Director of UNEP noting that it would be important to consult with the bureaux once the UNEP multilateral environmental agreement task team had completed its work. She expressed concern that FAO did not yet appear as part of the draft memorandum of understanding for the Rotterdam Convention. Another representative suggested that further development of the memorandums of understanding include examinations of comparable agreements developed under other multilateral environmental agreements.

306. In response to a question, the representative of UNEP clarified that the provision in the draft memorandums of understanding for their signature by the presidents of the conferences of the parties reflected the role of a president as the representative of all the parties to a convention.

307. Following the discussions, the President requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision for separate consideration by each of the conferences of the parties, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

308. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat for that Convention.

309. Decision SC-7/32, on the draft memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in annex I to the present report.

310. In addition, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted a decision on a draft memorandum of understanding between UNEP and that Conference of the Parties, and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a decision on a draft memorandum of understanding between FAO, UNEP and that Conference of the Parties. Decisions BC-12/24 and RC-7/14, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Rotterdam 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 twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27) and in annex I to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21), respectively.

B. Admission of observers

311. Introducing the matter, the President recalled that at their last meetings the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had adopted revised application forms to be used by bodies or agencies wishing to be represented as observers in meetings under the conventions. At the current meetings the parties were to consider a report by the Secretariat on experiences with using the revised forms and the practices followed regarding the admission of observers to meetings of the bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. In accordance with decisions BC-11/22, RC-6/14 and SC-6/28 the Secretariat had examined requests of bodies or agencies seeking admission as observers to confirm that they met the relevant criteria. The bodies or agencies meeting the criteria were listed in documents UNEP/CHW/COP.12/INF/47/Rev.1; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/23/Rev.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/43/Rev.1. Three further bodies or agencies had met the relevant criteria since the finalization of these documents.

312. In the ensuing discussion several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the importance of observers. It was also recognized that the Secretariat encountered considerable difficulties and spent considerable time responding to requests for admission by observers that provided incomplete information. Several representatives underscored the importance of observers submitting reliable, accurate and sufficient information, saying that the proposed changes were a positive step in that regard. One representative said that in line with the synergies process, it was important for the three conventions to have the same practices regarding the admission of observers.

313. With regard to the proposal to revise the forms used to apply for observer status, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that the issue had been extensively discussed in 2013, and that consensus had been reached, during those meetings of the conferences of the parties. In their view, no further action was needed at the current time and the Secretariat should continue the current practices, including the use of the forms approved at the previous meetings.

314. Following the discussion, the conferences of the parties took note of the information provided by the Secretariat, particularly regarding the challenges faced, and agreed that the Secretariat should maintain its current practices with regard to the admission of observers, including the use of the previously approved forms.

C. Official communications

315. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that in decision SC-6/26 the Conference of the Parties had adopted a revised harmonized form for use by parties to nominate their national focal points for the exchange of information in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention and official contact points for the performance of administrative functions under the Convention in accordance with decision SC-2/16. The Conference had also urged both parties and non-party States to designate national focal points and official contact points. As at the time of the current meeting, 123 parties had nominated national focal points and 165 parties had nominated official contact points. Two non-Parties had also designated official contact points.

316. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information presented, urging parties to designate their contact points for the Convention and to provide updated information for their designated contact points on a timely basis.

D. Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

317. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that at its twelfth meeting the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention had taken note of an analysis by the Secretariat on possible synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, building on lessons learned under the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/51), and had requested the Secretariat to transmit the analysis to the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention. In addition, the Secretariat had been requested to prepare, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its thirteenth meeting, 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.

318. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat introduced the analysis, which put forward some initial conclusions aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes. Since the adoption of the synergies decisions by the three conferences of the parties in 2008 and 2009, activities aimed at enhancing cooperation and coordination in this regard had been undertaken through a piecemeal approach, with a focus on international cooperation and technical assistance. The analysis by the Secretariat invited parties to consider whether the three conferences of the parties might wish to adopt updated common decisions that would form the basis of a synergistic approach to preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.

319. Following the introduction, one representative said that African States had a particular interest in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and suggested that in addressing synergies between the three conventions the Secretariat should also address synergies with the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa, saying that it assisted parties in Africa to implement the Basel Convention. Further synergies might also be considered with other conventions.

320. Following the discussion it was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, 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.

IX. Adoption of the report

321. The Conference of the Parties adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report set out in documents UNEP/CHW.12/L.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/L.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/L.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/L.1/ Add.1, as orally amended, 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.

X. Closure of the meeting

322. Following the customary exchange of courtesies the meeting was declared closed at 3.45 a.m. on Saturday, 16 May 2015.

ADVANCE

Annex

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

- SC-7/1: Exemptions
- SC-7/2: DDT
- SC-7/3: Polychlorinated biphenyls
- SC-7/4: Revised format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention
- SC-7/5: Evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention
- SC-7/6: Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3
- SC-7/7: Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants
- SC-7/8: Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices
- SC-7/9: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes
- SC-7/10: Implementation plans
- SC-7/11: Further consideration on hexachlorobutadiene
- SC-7/12: Listing of hexachlorobutadiene
- SC-7/13: Listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters
- SC-7/14: Listing of polychlorinated naphthalenes
- SC-7/15: Operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
- SC-7/16: Technical assistance
- SC-7/17: Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology
- SC-7/18: Assessment of funding needs
- SC-7/19: Effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility
- SC-7/20: Fourth review of the financial mechanism
- SC-7/21: Additional guidance to the financial mechanism
- SC-7/22: Implementation of the integrated approach to financing
- SC-7/23: Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention
- SC-7/24: Effectiveness evaluation
- SC-7/25: Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation
- SC-7/26: Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Stockholm Convention
- SC-7/27: International cooperation and coordination
- SC-7/28: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- SC-7/29: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange
- SC-7/30: From science to action
- SC-7/31: Venue and date of the next meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

- SC-7/32: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- SC-7/33: Programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2016-2017

ADVANCE

SC-7/1: Exemptions

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Agrees* to amend paragraph 6 of the review process for entries in the Register of Specific Exemptions¹ to read as follows:

“6. *This review process will be open-ended. It will continue to be reviewed, as necessary, by the Conference of the Parties as part of its consideration of specific exemptions and amended as the Conference of the Parties deems appropriate.*”;

2. *Notes*, pursuant to paragraph 9 of Article 4, that as there are no longer any parties registered for specific exemptions for the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for carpets, leather and apparel, textiles and upholstery, paper and packaging, coatings and coating additives and rubber and plastics, no new registrations may be made with respect to them;

3. *Congratulates* all parties that have eliminated the need for specific exemptions;

4. *Encourages* parties to take into consideration the report of the expert consultation on the review of lindane and alternatives in the treatment of head lice and scabies when promoting alternatives to lindane;²

5. *Reminds* the parties that may wish to register for specific exemptions for hexabromocyclododecane and technical endosulfan and its related isomers to notify the Secretariat in accordance with Article 4;

6. *Also reminds* the parties that may wish to register for acceptable purposes, articles in use and closed-system site-limited intermediates that are currently available to notify the Secretariat using the relevant forms for notifications;³

7. *Notes* that, on the basis of the notification submitted to the Secretariat by India on 10 March 2014, the production and use of DDT as a closed-system site-limited intermediate in the production of dicofol has been extended until 15 May 2024;

8. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to assist parties in their efforts to implement the provisions of the Convention related to specific exemptions and acceptable purposes.

¹ As adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-1/24 and revised in decision SC-3/3, with the expiration date of the review process for entries in the Register having been extended to 2015 in decision SC-4/3.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/4.

³ UNEP/POPS/COP.2/30 (annex III) and decisions SC-1/23, SC-1/25, SC-5/8 and SC-6/2.

SC-7/2: DDT

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the DDT expert group on the assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, including the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;⁴
2. *Concludes* that countries that are relying on indoor residual spraying for disease vector control may need DDT for such uses in specific settings where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are still lacking for a sustainable transition away from DDT;
3. *Notes* the necessity of providing technical, financial and other assistance to developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition for a transition away from reliance on DDT for disease vector control, with due priority accorded to:
 - (a) Targeted application of indoor residual spraying to ensure the judicious use of resources, including DDT;
 - (b) Ensuring adequate national policy and management capacity for translating international best practices on disease vector control;
 - (c) Identifying and disposing of obsolete DDT stockpiles towards the complete elimination of such stocks;
4. *Recognizes* that indoor residual spraying for the control of vectors of leishmaniasis should use DDT only if locally available, safe, effective and affordable alternatives to DDT are not available;
5. *Decides* to evaluate the continued need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including that provided by the DDT expert group, at its eighth meeting, with the objective of accelerating the identification and development of locally appropriate, cost-effective and safe alternatives;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to support the process for the reporting on and assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, as set out in annex I to decision SC-3/2, pursuant to paragraph 6 of part II of Annex B to the Convention, and to assist parties to promote locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives for a sustainable transition away from DDT;
7. *Welcomes* the existing collaboration with the World Health Organization and invites its continued collaboration in the process for the reporting on and assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control referred to in paragraph 6 above and in any other manner that may support the Conference of Parties in future evaluations of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and in promoting suitable alternatives to DDT for disease vector control;
8. *Adopts* the list of parties to be invited to nominate experts to serve as members of the DDT expert group for terms of office of four years commencing on 1 September 2015 set out in the annex to the present decision;
9. *Takes note* of the report by the United Nations Environment Programme on the preparation of a road map for the development of alternatives to DDT,⁵ endorses the key elements of the road map, set out in annex II to the note by the Secretariat on the evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and promotion of alternatives to DDT,⁶ invites the United Nations Environment Programme to lead the implementation of the road map in consultation with the World Health Organization, the DDT expert group and the Secretariat, and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to report on progress in the implementation of the road map to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
10. *Also takes note* of the report by the United Nations Environment Programme on progress in the implementation of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of

⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/5.

⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/6.

⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/5.

Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control⁷ and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to report on progress in the implementation of the Global Alliance to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to participate in the activities of the Global Alliance;

12. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, industry bodies and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial resources to support the work of the Global Alliance, including the activities contained in the road map.

Annex to decision SC-7/2

List of parties selected by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting to nominate DDT expert group members with terms of office commencing on 1 September 2015

African States

Gabon
South Africa

Asian-Pacific States

India
Pakistan

Central and Eastern European States

Armenia
Serbia

Latin American and Caribbean States

Brazil
Peru

Western European and other States

[To be identified]

⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/7.

SC-7/3: Polychlorinated biphenyls

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note of:*

(a) The information relevant to polychlorinated biphenyls from the reports provided by parties pursuant to Article 15 in accordance with paragraph (g) of part II of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;⁸

(b) The preliminary assessment of efforts made towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls developed by the United Nations Environment Programme in cooperation with the Secretariat and in consultation with the advisory committee of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network;⁹

(c) The report by the United Nations Environment Programme on progress in the implementation of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network;¹⁰

2. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to inform the Conference of the Parties of the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network at its eighth meeting;

3. *Requests* parties to step up their efforts to ensure the full and timely submission of their national reports under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, including information on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls;

4. *Encourages* parties to intensify efforts to eliminate polychlorinated biphenyls and meet the goals of the Stockholm Convention to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and make determined efforts designed to lead to the environmentally sound management of waste liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a polychlorinated biphenyls content above 0.005 per cent, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention, as soon as possible but no later than 2028;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To consolidate the compilation of information referred to in paragraph 1 (a) above and the preliminary assessment referred to in paragraph 1 (b) above, taking into consideration any additional third national reports submitted in response to the request in paragraph 3 above, and any other relevant information, in accordance with the framework for the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention;¹¹

(b) To make the assessment report available, by 31 January 2016, to the effectiveness evaluation committee to support it in its work, and to submit the report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighth meeting;

(c) To continue to participate in the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network;

6. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, industry bodies and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial resources to support the work of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network.

⁸ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/36 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/27.

⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/9.

¹⁰ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/10.

¹¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/27/Add.1/Rev.1, annex.

SC-7/4: Revised format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention set out in the annex to the present decision and decides to use it for the evaluation and review at its eighth meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter in accordance with the process set out in decision SC-6/3;

2. *Takes note* of both the information provided by parties on their experience in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2¹² and the report by the Secretariat on the main challenges encountered by parties in implementing the recommendations with regard to brominated diphenyl ethers listed in Annex A to the Convention¹³ and decides to take them into account in the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers at its eighth meeting pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Convention;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to support the process set out in decision SC-6/3 to enable the Conference of the Parties to evaluate the progress that parties have made towards achieving their ultimate objective of the elimination of the brominated diphenyl ethers listed in Annex A to the Convention, to review the continued need for the specific exemption for those chemicals in accordance with paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of that Annex and to support parties, subject to the availability of resources, in undertaking activities to collect and submit the information required for the process;

4. *Reminds* any party with a need for the specific exemption for brominated diphenyl ethers listed in Annex A to the Convention to register for that exemption by means of a notification in writing to the Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 1 (c) of parts IV and V of that Annex.

¹² UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/12.

¹³ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/8, annex IV.

Annex to decision SC-7/4

Format for the submission of information for the evaluation and review of brominated diphenyl ethers pursuant to paragraph 2 of parts IV and V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention

Glossary

Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether:

In accordance with Part III of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention, "hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether" means 2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-153, CAS No: 68631-49-2), 2,2',4,4',5,6'-hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-154, CAS No: 207122-15-4), 2,2',3,3',4,5',6-heptabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-175, CAS No: 446255-22-7), 2,2',3,4,4',5',6-heptabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-183, CAS No: 207122-16-5) and other hexa- and heptabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial octabromodiphenyl ether.

Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether:

In accordance with Part III of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention, "tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether" means 2,2',4,4'-tetrabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-47, CAS No: 5436-43-1) and 2,2',4,4',5-pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-99, CAS No: 60348-60-9) and other tetra- and pentabromodiphenyl ethers present in commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether.

(Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether are hereinafter referred to as "brominated diphenyl ethers")

I. Please indicate whether your country is registered for a specific exemption related to brominated diphenyl ethers in accordance with part IV and/or part V of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention.

(a) Specific exemption for hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

Yes No

(b) Specific exemption for tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

Yes No

If you answered yes to 1 (a) and/or 1 (b), please provide information on whether your country has undertaken any review of its continuing need for registration of the continued need for a specific exemption for hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and/or tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether.

If you answered no to 1 (a) and/or 1 (b), please briefly describe the reasons.

Not needed

Not assessed

Lack of financial resources

Lack of technical capacity

Assessed but lack of technical capacity

Assessed but lack of financial capacity

Assessed but lack of human resources

Other (*Please specify*)

II. Has your country taken any actions or control measures to eliminate brominated diphenyl ethers contained in articles?

Yes (*Please select all that apply*)

Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether
Please describe the actions or control measures and the year(s) when they were taken.

Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether
Please describe the actions or control measures and the year(s) when they were taken .

Currently being developed

No (*Please select all that apply*)

Lack of financial resources

Lack of technical capacity

Other (*Please specify*)

III. Has your country identified articles in use that contain or may contain brominated diphenyl ethers?

Yes

Please provide information available on such articles (e.g., electrical and electronic equipment, motor vehicles, etc.). If possible, provide the quantities of bromine contained in those articles.

No (*Please select all that apply*)

Lack of legal, institutional or policy framework

Lack of financial resources

Lack of human resources

Lack of technical capacity

Other (*Please specify*)

Information not available

IV. Has your country taken measures to dispose of articles that contain or may contain brominated diphenyl ethers in an environmentally sound manner, in accordance with paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention?

Yes

Please provide information available on such measures and/or articles disposed of. If possible, provide the quantities of bromine in the articles disposed of.

No (*Please select all that apply*)

Lack of financial resources

Lack of technical capacity

Other (*Please specify*)

V. Has your country recycled articles that contain or may contain brominated diphenyl ethers?

Yes

When possible, please provide information on any actions or control measures taken by your country to ensure that recycling is carried out in an environmentally sound manner.

Please provide information available on articles that have been recycled.

No (Please select all that apply)

- Lack of legal, institutional or policy framework
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of human resources
- Lack of technical capacity
- Other (Please specify)

Information not available

VI. Has your country been able to put in place measures to separate articles containing brominated diphenyl ethers before recycling?

Yes (Please select all that apply)

Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether

Please describe the measures.

Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether

Please describe the measures.

Combined brominated diphenyl ethers

Please describe the measures.

Currently being developed

No (Please select all that apply)

- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of technical capacity
- Other (Please specify)

VII. Has your country used articles manufactured from recycled materials that contain or may contain brominated diphenyl ethers?

Yes

Please provide information available on the articles.

No

Information not available

Other (Please specify)

VIII. Has your country disposed of articles manufactured from recycled materials that contain or may contain brominated diphenyl ethers?

Yes

Has your country taken any actions or control measures to ensure that it is carried out in an environmentally sound manner?

Yes

Please describe.

Currently being implemented

No (*Please select all that apply*)

- Lack of legal, institutional or policy framework
- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of human resources
- Lack of technical capacity
- Other (*Please specify*)

No

Information not available

IX. Has your country taken any steps to prevent the export of articles manufactured from recycled materials that contain levels or concentrations of brominated diphenyl ethers exceeding those permitted for the sale, use, import or manufacture of those articles within its territory, in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of Part IV and/or Part V of Annex A?

Yes (*Please select all that apply.*)

- Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether
Please describe the measures and the year(s) when they were taken.
- Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether
Please describe the measures and the year(s) when they were taken.
- Combined brominated diphenyl ethers
Please describe the measures and the year(s) when they were taken.

Currently being developed

No (*Please select all that apply*)

- Lack of financial resources
- Lack of technical capacity
- Lack of legal, institutional or policy framework
- Other (*Please specify*)

SC-7/5: Evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision SC-7/1, in which it notes, pursuant to paragraph 9 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, that as there are no longer any parties registered for the specific exemptions for the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for carpets, leather and apparel, textiles and upholstery, paper and packaging, coatings and coating additives and rubber and plastics, no new registrations may be made with regard to them,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride carried out by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee¹⁴ and the report by the Secretariat¹⁵ on the evaluation of the information on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

2. *Takes note* of the information provided by parties on their experiences in implementing the recommendations set out in the annex to decision POPRC-6/2¹⁶ and the report by the Secretariat¹⁷ on the main challenges encountered by parties in implementing the recommendations with regard to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

3. *Concludes* that parties may need to continue to produce and/or use perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for acceptable purposes as provided in Annex B to the Convention and consequently need to notify the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use those chemicals for those purposes;

4. *Encourages* parties to consider, on the basis of information and the availability of alternatives, withdrawing their names from the register of acceptable purposes for production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, noting, however, that substitution under “acceptable purposes” with regard to fire-fighting foam may be considered after carrying out techno-economical viability assessment and ensuring functionality in various geo-climatic conditions;

5. *Congratulates* all parties that have eliminated the need for specific exemptions and all parties that have ratified the amendment to Annex B to the Stockholm Convention listing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in that annex;¹⁸

6. *Requests*, with a view to avoiding duplication, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices to exchange information, consult and consider each other’s work on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride when the Committee undertakes the assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

7. *Decides* to amend the schedule for the process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention set out in the annex to decision SC-6/4 by adopting the schedule set out in the annex to the present decision and decides to undertake the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride at its ninth meeting;

8. *Encourages* parties that have registered or will register for the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for acceptable purposes by notifying the Secretariat in accordance with Annex B to the Convention to take measures necessary to ensure that articles containing perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride that are allowed to be produced and used can be easily identified by labelling or other means throughout their life cycles;

¹⁴ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/7/Rev.1.

¹⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/11.

¹⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/12.

¹⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/8, annex IV.

¹⁸ Decision SC-4/17.

9. *Reminds* parties that paragraph 4 (c) of part III of Annex B to the Convention encourages parties, within their capabilities, to promote research on and the development of safe alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, and invites parties to submit information on such research and development in the process of information collection for the evaluation to take place at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To revise the format for the collection of information on alternatives to the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals, taking into account the recommendations of the Committee and comments made by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, and to use the format as so revised for the evaluation to take place at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) To continue to support the process set out in the annex to decision SC-6/4 to enable the Conference of the Parties to undertake the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention and to support parties, subject to the availability of resources, in undertaking activities to collect and submit information required for the process;

(c) To further promote the exchange of information, including information provided by parties and others, on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals, and support parties, subject to the availability of resources, in undertaking activities to collect and submit information required for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

(d) To prepare a document providing possible actions by the Conference of the Parties, should the Conference conclude that there is no continued need for the various acceptable purposes for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride listed in Annex B, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

11. *Invites* parties to transmit to the Secretariat no later than eight months before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties information related to the interpretation and application of Article 4 of the Convention, for consideration and further discussion by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile the information provided by parties pursuant to paragraph 11 above and to make it available on the Stockholm Convention website no later than six months before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex to decision SC-7/5

Revised schedule for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutant

1. The following standard schedule is applied in order to provide the Conference of the Parties with the information on which to base its evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention, which is to take place every four years.

2. The year in which a given evaluation is to take place is referred to as “year 4”. The year before the year of the evaluation is referred to as “year 3” and the year two years before the year of the evaluation is referred to as “year 2”. For example, in the case of the evaluation to take place at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2019, year 2 refers to 2017, year 3 refers to 2018 and year 4 refers to 2019.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Timing</i>
The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee develops terms of reference for the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF on the basis of information specified in paragraph 5 (c) of part III of Annex B.	October, year 2
The Secretariat invites parties to submit information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.	November, year 2
Deadline for submission of information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF	February, year 3
The Secretariat prepares a preliminary report on the assessment of information on alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and submits it to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.	June, year 3
Parties submit information on PFOS in the process of reporting under Article 15 and other information specified in paragraph 5 (d) of part III of Annex B.	August, year 3 (in accordance with the decision on national reporting)
The Secretariat prepares a draft report for the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF and submits it to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.	September, year 3
The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee completes the report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and provides comments on the draft report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF prepared by the Secretariat.	October, year 3
The Secretariat finalizes the report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.	February, year 4
Evaluation by the Conference of the Parties.	May, year 4

SC-7/6: Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report set out in the annex to the note by the Secretariat on the evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3, and of the conclusions contained therein;¹⁹
2. *Concludes* that there is a continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3;
3. *Recalls* that parties wishing to export chemicals listed in Annex A or B to the Convention to a State not party to the Convention must transmit to the Secretariat the certification from the importing State as required by paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 of the Convention, using the certification template adopted for that purpose;²⁰
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake awareness-raising activities, subject to the availability of resources, on the procedure and the certification format adopted for the export of chemicals listed in Annex A or B to the Convention to a State not party to the Convention;
5. *Decides* to review the effectiveness of the procedure set out in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 at its ninth meeting;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report on the effectiveness of the procedure set out in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3, based on party reports submitted pursuant to Article 15, certifications from exporting parties pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 and other relevant information, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting.

¹⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/10.

²⁰ Decision SC-6/5, annex.

SC-7/7: Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report of the expert meeting on best available techniques and best environmental practices and the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants under the Stockholm Convention²¹ and the conclusions and recommendations of the Toolkit experts;²²
2. *Recognizes* that the listing of new substances in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention will trigger the need to further update existing guidance and/or develop new guidance to support parties in implementing new obligations, requiring specific expertise;
3. *Requests* the Toolkit experts:
 - (a) To continue the work identified in their conclusions and recommendations;
 - (b) In consultation with the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices, to develop joint terms of reference for the synergistic consideration of aspects relevant to releases from unintentional production and best available techniques and best environmental practices for the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to support the Toolkit experts in the work referred to in paragraph 3 above, to implement awareness-raising and technical assistance activities to promote the Toolkit and to report on the progress made to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
5. *Encourages* parties to use the Toolkit, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Toolkit experts, when developing source inventories and release estimates under Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention and reporting estimated releases under Article 15 according to the source categories identified in Annex C;
6. *Invites* parties to provide comments to the Secretariat on their experience in using the Toolkit.

²¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/19.

²² UNEP/POPS/COP.7/12, annex.

SC-7/8: Guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the nominations to the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster,²³ the report of the second expert meeting on best available techniques and best environmental practices²⁴ and the conclusions and recommendations of the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices;²⁵
2. *Adopts* the workplan set out in the annex to the present decision;
3. *Takes note* of the revised draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention²⁶ and the revised draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers listed under the Stockholm Convention;²⁷
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, in consultation with the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices, and considering the work on the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention,²⁸ to revise the draft guidance referred to in paragraph 3 above in order to update the references to the work under the Basel Convention, in particular the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants as adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Basel Convention, and to reflect the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;
5. *Recognizes* that listing of new substances in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention will trigger the need to further update existing guidance and/or develop new guidance to support parties in implementing new obligations, requiring specific expertise;
6. *Requests* the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices:
 - (a) To continue the work on the ongoing review and updating of the guidelines and guidance;
 - (b) In consultation with the Toolkit experts, to develop joint terms of reference for synergistically considering aspects relevant to releases from unintentional production and best available techniques and best environmental practices for the chemicals listed in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue implementing the process for the ongoing review and updating of the guidelines and guidance as referred to in paragraph 6 above, as well as awareness-raising and technical assistance activities to promote the guidelines and guidance, and to report on progress to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
8. *Invites* parties, States not party to the Convention, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and industry to participate actively in the review and updating of the guidelines and guidance and to submit relevant information to the Secretariat for consideration by the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices;

²³ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/20.

²⁴ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/19.

²⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/14, annex.

²⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/21.

²⁷ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/22.

²⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/8, annex I.

9. *Invites* parties and others to nominate experts with specific expertise in best available techniques and best environmental practices, in particular those relevant to the chemicals that were listed in the annexes to the Stockholm Convention in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, to the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster;

10. *Encourages* parties and others to use the guidelines and guidance when applying best available techniques and best environmental practices in the implementation of action plans and other actions related to the obligations under the Convention and to share their experiences in using the guidelines and guidance, such as in the form of case studies, by means of the Stockholm Convention clearing-house mechanism.

Annex to decision SC-7/8

Workplan for the ongoing review and update of the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices

I. Areas of work

(a) Guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A or Annex B

Draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention

1. Collect and evaluate new information on areas of concern identified by parties regarding the management of stockpiles and products and articles in use consisting of or containing PFOS, the assessment and remediation of PFOS-contaminated sites and success stories regarding the implementation of alternatives and revise and supplement the guidance document as appropriate, including through the development of case studies.

2. Consider the further updating of references and revise existing information to increase the overall consistency of the guidance document.

3. Consider restructuring the guidance document with a view to improving its user-friendliness.

Draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) listed under the Stockholm Convention

4. Collect and evaluate new information on areas of concern identified by parties regarding separation technologies for PBDE-containing plastic, assessment and remediation of PBDE-contaminated sites, update of the technologies listed and revise and supplement the guidance document as appropriate, including through development of case studies.

5. Consider the further updating of references and revise existing information to increase the overall consistency of the guidance document.

6. Consider restructuring the guidance document with a view to improving its user-friendliness.

Best available techniques and best environmental practices for other persistent organic pollutants

7. Collect and evaluate information on areas of concern identified by parties regarding the management of materials containing hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD) and develop additional guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as appropriate, taking into account the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with HBCD as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its twelfth meeting.

8. Assess the need for developing additional guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for other persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention, taking into account existing technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants developed under the Basel Convention.

9. Collect and evaluate information relevant to best available techniques and best environmental practices for the persistent organic pollutants that were listed in the annexes to the Convention at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

(b) Guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C

10. Collect and evaluate new information on key sources of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants as identified by parties and the Toolkit experts, recently updated best available technologies reference documents (BREFs) and national documents on best available techniques and best environmental practices and supplement and update the guidelines as appropriate.

11. Collect and evaluate information on best available techniques and best environmental practices for sources of releases of the persistent organic pollutants that were listed in the annexes to the Convention at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, assess the applicability of the existing guidance for those substances and supplement and update the guidelines as appropriate.

(c) Alternatives

12. With regard to the guidelines on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C to the Convention, supplement with new information on available alternative techniques and practices, including locally developed alternatives, and on the use of substitute or modified materials, products and processes.

13. With regard to the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A or Annex B to the Convention, supplement with new information on available alternatives as identified by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

(d) Remediation of contaminated sites

14. Collect and evaluate information relevant to the remediation of contaminated sites and assess the need for the development of guidance.

II. Timelines

<i>Scheduled date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Ongoing throughout 2015–2017	Collection of information specified in the workplan for the ongoing review and updating of the guidelines on best available techniques and provisional guidance on best environmental practices
February 2015	Task teams and leads are identified from the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster for each area of work included in the workplan
May 2015	Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties
May 2015	Secretariat invites information submissions from parties and others on the areas for further work identified in the workplan
By September 2015	<p>Task teams assess information submissions to date and develop a proposal for updating existing guidance and/or developing additional guidance for each area of work, including proposed revisions, restructuring and the development of case studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task team leads send the draft proposals to the Secretariat by 21 September 2015 • Secretariat sends the draft proposals for review by the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts by 25 September 2015

<i>Scheduled date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
November 2015	Joint meeting of the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts to consider revisions and/or additional guidance according to the proposals by task teams
By April 2016	<p>Task teams prepare first drafts of updated and/or additional guidance on the basis of the assessment of information submitted and comments by the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task team leads send first drafts to the Secretariat by 25 April 2016 • Secretariat sends the drafts for review by the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts by 29 April 2016 • Secretariat makes available the drafts on the Stockholm Convention website by 29 April 2016 for comment by parties and others by 30 June 2016
By June 2016	Parties and others send to the Secretariat by 30 June 2016 their comments on the drafts submitted for their review
July 2016	<p>Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts provide comments on the draft updated and/or additional guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat compiles the comments and sends the compilation to task teams and leads by 24 June 2016
October 2016	<p>Task teams revise the draft updated and/or additional guidance on the basis of the comments received and additional information collected intersessionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task team leads send the drafts to the Secretariat by 24 October 2016 • Secretariat sends the drafts to the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts by 28 October 2016
November 2016	Joint meeting of the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices experts to review the draft guidance and develop conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.
January 2017	<p>Task teams finalize the draft guidance on the basis of the agreement at the November joint meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task team leads send the final drafts to the Secretariat by 15 January 2017
May 2017	Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

SC-7/9: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* with appreciation decision BC-12/3 on technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants, by which the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at its twelfth meeting, adopted updated general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants²⁹ and other technical guidelines specific to persistent organic pollutants listed in that decision;

2. *Notes* that the updated general technical guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its twelfth meeting:

(a) Establish provisional definitions for low persistent organic pollutant content;³⁰

(b) Establish a provisional definition for levels of destruction and irreversible transformation;³¹

(c) Determine methods considered to constitute environmentally sound disposal;³²

3. *Reminds* parties to take into account the above-mentioned technical guidelines when implementing their obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention;

4. *Encourages* the introduction and demonstration in developing countries and countries with economies in transition of cost-effective methods selected from those listed in section IV.G of the general technical guidelines;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support parties in meeting their obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Convention, taking into account the above-mentioned technical guidelines;

6. *Invites* the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention, with regard to the chemicals newly listed in Annexes A and C to the Stockholm Convention by decisions SC-7/12, SC-7/13 and SC-7/14:

(a) To establish for those chemicals the levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to ensure that the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants, as specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D to the Stockholm Convention, are not exhibited;

(b) To determine what they consider to be the methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal under paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;

(c) To work to establish, as appropriate, the concentration levels in order to define for those chemicals the low persistent organic pollutant content referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Convention;

(d) To further update, if need be, the general technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants and to update or develop new specific technical guidelines under the Basel Convention;

7. *Invites* experts working under the Stockholm Convention who are not already doing so to participate in the work under the Basel Convention on updating the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants.

²⁹ UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.2/Rev.1.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, sect. III.A.

³¹ *Ibid.*, sect. III.B.

³² *Ibid.*, sect. IV.G.

SC-7/10: Implementation plans

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the additional implementation plans transmitted by parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants including the revised and updated plans;
2. *Takes note* of the deadlines for the transmission of revised and updated implementation plans;³³
3. *Encourages* those parties that have not transmitted their implementation plans within the deadlines to do so as soon as possible;
4. *Takes note* of the revised draft versions of the following guidance documents:
 - (a) Guidance for developing a national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (draft, updated in 2014);³⁴
 - (b) Draft guidance for the inventory of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention (2015);³⁵
 - (c) Draft guidance for the inventory of polybrominated diphenyl ethers listed under the Stockholm Convention (2015);³⁶
5. *Encourages* parties to use the revised guidance documents listed in part A of the annex to the present decision when developing, reviewing and updating their national implementation plans;³⁷
6. *Requests* parties and others to provide comments to the Secretariat based on their experience in using the most up-to-date versions of guidance documents to assist parties in developing, reviewing and updating their national implementation plans, as listed in part A of the annex to the present decision, on how to improve their usefulness, and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to update the guidance documents listed in part A of the annex, as appropriate;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To continue, subject to the availability of resources, to update the guidance listed in part B of the annex to the present decision, as appropriate, on the basis of the comments received from Parties and others by 31 March 2016;
 - (b) To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, capacity-building and training activities to support parties and, hence, facilitate the development, revision and updating of national implementation plans, taking into account the guidance documents listed in part A of the annex to the present decision;
 - (c) To develop new guidance on inventorying, as necessary and subject to the availability of resources, the persistent organic pollutants listed by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting in decisions SC-7/12, SC-7/13 and SC-7/14;
 - (d) To identify for consideration at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties whether any additional guidance might be required to assist parties in the development, review and updating of national implementation plans;

³³ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/24.

³⁴ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/25.

³⁵ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/26.

³⁶ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/27.

³⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/16, annex. The full set of guidance documents to assist parties in developing, reviewing and updating their national implementation plans is available on the Convention website at <http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/tabid/2882/Default.aspx>.

(e) To submit a report on further progress on those matters, including revisions of the guidance set out in the annex to the present decision, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighth meeting.

ADVANCE

Annex to decision SC-7/10

List of available guidance on developing, reviewing and updating national implementation plans³⁸

Part A

Guidance on the development and updating of national implementation plans
Guidance for developing a national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (draft, updated in 2014)
Additional guidance
Draft guidance for the inventory of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2015)
Draft guidance for the inventory of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2015)

Part B

Draft guidance on socio-economic assessment for national implementation plan development and implementation under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2007)
Draft guidance on calculation of action plan costs for specific persistent organic pollutants (2012)
Draft guidance for the control of the import and export of persistent organic pollutants (2012)
Labelling of products or articles that contain persistent organic pollutants – initial considerations (draft, 2012)
Draft guidance on sampling, screening and analysis of persistent organic pollutants in products and articles (2013)
Draft guidance for the identification, inventory and substitution of hexabromocyclododecane (2015)

³⁸ Also available on the Convention website at:
<http://chm.pops.int/Implementation/NIPs/Guidance/tabid/2882/Default.aspx>.

SC-7/11: Further consideration of hexachlorobutadiene

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list hexachlorobutadiene in Annexes A and C to the Convention,³⁹

Recalling its decision SC-7/12, by which it lists hexachlorobutadiene in Annex A to the Convention,

Taking note of the new information provided at its seventh meeting with regard to unintentional production of hexachlorobutadiene,

1. *Requests* the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to further evaluate hexachlorobutadiene on the basis of the newly available information in relation to its listing in Annex C;
2. *Invites* parties and observers to submit any additional information to the Secretariat that would assist the further evaluation by the Committee of the unintentional production of hexachlorobutadiene;
3. *Requests* the Committee to make a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on listing hexachlorobutadiene in Annex C for further consideration at its eighth meeting.

³⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/19.

SC-7/12: Listing of hexachlorobutadiene

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and the risk management evaluation for hexachlorobutadiene as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,⁴⁰

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list hexachlorobutadiene in Annexes A and C to the Convention,⁴¹

Decides to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list hexachlorobutadiene therein without specific exemptions by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Hexachlorobutadiene (CAS No: 87-68-3)	Production	None
	Use	None

⁴⁰ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/16/Add.2 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13/Add.2.

⁴¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/19.

SC-7/13: Listing of pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and the risk management evaluation for pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,⁴²

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions for the production and use of pentachlorophenol for utility poles and cross-arms,⁴³

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters therein with specific exemptions for production as allowed for the parties listed in the register of specific exemptions and for the use of pentachlorophenol for utility poles and cross-arms by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters	Production	As allowed for the parties listed in the Register in accordance with the provisions of part VIII of this Annex
	Use	Pentachlorophenol for utility poles and cross-arms in accordance with the provisions of part VIII of this Annex

2. *Also decides* to insert a new note (vi) in part I of Annex A, as follows:

(vi) Pentachlorophenol (CAS No: 87-86-5), sodium pentachlorophenate (CAS No: 131-52-2 and 27735-64-4 (as monohydrate)) and pentachlorophenyl laurate (CAS No: 3772-94-9), when considered together with their transformation product pentachloroanisole (CAS No: 1825-21-4), were identified as persistent organic pollutants;

3. *Further decides* to insert a new part VIII in Annex A as follows:

Part VIII

Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters

Each Party that has registered for the exemption pursuant to Article 4 for the production and use of pentachlorophenol for utility poles and cross-arms shall take the necessary measures to ensure that utility poles and cross-arms containing pentachlorophenol can be easily identified by labelling or other means throughout their life cycles. Articles treated with pentachlorophenol should not be reused for purposes other than those exempted.

⁴² UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13/Add.3 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10/Add.1.

⁴³ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/20.

SC-7/14: Listing of polychlorinated naphthalenes

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and the risk management evaluation for chlorinated naphthalenes as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,⁴⁴

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes and octachlorinated naphthalene in Annexes A and C to the Convention,⁴⁵

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list therein polychlorinated naphthalenes, including dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes, octachlorinated naphthalene, with specific exemptions for production of those chemicals as intermediates in production of polyfluorinated naphthalenes, including octafluoronaphthalene, and the use of those chemicals for the production of polyfluorinated naphthalenes, including octafluoronaphthalene, by inserting the following row:

Chemical	Activity	Specific exemption
Polychlorinated naphthalenes, including dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes, octachlorinated naphthalene	Production	Intermediates in production of polyfluorinated naphthalenes, including octafluoronaphthalene
	Use	Production of polyfluorinated naphthalenes, including octafluoronaphthalene

2. *Also decides* to amend part I of Annex C to the Convention to list therein polychlorinated naphthalenes, including dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes, octachlorinated naphthalene, by inserting “Polychlorinated naphthalenes, including dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes, octachlorinated naphthalene” in the “Chemical” table in a new line below “polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans (PCDD/PCDF)” and by deleting the word “and” before “polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans” and inserting “and polychlorinated naphthalenes, including dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes, octachlorinated naphthalene,” after “polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans” in the first paragraph of parts II and III of Annex C.

⁴⁴ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/16/Add.1 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13/Add.1.

⁴⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/18.

SC-7/15: Operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the reports of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its ninth and tenth meetings⁴⁶ and documents forwarded by the Committee to the Conference of the Parties;⁴⁷
2. *Appoints* the 17 designated experts⁴⁸ to serve as members of the Committee;
3. *Adopts* the list of 14 parties to be invited to nominate Committee members for terms of office commencing on 5 May 2016 set out in the annex to the present decision;
4. *Elects* Ms. Estefânia Moreira (Brazil) as the Chair of the Committee;
5. *Welcomes* the guidance to assist parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Chemical Review Committee in their work when a chemical under consideration is a persistent organic pollutant listed under the Stockholm Convention;⁴⁹
6. *Also welcomes* the guidance on how to assess the possible impact of climate change on the work of the Committee⁵⁰ as well as the approach to the consideration of climate change interactions with chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention and the recommendations developed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the basis of the guidance;⁵¹
7. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretariat on the experience in the organization of the back-to-back meetings and the joint meeting of the Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;⁵²
8. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to support parties and others to participate effectively in the work of the Committee as listed in decision POPRC-10/7 and to report on the results of those activities to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.
9. *Encourages* parties and observers to submit information specified in Annex E and Annex F in response to requests for input from the Committee, recognizing that increased participation will contribute to the comprehensiveness of reports, and to support the Committee in the preparation of its recommendations.

⁴⁶ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13 and Add.1-3 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10 and Add.1 and 2.

⁴⁷ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/11/Rev.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/20, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/7/Rev.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/8/Rev.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/10/Rev.1, decision POPRC-9/7 and decision POPRC-10/4.

⁴⁸ See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/4 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/3.

⁴⁹ See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/11/Rev.1.

⁵⁰ See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/15.

⁵¹ Decision POPRC-9/8, annexes I and II.

⁵² UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/13.

Annex to decision SC-7/15**List of parties to nominate members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee with terms of office commencing on 5 May 2016****African States**

Kenya

Mali

Swaziland

Tunisia

Asian-Pacific States

China

Indonesia

Japan

Nepal

Central and Eastern European States

Poland

Latin American and Caribbean States

Brazil

Jamaica

Western European and other States

Luxembourg

Switzerland

The Netherlands

SC-7/16: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretariat on technical assistance for the implementation of the Convention;⁵³
2. *Welcomes* the development of a database for the collection of information pertaining to the needs of parties for the implementation of the Convention, as well as information on available assistance;
3. *Invites* developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition to provide information to the Secretariat on their needs in terms of technical assistance and technology transfer, according to the provisions of the Convention, their difficulties in implementing the Convention and any other views in this regard;
4. *Invites* developed-country parties and others with the capacity to do so to continue to provide information to the Secretariat, according to the provisions of the Convention, on the technical assistance and technology that they have available to be transferred to developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect the information pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 above, through tailored electronic questionnaires, making full use of the database for the collection of the needs of parties in implementing their obligations under the Convention, and also requests the Secretariat to analyse such information and to identify the gaps and barriers regarding technical assistance and technology transfer and to propose recommendations and take action to address those problems;
6. *Welcomes* the technical assistance programme⁵⁴ and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement it in cooperation with relevant actors and to take into account the elements contained therein when carrying out its work to facilitate the delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and urges parties and others in a position to do so to provide funding and other resources to support the implementation of the activities contained in the technical assistance programme;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat, when implementing the technical assistance programme referred to in paragraph 6 above, to take into account the specific needs for technical assistance expressed by developing country parties and parties with economies in transition resulting from the listing of new chemicals in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention, in particular in the areas of the development of inventories, the monitoring of persistent organic pollutants in the environment and access to information on the availability of technologies for controlling new chemicals in Annex C and their cost;
8. *Authorizes* the Secretariat to contract independent financial audits of capacity-building and technical assistance projects and other related activities undertaken at the regional and/or national level in the implementation of the conventions, subject to the availability of resources, in cases where such audits appear necessary;
9. *Emphasizes* the key role of the regional centres, as contained 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 and subregional offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in delivering technical assistance upon request at the regional level regarding the implementation of the technical assistance programme and facilitating technology transfer to eligible parties;

⁵³ See UNEP/CHW.12/13-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/13-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/13.

⁵⁴ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/25-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/16.

10. *Requests the Secretariat:*

- (a) To submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on progress made in providing technical assistance for capacity-building and the promotion of technology transfer to parties, taking into account the information collected pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 above;
- (b) To prepare a technical assistance programme for the biennium 2018–2019 based on the information collected pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 4 above, taking into account the synergies process as well as the evaluation of the technical assistance programme.

ADVANCE

SC-7/17: Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional and subregional centres in enhancing the provision of technical assistance for capacity-building to support the national efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions in accordance with their terms of reference;
2. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and requests them to cooperate and coordinate among themselves on areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;
3. *Recalls* the omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement 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, adopted by the conferences of the parties at their 2013 simultaneous extraordinary meetings,⁵⁵ by which the conferences of the parties made recommendations on follow-up to the review of the synergies arrangements which, among others, underline that synergies should be enhanced at the national and regional levels, with particular attention to reinforcing cooperation and coordination and rationalization of the Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention regional centres;
4. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste, by which the Assembly acknowledged the role of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres to support the implementation of those conventions;
5. *Takes into account* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, that highlights the critical role that the sound management of chemicals and waste can play in promoting sustainable development and emphasizes its great relevance to the post-2015 development agenda;
6. *Takes note of:*
 - (a) The information provided in the note by the Secretariat on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology;⁵⁶
 - (b) The workplans for the biennium 2014–2015⁵⁷ and activity reports for the period 2013-2014⁵⁸ submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;
 - (c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat⁵⁹ and the summary of the draft evaluation report;⁶⁰
 - (d) The report on the activities of the regional and subregional centres;⁶¹
7. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties;⁶²
8. *Notes* the performance of the regional centres and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and actions in supporting developing-country parties;
9. *Endorses* for another period of four years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision;

⁵⁵ Decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1, annex I.

⁵⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11.

⁵⁷ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx>.

⁵⁸ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReport/tabid/4112/Default.aspx>.

⁵⁹ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/13.

⁶⁰ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11, annex II.

⁶¹ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14.

⁶² Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21 and SC-6/16.

10. *Underlines* the need to have an efficient and effective network of centres through greater institutional coordination and the promotion of the exchange of information, lessons learned and cooperation among them on areas of expertise in which they provide assistance, through regular communication, including meetings of the centres and increased use of other means of communication;

11. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Their workplans for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019 by 30 September 2015;

(b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 by 31 December 2016, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the evaluation of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision, based on the performance evaluation methodology adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

(b) To prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, including an assessment of how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the network of centres;

(c) To consider possible adjustments to the methodology for evaluating regional centres, taking into account lessons learned, the views of the centres, as well as the views of parties, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, and invites the centres and parties to provide their views on these by 30 June 2016;

13. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, taking into account the possible adjustments referred to in paragraph 12 (c) above, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision and to reconsider, pursuant to decision SC-3/12, their status as regional and subregional centres under the Convention at its ninth meeting and every four years thereafter;

14. *Invites* developed-country parties and other parties, in accordance with their capabilities, to consider ways to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance and the promotion of technology transfer under the Convention to promote the sound management of chemicals and wastes, sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment and further invites them to consider opportunities for effective and efficient cooperation with the regional centres in implementing the regional sound management of chemicals and wastes projects;

15. *Takes note* of the challenges faced by some centres and invites parties, as well as other regional centres in a position to do so, to cooperate with and support those regional centres through the exchange of best practices, the provision of technical assistance and the promotion of technology transfer;

16. *Recalls* that sustainable financial and technical resources are necessary for the centres to succeed in their work under the Convention and invites parties, observers and others in a position to do so, including industry and the wider private sector as well as relevant financial institutions, to provide financial support to enable Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to implement their workplans aimed at supporting parties in implementing their obligations under the Convention;

17. *Invites* all regional and subregional centres undertaking activities on mercury-related issues under the Convention, including projects and activities about the dissemination of information, capacity-building and technology transfer, to provide the relevant information, which will be taken into account by the Secretariat for the evaluation, in accordance with the applicable synergy criterion, and requests the Secretariat to forward that information to the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury for possible consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury at its seventh session;

18. *Requests the Secretariat:*

(a) To continue to recommend concrete activities on synergies between the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other related centres to the Conference of the Parties for possible decision;

(b) To continue to foster a synergistic approach in its relations with the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other related centres, while recognizing the specificities and mandate of each centre;

(c) To continue to organize meetings every two years between the directors of regional centres and the Secretariat, including possible observers as appropriate, and if possible to consider additional meetings, subject to the availability of resources;

(d) To submit a report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

ADVANCE

Annex to decision SC-7/17**List of Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed for another four-year period by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting**

Region	Regional centres
Africa	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Algeria (SCRC Algeria)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kenya (SCRC Kenya)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Senegal (SCRC Senegal)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, South Africa (SCRC South Africa)
Asia and the Pacific	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, China (SCRC China)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, India (SCRC India)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Indonesia (SCRC Indonesia)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran (SCRC Iran)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kuwait (SCRC Kuwait)
Central and Eastern Europe	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Czech Republic (SCRC Czech Republic)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Russian Federation (SCRC Russian Federation)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Brazil (SCRC Brazil)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Mexico (SCRC Mexico)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Panama (SCRC Panama)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and Transfer of Technology, Uruguay (SCRC Uruguay)
Western Europe and others	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Spain (SCRC Spain)

SC-7/18: Assessment of funding needs

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat reviewing the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and the ways and means of mobilizing and channelling those resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, as requested by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in resolution 2;⁶³
2. *Also takes note* of the entry into force of the 2009 amendments, 2011 amendments, 2013 amendments and other amendments which will enter into force before the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the funding implications;
3. *Also takes note* of the information provided by developed country parties, other parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, on ways in which they can support the Convention;⁶⁴
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, on the basis of the most recent needs assessment, to develop an online questionnaire to potential donors on the way in which they can support the Convention in relation to specific key areas identified in the needs assessment, including information related to accessing this support;
5. *Invites* developed country parties, other parties and other sources, including relevant funding institutions and the private sector, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 October 2016, with further information on the ways in which they can support the Convention, based on, inter alia, the questionnaire mentioned in paragraph 4 above;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report reviewing, on the basis of the information to be provided in accordance with paragraph 3 above, the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility and the ways and means of mobilizing and channelling such resources in support of the objectives of the Convention, as requested by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in resolution 2, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
7. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2018–2022, as set out in the annex to the present decision;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To update, as appropriate, and to make available to all parties, the format and the list of general guidance documents set out, respectively, in annexes II and III to decision SC-5/22;
 - (b) To develop, within available resources, online questionnaires for collecting relevant information pursuant to paragraph 5 above;
 - (c) To provide assistance to parties, upon request, to facilitate their assessment of the resources used during the period 2012–2016 and the funding that they need in order to implement the Convention during the period 2018–2022;
9. *Invites* parties and others to follow the format and general guidance referred to in paragraph 8 (a) above and to provide, by 31 August 2016, the relevant information required to undertake the assessment of funding needs referred to in paragraph 8 (c) above.

⁶³ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/32.

⁶⁴ See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/31.

Annex to decision SC-7/18

Terms of reference for the assessment of funding needed by developing country parties and parties with economies in transition to implement the Convention over the period 2018–2022

A. Objectives

1. The objectives of the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference are:

(a) To enable the Conference of the Parties to provide to the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism referred to in Article 13 of the Convention and to other entities, should they be so entrusted, at periodic intervals, assessments of the total funding, which consists of funding for baseline and agreed full incremental costs, needed by parties eligible for assistance from the financial mechanism to facilitate their effective implementation of the Convention;

(b) To provide the principal entity and any other entities with a framework and modalities for the determination in a predictable and identifiable manner of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention by parties eligible for assistance from the financial mechanism.

B. Methodology

2. Pursuant to the objectives in paragraph 1 above, the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference will be facilitated and coordinated by the Secretariat with a view to enabling a team of up to three independent experts to undertake, over a period of up to three months, a full assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2018–2022, based on, among other things, the experience with and lessons learned from the methodology and on available data gained from the preliminary assessments of funding needs for the periods 2006–2010,⁶⁶ 2010–2014⁶⁷ and 2015–2019,⁶⁸ for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

3. The assessment will include an estimation of baseline and agreed full incremental costs of activities described primarily in national implementation plans and required to implement parties' obligations under the Convention.

4. The methodology for assessing the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention shall be transparent, reliable and replicable.

C. Execution and sources of information

5. In developing the assessment of funding needs, the work will draw primarily upon information provided by parties in the national implementation plans submitted pursuant to Article 7 and reports submitted by parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention.

6. Relevant supplementary information, where available, will be drawn from the Secretariat and from:

(a) Parties, which are requested to provide information on funding needs associated with implementation of the Convention using an updated version of the format set forth in annex II to decision SC-5/22 and any other information on their experiences in implementing the Convention;

(b) The Global Environment Facility, which, as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism on an interim basis, is invited to provide information gathered through its operations relevant to the assistance needs of eligible parties;

(c) Other international financial institutions that provide bilateral or multilateral financial or technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention, which are invited to provide information on such assistance, including the levels of such assistance;

⁶⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.3/19, with terms of reference for the assessment set forth in the annex to decision SC-2/12.

⁶⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/27, with terms of reference for the assessment set forth in the annex to decision SC-3/15.

⁶⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/20 and UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/20, with terms of reference for the assessment set forth in annex I to decision SC-5/22.

(d) Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, which are invited to provide information relating to the needs assessment;

(e) The secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, which are invited to provide information relevant to modalities for conducting similar needs assessments in connection with their agreements.

D. Scope

7. The assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention should be comprehensive and primarily directed towards assessing total funding needs, with a view to identifying funding needed for baseline and agreed full incremental costs to enable all parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

E. Process

8. The information identified above should be provided to the Secretariat by 31 August 2016. Any future updating of such information will be decided upon by the Conference of the Parties.

9. Based on the information that it receives from the Secretariat, the team of experts referred to in paragraph 2 above will prepare a report on the assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2018–2022 and for all continuing needs, as identified in previous assessments of baselines, of developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition, and transmit it to the Secretariat.

10. The Secretariat shall present the report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting for its consideration and subsequent action, including for the purpose of informing the replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility.

SC-7/19: Effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the note by the Secretariat on the report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;⁶⁹
2. *Welcomes* the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention,⁷⁰ takes note of the leveraging ratio of 1:3 between the Facility project grant and other resources, and also takes note of the concerns raised by some parties in this regard;
3. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, in its regular reports, to continue to report on paragraphs 7–13 of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility as contained in the annex to decision SC-1/11;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the effectiveness of the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility, including more details on the follow-up actions, as well as information on the application of the Facility co-financing policy, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

⁶⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/22.

⁷⁰ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/23 (executive summary) and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/33 (full report).

SC-7/20: Fourth review of the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism set out in the annex to the present decision;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile information relevant to the fourth review of the financial mechanism and submit it to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighth meeting.

Annex to decision SC-7/20

Terms of reference for the fourth review of the financial mechanism

I. Objective

1. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, the Conference of the Parties will review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism established under Article 13 in supporting the implementation of the Convention, with a view to taking appropriate action, if necessary, to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by means of recommendations and guidance to ensure adequate and sustainable funding. For this purpose, the review will include an analysis of:
 - (a) The ability of the financial mechanism to meet the changing needs of developing-country parties and parties with economies in transition;
 - (b) The criteria and guidance referred to in paragraph 7 of Article 13 of the Convention, including the financial mechanism's ability to incorporate policy guidance from the Conference of the Parties;
 - (c) The level of funding;
 - (d) The effectiveness of the performance of the institutional entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, including, pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, the effectiveness of the performance of the Global Environment Facility in its capacity as the principal entity entrusted, on an interim basis, with the operation of the financial mechanism.

A. Methodology

2. The review will cover the activities of the financial mechanism for the period from August 2012 to July 2016, with special emphasis on the activities concluded during that period.
3. The review will draw on, among others, the following sources of information:
 - (a) Information provided by parties on their experiences gained through their interactions with the financial mechanism;
 - (b) Periodic reviews by the Conference of the Parties of the conformity of the activities of the financial mechanism with the guidance⁷¹ provided to it;
 - (c) Reports submitted to the Conference of the Parties by the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism;⁷²

⁷¹ Pursuant to paragraph 7 of Article 13, the Conference of the Parties adopted guidance to the financial mechanism by its decision SC-1/9. In its subsequent decisions SC-2/11, SC-3/16, SC-4/27, SC-4/28, SC-5/23 and SC-6/20, the Conference of the Parties provided additional guidance to the financial mechanism.

⁷² See paragraphs 14 and 15 of the memorandum of understanding between the Council of the Global Environment Facility and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC-1/11, annex).

- (d) Other reports provided by the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, including, among other things, reports of the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility;
 - (e) Reports and information provided by other relevant entities providing multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention;
 - (f) Reports submitted by parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention;
 - (g) Relevant information provided by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
 - (h) Reports on the determination of the amount of funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention.
4. In keeping with these terms of reference, the Secretariat will:
- (a) Make adequate arrangements to ensure that the fourth review of the financial mechanism is undertaken in an independent and transparent manner;
 - (b) Hire a consultant to prepare a draft report on the review;
 - (c) Submit the draft report on the review to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighth meeting.
5. The entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism are requested to provide information relevant to the review in a timely manner.
6. Parties are encouraged to provide information pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) above as soon as possible and not later than 31 August 2016.
7. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are requested to provide relevant information pursuant to the objectives of the present review as soon as possible and no later than 31 August 2016.

B. Report

8. The report on the fourth review will include the following elements:
- (a) Overview of elements (a)–(d) of paragraph 1 above;
 - (b) Analysis of lessons learned from the activities funded by the financial mechanism during the period covered by the review;
 - (c) Assessment of the Global Environment Facility principles of incremental cost and global environmental benefits as they pertain to activities involving persistent organic pollutants, in order to facilitate fulfilment of obligations under the Convention, along with lessons learned from the evaluation reports on activities of the Facility;
 - (d) Assessment of the adequacy, sustainability and predictability, transparency and accessibility of the funding provided by the financial mechanism for implementation of the objectives of the Convention;
 - (e) Recommendations and guidance to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in meeting the objectives of the Convention;
 - (f) The performance criteria set out in paragraph 10 below.
9. The Secretariat will submit the above-mentioned report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighth meeting. The report will be deemed an official document of the Conference of the Parties.

C. Performance criteria

10. The effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be assessed, taking into account, among other things:

- (a) Responsiveness of the financial mechanism and the entities entrusted with its operation to guidance from the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) Responsiveness of the Global Environment Facility, in its capacity as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism on an interim basis, to the resolutions adopted on 22 May 2001 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries relating to interim financial arrangements;⁷³
- (c) Transparency of the project approval process;
- (d) Simplicity, flexibility and expeditiousness of the procedures for accessing funds;
- (e) Adequacy and sustainability of the resources;
- (f) Country ownership of activities funded by the financial mechanism;
- (g) Level of stakeholder involvement;
- (h) Any other significant issues raised by the parties.

⁷³ UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, appendix I.

SC-7/21: Additional guidance to the financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Stresses* that the sound management of chemicals and wastes has a global environmental benefit and emphasizes that the sound management of chemicals and wastes is an essential element of sustainable development;
2. *Reaffirms* the guidance to the financial mechanism that it adopted in previous decisions, as reflected in the note by the Secretariat;⁷⁴
3. *Recalls* decisions BC-IX/10, RC-4/11 and SC-4/34, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement 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, in which the conferences of the parties encourage parties to all three conventions to support the delivery of coherent and coordinated messages to the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international financial institutions and instruments on funding for the sound management of chemicals and wastes for the implementation of the conventions;
4. *Recalls* that the Global Environment Facility is the principal financial mechanism on an interim basis to the Stockholm Convention;
5. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Global Environment Facility chemicals and waste focal area, its strategy and the increased funds allocated for chemicals and waste and encourages the Facility to continue to enhance synergies in its activities, taking into account the co-benefits for the Basel and Rotterdam conventions and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, while first addressing the needs of the Stockholm Convention;
6. *Notes with concern* that there is no increase in funding for the Stockholm Convention under the sixth replenishment of the trust fund of the Global Environment Facility;
7. *Notes* the evolving funding needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Stockholm Convention and the chemicals and waste agenda and reaffirms the request to the Global Environment Facility to respond in that regard;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to identify possible elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the Facility that also address the relevant priorities of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its eighth meeting;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to inform the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury at its seventh session about the task outlined in paragraph 8 above;
10. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting on the consultations with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility;
11. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to include in its regular reports to the Conference of the Parties information on the implementation of the guidance set forth in the present decision.

⁷⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/29.

SC-7/22: Implementation of the integrated approach to financing

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information presented in the note by the Secretariat;⁷⁵
2. *Joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in welcoming an integrated approach to addressing the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, underscoring that the three components of an integrated approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels and emphasizing the importance of implementing the three components, as agreed in decision 27/12 of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council, requests the Secretariat to assist parties in that respect, subject to the availability of resources, and recognizes the importance of the joint programme of work to that end;
3. *Welcomes* paragraphs 5 and 8 of decision SC-7/21 on the Stockholm Convention guidance to the Global Environment Facility, which encourages the Facility to continue to enhance synergies of its activities taking into account co-benefits for the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
4. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, including the agreement to establish the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and looks forward to the early start of the special programme's operations;
5. *Welcomes* that according to the terms of reference of the special programme the Executive Secretary may participate as an observer in the meetings of the executive board of the special programme, requests him to attend such meetings and requests the Secretariat to cooperate, as appropriate, with the secretariat of the special programme;
6. *Joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly in encouraging Governments in a position to do so, as well as the private sector, including industry, foundations, other non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to mobilize financial resources for the fast and effective establishment and start of the implementation of the special programme;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to ensure that the activities of the Secretariat and its support to parties under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions take as reference the integrated approach and the programmes of work of the three conventions;
8. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the elements of the present decision.

⁷⁵ UNEP/CHW.12/20/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/14/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/26/Rev.1.

SC-7/23: Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the report prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 20 based on the reports submitted by parties under Article 15⁷⁶ and of the summary of the report set out in the note by the Secretariat on reporting pursuant to Article 15;⁷⁷
2. *Takes note with concern* of the low level of reporting and requests the Secretariat to further refine the draft strategy to enhance reporting under the Convention;⁷⁸
3. *Urges* parties that have not yet done so to submit their third national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention no later than the extended date of 31 August 2015;
4. *Decides* that, in accordance with Article 15, each party should submit its fourth national report pursuant to Article 15 to the Secretariat by 31 August 2018 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To update the reporting format to include the chemicals listed in Annexes A and C to the Convention by decisions SC-6/13, SC-7/12, SC-7/13 and SC-7/14 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
 - (b) To further improve the electronic reporting system in time for it to be used for the submission of the fourth reports pursuant to Article 15, taking into account the comments received from parties about their experiences in using the system and in view of the use of the national reports as one element in undertaking an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention pursuant to Article 16;
 - (c) To prepare a periodic report pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 20 of the Convention for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;
 - (d) To continue to provide guidance to parties on the use of the electronic reporting system.

⁷⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/36.

⁷⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/27, annex.

⁷⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/28.

SC-7/24: Effectiveness evaluation

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Elects*, in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the appendix to the framework for effectiveness evaluation,⁷⁹ the following members to serve on the effectiveness evaluation committee until the close of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

From African States:	Ms. Elham Refaat Abdel Aziz (Egypt) Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Yunnus (Nigeria)
From Asian-Pacific States:	Ms. Kyunghee Choi (Republic of Korea) Mr. Said Ali Issa Alzadjali (Oman)
From Central and Eastern European States:	Ms. Nermina Skejovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) Mr. Ivan Holoubek (Czech Republic)
From Latin American and Caribbean States:	Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda) Ms. Alejandra Torre (Uruguay)
From Western European and other States:	Ms. Anne Daniel (Canada) Mr. Ramon Guardans (Spain)

2. *Invites* the global coordination group of the global monitoring plan to select one expert from among its members to serve on the effectiveness evaluation committee;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to select two internationally recognized experts in the field of effectiveness evaluation to serve on the effectiveness evaluation committee;

4. *Requests* the effectiveness evaluation committee to perform its tasks according to the framework for effectiveness evaluation⁸⁰ and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To establish a roster of experts for the purpose of providing support to the effectiveness evaluation committee as required based on nominations received from parties;

(b) To collect and compile information to be used for the purposes of the effectiveness evaluation according to the framework for effectiveness evaluation as referred to in paragraph 2 above and to prepare a preliminary analysis of the available information;

(c) To support the work of the effectiveness evaluation committee, including the development of the effectiveness evaluation report;

6. *Invites* parties to designate experts for inclusion in the roster of experts referred to in paragraph 5 (a) above, noting their areas of expertise or specific substance knowledge;

7. *Emphasizes* the need for parties to intensify their efforts to ensure the timely and accurate completion of national reports under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention.

⁷⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/27/Add.1/Rev.1, annex.

⁸⁰ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/27/Add.1/Rev.1, annex.

SC-7/25: Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the meetings of the global coordination group and regional organization groups⁸¹ and welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the global coordination group;⁸²
2. *Welcomes* the updated guidance on the global monitoring plan⁸³ and encourages parties to use it and provide comments on their experience in doing so to the Secretariat through the regional organization groups;
3. *Welcomes* also the five regional monitoring reports;⁸⁴
4. *Requests* the global coordination group:
 - (a) To develop the draft global monitoring report, including its draft conclusions and recommendations, and an evaluation and assessment of changes in persistent organic pollutant concentrations over time, as specified in the effectiveness evaluation framework,⁸⁵ and make it available to the effectiveness evaluation committee by 31 January 2016;
 - (b) To finalize the global monitoring report, including conclusions and recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To support the global coordination group in developing the reports requested in paragraph 4 above;
 - (b) To continue to support, subject to the availability of resources, the work of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group in the implementation of the third phase of the global monitoring plan;
 - (c) To continue to support, subject to the availability of resources, training and capacity-building activities to assist countries in implementing the global monitoring plan for subsequent effectiveness evaluations and to work with partners and other relevant organizations to undertake implementation activities;
6. *Encourages* parties to consider the conclusions and recommendations referred to in paragraph 1 above and engage actively in the implementation of the global monitoring plan and the effectiveness evaluation and, in particular:
 - (a) To continue to monitor the core media of air and human breast milk or human blood and, if in a position to do so, to initiate monitoring of perfluorooctane sulfonate in surface water in support of future evaluations;
 - (b) To support the further development and long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan if in a position to do so.

⁸¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/37, annexes I and II.

⁸² UNEP/POPS/COP.7/29, annex.

⁸³ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/39, annex.

⁸⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/38.

⁸⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/27/Add.1/Rev.1.

SC-7/26: Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Mindful that the procedures and institutional mechanisms called for under Article 17 will help address compliance,

1. *Notes* that the negotiations have not yielded a result and that the draft texts contained in the annex to the present decision are entirely bracketed;
2. *Decides* to consider further at its eighth meeting, for adoption, the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention;
3. *Invites* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to facilitate intersessional consultations among all parties to promote a policy dialogue on outstanding issues with a view to resolving them in a way that facilitates the possible adoption of the procedures and institutional mechanisms required under Article 17 by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
4. *Decides* that the draft texts contained in the annex to the present decision shall be the basis for its further work on the procedures and institutional mechanisms at its eighth meeting, bearing in mind that all issues remain outstanding;
5. *Also decides* that further work on the procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Convention shall be placed early on the agenda at its eighth meeting.

Annex to decision SC-7/26

Annex to decision SC-6/24 (version as of 15 May 2015)

[[Non-compliance][Compliance] [P] [p]rocedures and institutional mechanisms under Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention⁸⁶

Objective, nature and underlying principles

1. The objective of the procedures and institutional mechanisms (hereinafter referred to as “the procedures”) is to assist Parties to comply with their obligations under the Convention[;] [and] to facilitate, promote, [monitor], assist in, advise on and aim to secure the implementation of and compliance with the obligations under the Convention [and to provide technical assistance, financial resources and transfer of technology].

2.3.4 alt The mechanism shall be non-confrontational, transparent, cost-effective, preventive and facilitative in nature, simple, flexible, non-binding and oriented in the direction of helping parties to implement the provisions of the Stockholm Convention. It will pay particular attention to the special needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, [in line with article 13(4) of the Convention] and is intended to promote cooperation between all Parties. The mechanism should complement work performed by other Convention bodies and by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centres. All obligations under the Convention are subject to the present [non-]compliance procedures and mechanisms [, including Articles 12, 13 and 7.]

Compliance Committee

Establishment

5. A Compliance Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”, is hereby established.

Composition

6. The Committee shall consist of 15 members. Members shall be experts nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of equitable geographical representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations,⁸⁷ with due consideration to gender balance.

7. Members shall have expertise and specific qualifications in the subject matter covered by the Convention. They shall act objectively and in the best interests of the Convention.

Election of members

8. At the meeting at which the present decision is adopted, the Conference of the Parties shall elect half the members for one term and half the members for two terms. The Conference of the Parties shall, at each ordinary meeting thereafter, elect for two full terms new members to replace those members whose period of office has expired or is about to expire. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. For the purpose of the present procedures and mechanisms, “term” shall mean the period that begins at the end of one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ends at the end of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

9. If a member of the Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete her or his term of office or to perform her or his functions, the Party who nominated that member shall nominate an alternate to serve for the remainder of the term.

Officers

10. The Committee shall elect its own Chair. A Vice-chair and a rapporteur shall be elected, on a rotating basis, by the Committee in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

⁸⁶ The following text will be inserted into a decision adopting these procedures: “The following procedures and institutional mechanisms have been developed in accordance with Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Convention’.”

⁸⁷ [In this context, this means three members per United Nations regional group.]

Meetings

11. The Committee shall hold meetings as necessary, at least once a year and whenever possible in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties or other Convention bodies.
12. 11 members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
13. Subject to paragraph 22 below, the meetings of the Committee shall be open to Parties and the public unless the Committee decides otherwise. When the Committee is dealing with submissions pursuant to paragraph 17, the meetings of the Committee shall be open to Parties and closed to the public unless the Party whose compliance is in question agrees otherwise.
14. The Parties or observers to whom the meeting is open shall not have a right to participate in the meeting unless the Committee and the Party whose compliance is in question agree otherwise.

Decision-making

15. [The Committee 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, any decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a three-quarters majority of the members present and voting or by nine members, whichever is greater. The report of any meeting of the Committee at which consensus is not reached shall reflect the views of all the Committee members].

[15 alt. The Committee shall take its decisions by consensus.]

[15 alt bis⁸⁸]

16. Each member of the Committee shall, with respect to any matter that is under consideration by the Committee, avoid direct or indirect conflicts of interest. When a member finds himself or herself faced with a direct or indirect conflict of interest, or is a citizen of a Party whose compliance is in question, that member shall bring the issue to the attention of the Committee before consideration of the matter. The concerned member shall not participate in the elaboration and adoption of a recommendation of the Committee in relation to that matter.

Procedures for submissions**Submissions**

17. Submissions to the Committee may be made by:
- (a) A Party which decides that, despite its best endeavours, it is, or will be, unable to comply with its obligations under the Convention. Any submission under this subparagraph shall be made in writing, through the Secretariat, and should include details as to which specific obligations are concerned and an assessment of the reason why the Party may be unable to meet those obligations. Where possible, substantiating information, or advice as to where such substantiating information may be found, shall be provided. Any such submission may include suggestions for solutions which the Party considers may be most appropriate to its particular needs;
- (b) A Party that is affected or may be affected by another Party's difficulties in complying with the Convention's obligations. Any Party intending to make a submission under this subparagraph should before so doing undertake consultations with the Party whose compliance is in question. Any submission made under this subparagraph shall be made in writing, through the Secretariat, and is to include details as to which specific obligations are concerned and information substantiating the submission;
- (c) The Secretariat, if, while acting pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention, it becomes aware that a Party may face difficulties in complying with its obligations under the Convention on the basis of the reports received pursuant to Article 15[, considering [all their] obligations under the Convention, [(including Articles 3, 12 and 13)]], provided that the matter has not been resolved within ninety days by consultation with the Party concerned. Any submission made under this subparagraph shall be made in writing and shall set out the matter of concern, the relevant provisions of the Convention and the information substantiating the matter of concern.]

⁸⁸ Rule 45 of the rules of procedure as it stands at COP-7, applied *mutatis mutandis*.

[Committee trigger

17c alt⁸⁹. The Committee in order to assess possible difficulties faced by parties in fulfilling their obligations under the [Articles , 7, [12, 13] and [15 (3)] of the] Convention, upon receipt of information from the Secretariat provided by such Parties pursuant to those provisions, [including to the fulfilment of obligations under 12 and 13] shall notify the party in writing regarding the matter of concern. If the matter has not been resolved within 90 days by consultation through the Secretariat with the party concerned and the Committee considers the matter further, it shall do so in accordance with paragraphs [21 to 25].]

[23 bis / 17 (c) alt bis The Committee [may] [shall] [examine][consider][in a non-intrusive manner]Parties' [national implementation plans pursuant to Article 7 and the] national reports pursuant to Article 15, considering [all their] obligations under the Convention, [(including Articles 12 and 13)] and identify questions [difficulties] relating to Parties' compliance. The Committee shall consider [information] [such questions][difficulties] in accordance with paragraphs 21–23.]]

[The Committee shall certify that all provisions with regard to Articles 12 to 13 have been met for the party in question before proceeding any further.]

18. The Secretariat shall forward submissions made under subparagraph 17 (a) above, within fifteen days of receipt of such submissions, to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

19. The Secretariat shall, within fifteen days of receipt of any submission made under subparagraph 17 (b) above, send a copy to the Party whose compliance with the Convention is in question and to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

[20. The Secretariat shall send any submission it makes in accordance with paragraph 17 (c) above directly to the Committee and the Party whose compliance is in question within fifteen days of the conclusion of the ninety-day period referred to in paragraph 17 (c) above;]⁹⁰

21. A Party whose compliance is in question may present responses or comments at every step of the proceedings described in the present procedures and mechanisms.

22. Such a Party shall be entitled to participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee. For this purpose the Committee shall invite such a Party to participate in the discussions on the submission no later than sixty days before the start of the discussions. Such Party, however, may not take part in the elaboration of a recommendation of the Committee.

23. Comments or additional information in response to a submission, provided by a Party whose compliance is in question, should be forwarded to the Secretariat within ninety days of the date of receipt of the submission by that Party, unless the Party requests an extension. Such extension may be provided by the Chair, with a reasonable justification, for a period of up to 90 days. Such information shall be immediately transmitted to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting. Where a submission has been made pursuant to subparagraph 17 (b) above, the information shall be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Party that made the submission.

24. The Committee shall share its draft conclusions and recommendations with the Party concerned for consideration and an opportunity to comment within ninety days of receipt of the draft by the Party. Any such comments are to be reflected in the report of the Committee.

25. The Committee may decide not to proceed with submissions which it considers to be:

- (a) De minimis;
- (b) Manifestly ill-founded.

⁸⁹ Paragraph based on the draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention, set out in the annex to Decision RC-7/6.

⁹⁰ This paragraph is in brackets as paragraph 17 (c) is still in brackets.

Facilitation by the Committee

26. The Committee shall consider submissions made to it in accordance with paragraph 17 [and questions identified in accordance with paragraph 23 bis] above with a view to establishing the facts and the root causes of the matter of concern and to assisting in its resolution and may after consultation with the Party whose compliance is in question⁹¹:

- (a) Provide advice;
- (b) Issue non-binding recommendations, including on establishing and strengthening domestic regulatory measures and monitoring, as appropriate, and on steps to remedy the non-compliance situation;
 - [(b bis) Providing support under the Convention for the Party concerned, including access to financial resources, technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures;
 - (b ter) Providing advice regarding future compliance in order to help Parties implement the provisions of the Convention and avoid non-compliance;]
- (c) Following consideration of the need for technical and financial assistance, facilitate technical and financial assistance, including by providing advice on sources and modalities of technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures ;
- (d) Request the Party concerned to develop a voluntary compliance action plan, including timelines, targets and indicators and submission of progress reports within a time frame to be agreed upon by the Committee and the Party concerned, and provide information and advice, upon request, in the development of such a plan;
- (e) Provide assistance, upon request, in the review of the implementation of the action plan;
 - [(e) bis Provide recommendations to the financial mechanism as appropriate to allow for relevant provision of support to the implementation of the compliance action plan in line with (c) and (e);]
- (f) Pursuant to subparagraph (d) above, report to the Conference of the Parties on efforts made by the Party concerned to return to compliance and should maintain the case as an agenda item of the Committee until the matter is adequately resolved.

[Financial assistance; In realization of the stated objectives of consolidating national capabilities and to facilitate fulfilment of compliance measure, a dedicated and predicated line of budget will be provided by creation of fund with adequate corpus by developed countries , which shall be put in place not later than six months of the adoption of this resolution by COP to the tune of USD 1 billion to be subscribed within next six years.]

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

27. If, after undertaking the facilitation procedure set forth in paragraph 26 above and taking into account the cause, type, degree, duration and frequency of compliance difficulties, including the financial and technical capacities of a Party whose compliance is in question and the extent to which financial or technical assistance has been previously provided, [and in line with article 13.4 of the Convention] the Committee considers it necessary to pursue further action to address a Party's compliance problems, it may recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider one or more of the following actions:

- (a) Providing further support under the Convention for the Party concerned, including further advice and the facilitation, as appropriate, of access to financial resources, technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures;
- (b) Providing advice regarding future compliance in order to help Parties implement the provisions of the Convention and avoid non-compliance;
- (c) [In case of repeated or persistent non-compliance,] [issuing a statement of concern regarding current non-compliance;]

⁹¹ Placeholder for proposal to establish a multilateral compliance fund.

[(d) Requesting the Executive Secretary to make public cases of non-compliance;]

[(e) In case of repeated or persistent non-compliance, [as a last resort,] suspending rights and privileges under the Convention, in particular rights under Articles 4, 12 and 13 of the Convention [undertaking any final action that may be required to achieve the objectives of the Convention;]]

[(f) Undertaking any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention under Article 19 (5) (d).]

[28. In case a developing country or a country with an economy in transition is found to be non-compliant because of a lack of technology, or technical and financial assistance, subparagraphs 27 (c)–(f) shall not be applicable.]⁹²

[28 [alt] [bis] The Committee shall, in the context of these compliance procedures and mechanisms, take full account of the specific needs and special situation of least developed countries and small island developing states in their actions with regards to its consideration of submissions.]

Monitoring

29. The Committee should monitor the consequences of action taken in pursuance of paragraphs 26 and 27 above, including efforts made by the Party concerned to return to compliance, maintain the case as an agenda item of the Committee until the matter is adequately resolved and report on it to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 33.

Information

Consultation and information

30. In carrying out its functions, the Committee may:

- (a) Request further information from all Parties, through the Secretariat, on issues of general compliance under its consideration;
- (b) Seek the advice of the Conference of the Parties and consult with other bodies of the Convention, including the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;
- (c) Exchange information with the Council of the Global Environment Facility, in particular for the purpose of drawing up its recommendations, related to the provision of financial assistance under Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention;
- (d) Undertake, with the agreement of any Party, information gathering in that Party's territory for the purpose of fulfilling the functions of the Committee;
- (e) Consult with the Secretariat and draw upon its expertise and knowledge base and request through the Secretariat information, where appropriate in the form of a report, on matters under the Committee's consideration;
- (f) Take into consideration national reports of Parties required by the Convention or submitted pursuant to decisions of the Conference of the Parties with a view to gathering information relevant to non-compliance.

Handling of information

31. Subject to paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention, the Committee, any Party and any person involved in the deliberations of the Committee shall protect the confidentiality of information received in confidence.

⁹² One delegation wished to retain this provision until the outcome of negotiations on paragraph 27.

General procedures

General compliance issues

32. The Committee may examine systemic issues of general compliance and implementation of interest to all Parties when:

(a) The Conference of the Parties so requests;

[(b) The Secretariat, while acting pursuant to its functions under the Convention, obtains information from Parties on the basis of which the Committee decides that there is a need for an issue of general non-compliance to be examined and for a report thereon to be made to the Conference of the Parties;]

[(c) The Secretariat draws the attention of the Committee to relevant information it has obtained through reports by Parties under the Convention [and other sources.]]

Reports to the Conference of the Parties

33. The Committee shall submit a report to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties reflecting:

(a) The work that the Committee has undertaken;

(b) The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee;

(c) The future programme of work of the Committee, including the schedule of expected meetings which it considers necessary for the fulfilment of its programme of work, for the consideration and approval of the Conference of the Parties.

Other subsidiary bodies

34. Where the activities of the Committee with respect to particular issues overlap with the responsibilities of another Stockholm Convention body, the Committee may consult with that body.

Other multilateral environmental agreements

35. Where relevant, the Committee may solicit information, upon request by the Conference of the Parties, or directly, from compliance committees dealing with hazardous substances and wastes under the auspices of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and report on those activities to the Conference of the Parties.

Review of the compliance mechanism

36. The Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation and effectiveness of the procedures.

Relationship with dispute settlement

37. The procedures shall be without prejudice to Article 18 of the Convention.

Rules of procedure

38. The rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the Committee except as otherwise provided for in the procedures.

39. The Committee may develop any additional rules, including those on languages that may be required, and shall submit them to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and approval.]

Annex to decision SC-6/24 (version as of 10 May 2013)

[[Non-compliance][Compliance] procedures under Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention⁹³

Objective, nature and underlying principles

1. The objective of the procedures and institutional mechanisms (hereinafter referred to as “the procedures”) is to assist Parties to comply with their obligations under the Convention and to facilitate, promote, monitor, assist in, advise on and aim to secure the implementation of and compliance with the obligations under the Convention.

2.3.4 alt The mechanism shall be non-confrontational, transparent, cost-effective and preventive in nature, simple, flexible, non-binding and oriented in the direction of helping parties to implement the provisions of the Stockholm Convention. It will pay particular attention to the special needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and is intended to promote cooperation between all Parties. The mechanism should complement work performed by other Convention bodies and by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centres. All obligations under the Convention are subject to the present non-compliance procedures and mechanisms [, including Articles 12, 13 and 7.]

Compliance Committee

Establishment

5. A Compliance Committee, hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”, is hereby established.

Composition

6. The Committee shall consist of 15 members. Members shall be experts nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties on the basis of equitable geographical representation of the five regional groups of the United Nations, with due consideration to gender balance.

7. Members shall have expertise and specific qualifications in the subject matter covered by the Convention. They shall act objectively and in the best interests of the Convention.

Election of members

8. At the meeting at which the present decision is adopted, the Conference of the Parties shall elect half the members for one term and half the members for two terms. The Conference of the Parties shall, at each ordinary meeting thereafter, elect for two full terms new members to replace those members whose period of office has expired or is about to expire. Members shall not serve for more than two consecutive terms. For the purpose of the present procedures and mechanisms, “term” shall mean the period that begins at the end of one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and ends at the end of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

9. If a member of the Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete her or his term of office or to perform her or his functions, the Party who nominated that member shall nominate an alternate to serve for the remainder of the term.

Officers

10. The Committee shall elect its own Chair. A Vice-chair and a rapporteur shall be elected, on a rotating basis, by the Committee in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

Meetings

11. The Committee shall hold meetings as necessary, at least once a year and whenever possible in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties or other Convention bodies.

12. 11 members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

⁹³ The following text will be inserted into a decision adopting these procedures: “The following procedures and institutional mechanisms have been developed in accordance with Article 17 of the Stockholm Convention, hereinafter referred to as ‘the Convention’.”

13. Subject to paragraph 22 below, the meetings of the Committee shall be open to Parties and the public unless the Committee decides otherwise. When the Committee is dealing with submissions pursuant to paragraph 17, the meetings of the Committee shall be open to Parties and closed to the public unless the Party whose compliance is in question agrees otherwise.

14. The Parties or observers to whom the meeting is open shall not have a right to participate in the meeting unless the Committee and the Party whose compliance is in question agree otherwise.

Decision-making

15. The Committee 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, any decision shall, as a last resort, be taken by a three-quarters majority of the members present and voting or by nine members, whichever is greater. The report of any meeting of the Committee at which consensus is not reached shall reflect the views of all the Committee members.

16. Each member of the Committee shall, with respect to any matter that is under consideration by the Committee, avoid direct or indirect conflicts of interest. When a member finds himself or herself faced with a direct or indirect conflict of interest, or is a citizen of a Party whose compliance is in question, that member shall bring the issue to the attention of the Committee before consideration of the matter. The concerned member shall not participate in the elaboration and adoption of a recommendation of the Committee in relation to that matter.

Procedures for submissions

Submissions

17. Submissions to the Committee may be made by:

(a) A Party which decides that, despite its best endeavours, it is, or will be, unable to comply with its obligations under the Convention. Any submission under this subparagraph shall be made in writing, through the Secretariat, and should include details as to which specific obligations are concerned and an assessment of the reason why the Party may be unable to meet those obligations. Where possible, substantiating information, or advice as to where such substantiating information may be found, shall be provided. Any such submission may include suggestions for solutions which the Party considers may be most appropriate to its particular needs;

(b) A Party that is affected or may be affected by another Party's difficulties in complying with the Convention's obligations. Any Party intending to make a submission under this subparagraph should before so doing undertake consultations with the Party whose compliance is in question. Any submission made under this subparagraph shall be made in writing, through the Secretariat, and is to include details as to which specific obligations are concerned and information substantiating the submission;

(c) The Secretariat, if, while acting pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 20 of the Convention, it becomes aware that a Party may face difficulties in complying with its obligations under the Convention on the basis of the reports received pursuant to Article 15[, considering all their obligations under the Convention, [(including Articles 3, 12 and 13)]], provided that the matter has not been resolved within ninety days by consultation with the Party concerned. Any submission made under this subparagraph shall be made in writing and shall set out the matter of concern, the relevant provisions of the Convention and the information substantiating the matter of concern.]

[23 bis / 17 (c) alt The Committee [may] [shall] examine Parties' [national implementation plans pursuant to Article 7 and the] national reports pursuant to Article 15, considering all their obligations under the Convention, [(including Articles 12 and 13)] and identify questions relating to Parties' compliance. The Committee shall consider such questions in accordance with paragraphs 21–23.]

18. The Secretariat shall forward submissions made under subparagraph 17 (a) above, within fifteen days of receipt of such submissions, to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

19. The Secretariat shall, within fifteen days of receipt of any submission made under subparagraph 17 (b) above, send a copy to the Party whose compliance with the Convention is in question and to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

[20. The Secretariat shall send any submission it makes in accordance with paragraph 17 (c) above directly to the Committee and the Party whose compliance is in question within fifteen days of the conclusion of the ninety-day period referred to in paragraph 17 (c) above;]⁹⁴

21. A Party whose compliance is in question may present responses or comments at every step of the proceedings described in the present procedures and mechanisms.

22. Such a Party shall be entitled to participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee. For this purpose the Committee shall invite such a Party to participate in the discussions on the submission no later than sixty days before the start of the discussions. Such Party, however, may not take part in the elaboration of a recommendation of the Committee.

23. Comments or additional information in response to a submission, provided by a Party whose compliance is in question, should be forwarded to the Secretariat within ninety days of the date of receipt of the submission by that Party, unless the Party requests an extension. Such extension may be provided by the Chair, with a reasonable justification, for a period of up to 90 days. Such information shall be immediately transmitted to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting. Where a submission has been made pursuant to subparagraph 17 (b) above, the information shall be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Party that made the submission.

24. The Committee shall share its draft conclusions and recommendations with the Party concerned for consideration and an opportunity to comment within ninety days of receipt of the draft by the Party. Any such comments are to be reflected in the report of the Committee.

25. The Committee may decide not to proceed with submissions which it considers to be:

- (a) De minimis;
- (b) Manifestly ill-founded.

Facilitation by the Committee

26. The Committee shall consider submissions made to it in accordance with paragraph 17 [and questions identified in accordance with paragraph 23 bis] above with a view to establishing the facts and the root causes of the matter of concern and to assisting in its resolution and may after consultation with the Party whose compliance is in question:

- (a) Provide advice;
- (b) Issue non-binding recommendations, including on establishing and strengthening domestic regulatory measures and monitoring, as appropriate, and on steps to remedy the non-compliance situation;
- (c) Following consideration of the need for technical and financial assistance, facilitate technical and financial assistance, including by providing advice on sources and modalities of technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures;
- (d) Request the Party concerned to develop a voluntary compliance action plan, including timelines, targets and indicators and submission of progress reports within a time frame to be agreed upon by the Committee and the Party concerned, and provide information and advice, upon request, in the development of such a plan;
- (e) Provide assistance, upon request, in the review of the implementation of the action plan;
- (f) Pursuant to subparagraph (d) above, report to the Conference of the Parties on efforts made by the Party concerned to return to compliance and should maintain the case as an agenda item of the Committee until the matter is adequately resolved.

Possible action by the Conference of the Parties

27. If, after undertaking the facilitation procedure set forth in paragraph 26 above and taking into account the cause, type, degree, duration and frequency of compliance difficulties, including the financial and technical capacities of a Party whose compliance is in question and the extent to which financial or technical assistance has been previously provided, the Committee considers it necessary to pursue further action to address a Party's compliance problems, it may recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider one or more of the following actions:

⁹⁴ This paragraph is in brackets as paragraph 17 (c) is still in brackets.

- (a) Providing further support under the Convention for the Party concerned, including further advice and the facilitation, as appropriate, of access to financial resources, technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures;
- (b) Providing advice regarding future compliance in order to help Parties implement the provisions of the Convention and avoid non-compliance;
- (c) [In case of repeated or persistent non-compliance,] [issuing a statement of concern regarding current non-compliance;]
- [(d) Requesting the Executive Secretary to make public cases of non-compliance;]
- [(e) In case of repeated or persistent non-compliance, [as a last resort,] suspending rights and privileges under the Convention, in particular rights under Articles 4, 12 and 13 of the Convention [undertaking any final action that may be required to achieve the objectives of the Convention;]]
- (f) Undertaking any additional action that may be required for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention under Article 19 (5) (d).

[28. In case a developing country or a country with an economy in transition is found to be non-compliant because of a lack of technology, or technical and financial assistance, subparagraphs 27 (c)–(f) shall not be applicable.]⁹⁵

[28 alt The Committee shall, in the context of these compliance procedures and mechanisms, take full account of the specific needs and special situation of least developed countries and small island developing states in their actions with regards to its consideration of submissions.]

Monitoring

29. The Committee should monitor the consequences of action taken in pursuance of paragraphs 26 and 27 above, including efforts made by the Party concerned to return to compliance, maintain the case as an agenda item of the Committee until the matter is adequately resolved and report on it to the Conference of the Parties pursuant to paragraph 33.

Information

Consultation and information

30. In carrying out its functions, the Committee may:
- (a) Request further information from all Parties, through the Secretariat, on issues of general compliance under its consideration;
 - (b) Seek the advice of the Conference of the Parties and consult with other bodies of the Convention, including the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;
 - (c) Exchange information with the Council of the Global Environment Facility, in particular for the purpose of drawing up its recommendations, related to the provision of financial assistance under Articles 12 and 13 of the Convention;
 - (d) Undertake, with the agreement of any Party, information gathering in that Party's territory for the purpose of fulfilling the functions of the Committee;
 - (e) Consult with the Secretariat and draw upon its expertise and knowledge base and request through the Secretariat information, where appropriate in the form of a report, on matters under the Committee's consideration;
 - (f) Take into consideration national reports of Parties required by the Convention or submitted pursuant to decisions of the Conference of the Parties with a view to gathering information relevant to non-compliance.

Handling of information

31. Subject to paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention, the Committee, any Party and any person involved in the deliberations of the Committee shall protect the confidentiality of information received in confidence.

⁹⁵ One delegation wished to retain this provision until the outcome of negotiations on paragraph 27.

General procedures

General compliance issues

32. The Committee may examine systemic issues of general compliance and implementation of interest to all Parties when:

- (a) The Conference of the Parties so requests;
- (b) The Secretariat, while acting pursuant to its functions under the Convention, obtains information from Parties on the basis of which the Committee decides that there is a need for an issue of general non-compliance to be examined and for a report thereon to be made to the Conference of the Parties;
- (c) The Secretariat draws the attention of the Committee to relevant information it has obtained through reports by Parties under the Convention and other sources.

Reports to the Conference of the Parties

33. The Committee shall submit a report to each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties reflecting:

- (a) The work that the Committee has undertaken;
- (b) The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee;
- (c) The future programme of work of the Committee, including the schedule of expected meetings which it considers necessary for the fulfilment of its programme of work, for the consideration and approval of the Conference of the Parties.

Other subsidiary bodies

34. Where the activities of the Committee with respect to particular issues overlap with the responsibilities of another Stockholm Convention body, the Committee may consult with that body.

Other multilateral environmental agreements

35. Where relevant, the Committee may solicit information, upon request by the Conference of the Parties, or directly, from compliance committees dealing with hazardous substances and wastes under the auspices of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and report on those activities to the Conference of the Parties.

Review of the compliance mechanism

36. The Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation and effectiveness of the procedures.

Relationship with dispute settlement

37. The procedures shall be without prejudice to Article 18 of the Convention.

Rules of procedure

38. The rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the Committee except as otherwise provided for in the procedures.

39. The Committee may develop any additional rules, including those on languages that may be required, and shall submit them to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration and approval.]

SC-7/27: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;⁹⁶
2. *Joins* with the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in emphasizing that the sound management of chemicals and wastes is an essential and cross-cutting element of sustainable development and is of great relevance to the sustainable development agenda;
3. *Highlights* the contribution of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement 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 to the protection of human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes through the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform the co-facilitators for the consultations on the post-2015 development agenda under the United Nations General Assembly about the relevance of the conventions and the contribution that they can make to the implementation of that agenda and to provide input (for example information transmitted to the Secretariat in the national reports under the Basel and Stockholm conventions and scientific data prepared by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the Chemical Review Committee and the Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention) to the United Nations Statistical Commission and other relevant forums for the development of indicators relevant to the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
5. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination with other international bodies to facilitate the fulfilment of the objectives of the conventions, in particular within the chemicals and wastes cluster;
6. *Invites* the Environment Management Group to look at how the United Nations system can deliver in meeting the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
7. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste and requests the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of that resolution and, more generally, on the continued and coordinated strengthening of the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term;
8. *Joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly in emphasizing the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement and requests the Executive Secretary to participate in the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and to ensure, within available resources, the effective involvement of the Secretariat in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
9. *Also joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly in recognizing the continued relevance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020 and joins with the International Conference on Chemicals Management and others in stressing the importance of considering long-term policies, building on United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 and its annex, on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term;
10. *Encourages* the organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to present for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session specific policies and actions planned by each organization, within their own mandates, to meet the 2020 goal;
11. *Welcomes* cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and requests the Secretariat to continue and enhance such cooperation and coordination in areas of mutual interest with a view to fostering policy coherence, where appropriate, and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;

⁹⁶ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/31-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/41.

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

- (a) To enhance cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster, in particular to facilitate activities at the regional and country levels that would support the implementation of the agreements in the cluster in areas of mutual interest, and to consider which activities of the programmes of work may be effectively implemented in cooperation with other entities within the cluster;
- (b) To enhance cooperation and coordination with other international bodies in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including in the areas and with the organizations listed in the aforementioned report;
- (c) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

ADVANCE

SC-7/28: 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,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretariat on the implementation of the 2013 omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions⁹⁷ and the progress made in the implementation of the decision;
2. *Recalls* the invitation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary, to undertake a review of the matrix-based management approach and organization and to advise the conference of the parties of any follow-up action necessary at their meetings in 2017;
3. *Also recalls* the request in paragraph 10 of the omnibus decision to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to review 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 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to enhance synergies arrangements and requests that the Executive Secretary submit a report thereon to the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017;
4. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the review of the synergies arrangements;⁹⁸
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit the report on the review of the synergies arrangements by the independent assessor and to make proposals on follow-up actions in response to the conclusions and recommendations resulting from the review for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017.

⁹⁷ UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1, annex I.

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, annex II.

Annex to decision SC-7/28

Terms of reference for the review of the synergies arrangements

I. Objective

1. 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, enhancing efficiency in the provision of support to parties, reducing administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels.
2. The present document outlines the terms of reference for the review of the synergies arrangements to be carried out pursuant to paragraph 5 of the 2013 omnibus decision. The review will be carried out through an independent assessment of the implementation and impact of the joint activities and joint managerial functions, including services, at all levels.
3. The review aims to help the conferences of the parties to analyse the synergies processes, and their overall objectives, in a comprehensive manner. As such, the report on the results of the review should indicate the positive results achieved, the challenges and gaps as well as the lessons learned and the impact that those results had at all levels. As well as the assessment of the various elements of the synergies processes, the review should recommend any follow-up actions necessary. The conference of the parties should be able to define how the synergies arrangements could be enhanced and what needs to be adapted or modified in the future based on the recommendations highlighted in this assessment, to increase the impact of the conventions.

II. Methodology

4. The Secretariat will hire an independent assessor to carry out the review work. The assessor will collect information from parties on their experiences regarding the synergies arrangements. The assessor will use various methods for that purpose such as questionnaires and interviews with parties, taking into account regional and gender balance, as well as with members of the bureaux and subsidiary bodies, Secretariat staff based in Geneva and in Rome, the Basel and Stockholm regional centres and relevant stakeholders.
5. The report on the results of the review will consider the synergies arrangements from the viewpoint of the parties, the Secretariat and other stakeholders at the national, regional and global levels.
6. The review will cover the period from the adoption of the first synergies decisions in 2005 to 2015.
7. The assessor will also consider the following reports and, when relevant, the actions taken by the conferences of the parties in furtherance of the recommendations set out therein:
 - (a) Synergies decisions of the conferences of the parties and the associated meeting reports;
 - (b) Executive Secretary's proposal for the organization of the secretariats of the three conventions as of 22 December 2011;⁹⁹
 - (c) Background documents and thought starters of the Joint Ad Hoc Working Group on Enhancing Cooperation and Coordination Among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions;
 - (d) The report on the survey on the joint and back-to-back meetings of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Chemical Review Committee;
 - (e) Reports on the implementation of joint activities presented to the conferences of the parties;¹⁰⁰
 - (f) Report by the consultant on the review of job descriptions;

⁹⁹ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2 /INF 7.

¹⁰⁰ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/51.

- (g) Reports on the review of the synergies arrangements presented to the conference of the parties in 2013,¹⁰¹ including a compilation of country comments;
- (h) Final report of the audit by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services on coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;¹⁰²
- (i) Relevant reports from the regional centres;
- (j) Relevant reports published on the websites of the conventions;
- (k) Relevant reports provided by parties and other stakeholders.

III. Report on the results of the review

8. A report on the results of the review of the synergies arrangements will be presented to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their meetings in 2017. The report will include the following elements:

- (a) Executive summary;
- (b) Introduction;
- (c) Review of implementation and impact at all levels of the following joint activities:
 - (i) Technical assistance;
 - (ii) Scientific and technical activities, including the engagement of parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue to trigger increased integration of science in the implementation of the Conventions at the regional and national levels;
 - (iii) Regional centres;
 - (iv) Clearing-house mechanism;
 - (v) Public awareness, outreach and publications;
 - (vi) Reporting;
- (b) Review of the implementation and impact of joint managerial functions;
- (c) Overall impacts of the synergies arrangements on:
 - (i) Political visibility of the conventions;
 - (ii) Effectiveness of financing and technical assistance for the implementation of the conventions;
 - (iii) Policy coherence;
 - (iv) Cost-efficiency;
 - (v) Administrative procedures;
 - (vi) Parties' ability to implement the conventions;
- (f) Conclusions and recommendations on follow-up actions.

9. As part of the review of the joint activities, the report will also include certain specific assessments:

- (a) Regarding joint activities on technical assistance, it will include an assessment of partnerships and of the technical assistance programme of the Secretariat;
- (b) Regarding scientific and technical activities, it will include an assessment of the cooperation and coordination between the technical bodies of the three conventions;
- (c) Regarding overall management, it will include an assessment of international cooperation and coordination activities undertaken jointly for the conventions and of the experience in organizing back-to-back meetings of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions.

¹⁰¹ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/5 and UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/6.

¹⁰² UNEP/CHW.12/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/49.

10. The report will be focused and succinct and its executive summary will be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations.
11. The Secretariat will submit the report to the conferences of the parties for consideration at their meetings in 2017.

ADVANCE

SC-7/29: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes* the progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing-house mechanism, which should serve as a platform for the exchange and dissemination of information;

2. *Takes note* of the proposed joint clearing-house mechanism strategy¹⁰³ and invites parties and others to provide comments on the strategy, in particular its scope, on national and regional priorities and needs in respect of the clearing-house mechanism and on the goals described in section IV of the strategy, to the Secretariat by 31 October 2015;

3. *Acknowledges* the role that the joint clearing-house mechanism can play in facilitating the exchange of information in relation to the sound management of chemicals and wastes among parties and other stakeholders and in promoting the understanding of scientific, technical and legal aspects of the three conventions;

4. *Recognizes* the gaps in access to scientific information and knowledge, the inadequate capacity of developing countries to provide scientific inputs for the various processes under the conventions and the need for scientific and technical advice in relation to implementation and notes the role that the clearing-house mechanism strategy could play in addressing those issues;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To provide for the biennium 2016–2017, within available resources, access to thematic information relevant to the conventions through the clearing-house mechanism, including from parties and other stakeholders, on the following priority areas:

- (i) National plans and strategies, such as national action plans under the Rotterdam Convention and national implementation plans under the Stockholm Convention;
- (ii) Environmentally sound management of chemicals and of hazardous and other wastes;
- (iii) Priority waste stream inventories, for wastes such as e-wastes, mercury wastes and persistent organic pollutant wastes, and related technical guidelines;
- (iv) Illegal traffic, in accordance with the conventions;
- (v) Persistent organic pollutants listed under the Stockholm Convention, including related information on inventories, exemptions, best available techniques and best environmental practices, risk evaluations and risk profiles;
- (vi) Chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention, including information contained in decision guidance documents;
- (vii) National reporting, the prior informed consent procedure and other notification procedures under the conventions;
- (viii) Legal matters, such as final regulatory actions, importing country responses and export notifications under the Rotterdam Convention and national definitions of wastes, national legislation, bilateral and multilateral agreements and import/export restrictions under the Basel Convention;
- (ix) Technology transfer and transfer of know-how;
- (x) Available financial and technical assistance;
- (xi) Regional centres;

(b) To prepare, for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017, a revised joint clearing-house mechanism strategy, taking into account the challenges referred to in paragraph 4 above, including capacity-building to facilitate the use of the joint clearing-house mechanism, and the comments received from parties and others pursuant to paragraph 2 above and the report of the independent assessor who will carry out the synergies review assessment.

¹⁰³ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/56.

SC-7/30: From science to action

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the science-policy interface for the effectiveness of the conventions;
2. *Stresses* the need for scientific underpinning for decision-making and policy-making in the sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes at the national and regional levels;
3. *Recognizes* the need for greater access to scientific understanding in developing countries to enhance informed decision-making on the implementation of the conventions;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat, taking into account the roles of the scientific bodies of the conventions, within available resources, to develop and present to the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017 a road map for further engaging parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions at the regional and national levels, noting that the road map should consider:
 - (a) Exploring new activities within the mandates of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement 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 Conventions to enhance science-based action to implement the conventions;
 - (b) Addressing the gaps in access to scientific information and knowledge, the lack of capacity to provide scientific inputs to the various processes under the conventions and the need for scientific and technical advice in relation to the implementation of the conventions;
 - (c) Facilitating the exchange of scientific and technical information among parties and other stakeholders and promoting the understanding of the scientific and technical aspects of the three conventions;
 - (d) Possibilities for cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders.

SC-7/31: Venue and date of the next meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to convene its eighth meeting in Geneva from 24 April to 5 May 2017, back to back with the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and the eighth meeting 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; that will include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues;
2. *Also decides* that the meeting will include a high-level segment, which will be no more than one day's duration;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in order to assist parties in preparing for the back-to-back meetings, to support, within available resources, regional meetings to assist regional preparatory processes, coordinated with other regional meetings.

SC-7/32: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

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 and the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement 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. *Takes note* of the proposed draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention;¹⁰⁴
2. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Executive Director of a task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which the Programme provides the secretariat;
3. *Takes note* of the progress report by the Executive Director on the work of the task team pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/12, on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements;¹⁰⁵
4. *Notes* that many of the issues addressed in the draft memorandum of understanding are currently being discussed by the task team and decides to wait for the task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the memorandum of understanding;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to engage actively in the work of the task team and to inform and consult the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of the task team during the intersessional period;
6. *Invites* the Executive Director to keep the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions informed when preparing meeting documents for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the relationship between the Programme and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session on the relationship between the Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Executive Director concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention.

¹⁰⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9, annex.

¹⁰⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/60.

SC-7/33: Programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2016–2017

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the financial reports on the Stockholm Convention trust funds for 2014 and estimated expenditures for 2015 from the Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention Trust Fund),¹⁰⁶

Also taking note of the Office of Internal Oversight Services audit report (number 2014/024) entitled “Provision of efficient and effective Secretariat support to the conventions” and of the efforts made by the Secretariat to quantify the results achieved in implementing joint activities in accordance with the recommendation of the report,

Further taking note of General Assembly resolution 60/283, by which the Assembly approved the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations,

Recognizing that the International Public Sector Accounting Standards require that full provision be made for doubtful debt in respect of debt that is more than four years in arrears and that proportionate provision be made for more recent arrears and that, as a result, an amount, estimated at \$322,531, will have to be deducted from the end 2014 fund balance of the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund to cover doubtful debt and cannot be used for the benefit of all parties during the biennium 2016–2017,

I. Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

1. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to establish a single operational account for staff costs and in this regard invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide additional information, which will be immediately made available through the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement 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 the practical implications of such a measure and on the establishment of a single joint general trust fund for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to make proposals on any required changes to the financial rules, which will inform a decision at the next meetings of the conferences of the parties;

2. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to explore the possibility of establishing a single joint voluntary trust fund for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to provide information to the bureaux as soon as possible and to present proposals at the next meetings of the conferences of the parties;

3. *Approves* the programme budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2016–2017 of 5,691,902 United States dollars for 2016 and 5,828,820 United States dollars for 2017 for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision, which are presented by budget code line in table 2 of the present decision;

4. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention to make commitments in an amount up to the approved operational budget, drawing upon available cash resources;

5. *Decides* to increase the working capital reserve to 13 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for 2016–2017;

6. *Welcomes* the continued annual contribution of 2 million Swiss francs by Switzerland to the Secretariat to offset planned expenditures and notes that 1 million Swiss francs will be allocated annually as a contribution to the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund and will include Switzerland’s assessed contribution and that 1 million Swiss francs will be allocated annually to the Stockholm Convention voluntary Special Trust Fund;

7. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2016–2017 set out in table 4 of the present decision, and authorizes the Executive Secretary,

¹⁰⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/45.

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 2016 for 2016 and before 1 January 2017 for 2017;

8. *Recognizes* that contributions to the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund are due 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 2015 for the calendar year 2016 and by 16 October 2016 for the calendar year 2017, and requests the Secretariat to notify parties of the amount 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 operational budgets for 2014 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules, and urges parties to pay their contributions promptly by or on 1 January of the year to which the contributions apply;

10. *Decides*, 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 parties that have agreed on and are respecting a schedule of payments in accordance with the financial rules;

11. *Also decides* 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 to attend intersessional workshops and other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years have to be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, and invites the President of the Conference of the Parties, to notify, through a jointly signed letter, the ministers of foreign affairs of those parties whose contributions are in arrears, inviting them to take timely action, and to thank those parties that have responded in a positive manner in paying their outstanding contributions;

13. *Decides* to further consider additional incentives and measures to address arrears in core budget contributions to the Convention in an effective and efficient manner at its next meeting;

14. *Takes note* of the indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2016–2017 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 5 of the present decision;

15. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that he remain within the overall cost of the staff numbers set out in table 5 of the present decision for the biennium 2016–2017 as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its audit report;

16. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to ensure that staff training to comply with United Nations mandatory training for staff members is financed from programme support costs since it represents an overhead cost in the operations of the Secretariat;

II. Stockholm Convention voluntary Special Trust Fund

17. *Takes note* of the funding estimates included in table 3 of the present decision for activities under the Convention to be financed from the voluntary Special Trust Fund in the amount of 4,213,128 United States dollars for 2016 and 4,358,940 United States dollars for 2017;

18. *Notes* that the voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget represents its best efforts to be realistic and reflects priorities agreed 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;

19. *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;

20. *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;

III. Preparations for the next biennium

21. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2017 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2016–2017, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in the context of the report on the implementation of joint and convention-specific activities, to include a section on the gender action plan;

23. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, bearing in mind decision SC.Ex-2/1 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, further to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in accordance with the priorities set by the Conference of the Parties and to report on the outcome of his efforts in that regard;

24. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2018–2019, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the 2018–2019 period in both a programmatic format and by budget code line;

25. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing the parties with timely information on the financial consequences of different options and, to that end, requests the Executive Secretary to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2018–2019 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 23 above and are based on:

(a) The Executive Secretary's assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase on the 2016–2017 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 2016–2017 level in nominal terms;

26. *Requests* the Executive Secretary at the eighth 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;

27. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the 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.

Table 1

Programme budget for 2016–2017 (in United States dollars)

Activities related to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

1. Conferences and meetings

Activity No. 2016–2017	Activities	2016								2017									
		Source of funding								Source of funding									
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Biennium	
		BCTF budget	BDTF budget	ROTF budget	RVTF budget	SCTF budget	SVTF budget	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF
1 (BC)	Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (including high-level segment of 1 day)	50 000						50 000		507 575	978 163					507 575	978 163	557 575	978 163
2 (RC)	Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (including high-level segment of 1 day)			422 000				422 000				135 575	978 163			135 575	978 163	557 575	978 163
3 (SC)	Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention including high-level segment of 1 day)				30 000			30 000						527 575	978 163	527 575	978 163	557 575	978 163
4 (BC)	Tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group to the Basel Convention	347 982	669 512					347 982	669 512									347 982	669 512
5 (RC)	Twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) and orientation workshop for CRC members			258 604	89 535			258 604	89 535			258 604				258 604		517 208	89 535
6 (SC)	Twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC)					431 481	20 632	431 481	20 632					431 481	85 102	431 481	85 102	862 962	105 734

Activity No. 2016-2017	Activities	2016								2017									
		Source of funding								Source of funding									
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Biennium	
		BCTF budget	BDTF budget	ROTF budget	RVTF budget	SCTF budget	SVTF budget	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF
7 (BC)	Meeting of the Bureau of the conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and joint meetings of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	50 900						50 900										50 900	
8 (RC)	Meeting of the Bureau of the conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and joint meetings of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions			30 200				30 200										30 200	
9 (SC)	Meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and joint meetings of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions				44 000			44 000										44 000	
10 (BC)	Meeting of the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee	42 680	30 280					42 680	30 280									42 680	30 280
11 (RC)	Orientation workshop for CRC members-included under activity 5																		
12 (S6)	Support the work of and coordination between the scientific bodies of the conventions - only staff time		4 000		4 000		4 000		12 000										12 000
	2016-2017 totals (non-staff cost)	491 562	703 792	710 804	93 535	505 481	24 632	1 707 847	821 959	507 575	978 163	394 179	978 163	959 056	1 063 265	1 860 810	3 019 591	3 568 657	3 841 550
	2016-2017 totals (staff cost)	851 254	197 120	988 973	82 500	1 156 685	136 016	2 996 912	415 636	891 401	232 960	1 067 888	85 800	1 200 052	141 457	3 159 341	460 217	6 156 253	6 571 889

2. Technical assistance and capacity-building

a. Development of tools and methodologies

Activity No. 2016-2017	Activities	2016								2017									
		Source of funding				Source of funding				Source of funding				Source of funding					
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm		Annual		Biennium	
		BCTF budget	BDTF budget	ROTF budget	RVTF budget	SCTF budget	SVTF budget	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF
13 (SI)	Tools and methodologies for training and capacity-building	15 000	307 000	15 000	284 000	15 000	313 000	45 000	904 000	15 000	225 000	15 000	226 000	15 000	245 000	45 000	696 000	90 000	1 600 000
	2016-2017 total TA & CB a)	15 000	307 000	15 000	284 000	15 000	313 000	45 000	904 000	15 000	225 000	15 000	226 000	15 000	245 000	45 000	696 000	90 000	1 600 000

b. Capacity building and training

14 (BC)	Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Basel Convention at the regional level		870 000						870 000		600 000						600 000		1 470 000
15 (RC)	Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention at national and regional levels (updated from cleared meeting report)				1 178 600				1 178 600				778 400				778 400		1 957 000
16 (SC)	Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Stockholm Convention at the regional level						1 190 800	-	1 190 800						616 200	-	616 200		1 807 000

UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36

Activity No. 2016-2017	Activities	2016				2017				
		Source of funding				Source of funding				
		Basel Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm Convention	Annual	Basel Convention	Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm	Annual	Biennium
17 (S2/S3)	Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the regional and national levels (updated based on cleared CRP.34/14/28)	532 000	540 000	530 000	1 602 000	341 000	354 000	368 000	1 063 000	2 665 000
2016-2017 total TA & CB b)		1 402 000	1 718 600	1 720 800	4 841 400	941 000	1 132 400	984 200	3 057 600	7 899 000
c. Partnerships										
18 (S4)	Partnerships for technical assistance	150 000	190 000	70 000	410 000	122 000	147 000	26 000	295 000	- 705 000
2016-2017 total TA & CB d)		44 150	311 500	44 150	237 500	88 300	549 000	205 000	279 000	484 000 88 300 1 033 000
d. Regional centres										
19 (S8/9)	Coordination of and support to the Basel and Stockholm Convention regional centres and cooperation and coordination between regional centres	44 150	311 500	44 150	237 500	88 300	549 000	- 205 000	279 000	1 033 000
2016-2017 total TA & CB d)		44 150	311 500	44 150	237 500	88 300	549 000		279 000	1 033 000
2016-2017 totals (non-staff cost)		59 150	2 170 500	15 000	2 192 600	59 150	2 341 300	133 300	6 704 400	15 000 1 493 000 15 000 1 505 400 15 000 1 534 200 45 000 4 532 600 178 300 11 237 000
2016-2017 totals (staff cost)		408 590	232 960	496 261	178 750	415 913	374 044	1 320 764	785 754	430 656 293 530 555 654 185 900 429 604 389 006 1 415 914 868 435 2 736 678 1 654 189

3. Scientific and technical activities

Activity No. 2016-2017	Activities	2016							2017										
		Source of funding							Source of funding										
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual	Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm		Annual	Biennium			
BCTF budget	BDTF budget	ROTF budget	RVTF budget	SCTF budget	SVTF budget	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF		
20 (S7)	Scientific support to Parties to the Basel Convention	224 875	285 000			20 000		224 875	305 000	25 000	205 000			10 000		25 000	215 000	249 875	520 000
21 (RC)	Scientific support to Parties to the Rotterdam Convention			30 000	202 500			30 000	202 500			30 000	52 500			30 000	52 500	60 000	255 000
22 (SC)	Scientific support to Parties to the Stockholm Convention					75 000	206 000	75 000	206 000					65 000	102 000	65 000	102 000	140 000	308 000
23 (SC)	Effectiveness evaluation and the Global Monitoring Plan					135 000	224 000	135 000	224 000					-	204 000		204 000	135 000	428 000
24 (S15)	National reporting	48 000	10 000			78 000		126 000	10 000	10 000	50 000			20 000		30 000	50 000	156 000	60 000
	2016-2017 totals (non-staff cost)	272 875	295 000	30 000	202 500	288 000	450 000	590 875	947 500	35 000	255 000	30 000	52 500	85 000	316 000	150 000	623 500	740 875	1 571 000
	2016-2017 totals (staff cost)	323 558		232 116		431 817	127 515	987 490	127 515	341 032		255 217		446 030	132 616	1 042 279	132 616	2 029 769	260 131

4. Knowledge and information management and outreach

Activity No. 2016-2017	Activities	2016								2017									
		Source of funding								Source of funding									
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm		Annual		Biennium	
		BCTF budget	BDTF budget	ROTF budget	RVTF budget	SCTF budget	SVTF budget	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF
25 (S10)	Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, including PIC database and Rotterdam Convention website in English, French and Spanish	45 600	42 400	14 400	31 700	61 600	42 400	121 600	116 500	45 600	42 400	14 400	31 700	61 600	42 400	121 600	116 500	243 200	233 000
26 (S14)	Publications	26 700		26 600		26 700		80 000		6 700		6 600		6 700		20 000		100 000	
27 (S12/S13)	Joint communication, outreach and public awareness	1 000		1 000		1 000		3 000		1 000	17 500	1 000	15 000	1 000	17 500	3 000	50 000	6 000	50 000
2016-2017 totals (non-staff cost)		73 300	42 400	42 000	31 700	89 300	42 400	204 600	116 500	53 300	59 900	22 000	46 700	69 300	59 900	144 600	166 500	349 200	283 000
2016-2017 totals (staff cost)		373 661		566 050	13 750	556 234	34 004	1 495 945	47 754	393 841	9 318	632 389	14 300	574 543	35 364	1 600 773	58 983	3 096 718	106 737

5. Overall management

Activity No. 2016-2017	Activities	2016								2017									
		Source of funding				Source of funding				Source of funding				Source of funding					
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm Convention		Annual		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention	Stockholm		Annual	Biennium				
		BCTF budget	BDTF budget	ROTF budget	RVTF budget	SCTF budget	SVTF budget	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF
28 (S18)	Executive direction and management	64 400		144 081		106 434		314 915		57 900		81 346		98 434		237 680		552 595	
29 (S19)	International cooperation and coordination																		
30 (S16)	Resource mobilization	9 000		9 000		166 500	20 000	184 500	20 000	9 000		9 000	-	40 500	-	58 500		243 000	20 000
31 (S17)	Support for the review of the synergies decisions.	45 200		30 300		45 200		120 700										120 700	
	2016-2017 totals (non-staff cost)	118 600		183 381		318 134	20 000	620 115	20 000	66 900		90 346		138 934		296 180		916 295	20 000
	2016-2017 totals (staff cost)	367 775		288 894		631 385	170 020	1 288 054	170 020	396 555		317 645		652 168	176 821	1 366 368	176 821	2 654 423	346 841

6. Legal and policy

Activity No. 2016-2017	Activities	2016								2017								
		Source of funding								Source of funding								
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm		Annual		Biennium
BCTF budget	BDTF budget	ROTF budget	RVTF budget	SCTF budget	SVTF budget	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	
32 (BC)	Legal and policy activities specific to the Basel Convention		190 000						190 000	190 000								
33 (S20)	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				20 000											20 000
34 (BC)	Coordinate and provide support to parties in follow-up to the country led initiative on environmentally sound management and further legal clarity		217 000				217 000		207 000								207 000	424 000
2016-2017 totals (non-staff cost)			427 000						427 000	-	397 000						397 000	824 000
2016-2017 totals (staff cost)		391 080	107 520	27 934		236 423	8 501	655 437	116 021	409 098	116 480	30 214	238 913	8 841	678 225	125 321	1 333 662	241 342

7. Office maintenance and services

Activity No. 2016-2017	Activities	2016								2017									
		Source of funding				Source of funding				Source of funding				Source of funding					
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm		Annual		Biennium	
		BCTF budget	BDTF budget	ROTF budget	RVTF budget	SCTF budget	SVTF budget	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF	Total funding General TF	Total funding Special TF
35 (S21)	Office maintenance and services	153 000		74 100		243 000		470 100		153 000		74 100		243 000		470 100		940 200	
36 (S11)	Joint information technology services	52 500		32 500		72 500		157 500		52 500		32 500		72 500		157 500		315 000	
	2016-2017 totals (non-staff cost)	205 500		106 600		315 500		627 600		205 500		106 600		315 500		627 600		1 255 200	
	2016-2017 totals (staff cost)	311 639		2 093		33 059		346 790		328 469		2 301		34 147		364 917		711 708	
	2016-2017 totals (non-staff cost)	1 220 978	3 638 692	1 087 785	2 520 335	1 575 565	2 878 332	3 884 337	9 037 359	883 275	3 183 063	658 125	2 582 763	1 582 790	2 973 365	3 124 190	8 739 191	7 008 527	17 776 550
	2016-2017 totals (staff cost)	3 027 556	537 600	2 602 320	275 000	3 461 516	850 100	9 091 393	1 662 700	3 191 053	652 288	2 861 307	286 000	3 575 458	884 104	9 627 818	1 822 392	18 719 210	3 485 092
	2016-2017 Grand totals	4 248 543	4 176 292	3 690 105	2 795 335	5 037 081	3 728 432	12 975 730	10 700 059	4 074 328	3 835 351	3 519 432	2 868 763	5 158 248	3 857 469	12 752 008	10 561 583	25 727 737	21 261 642

Summary of the Programme budget for 2016–2017 by heading (in United States dollars)

	2016								2017							
	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total Gen TF	Total Vol TF	BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF	Total Gen TF	Total Vol TF
Conferences and meetings	491 562	703 792	710 804	93 535	505 481	24 632	1 707 847	821 959	507 575	978 163	394 179	978 163	959 056	1 063 265	1 860 810	3 019 591
Technical assistance and capacity-building	59 150	2 170 500	15 000	2 192 600	59 150	2 341 300	133 300	6 704 400	15 000	1 493 000	15 000	1 505 400	15 000	1 534 200	45 000	4 532 600
Scientific and technical activities	272 875	295 000	30 000	202 500	288 000	450 000	590 875	947 500	35 000	255 000	30 000	52 500	85 000	316 000	150 000	623 500
Knowledge and information management and outreach	73 300	42 400	42 000	31 700	89 300	42 400	204 600	116 500	53 300	59 900	22 000	46 700	69 300	59 900	144 600	166 500
Overall management	118 600		183 381		318 134	20 000	620 115	20 000	66 900		90 346		138 934		296 180	
Legal and policy		427 000						427 000		397 000						397 000
Office maintenance and services	205 500		106 600		315 500		627 600		205 500		106 600		315 500		627 600	
Total non-staff costs	1 220 987	3 638 692	1 087 785	2 520 335	1 575 565	2 878 332	3 884 337	9 037 359	883 275	3 183 063	658 125	2 582 763	1 582 790	2 973 365	3 124 190	8 739 191
Total staff costs	3 027 547	537 600	2 602 320	275 000	3 461 516	850 100	9 091 384	1 662 700	3 191 053	652 288	2 861 307	286 000	3 575 458	884 104	9 627 818	1 822 392
Total programme requirements	4 248 533	4 176 292	3 690 105	2 795 335	5 037 081	3 728 432	12 975 730	10 700 059	4 074 328	3 835 351	3 519 432	2 868 763	5 158 248	3 857 469	12 752 008	10 561 583
	General TF	Special TF		BCTF	BDTF	ROTF	RVTF	SCTF	SVTF							
BRS total budget	25 727 737	21 261 642		8 322 871	8 011 643	7 209 538	5 664 098	10 195 329	7 585 901							
Increase from biennium to biennium	-0.11%	7.02%		-2.89%	24.67%	6.66%	-11.55%	-2.21%	7.79%							

Table 2

Programme of work for 2016–2017 funded via the general trust funds of the Basel (BC) Rotterdam (RO) and Stockholm (SC) conventions

Operational budget for 2016–2017 (in United States dollars)

Summary table of total costs per budget code level and by convention trust fund

		Year 2016				Year 2017				2016-2017
		BC	RC	SC	Total	BC	RC	SC	Total	Total
10 Project personnel component										
1100	Professional staff									
1101	Executive Secretary (D-2)	125 091	15 255	164 754	305 100	126 922	31 730	158 652	317 304	622 404
1111	Executive Secretary (D-2) (0.25 in kind by FAO)									
1131	Deputy Executive Secretary (D-1)	116 563	14 215	153 522	284 300	118 269	29 567	147 836	295 672	579 972
1135	Chief of Branch (P-5) SSB	103 320	12 600	136 080	252 000	107 453	13 104	141 523	262 080	514 080
1133	Chief of Branch (P-5) COB	103 320	12 600	136 080	252 000	107 453	13 104	141 523	262 080	514 080
1134	Chief of Branch (P-5) TAB	103 320	12 600	136 080	252 000	107 453	13 104	141 523	262 080	514 080
1132	Chief of Branch (P-5) ASB									
1112	Senior Programme Officer - FAO (P-5)		263 309		263 309		273 841		273 841	537 150
1103	Programme Officer (P-3) (replacing retired P-5 in 2015)	59 733			59 733	186 368			186 368	246 101
1104	Senior Programme Officer (P-5) (only for 2016)	252 000			252 000					252 000
1108	Programme Officer (P-3) (replacing retired P-5 in 2015)					186 368			186 368	186 368
1105	Senior Programme Officer (P-5)	252 000			252 000	262 080			262 080	514 080
1106	Policy and Legal Adviser (P-4)	216 700			216 700	225 368			225 368	442 068
1107	Programme Officer (P-4)	216 700			216 700	225 368			225 368	442 068
OTA	Administrative Officer (P-4) (by UNEP OTL)									
1109	Programme Officer - National Reporting (P-3)	179 200			179 200	186 368			186 368	365 568
1110	Programme Officer - Information Officer (P-3)	179 200			179 200	186 368			186 368	365 568
1111	Programme Officer (P-3)	179 200			179 200	186 368			186 368	365 568
1112	Associate Programme Officer - Computer Systems (P-2)	146 600			146 600	152 464			152 464	299 064

1113	Associate Legal Officer (upgrade to P-3)	179 200		179 200	186 368		186 368	365 568
	Transitional adjustment							
	<i>Subtotal BC staff</i>	2 412 147	330 579	726 516	2 551 037	374 451	731 058	
1105	Programme Officer (P-4)			216 700	216 700		225 368	442 068
1106	Programme Officer (P-4)			216 700	216 700		225 368	442 068
1107	Senior Programme Officer (P-5)			252 000	252 000		262 080	514 080
1108	Programme Officer (P-3)		-	179 200	179 200		186 368	365 568
OTA	Administrative Officer (P-4) (0.5 by UNEP OTL)		-					
1111	Legal Officer (P-3)		-	179 200	179 200		186 368	365 568
1112	Associate Programme Officer (upgrade to P-3)		-	179 200	179 200		186 368	365 568
1114	Project Information System Officer (P-3)		-	179 200	179 200		186 368	365 568
1116	Programme Officer (upgrade to P-4)		-	216 700	216 700		225 368	442 068
1117	Programme Officer (P-3)		-	179 200	179 200		186 368	365 568
1118	Programme Officer (P-4)		-	216 700	216 700		225 368	442 068
	Transitional adjustment							
	<i>Subtotal SC staff</i>			2 741 316			2 826 450	
1102	Programme Officer (P-3) (replacing retired P-5 in 2014)	59 733		59 733		186 368	186 368	246 101
1103	Programme Officer (P-4)	216 700		216 700		225 368	225 368	442 068
OTA	Administrative Officer (P-4) (0.5 by UNEP OTL)		-					
1105	Programme Officer (P-3)	179 200		179 200		186 368	186 368	365 568
1104	Programme Officer (P-3)	179 200		179 200		186 368	186 368	365 568
1106	Public Awareness Officer (P-3)	179 200		179 200		186 368	186 368	365 568
1108	Programme Officer (P-3)	179 200		179 200		186 368	186 368	365 568
1113	Programme Officer - FAO (P-4)	229 551		229 551		238 733	238 733	468 285
1114	Programme Officer (P-3) (in kind by FAO)		-					
1116	Programme Officer - FAO (P-3)	183 242		183 242		190 572	190 572	373 814
1117	Programme Officer- FAO (P-3)	183 242		183 242		190 572	190 572	373 814
1118	Programme Officer - FAO (P-2)	138 226		138 226		143 755	143 755	281 981
	Transitional adjustment							

		<i>Subtotal RC staff</i>									
			<i>2 058 074</i>				<i>2 295 291</i>				
1199	Total	2 412 147	2 058 074	2 741 316	7 211 538	2 551 037	2 295 291	2 826 450	7 672 778	14 884 315	
1200	Consultants										
1203	Consultant (PACE)										
1201	Consultant (HSC codes)	25 000			25 000	25 000			25 000	50 000	
1202	Consultant (e-waste technical guidelines)										
1204	Consultant to develop generic inventory tool for collection of data on hazardous wastes										
1205	Consultant for resource mobilization database (funded from fund balance)	1 500	1 500	1 500	4 500	1 500	1 500	1 500	4 500	9 000	
1204	Consultants for resource kit										
1206	Consultants (scientific support for SC)			20 000	20 000			5 000	5 000	25 000	
1207	Consultants (effectiveness evaluation for SC)			50 000	50 000					50 000	
1208	Consultants (GMP for SC)			20 000	20 000					20 000	
1209	Consultant (fourth review of financial mechanism SC)		-	105 000	105 000					105 000	
1210	Consultant (needs assessment SC)		-	52 500	52 500			31 500	31 500	84 000	
1211	Consultant (POPRC review)			10 000	10 000					10 000	
1281	Consultant (national reporting BC and SC)	48 000	-	78 000	126 000	10 000		20 000	30 000	156 000	
1282	Consultants (clearing- house mechanism)										
1283	Consultant (synergies review)	40 200	26 800	40 200	107 200					107 200	
1290	Staff training - language										
1291	Staff training - management and communication										
1299	Total	114 700	28 300	377 200	520 200	36 500	1 500	58 000	96 000	616 200	
13	Administrative support										
1300	General Service staff										
OTA	Administrative Assistant (by UNEP OTL)		-						-		
1302	Senior Team Assistant	170 200	-	170 200	177 008	177 008	-	177 008	347 208	347 208	
1303	Meetings/Documents Assistant	170 200	-	170 200	177 008	177 008	-	177 008	347 208	347 208	
1306	Information Assistant	137 500	-	137 500	143 000	143 000	-	143 000	280 500	280 500	
OTA	Finance and Budget Assistant (by UNEP OTL)		-						-		

1307	Programme Assistant	137 500	-	137 500	143 000	-	143 000	280 500
	<i>Subtotal BC staff</i>	615 400			640 016			
1301	Meeting Conference Assistant		-	137 500	137 500		143 000	143 000
1303	Administrative Assistant (abolished)		-					
1305	Programme Assistant		-	137 500	137 500		143 000	143 000
1302	Information Systems Assistant		-	137 500	137 500		143 000	143 000
1308	Research Assistant		-	170 200	170 200		177 008	177 008
1320	Programme Clerk		-	137 500	137 500		143 000	143 000
OTA	Finance & Budget Assistant (by UNEP OTL)		-					
OTA	Administrative Assistant (HR) (by UNEP OTL)		-					
OTA	IT/Database Assistant (by UNEP OTL)		-					
OTA	Publication Clerk (by UNEP OTL)		-					
	<i>Subtotal SC staff*</i>			720 200			749 008	
1302	Information Assistant	137 500		137 500		143 000	143 000	280 500
1304	Programme Assistant	137 500		137 500		143 000	143 000	280 500
1307	GTA Conference Clerk	137 500		137 500		143 000	143 000	280 500
1311	Secretary (0.25 in kind by FAO)		-					
1313	Secretary - FAO (in kind by FAO)		-					
1314	Secretary - FAO	131 746		131 746		137 016	137 016	268 762
	<i>Subtotal RO staff</i>	544 246				566 016		
	<i>General Service Staff subtotal</i>	615 400	544 246	720 200	1 879 846	640 016	566 016	749 008
1330	Conference servicing							
1321	Conference of the Parties to BC	50 000		50 000	498 325		498 325	548 325
1323	Conference of the Parties to BC (HLS)				9 250		9 250	9 250
1322	Open-ended Working Group to BC	347 982	-	347 982	-			347 982
1330	Conference of the Parties to SC			30 000	30 000		518 325	518 325
1332	Conference of the Parties to SC (HLS)						9 250	9 250
1331	POPs Review Committee			316 847	316 847		316 847	316 847

1305	Conference of the Parties to RC		422 000		422 000		126 325		126 325	548 325
1306	Conference of the Parties to RC (HLS)						9 250		9 250	9 250
1331	Chemical Review Committee		143 466		143 466		143 466		143 466	286 932
1387	Donor round table meetings	2 500	2 500	2 500	7 500	2 500	2 500	2 500	7 500	15 000
1388	Conference servicing (Regional Centres)									
1389	Conference servicing (Partnerships)									
	<i>Conference servicing subtotal</i>	400 482	567 966	349 347	1 317 795	510 075	281 541	846 922	1 638 538	2 956 333
1399	Total	1 015 882	1 112 212	1 069 547	3 197 641	1 150 091	847 557	1 595 930	3 593 578	6 791 219
1600	Travel on official business									
1601	Official travel	59 400	139 081	101 434	299 915	52 900	76 346	93 434	222 680	522 595
1699	Total	59 400	139 081	101 434	299 915	52 900	76 346	93 434	222 680	522 595
1999	Component total	3 602 129	3 337 667	4 289 497	11 229 294	3 790 528	3 220 694	4 573 814	11 585 036	22 814 329
20	Subcontract component									
2200	Subcontracts									
2203	Resource kit									
2202	Pilot activities (regional centres)									
2204	Subcontracts (information management of the Secretariat)	15 675	4 650	15 675	36 000	15 675	4 650	15 675	36 000	72 000
2201	Subcontracts (clearing-house mechanism based on priorities)	13 225	4 650	23 225	41 100	13 225	4 650	23 225	41 100	82 200
2299	Total	28 900	9 300	38 900	77 100	28 900	9 300	38 900	77 100	154 200
2999	Component total	28 900	9 300	38 900	77 100	28 900	9 300	38 900	77 100	154 200
30	Training component									
3300	Meetings: participant travel and DSA									
3303	Bureau of BC	38 100			38 100					38 100
3305	Joint Bureau of BC	12 800			12 800					12 800
3304	Implementation and Compliance Committee	42 680			42 680					42 680
3307	Intersessional meeting (technical guidelines BC) additional	30 000			30 000					30 000
3308	Technical Expert Group									
3309	Annual meeting of the Basel Convention regionalcentres									
3304	Bureau of SC			31 200	31 200					31 200

3313	Joint Bureau of SC			12 800	12 800					12 800
3302	POPs Review Committee			114 634	114 634			114 634	114 634	229 268
3309	Annual meeting of the Stockholm Convention regional centres									
3310	Joint meeting of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres	44 150		44 150	88 300					88 300
3305	DDT Expert Group							60 000	60 000	60 000
3311	GMP Global Coordination Group			40 000	40 000					40 000
3312	Effectiveness Evaluation Committee (2 meetings)			70 000	70 000					70 000
3314	Implementation and Compliance Committee									
3301	Bureau of RC		17 400		17 400					17 400
3313	Joint Bureau of RC		12 800		12 800					12 800
3302	Chemicals Review Committee		115 138		115 138		115 138		115 138	230 276
3314	Implementation and Compliance Committee									
3387	Donor round table meetings	4 000	4 000	4 000	12 000	4 000	4 000	4 000	12 000	24 000
3399	Total	171 730	149 338	316 784	637 852	4 000	119 138	178 634	301 772	939 624
3999	Component total	171 730	149 338	316 784	637 852	4 000	119 138	178 634	301 772	939 624
40	Equipment and premises component									
4100	Expendable equipment									
4101	Office supplies (Geneva)	7 000	4 250	7 000	18 250	7 000	4 250	7 000	18 250	36 500
4102	Office supplies (Rome)		4 250		4 250		4 250		4 250	8 500
4103	Software (Webinars)	15 000	15 000	15 000	45 000	15 000	15 000	15 000	45 000	90 000
4104	Software/hardware (information management of the Secretariat)	2 800	1 900	2 800	7 500	2 800	1 900	2 800	7 500	15 000
4199	Total	24 800	25 400	24 800	75 000	24 800	25 400	24 800	75 000	150 000
4200	Non-expendable equipment									
4201	Non-expendable equipment (Geneva)	5 000	2 500	5 000	12 500	5 000	2 500	5 000	12 500	25 000
4202	Non-expendable equipment (Rome)		2 500		2 500		2 500		2 500	5 000
4203	IT equipment (Geneva)	42 200	8 100	62 200	112 500	42 200	8 100	62 200	112 500	225 000
4204	IT equipment (Rome)		17 500		17 500		17 500		17 500	35 000
4299	Total	47 200	30 600	67 200	145 000	47 200	30 600	67 200	145 000	290 000
4300	Premises									
4301	Office space, maintenance, utilities (Geneva)	75 000	35 000	145 000	255 000	75 000	35 000	145 000	255 000	510 000
4399	Total	75 000	35 000	145 000	255 000	75 000	35 000	145 000	255 000	510 000
4999	Component total	147 000	91 000	237 000	475 000	147 000	91 000	237 000	475 000	950 000

50 Miscellaneous component										
5100	Operation and maintenance of equipment									
5101	Maintenance of office equipment (Geneva)	5 000	2 500	5 000	12 500	5 000	2 500	5 000	12 500	25 000
5102	Maintenance of office equipment (Rome)		2 500		2 500		2 500		2 500	5 000
5199	Total	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000	30 000
5200	Reporting costs									
5201	Publications (core publications)	26 700	26 600	26 700	80 000	6 700	6 600	6 700	20 000	100 000
5202	Printing and translation (information management of the Secretariat)	13 900	3 200	19 900	37 000	13 900	3 200	19 900	37 000	74 000
5203	Information/public awareness materials (regional centres)									
5204	Printing and translation (technical guidelines BC)	101 000			101 000					101 000
	Printing and translation (technical guidelines BC) additional	68 875			68 875					68 875
5205	Printing/translation (joint communication)	1 000	1 000	1 000	3 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	3 000	6 000
5212	PIC circular		30 000		30 000		30 000		30 000	60 000
5283	Printing/translation (Synergies review)	5 000	3 500	5 000	13 500					13 500
5287	Printing/translation (outreach material for funding partners)	1 000	1 000	1 000	3 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	3 000	6 000
5299	Total	217 475	65 300	53 600	336 375	22 600	41 800	28 600	93 000	429 375
5300	Sundry									
5301	Communications (Geneva)	61 000	15 600	81 000	157 600	61 000	15 600	81 000	157 600	315 200
5302	Communications (Rome)		5 000		5 000		5 000		5 000	10 000
5303	Communications (internet line)	10 300	6 900	10 300	27 500	10 300	6 900	10 300	27 500	55 000
5399	Total	71 300	27 500	91 300	190 100	71 300	27 500	91 300	190 100	380 200
5400	Hospitality									
5401	Hospitality	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000	30 000
5499	Total	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000	5 000	5 000	5 000	15 000	30 000
5999	Component total	298 775	102 800	154 900	556 475	103 900	79 300	129 900	313 100	869 575
	Direct project cost operational budget	4 248 543	3 690 105	5 037 081	12 975 730	4 074 328	3 519 432	5 158 248	12 752 008	25 727 737
	UNEP programme support costs 13%	552 311	479 714	654 821	1 686 845	529 663	457 526	670 572	1 657 761	3 344 606
	Total operational budget	4 800 854	4 169 819	5 691 902	14 662 575	4 603 990	3 976 959	5 828 820	14 409 769	29 072 343

UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36

Basel Convention Trust Fund	2014	2015	2014–2015 Total	2016	2017	2016–2017 Total
Approved budget for the biennium 2014–2015 (Decision BC-11/26)	4 846 783	4 838 057	9 684 840			
Proposed budget for the biennium 2016–2017				4 800 854	4 603 990	9 404 844
Approved average annual budget for the biennium 2014–2015			4 842 420			
Proposed average annual budget for the biennium 2016–2017						4 702 422
Increase in the average annual budget						-2.89%
Deduction from reserve and fund balance	2 000	2 000	4 000			
Increase in working capital reserve	25 525		25 525	(21 000)		(21 000)
Covered by parties	4 870 308	4 836 057	9 706 365	4 779 854	4 603 990	9 383 845
Percentage increase in contributions from year to year	9.73%	-0.70%		-1.16%	-3.68%	
Average annual contributions for the biennium 2014–2015			4 853 183			
Average annual contributions for the biennium 2016–2017						4 691 922
Increase in average annual contributions						-3.32%
Working capital reserve based on average operational budget for 2014–2015 (15%)			726 363			
Working capital reserve based on average operational budget for 2016–2017 (15%)						705 363
Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund	2014	2015	2014–2015 Total	2016	2017	2016–2017 Total
Approved budget for the biennium 2014–2015 (Decision RC-6/16)	3 727 472	3 910 302	7 637 774			
Proposed budget for the biennium 2016–2017				4 169 819	3 976 959	8 146 778
Approved average annual budget for the biennium 2014–2015			3 818 887			
Proposed average annual budget for the biennium 2016–2017						4 073 389
Increase in the average annual budget						6.66%
Deduction from reserve and fund balance	2 000		2 000	4 000	161 216	161 216
Increase in working capital reserve	9 168			9 168	38 175	38 175
Deduction from special contingency reserve					189 015	189 015
Increment to the special contingency reserve: index to fluctuations in salary scales			25 078	25 078		
Grand total	3 734 640	3 910 302	7 644 942	7 668 020	3 857 764	3 815 743
Host country contributions*	1 358 344		1 358 344	2 716 688	1 320 000	1 200 000
Covered by parties	2 376 296	2 575 036	4 951 332	4 951 332	2 537 764	2 615 743
Percentage increase in contributions from year to year	8.70%		8.36%		-1.45%	3.07%
Average annual contributions for the biennium 2014–2015				2 475 666		
Average annual contributions for the biennium 2016–2017						2 576 753

Basel Convention Trust Fund	2014	2015	2014–2015 Total	2016	2017	2016–2017 Total
Increase in the average annual contributions						4.08%
Working capital reserve based on the average operational budget for 2014–2015 (15%)				572 833		
Working capital reserve based on the average operational budget for 2016–2017 (15%)						611 008

* EUR 1,200,000 per annum for the biennium 2016–2017 equal US\$ 1,513,241 based on the United Nations exchange rate of 1 November 2014 – US\$ 1.00 = EUR 0.793. Calculated by using the average United Nations exchange rate between January 2013 and November 2014 (23 months), it is US\$ 1.00 = EUR 0.75 EUR - equal to US\$1,600,000 (calculated at the same level for both years). Of the Swiss portion of the host country contribution, 35 per cent is re-allocated to RVL for 2016 and 50 per cent for 2017, equal to US\$ 280,000 in 2016 and US\$400,000 in 2017.

Stockholm Convention Trust Fund	2014	2015	2014–2015 Total	2016	2017	2016–2017 Total
Approved budget for the biennium 2014–2015 (Decision SC-6/30)	5 732 172	6 048 917	11 781 089			
Proposed budget for the biennium 2016–2017				5 691 902	5 828 820	11 520 721
Approved average annual budget for the biennium 2014–2015			5 890 545			
Proposed average annual budget for the biennium 2016–2017						5 760 361
Increase in the average annual budget						-2.21%
Deduction from reserve and fund balance	2 000	2 000	4 000			
Increase in working capital reserve	(2 708)		(2 708)	259 932		259 932
Grand total	5 727 464	6 046 917	11 774 381	5 951 833	5 828 820	11 780 653
Host country contributions*	1 004 489	995 615	2 000 104	1 025 155	1 020 775	2 045 930
Covered by parties	4 722 975	5 051 302	9 774 277	4 926 678	4 808 045	9 734 723
Percentage increase in contributions from year to year	7.22%	6.95%		-2.47%	-2.41%	
Average annual contributions for the biennium 2014–2015			4 887 139			
Average annual contributions for the biennium 2016–2017						4 867 361
Increase in average annual contributions						-0.40%
Working capital reserve based on average operational budget for 2014–2015 (8.3%)				488 915		
Working capital reserve based on average operational budget for 2016–2017 (13%)						748 847

* Swiss contributions of CHF 1,000,000 per annum for the biennium 2016–2017 equal US\$1,046,025 based on the United Nations exchange rate of 1 November 2014 – US\$ 1.00 = CHF 0.956. Calculated by using the average United Nations exchange rate between January 2013 and November 2014 (23 months) it is US\$ 1.00 = CHF 0.916 - equal to US\$1,091,703 (calculated at the same level for both years).

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Host country contributions	1 004 489	995 615	1 025 155	1 020 775
Assessed contributions	65 030	73 904	66 548	70 928
Total	1 069 519	1 069 519	1 091 703	1 091 703

Table 3

Programme of work for 2016–2017 funded via the voluntary special and technical cooperation trust funds of the Basel (BD), Rotterdam (RV) and Stockholm (SV) conventions

Voluntary budget for 2016–2017 (in United States dollars)

Summary table of total costs per budget code level and by convention trust fund

		2016				2017			2016–2017	
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
10 Project personnel component										
1100	Professional staff									
1101	Programme Officer P-3	179 200			179 200	186 368			186 368	365 568
1114	Programme Officer P-3	179 200			179 200	186 368			186 368	365 568
1115	Programme Officer P-3	179 200			179 200	186 368			186 368	365 568
1116	Programme Officer P-3 (new)					93 184			93 184	93 184
	<i>Subtotal BC staff</i>	<i>537 600</i>				<i>652 288</i>			<i>652 288</i>	<i>652 288</i>
1124	Programme Officer P-4 (new)			216 700	216 700			225 368	225 368	442 068
1121	Programme Officer P-3			179 200	179 200			186 368	186 368	365 568
1126	Programme Officer P-3			179 200	179 200			186 368	186 368	365 568
	<i>Subtotal SC staff</i>			<i>575 100</i>	<i>575 100</i>			<i>598 104</i>	<i>598 104</i>	<i>1 173 204</i>
1199	Total	537 600		575 100	1 112 700	652 288		598 104	1 250 392	2 363 092
1200	Consultants									
1201	Consultants - development of tools and modules	41 000	42 000	42 000	125 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000	155 000
1202	Consultants – capacity-building and training (BC)	30 000			30 000	20 000			20 000	50 000
1203	Consultants – capacity-building and training (RC)		67 000		67 000		38 000		38 000	105 000
1204	Consultants – capacity-building and training (SC)			60 000	60 000			30 000	30 000	90 000
1205	Consultants – capacity-building and training (BC RC SC)	8 000	10 000	8 000	26 000	5 000	5 000	4 000	14 000	40 000
1206	Consultants- partnerships	60 000	30 000	30 000	120 000	10 000			10 000	130 000
1207	Consultants- technical guidelines									
1208	Consultants- technical guidelines (E-waste)	70 000			70 000	70 000			70 000	140 000
	Consultants- technical guidelines (E-waste) - additional	60 000			60 000	50 000			50 000	110 000

		2016				2017			2016-2017	
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
1209	Consultant (ESM household waste)	40 000			40 000					40 000
1210	Consultants - scientific support to RC		30 000		30 000					30 000
1211	Consultants- technical guidelines (E-waste)			10 000	10 000			10 000	10 000	20 000
	Consultants- technical guidelines (E-waste) - additional			10 000	10 000					10 000
1210	Consultants - scientific support to SC			150 000	150 000			50 000	50 000	200 000
1212	Consultants - support for development and maintenance of national reporting tools (BC SC)	10 000			10 000	50 000			50 000	60 000
1213	Support for further work on ESM	50 000			50 000	50 000			50 000	100 000
1214	Consultants – CLI-related activities	27 000			27 000	27 000			27 000	54 000
1215	Consultants - Strategic framework (mid-term evaluation report)	20 000			20 000	20 000			20 000	40 000
1216	Consultant (online questionnaire)			20 000	20 000					20 000
1283	Consultant (scientific bodies)	4 000	4 000	4 000	12 000					12 000
1285	Consultants (webinars & online training)	40 000	40 000	50 000	130 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000	190 000
1286	Consultants (technical assistance needs assessment)		10 000		10 000					10 000
1287	Consultants (Resource Kit & e-library)	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000	15 000	15 000	15 000	45 000	105 000
1289	Consultants - regional centres	12 500		12 500	25 000					25 000
1284	Consultant (illegal traffic)	20 000			20 000					20 000
1282	Consultants (information management of the Secretariat)	14 400	11 200	14 400	40 000	14 400	11 200	14 400	40 000	80 000
1285	Consultants (clearing-house mechanism based on priorities)	28 000	20 500	28 000	76 500	28 000	20 500	28 000	76 500	153 000
1299	Total	554 900	284 700	458 900	1 298 500	389 400	119 700	181 400	690 500	1 989 000
13	Administrative support									
1300	General Service staff									
1323	GTA Conference Clerk		137 500		137 500		143 000		143 000	280 500
1306	GTA Public Information Clerk		137 500		137 500		143 000		143 000	280 500

		2016				2017				2016-2017
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
<i>Subtotal RO staff</i>			275 000				286 000		286 000	286 000
1322	GTA Programme Clerk			137 500	137 500			143 000	143 000	280 500
1323	Team Assistant (new)			137 500	137 500			143 000	143 000	280 500
<i>Subtotal SC staff</i>				275 000	275 000			286 000	286 000	561 000
<i>General Service staff subtotal</i>			275 000	275 000	550 000		286 000	286 000	572 000	1 122 000
1330	Conference servicing									
1322	BC Open-ended Working Group (1 day extra interpretation)	25 960			25 960					25 960
1380	Conference servicing (regional centres)	7 000			7 000			7 000	7 000	14 000
<i>Conference servicing subtotal</i>		32 960			32 960			7 000	7 000	39 960
1399	Total	32 960	275 000	275 000	582 960		286 000	293 000	579 000	1 161 960
1600	Travel on official business									
1601	Staff travel - orientation workshop for members of CRC		2 480		2 480					2 480
1602	Staff travel - capacity-building and training BC	56 000			56 000	34 000			34 000	90 000
1603	Staff travel - capacity-building and training RC		30 000		30 000		10 000		10 000	40 000
1604	Staff travel - capacity building and training SC			30 000	30 000			20 000	20 000	50 000
1680	Staff travel - capacity-building and training (BC, RC, SC)	13 000	12 000	13 000	38 000	12 000	15 000	15 000	42 000	80 000
1681	Staff travel - regional centres	15 000		15 000	30 000	5 000		5 000	10 000	40 000
1607	Staff travel - scientific support to BC	15 000			15 000	15 000			15 000	30 000
1608	Staff travel - scientific support to RO		2 500		2 500		2 500		2 500	5 000
1609	Staff travel - scientific support to SC			16 000	16 000			12 000	12 000	28 000
1610	Staff travel - SC GMP			4 000	4 000			4 000	4 000	8 000
1611	Staff travel - CLI and legal clarity	5 000			5 000	5 000			5 000	10 000
1683	Staff travel - regional preparatory meetings					10 977	10 977	10 977	32 931	32 931
1699	Total	104 000	46 980	78 000	228 980	81 977	38 477	66 977	187 431	416 411
1999	Component total	1 229 460	606 680	1 387 000	3 223 140	1 123 665	444 177	1 139 481	2 707 323	5 930 463

		2016				2017			2016-2017		
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total	
20	Subcontract component										
	2200	Subcontracts									
	2201	Development of tools and modules	40 000	40 000	40 000	120 000	80 000	80 000	80 000	240 000	360 000
	2202	Capacity-building and training (BC)	160 000			160 000	100 000			100 000	260 000
	2203	Capacity-building and training (RC)		318 000		318 000		222 000		222 000	540 000
	2204	Capacity-building and training (SC)			340 000	340 000			235 000	235 000	575 000
	2280	Development of massive open online courses (MOOCs)	45 000	45 000	50 000	140 000	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000	200 000
	2282	Capacity-building and training (BC, RC, SC)	81 000	83 000	77 000	241 000	26 000	27 000	56 000	109 000	350 000
	2284	Financial audit of technical assistance projects at national and regional levels	35 000	35 000	35 000	105 000	35 000	35 000	35 000	105 000	210 000
	2283	Partnerships	20 000	140 000	20 000	180 000	7 000	127 000	6 000	140 000	320 000
	2281	Pilot joint activities (regional centres)	200 000		200 000	400 000	200 000		200 000	400 000	800 000
	2287	Resource Kit and e-library	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000	15 000	15 000	15 000	45 000	105 000
	2207	Global Monitoring Plan			220 000	220 000			200 000	200 000	420 000
	2208	Work programme of ICC	60 000			60 000	60 000			60 000	120 000
	2209	Implementation Fund	75 000			75 000	75 000			75 000	150 000
	2212	Support for further work on ESM	50 000			50 000	50 000			50 000	100 000
	2199	Total	786 000	681 000	1 002 000	2 469 000	668 000	526 000	847 000	2 041 000	4 510 000
2999	Component total		786 000	681 000	1 002 000	2 469 000	668 000	526 000	847 000	2 041 000	4 510 000
30	Training component										
	3200	Training									
	3201	Training and capacity-building BC	563 000			563 000	421 000			421 000	984 000
	3303	Training and workshops (RC)		741 600		741 600		494 400		494 400	1 236 000
	3203	Training and workshops (SC)			736 800	736 800			319 200	319 200	1 056 000
	3283	Training and workshops (BC, RC, SC)	365 000	368 000	365 000	1 098 000	245 000	259 000	248 000	752 000	1 850 000
	3282	Training modules						40 000		40 000	40 000
	3280	Video training									
	3299	Total	998 000	1 129 600	1 121 800	3 249 400	736 000	813 400	587 200	2 136 600	5 386 000
	3300	Meetings: participant travel and DSA									

		2016				2017			2016-2017	
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
3301	Conference of the Parties to BC					814 000			814 000	814 000
3302	BC Open-ended Working Group	643 552			643 552					643 552
3303	Implementation and Compliance Committee	30 280			30 280					30 280
3305	Technical expert group (ESM)	50 000			50 000	50 000			50 000	100 000
3306	Meetings of SIWG	35 000			35 000	25 000			25 000	60 000
3307	Intersessional meeting (technical guidelines, BC) additional	30 000			30 000					30 000
3308	Meeting (ESM household waste)	70 000			70 000	70 000			70 000	140 000
3309	Annual meeting of Basel Convention regional centres	67 000			67 000					67 000
3301	Conference of the Parties to SC							814 000	814 000	814 000
3302	POPs Review Committee			20 632	20 632			85 102	85 102	105 734
3305	Expert group meetings (SC)			40 000	40 000			40 000	40 000	80 000
3314	Implementation and Compliance Committee									
3309	Annual meeting of Stockholm Convention regional centres							67 000	67 000	67 000
3311	Conference of the Parties to RC						814 000		814 000	814 000
3309	Orientation workshop for members of Chemical Review Committee		87 055		87 055					87 055
3310	Meetings: training and capacity-building RC		50 000		50 000		50 000		50 000	100 000
3313	Workshop on listings not adopted by COP		120 000		120 000					120 000
3314	Implementation and Compliance Committee									
3386	Massive open online courses (MOOCs)	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000	60 000
3382	Joint meetings of Basel and Stockholm regional centres									
3384	Outreach and public awareness (joint media workshop)					17 500	15 000	17 500	50 000	50 000
3385	Conference servicing (regional preparatory meetings)					153 186	153 186	153 186	459 558	459 558

		2016				2017			2016-2017	
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
3399	Total	935 832	267 055	70 632	1 273 519	1 139 686	1 042 186	1 186 788	3 368 660	4 642 179
3999	Component total	1 933 832	1 396 655	1 192 432	4 522 919	1 875 686	1 855 586	1 773 988	5 505 260	10 028 179
40 EQUIPMENT AND PREMISES COMPONENT										
4100	Expendable equipment									
4101	Software (development of training tools and modules)	20 000		20 000	40 000					40 000
4199	Total	20 000		20 000	40 000					40 000
4999	Component total									
50	Miscellaneous component									
5200	Reporting costs									
5201	Information/public awareness materials (capacity-building BC)									
5201	Information/public awareness materials (capacity-building RC)	61 000			61 000	25 000			25 000	86 000
5201	Information/public awareness materials (capacity-building SC)		22 000		22 000		14 000		14 000	36 000
5202	Information/public awareness materials (partnerships)			24 000	24 000			12 000	12 000	36 000
5203	Translation of notifications					35 000			35 000	35 000
5210	Printing/translation (training tools and modules)	35 000			35 000	35 000			35 000	70 000
5212	Information/public awareness materials (regional centres)	63 000	43 000	53 000	159 000	42 000	2 000	62 000	106 000	265 000
5213	Information/public awareness materials (capacity building BC, RC, SC)	10 000		10 000	20 000					20 000
5215	Information/public awareness materials (Newsletter)	30 000	32 000	32 000	94 000	18 000	13 000	10 000	41 000	135 000
5221	Printing/translation (technical assistance needs assessment)		5 000		5 000		5 000		5 000	10 000
5222	Resource Kit and e-library	4 000	4 500	4 000	12 500	4 000	4 500	4 000	12 500	25 000
5299	Total	4 000	4 500	4 000	12 500	9 000	4 500	9 000	22 500	35 000
5999	Component total	207 000	111 000	127 000	445 000	168 000	43 000	97 000	308 000	753 000
Direct project cost operational budget										
		4 176 292	2 795 335	3 728 432	10 700 059	3 835 351	2 868 763	3 857 469	10 561 583	21 261 642
UNEP programme support costs 13%										
		542 918	363 394	484 696	1 391 008	498 596	372 939	501 471	1 373 006	2 764 013
Total operational budget										
		4 719 210	3 158 729	4 213 128	12 091 067	4 333 947	3 241 702	4 358 940	11 934 589	24 025 655

UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36

Basel Convention Technical Cooperation Trust Fund (BD)	2014	2015	2014-2015 total	2016	2017	2016-2017 total
Programme requirements approved for the biennium 2014-2015 (Decision BC-11/26)	3 620 847	3 640 605	7 261 452			
Programme requirements for 2016-2017				4 719 210	4 333 947	9 053 157
Approved average annual budget for 2014-2015			3 630 726			
Proposed average annual budget for 2016-2017						4 526 578
Decrease in the average annual budget						24.67%
Voluntary Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention (RV)	2014	2015	2014-2015 total	2016	2017	2016-2017 total
Programme requirements approved for the biennium 2014-2015 (Decision RC-6/16)	3 195 442	4 041 011	7 236 453			
Programme requirements for the biennium 2016-2017				3 158 729	3 241 702	6 400 431
Approved average annual budget for the biennium 2014-2015			3 618 227			
Proposed average annual budget for the biennium 2016-2017						3 200 215
Increase in the average annual budget						-11.55%
Special Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention (SV)	2014	2015	2014-2015 total	2016	2017	2016-2017 total
Programme requirements approved for the biennium 2014-2015 (Decision SC-6/30)	3 765 550	4 186 982	7 952 532			
Programme requirements for the biennium 2016-2017				4 213 128	4 358 940	8 572 068
Approved average annual budget for the biennium 2014-2015			3 976 266			
Proposed average annual budget for the biennium 2016-2017						4 286 034
Increase in the average annual budget						7.79%

Table 4

**Indicative scale of assessment for the General Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention
(SC) for the operational budget for the biennium 2016–2017 (in United States dollars)**

Portion of operational budget to be covered by assessed contributions:

2016	4 926 678
2017	4 808 045

Party		United Nations Scale of assessment 2013**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.010% base	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties 2016	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties 2017
No.		Percentage	Percentage	US dollars	US dollars
1	Afghanistan	0.005	0.010	493	481
2	Albania	0.010	0.013	658	642
3	Algeria	0.137	0.183	9 010	8 793
4	Angola	0.010	0.013	658	642
5	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.010	493	481
6	Argentina	0.432	0.577	28 410	27 726
7	Armenia	0.007	0.010	493	481
8	Australia	2.074	2.769	136 395	133 111
9	Austria	0.798	1.065	52 480	51 216
10	Azerbaijan	0.040	0.053	2 631	2 567
11	Bahamas	0.017	0.023	1 118	1 091
12	Bahrain	0.039	0.052	2 565	2 503
13	Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	493	481
14	Barbados	0.008	0.010	493	481
15	Belarus	0.056	0.075	3 683	3 594
16	Belgium	0.998	1.332	65 633	64 052
17	Belize	0.001	0.010	493	481
18	Benin	0.003	0.010	493	481
19	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.009	0.010	493	481
20	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.017	0.023	1 118	1 091
21	Botswana	0.017	0.023	1 118	1 091
22	Brazil	2.934	3.916	192 952	188 306
23	Bulgaria	0.047	0.063	3 091	3 016
24	Burkina Faso	0.003	0.010	493	481
25	Burundi	0.001	0.010	493	481
26	Cambodia	0.004	0.010	493	481
27	Cameroon	0.012	0.016	789	770
28	Canada	2.984	3.983	196 241	191 515
29	Cape Verde	0.001	0.010	493	481
30	Central African Republic	0.001	0.010	493	481
31	Chad	0.002	0.010	493	481
32	Chile	0.334	0.446	21 965	21 436
33	China	5.148	6.872	338 555	330 402
34	Colombia	0.259	0.346	17 033	16 623
35	Comoros	0.001	0.010	493	481
36	Congo	0.005	0.010	493	481
37	Cook Islands	0.001	0.010	493	481
38	Costa Rica	0.038	0.051	2 499	2 439
39	Côte d'Ivoire	0.011	0.015	723	706
40	Croatia	0.126	0.168	8 286	8 087
41	Cuba	0.069	0.092	4 538	4 428
42	Cyprus	0.047	0.063	3 091	3 016

Party	United Nations Scale of assessment 2013**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.010% base	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties 2016	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties 2017	
43	Czech Republic	0.386	0.515	25 385	24 774
44	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.006	0.010	493	481
45	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.003	0.010	493	481
46	Denmark	0.675	0.901	44 391	43 322
47	Djibouti	0.001	0.010	493	481
48	Dominica	0.001	0.010	493	481
49	Dominican Republic	0.045	0.060	2 959	2 888
50	Ecuador	0.044	0.059	2 894	2 824
51	Egypt	0.134	0.179	8 812	8 600
52	El Salvador	0.016	0.021	1 052	1 027
53	Eritrea	0.001	0.010	493	481
54	Estonia	0.040	0.053	2 631	2 567
55	Ethiopia	0.010	0.013	658	642
56	European Union	2.500	2.500	123 167	120 201
57	Fiji	0.003	0.010	493	481
58	Finland	0.519	0.693	34 132	33 310
59	France	5.593	7.466	367 820	358 963
60	Gabon	0.020	0.027	1 315	1 284
61	Gambia	0.001	0.010	493	481
62	Georgia	0.007	0.010	493	481
63	Germany	7.141	9.532	469 623	458 314
64	Ghana	0.014	0.019	921	899
65	Greece	0.638	0.852	41 958	40 947
66	Guatemala	0.027	0.036	1 776	1 733
67	Guinea	0.002	0.010	493	481
68	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.010	493	481
69	Guyana	0.001	0.010	493	481
70	Honduras	0.008	0.010	493	481
71	Hungary	0.266	0.355	17 493	17 072
72	Iceland	0.027	0.036	1 776	1 733
73	India	0.666	0.889	43 799	42 744
74	Indonesia	0.346	0.462	22 754	22 207
75	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.356	0.475	23 412	22 848
76	Ireland	0.418	0.558	27 489	26 828
77	Jamaica	0.011	0.015	723	706
78	Japan	10.833	14.461	712 425	695 270
79	Jordan	0.022	0.029	1 447	1 412
80	Kazakhstan	0.121	0.162	7 957	7 766
81	Kenya	0.013	0.017	855	834
82	Kiribati	0.001	0.010	493	481
83	Kuwait	0.273	0.364	17 954	17 521
84	Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.010	493	481
85	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.002	0.010	493	481
86	Latvia	0.047	0.063	3 091	3 016
87	Lebanon	0.042	0.056	2 762	2 696
88	Lesotho	0.001	0.010	493	481
89	Liberia	0.001	0.010	493	481
90	Libya	0.142	0.190	9 339	9 114
91	Liechtenstein	0.009	0.010	493	481
92	Lithuania	0.073	0.097	4 801	4 685

Party	United Nations Scale of assessment 2013**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.010% base	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties 2016	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties 2017	
93	Luxembourg	0.081	0.108	5 327	5 199
94	Madagascar	0.003	0.010	493	481
95	Malawi	0.002	0.010	493	481
96	Maldives	0.001	0.010	493	481
97	Mali	0.004	0.010	493	481
98	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.010	493	481
99	Mauritania	0.002	0.010	493	481
100	Mauritius	0.013	0.017	855	834
101	Mexico	1.842	2.459	121 138	118 221
102	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.010	493	481
103	Monaco	0.012	0.010	493	481
104	Mongolia	0.003	0.010	493	481
105	Montenegro	0.005	0.010	493	481
106	Morocco	0.062	0.083	4 077	3 979
107	Mozambique	0.003	0.010	493	481
108	Myanmar	0.010	0.013	658	642
109	Namibia	0.010	0.013	658	642
110	Nauru	0.001	0.010	493	481
111	Nepal	0.006	0.010	493	481
112	Netherlands	1.654	2.208	108 774	106 155
113	New Zealand	0.253	0.338	16 638	16 238
114	Nicaragua	0.003	0.010	493	481
115	Niger	0.002	0.010	493	481
116	Nigeria	0.090	0.120	5 919	5 776
117	Niue	0.001	0.010	493	481
118	Norway	0.851	1.136	55 965	54 618
119	Oman	0.102	0.136	6 708	6 546
120	Pakistan	0.085	0.113	5 590	5 455
121	Palau	0.001	0.010	493	481
122	Panama	0.026	0.035	1 710	1 669
123	Papua New Guinea	0.004	0.010	493	481
124	Paraguay	0.010	0.013	658	642
125	Peru	0.117	0.156	7 694	7 509
126	Philippines	0.154	0.206	10 128	9 884
127	Poland	0.921	1.229	60 569	59 110
128	Portugal	0.474	0.633	31 172	30 422
129	Qatar	0.209	0.279	13 745	13 414
130	Republic of Korea	1.994	2.662	131 134	127 976
131	Republic of Moldova	0.003	0.010	493	481
132	Romania	0.226	0.302	14 863	14 505
133	Russian Federation	2.438	3.254	160 333	156 473
134	Rwanda	0.002	0.010	493	481
135	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.010	493	481
136	Saint Lucia	0.001	0.010	493	481
137	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.010	493	481
138	Samoa	0.001	0.010	493	481
139	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.010	493	481
140	Saudi Arabia	0.864	1.153	56 820	55 452
141	Senegal	0.006	0.010	493	481
142	Serbia	0.040	0.053	2 631	2 567

Party	United Nations Scale of assessment 2013**	Scale with 22% ceiling and 0.010% base	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties 2016	Assessed contributions to be covered by the Parties 2017	
143	Seychelles	0.001	0.010	493	481
144	Sierra Leone	0.001	0.010	493	481
145	Singapore	0.384	0.513	25 253	24 645
146	Slovakia	0.171	0.228	11 246	10 975
147	Slovenia	0.100	0.133	6 576	6 418
148	Solomon Islands	0.001	0.010	493	481
149	Somalia	0.001	0.010	493	481
150	South Africa	0.372	0.497	24 464	23 875
151	Spain	2.973	3.969	195 517	190 809
152	Sri Lanka	0.025	0.033	1 644	1 605
153	Sudan	0.010	0.010	493	481
154	Suriname	0.004	0.010	493	481
155	Swaziland	0.003	0.010	493	481
156	Sweden	0.960	1.281	63 134	61 613
157	Switzerland	1.047	1.398	68 855	67 197
158	Syrian Arab Republic	0.036	0.048	2 368	2 311
159	Tajikistan	0.003	0.010	493	481
160	Thailand	0.239	0.319	15 718	15 339
161	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.008	0.010	493	481
162	Togo	0.001	0.010	493	481
163	Tonga	0.001	0.010	493	481
164	Trinidad and Tobago	0.044	0.059	2 894	2 824
165	Tunisia	0.036	0.048	2 368	2 311
166	Turkey	1.328	1.773	87 335	85 232
167	Tuvalu	0.001	0.010	493	481
168	Uganda	0.006	0.010	493	481
169	Ukraine	0.099	0.132	6 511	6 354
170	United Arab Emirates	0.595	0.794	39 130	38 188
171	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.179	6.913	340 593	332 392
172	United Republic of Tanzania	0.009	0.010	493	481
173	Uruguay	0.052	0.069	3 420	3 337
174	Vanuatu	0.001	0.010	493	481
175	Venezuela	0.627	0.837	41 234	40 241
176	Viet Nam	0.042	0.056	2 762	2 696
177	Yemen	0.010	0.013	658	642
178	Zambia	0.006	0.010	493	481
179	Zimbabwe	0.002	0.010	493	481
Total		75	100	4 926 678	4 808 045

* New parties that have ratified the Convention.

** United Nations scale of assessment for the 2016–2017 period, per resolution 67/238 adopted at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 on 24 December 2012.

Table 5
Indicative staffing table for the BRS Secretariat for the biennium 2016–2017
Funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes)

Staff category and level	Approved 2014–2015				Total proposed 2016–2017				Remarks
	Core funded	FAO	UNEP PSC	Total	Core funded	FAO	UNEP PSC	Total	
A. Prof. category	-			-	-				
D-2	1.00	0.25		1.25	1.00	0.25		1.25	
D-1	1.00			1.00	1.00			1.00	
P-5	7.00	1.00		8.00	7.50			7.50	(1)
P-4	7.00		2.00	9.00	8.00		2.00	10.00	(2)
P-3	14.00	1.00		15.00	17.50	1.00		18.50	
P-2	4.00			4.00	2.00			2.00	
Subtotal A	34.00	2.25	2.00	38.25	37.00	1.25	2.00	40.25	
B. General Service category					-	-	-		
GS	14.00	1.25	6.00	21.25	13.00	1.25	6.00	20.25	(3)
Subtotal B	14.00	1.25	6.00	21.25	13.00	1.25	6.00	20.25	
Total (A+B)	48.00	3.50	8.00	59.50	50.00	2.50	8.00	60.50	

Remarks

- (1) Including 0.5 P-5 retiring December 2016 (BC), one P-5 retiring July 2017 (BC) and one P-5 post for FAO coordinator.
- (2) Two administrative officers funded via programme support costs (PSC) (1 BC, 0.5 RC and 0.5 SC).
- (3) Six General Service positions funded from programme support costs (2 BC and 4 shared between RC and SC).

Funded from the voluntary special and technical cooperation trust funds (used for costing purposes)

Staff category and level	Approved 2014–2015	Total proposed 2016–2017
A. Professional category		
D-2		
D-1		
P-5		
P-4		1.00
P-3	8.00	5.25
P-2		
<i>Subtotal A</i>	8.00	6.25
B. General Service category		
GS	3.00	4.00
<i>Subtotal B</i>	3.00	4.00
TOTAL (A+B)	11.00	10.25

Standard amounts used for calculating salary costs for Geneva and Rome for the biennium 2016–2017 (in United States dollars)

Duty station: Geneva

Staff category and level	2012	2013	2014*	2015**	2016***	2017***
A. Professional category						
D-2	297 336	309 400	309 400	321 776	305 100	317 304
D-1	273 416	288 500	288 500	300 040	284 300	295 672
P-5	244 088	254 800	254 800	264 992	252 000	262 080
P-4	206 336	216 400	216 400	225 056	216 700	225 368
P-3	172 432	180 300	180 300	187 512	179 200	186 368
P-2	135 928	144 800	144 800	150 592	146 600	152 464
B. General Service category						
GS-6	162 240	170 400	170 400	177 216	170 200	177 008
GS-5	125 216	136 300	136 300	141 752	137 500	143 000

* United Nations standard salary costs for Geneva for the year 2013 were used to calculate the staff costs in 2014 (United Nations standard salary costs, version 21, dated 17 January 2013).

** Staff costs for 2015 were estimated by increasing the figures for 2014 by 4 per cent.

*** United Nations standard salary costs for Geneva for the year 2014 were used to calculate the staff costs in 2016 (United Nations standard salary costs, version 13, dated December 2014). Staff costs for 2017 were estimated by increasing the figures for 2016 by 4 per cent.

Duty station: Rome

Staff category and level	2012	2013	2014*	2015**	2016**	2017**
A. Professional category						
D-2	278 796	289 948	289 948	301 546	319 638	332 424
D-1	264 036	274 597	274 597	285 581	302 716	314 825
P-5	229 664	238 851	238 851	248 405	263 309	273 841
P-4	200 220	208 229	208 229	216 558	229 551	238 733
P-3	159 828	166 221	166 221	172 870	183 242	190 572
P-2	120 564	125 387	125 387	130 402	138 226	143 755
B. General Service category						
GS-5	114 912	119 508	119 508	124 289	131 746	137 016

* FAO standard salary costs for Rome for the year 2012 (version June 2012) were used to calculate the staff costs in 2014.

** Staff costs for 2015 were estimated by increasing the figure for 2014 by 4 per cent.

*** FAO standard salary costs for Rome for the year 2014 were used to calculate the staff costs in 2016 (calculated by increasing the 2014 amount by 6 per cent for improved cost recovery uplift (ICRU) and then adding another 4 per cent). Staff costs for 2017 were estimated by using the figures for 2016 plus 4 per cent. Subject to revision by FAO during 2014–2015.