

BC-12/20: 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 conventions¹ 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 arrangements² 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;³
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.

Annex to decision BC-12/20

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

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

² UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9.

³ UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1, annex II.

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 conferences 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;⁴
- (c) Background documents and thought starters of the Ad Hoc Joint 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;⁵
- (f) Report by the consultant on the review of job descriptions;
- (g) Reports on the review of the synergies arrangements presented to the conference of the parties in 2013,⁶ 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;⁷
- (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;

⁴ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2 /INF/7.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/51.

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

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

- (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;
- (d) Review of the implementation and impact of joint managerial functions;
- (e) 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.

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.