



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

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Conference of the Parties to the
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
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International Trade
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 4–15 May 2015

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade on the work of its 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 Rotterdam 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 Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), 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.

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 had to 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 the inputs of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition 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 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (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 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 he noted 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 of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were of crucial relevance to those negotiations. He drew attention to three figures that bore witness to the conventions' 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 their impact 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 stop 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 deliberations 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 Rotterdam Convention adopted the following agenda for its seventh meeting, on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/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) Status of implementation;
 - (b) Consideration of chemicals for inclusion in Annex III to the Convention;
 - (c) Non-compliance;
 - (d) Technical assistance;
 - (e) Financial resources;
 - (f) 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, FAO and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam 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 143 parties: Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, 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, 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 five parties that did not submit valid credentials: Lebanon, Libya, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine.

23. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Economic Commission for Europe, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Environment Facility, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 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, World Health Organization.

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

25. 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-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/63).

B. Election of officers

26. 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 Rotterdam Convention served during the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President: Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan)

Vice-Presidents: Ms. Marie-Pierre Meganck (France)

Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia)

27. Ms. Ekaterine Imerlishvili (Georgia), elected Vice-President at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, was unable to complete her term of office. Pursuant to rule 25, her compatriot, Ms. Ana Berejiani, served in her stead. In addition, Mr. Pablo Sergio Issaly (Argentina) served in place of Mr. Mario Vega (Costa Rica), who was unable to complete his term.

28. Pursuant to rule 22, Ms. Meganck served as Rapporteur.

29. 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. Franz Perrez (Switzerland)

Vice-Presidents: Ms. Trecia David (Guyana)

Mr. Hassan Rahimi Majd (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Ms. Silvija Nora Kalniņš (Latvia)

Ms. Caroline Theka (Malawi)

Mr. Majd was also elected to act as Rapporteur.

C. Organization of work

30. The discussion summarized in the present section, on organization of work (agenda item 3 (b)), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 31–34 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 32–35, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 32–35.

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. Lists of those documents for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, respectively, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, are set out in information documents UNEP/CHW.12/INF/4, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/3 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/61, respectively.

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. The discussion summarized in the present section, on credentials (agenda item 3 (c)), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 36–38 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 37–39, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 37–39.

36. 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.

37. 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.

38. 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.

39. Subsequently, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention reported that it had examined the credentials of the representatives of the 148 parties to that Convention that had registered for the meeting and had found that those of 143 parties were in order. Of the 143, five had submitted copies of their representatives' credentials, which the Bureau had accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible. Five parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives. Those five 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.

40. 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)

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

42. In the ensuing discussion, all who spoke stressed the importance of decision-making by consensus. Several representatives, however, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that, while every effort should be made to achieve consensus, the inability to make decisions by vote when agreement could not be reached was undermining the effectiveness of the Convention, and they called for the lifting of the brackets around the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45 at the current meeting. Others disagreed, saying that consensus-based decision-making was essential to the legitimacy of the Convention. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties agreed, as at previous meetings, 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. Status of implementation

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

1. General issues on matters related to the implementation of the Convention

44. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to an information document (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/5) describing progress in the implementation of the Convention during the period 1 November 2012–31 October 2014. The document provided information also circulated in the PIC Circular.

45. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the submission of import responses was crucial to the protection of all countries, and in particular developing countries, from unwanted imports of hazardous chemicals. Noting difficulties encountered due to outdated contact details, she urged all parties to nominate designated national authorities and to keep their contact details up to date. She also called on the Secretariat to address problems stemming from parties employing different definitions for pesticides.

46. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/5, as well as of a statement by the President reminding parties of their obligations to ensure the effective operation of the Convention under Articles 5, 6 and 10 of the Convention, in particular with regard to the exchange of information in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, by submitting notifications of final regulatory action for banned or severely restricted chemicals, and to submit import responses for azinphos methyl, commercial pentabromodiphenyl ether, commercial octabromodiphenyl ether and PFOS, if they had not yet done so, or to request assistance from the Secretariat if necessary.

47. In addition, it was agreed that, subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat would prepare a document to inform parties about the existence of various definitions of the term "pesticides" and the implications resulting from the use of those definitions by parties with regard to the implementation of the Convention. The Secretariat would also carry out a survey on the use of the various definitions and to publish the results of that survey on the Convention website and in the PIC Circular.

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

48. Introducing the matter, the representative of the Secretariat noted that the number of parties submitting notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict pesticides and industrial chemicals continued to be low, which could be due to difficulties encountered by some parties in meeting the information requirements of Annex I and the criteria of Annex II of the Convention. To further assist parties in preparing notifications of final regulatory action, the Secretariat had developed guidance materials and made them available on the Rotterdam Convention website; engaged in capacity-building activities in several countries in all regions; and collaborated with the Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention regional centres, FAO regional and subregional offices and WHO in the development and conduct of face-to-face capacity-building activities and webinars. The Secretariat had also collected relevant information on final regulatory action, scientific and technical information for risk assessments in decision-making and national legislation and other measures adopted by parties to implement the Convention. Information summarizing those activities and a proposal for additional action was set out in the note by the Secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/4).

49. In the ensuing discussion one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern that the number of notifications of final regulatory action, and in particular the number of countries submitting them, remained very low. Saying that the situation made it difficult to achieve the objectives of the Convention, she called upon all parties to submit notifications of final regulatory action and, in particular, for developing countries to submit proposals in accordance with Article 6 if they experienced problems with severely hazardous pesticide formulations. Expressing support for the draft decision, she offered amendments whereby the Secretariat was urged to provide assistance and carry out a survey to review progress regarding notifications of final regulatory action. One representative said that the information provided by the Secretariat underscored the importance of providing relevant assistance to developing countries.

50. 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/FAO/RC/COP.7/4, taking into account the discussions in plenary.

51. 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.

52. Decision RC-7/1, on a proposal for activities to increase notifications of final regulatory action, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

3. Exchanging information on exports and export notifications

53. The representative of the Secretariat reported that as requested in decision RC-6/2 the Secretariat had collected information on the exchange of information on exports and export notifications pursuant to paragraph 2 (c) of Article 11 and on Article 12 of the Convention. Forty-one parties had provided such information, 11 of which had reported that they had established procedures for the control of exports of chemicals listed in Annex III to parties that had not transmitted import decisions. A compilation of the information provided by the 41 parties was set out in an information document (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/13). A summary of the information and a draft decision on exchanging information on exports and export notifications was before the Conference of the Parties in the note by the Secretariat (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/5).

54. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern that only 41 parties had replied to the Secretariat's request for information, saying that the low rate had resulted in an incomplete picture of the implementation of the obligations under paragraph 2 (c) of Article 11 and Article 12 of the Convention. Noting the discrepancy between the rate of acknowledgements of receipt of export notifications sent by importing countries, which was 96 per cent, and the rate of acknowledgements received by exporting countries, which was only 67 per cent, she urged all importing parties to comply with their obligations relating to export notifications under the Convention. Reporting about the experience with requests for explicit consent sent to other parties, she expressed particular regret at the low response rate to those requests because the importing parties missed the opportunity to benefit from the exchange of information through the prior informed consent procedure. Expressing support for the draft decision, she offered some amendments aimed at highlighting the importance of the issue and increase the flow and transparency of information. Another representative, saying that his country had received many notifications in various formats, said that the process should be streamlined to make it less burdensome, particularly for developing countries.

55. Following the discussion the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/5, 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.

56. Decision RC-7/2, on ways of exchanging information on exports and export notifications, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

B. Consideration of chemicals for inclusion in Annex III to the Convention

57. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that it encompassed whether to list a number of chemicals and severely hazardous pesticide formulations in Annex III to the Convention and developments in the work of the Chemical Review Committee, including the rotation of membership and election of the Committee Chair, support for active participation in the work of the Committee and procedural aspects of the Committee's work.

58. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the activities undertaken by the Chemical Review Committee, which had held its ninth and tenth meetings in October 2013 and October 2014, respectively, following which Mr. Jürgen Helbig (Spain), interim Chair of the Committee, reported on the Committee's work at those meetings.

59. Mr. Helbig reported that the Committee had completed its review of three chemicals and two severely hazardous pesticide formulations and had decided to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider listing them in Annex III to the Convention. At its tenth meeting it had also concluded that notifications of final regulatory action from two different prior informed consent regions for short-chained chlorinated paraffins had met the criteria of Annex II to the Convention. Furthermore, the Committee had concluded that the new notification for tributyltin compounds as

industrial chemicals met the criteria set out in Annex II to the Convention. Taking into account the previous conclusion by the Committee that there were notifications from prior informed consent regions for tributyltin compounds that met the criteria for Annex II, which had led to decision RC-4/5, in which the Conference of the Parties had decided to list the chemicals in Annex III as pesticides, the Committee had decided to recommend the listing of tributyltin compounds in Annex III as industrial chemicals in addition to their current listing as pesticides. Recommendations to list those chemicals, along with decision guidance documents, would be discussed by the Committee at its eleventh meeting and presented for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

1. Recommendations by the Chemical Review Committee to list chemicals in Annex III to the Convention

60. Under the item the Conference of the Parties considered whether to list three chemicals and two severely hazardous pesticide formulations in Annex III to the Convention. The three chemicals were trichlorfon, methamidophos and chrysotile asbestos and the two severely hazardous pesticide formulations were fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) and liquid formulations (emulsifiable concentrate and soluble concentrate) containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L.

61. Beginning the discussion, the President suggested that the Conference of the Parties might first wish to verify whether the requirements of Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention had been met in respect of each of the three chemicals, whether the requirements of Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention had been met in respect of the severely hazardous pesticide formulations, and whether the procedures for the development of decision guidance documents set out in decision RC-2/2 had been followed.

62. The requirements of Articles 5 and 7 in respect of the three chemicals were that the Chemical Review Committee had considered at least one notification from each of two prior informed consent regions; that the Committee had found that the notifications met the criteria in Annex II to the Convention and had accordingly recommended that the chemicals be made subject to the prior informed consent procedure and included in Annex III; that the Committee had prepared a draft decision guidance document; and that the recommendation of the Committee for inclusion, together with the draft decision guidance document, had been made available to the Conference of the Parties in due time.

63. The requirements of Articles 6 and 7 in respect of the severely hazardous pesticide formulations were that the Chemical Review Committee had reviewed a proposal submitted by a developing country or a country with an economy in transition for the listing of a severely hazardous pesticide formulation; that the Committee had found that the proposal met the criteria in part 3 of Annex IV to the Convention and had accordingly recommended that the pesticide formulation be made subject to the prior informed consent procedure and included in Annex III; that the Committee had prepared a draft decision guidance document; and that the recommendation for inclusion of the pesticide formulation, together with the draft decision guidance document, had been made available to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration in due time.

(a) Trichlorfon

64. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documentation, noting that trichlorfon had been recommended for listing in Annex III to the Convention based on one notification of final regulatory action from Brazil and one from the European Union. The Chemical Review Committee, at its ninth meeting, had finalized a draft decision guidance document on trichlorfon and had decided to forward it, together with a recommendation for the inclusion of the chemical in Annex III, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the current meeting.

65. In the ensuing discussion, general appreciation was expressed for the work of the Chemical Review Committee in reviewing the notifications of final regulatory action and in developing the draft decision guidance document. The majority of speakers said that the requirements of articles 5 and 7 of the Convention had been satisfied and expressed support for listing trichlorfon in Annex III to the Convention. A number of those representatives stressed that the listing of chemicals in Annex III facilitated the exchange of information regarding listed chemicals but did not require that they be banned. One representative, however, expressed strong reservations, saying that the Annex II criteria had not been met; that the final regulatory actions at issue had not been backed by sufficient research; that the World Health Organization only classified trichlorfon as a moderately hazardous pesticide; and that cost-effective alternatives were not yet available.

66. The Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group established as described in section (f) below would consider the matter further.

67. Upon the conclusion of the contact group's work, its co-chair reported that all but one representative had said that the requirements of Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention had been met and that trichlorfon should be listed in Annex III to the Convention. One representative, however, had expressed disagreement on both points.

68. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of trichlorfon to its eighth ordinary meeting.

(b) Methamidophos

69. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documentation, noting that methamidophos had been recommended for listing in Annex III to the Convention based on one notification of final regulatory action from Brazil and one from the European Union. The Chemical Review Committee, at its tenth meeting, had finalized a draft decision guidance document on methamidophos and had decided to forward it, together with a recommendation for the inclusion of the chemical in Annex III, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the current meeting.

70. In the ensuing discussion representatives thanked the Chemical Review Committee for its work and expressed support for the inclusion of methamidophos in Annex III to the Convention.

71. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the procedure for reviewing the notifications of final regulatory action for methamidophos had been followed and that methamidophos met the requirements of Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention, including the criteria set out in Annex II. It further agreed that the process followed in developing the draft decision guidance document for methamidophos was in accordance with that set out in decision RC-2/2. The Conference of the Parties therefore adopted the decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/7 approving the draft decision guidance document and listing the substance in Annex III to the Convention, 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.

72. Decision RC-7/4, on the listing of methamidophos in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

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

73. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documentation, noting that fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) had been recommended for listing in Annex III based on a proposal from Chad to list it as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation. The Chemical Review Committee, at its tenth meeting, had finalized a draft decision guidance document and had decided to forward it, together with a recommendation for the inclusion of fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) in Annex III, to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the current meeting.

74. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives said that the proposal from Chad fully met the requirements of Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention, that all procedures had been complied with and that fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) should accordingly be listed in Annex III. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged other developing country parties to investigate problems experienced with severely hazardous pesticide formulations and to submit proposals for their listing if appropriate. One representative, outlining the significant agricultural and economic harm caused by migratory granivorous birds, said that his country would not oppose the listing of fenthion formulations but called for adequate technical and financial assistance to help developing country parties cope with the socio-economic costs that they might face as a consequence and to develop safe and effective alternatives to fenthion formulations. Another representative, while supporting inclusion of the formulations in Annex III, said that research was needed to find alternative ways to combat the devastation of crops by granivorous birds, which were a threat to food security in many parts of Africa. Another representative said that while food security was important it should not preclude efforts to ensure that food was free of harmful chemicals, while another said that it was necessary to raise awareness among farmworkers with regard to hazardous pesticides.

75. One representative said that his country strongly opposed the listing of fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) in Annex III. The reported cases of health problems resulting from use of the chemical were unconvincing, he said, and no cases of adverse impacts on human health had been reported in his country over the 40 years that fenthion had been used to control predation of seed crops by migratory birds, for which no effective alternative had been identified. Inclusion of the formulations in Annex III, he said, would cause a

decline in its production and a steep rise in its price, with adverse socio-economic impacts for developing countries.

76. The Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group established as described in section (f) below would consider the matter further.

77. Following the discussions in the contact group its co-chair reported that there had been no movement in parties' positions. Subsequently, the President introduced two draft decisions, which he said he had prepared with the intention of accommodating the concerns expressed by the one party opposing the listing of the above-mentioned fenthion formulations. One draft decision would amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to include the formulations, with the amendment to enter into force on 15 September 2017, while the other would provide technical assistance to the objecting party to assist it in the identification of alternatives for controlling granivorous birds. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of several developing countries said that their countries also required technical and financial assistance in their efforts to control granivorous birds, while a number of other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed that technical assistance be provided to all countries requiring such assistance instead of to a single named party. As for the representative of the party opposing the listing of fenthion, he maintained the position of his country that it could not support the listing of fenthion formulations.

78. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) to its eighth ordinary meeting.

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

79. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documentation, noting that liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L, had been recommended for listing in Annex III based on a proposal from Burkina Faso to list Gramoxone Super in Annex III to the Convention as a severely hazardous pesticide formulation. The Chemical Review Committee, at its eighth meeting, had finalized a draft decision guidance document and had decided to forward it, together with a recommendation to include in Annex III liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L, to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at its sixth meeting. At that meeting the Conference of the Parties had decided in decision RC-6/8 that the requirements of Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention for listing the above paraquat dichloride formulations in Annex III had been met but, owing to the concerns of several parties, had been unable agree to their listing.

80. In the ensuing discussion many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that they supported the listing of liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L, in Annex III to the Convention, with some drawing attention to its toxicity and impact on human health and the environment. Several representatives said that while their countries allowed the use of the paraquat dichloride formulations under discussion they supported listing in order to facilitate information exchange and their safe handling and management. Many other representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, also spoke of the value of information exchange and the prior informed consent procedure with regard to the formulations, and some stressed that listing a substance in Annex III to the Convention did not indicate that countries should ban it or restrict its use.

81. While almost all representatives who took the floor supported listing the paraquat dichloride formulations under discussion in Annex III to the Convention, a small number expressed opposition. In support of their position it was said that the formulations were still widely used; that cost-effective alternatives were not readily available; that the recommendation by the Chemical Review Committee did not take into account each party's need to use the formulations; and that more time was needed to study the socio-economic consequences of listing the paraquat dichloride formulations in Annex III. One representative said that use of the formulations was consistent with the aim of eradicating extreme hunger under the Millennium Development Goals. Another representative also said that the requirements of Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention had not been met. Another representative, however, said that, while food security was important, millions of agricultural workers in Latin America sickened and died every year, and her country wanted the contact group to take that moral burden into account. Paraquat dichloride formulations would continue to be used, but it was important to acknowledge that they were highly hazardous pesticides that needed to be monitored and controlled.

82. The President noted that the Conference of the Parties had decided at its sixth meeting that the requirements of Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention for listing the relevant paraquat dichloride formulations in Annex III had been met, as set out in paragraph 2 of decision RC-6/8. Thus the task of the parties was limited to deciding whether the paraquat dichloride formulations under discussion should be listed in Annex III to the Convention.

83. The Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group established as described in section (f) below would consider the matter further.

84. At a subsequent session one representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the present report, said that his delegation had been approached by industry representatives who had tried to persuade his country to change its position and to oppose the listing of paraquat dichloride formulations. He said that such a thing was unacceptable and that as long as countries were exposed to such pressure no solutions to the problems relating to the listing of new chemicals could be found. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for his statement.

85. Upon the conclusion of the contact group's work, its co-chair reported that the group had not been able to reach agreement on whether to list the relevant paraquat dichloride formulations in Annex III to the Convention, with only a few parties opposing. Considerable further discussion took place in plenary, during which parties reiterated their positions, but consensus was not achieved.

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

(e) Chrysotile asbestos

87. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the relevant documentation, recalling that the Conference of the Parties had discussed the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention at its third, fourth, fifth and sixth meetings and had agreed that the procedures set out in Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention had been met. Despite that agreement the parties had not been able to reach agreement on whether to list chrysotile asbestos in Annex III, and at its sixth meeting the Conference of the parties had decided to consider the matter again at the current meeting.

88. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the Convention requirements for listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention had been met and that they strongly supported its listing.

89. Several other representatives, however, expressed opposition to listing the chemical, with some arguing that there was no conclusive scientific evidence of negative human health effects to support the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention. One queried whether new scientific evidence had been generated since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties that would justify the listing of the substance at the current meeting. A number of parties suggested that additional consideration at the expert level should be undertaken, if deemed appropriate by the parties, including analysis of potential safe and cost-effective alternatives.

90. Several representatives said that there was sound scientific evidence of the harmful effects of chrysotile asbestos on human health, noting that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO) had classified all forms of asbestos, including chrysotile asbestos, as carcinogenic, with one saying that chrysotile asbestos affected not only workers but also those who lived near mines and processing plants. Saying that 125 million people worldwide were occupationally exposed to chrysotile asbestos and that 90,000 died every year from such exposure, she urged the conference to list the chemical in Annex III, noting that both WHO and the International Labour Organization (ILO) had requested the Rotterdam Convention to deal with the chemical.

91. Several representatives who opposed the listing of chrysotile asbestos said that their countries continued to use it in a controlled and responsible way, for example in the production of sanitary pipes and cement roofing material, including for rural and low-cost housing, with no observed negative health effects. One said that her country followed the ILO Asbestos Convention (No. 162) of 1986 to ensure the safe use of chrysotile asbestos and that in her country's view the chemical was safer than its alternatives. Another representative said that, while his country continued to use chrysotile asbestos, being aware of its potential negative effects it supported responsible international trade in the chemical and therefore supported listing it in Annex III.

92. Other representatives who supported listing also described national experiences with chrysotile asbestos, including challenges associated with its removal from electricity infrastructure, safely destroying existing stockpiles in small island developing States and finding cost-effective alternatives to its use as a raw material in a number of production processes. One representative described the toll that his country was paying for its past extensive use of the chemical, including one of the world's highest rates of mesothelioma and the high cost of compensating asbestos personal injury victims and dealing with legacy issues in the housing sector. The country had lost 5,000 lives due to asbestos-related diseases and expected further deaths despite banning the production and use of chrysotile asbestos.

93. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, emphasized that the listing of a chemical in Annex III did not constitute a ban on its use or an international trade barrier but did allow parties to make informed decisions as to whether to import the chemical and how to mitigate environmental and health risks associated with its use. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries added that the Convention did not require the conduct of risk assessments or comprehensive scientific assessments of chemicals, including of potential substitutes, but rather the review of notifications of final regulatory action against the criteria in Annex II to the Convention.

94. One representative said that assistance, including technology transfer and safer and cost-effective alternatives, should be provided to those parties that were still using chrysotile asbestos to help them move away from use of the chemical.

95. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that listing chrysotile asbestos at the current meeting was critical to preserving the credibility of the Rotterdam Convention and the value of the prior informed consent procedure. One representative said that his country had submitted a conference room paper suggesting intersessional work to consider options for dealing with situations in which chemicals that met the Convention's listing criteria had not been listed because the parties had failed to reach agreement to do so. A number of representatives said that failing to reach agreement on listing chemicals that met the criteria for listing was compromising the effectiveness of the Convention and needed to be discussed in a contact group at the current meeting.

96. The Conference of the Parties decided that the contact group established as described in section (f) below would consider the matter further.

97. Upon the conclusion of the contact group's work, its co-chair reported that the group had not been able to reach agreement on whether to list chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention, with only a few parties opposing.

98. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of chrysotile asbestos to its eighth ordinary meeting.

(f) Establishment of a contact group

99. Following the discussions outlined in the preceding sections the Conference of the Parties established a contact group, co-chaired by Mr. Björn Hansen (European Union) and Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia), to further discuss the listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention. The group would first consider, with regard to trichlorfon, whether the requirements of Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention had been met and, with regard to fenthion formulations, whether the requirements of Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention had been met. For each of those two, if the group concluded that the requirements of the applicable articles of the Convention had been met it would then go on to consider whether it should be listed in Annex III to the Convention. With regard to the paraquat dichloride formulations under discussion, the group would proceed directly to the question of whether they should be listed in Annex III, as the Conference of the Parties had already decided in decision RC-6/8 that the requirements of Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention had been satisfied. Similarly, with regard to chrysotile asbestos, the group would consider only the question of whether the chemical should be listed in Annex III, as the Conference of the Parties had already decided in decision RC-3/3 that the requirements of Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention had been satisfied.

(g) Intersessional work on the failure to list in Annex III to the Convention chemicals recommended by the Chemical Review Committee and its implications for the effectiveness of the Convention

100. Following the discussion of chrysotile asbestos, and in response to the concerns expressed by some delegations regarding the repeated failure of the parties to reach agreement on the listing of chemicals whose listing had been recommended by the Chemical Review Committee, the President

proposed that a small intersessional working group be established to explore means by which the objectives of the Convention could be achieved in such cases. He noted that the proposed intersessional work would not be specific to any chemical currently under consideration for listing, but would look generally into the issue with regard to all current and future chemicals. He proposed that the work be led by a lead country or countries and invited interested parties to consider taking up that role.

101. There was general support for the proposal in the discussion that followed, although several representatives, including a number of representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that it would be necessary to consult further on the matter and requested more information on matters such as the mandate and modalities of the group, including its composition and whether the issues to be considered would include technical, financial and policy matters or would be more limited.

102. The Conference of the Parties agreed that the contact group established as described in section (f) above should discuss the matter further, with the aim of preparing a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The draft decision could propose the establishment of an intersessional working group and a workplan for the group, which would work to develop options, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, on how the objectives of the Rotterdam Convention could be achieved in instances where the Conference of the Parties was unable to reach consensus on listing a chemical in Annex III although the Chemical Review Committee had recommended that it be listed. In its deliberations, the contact group would take into consideration the President's proposal, the discussion of the matter in plenary, and the conference room paper put forward during the discussion of chrysotile asbestos.

103. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group, as orally amended. Following adoption of the decision one representative said that the reference in paragraph 4 (a) of the decision to information set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/12 should be deleted, as it would inappropriately limit the scope of the intersessional group's inquiry. The President said that as the decision had already been adopted the representative's concern would be noted in the present report.

104. Decision RC-7/5, on intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

105. Following consideration of chemicals for inclusion in Annex III to the Convention, one representative read out a statement on behalf of a group of countries and another party, inviting other parties to subscribe to it. The statement expressed deep concern that the listing of chrysotile asbestos and paraquat dichloride formulations, which at previous meetings had been found by the Conference of the Parties to meet all of the Convention's criteria for listing, as well as trichlorfon and fenthion formulations, had been prevented by a small number of parties or even a single party that had provided reasons that were not relevant to the Convention's criteria. Saying that the failure to list a chemical impaired information exchange and the protection of the environment and human health and the provision of technical assistance to parties under the Convention, the statement called on all parties to give priority to the protection of human health and the environment and to list all substances recommended for listing in Annex III in the future, thereby improving the effectiveness of the listing of chemicals in the Convention, and declared the intent of its signatories to ensure that the export of hazardous chemicals would occur only with the prior informed consent of importing parties and that those parties were provided with accurate information on the characteristics, potential dangers, safe handling and use of those chemicals.

106. Following the reading of the statement one representative, asking that his statement be reflected in the present report, said that the protection of human health was of great importance to his country and that human health was the underlying concern for the position taken by his country on matters under consideration at the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

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

107. The representative of the Secretariat reported that at their ninth meeting the members of the Chemical Review Committee had, in accordance with decision RC-6/3, selected Mr. Helbig 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 of office in

May 2014, while the remaining 14 members would conclude their terms in April 2016. At the current meeting, therefore, the Conference of the Parties would need to decide whether to confirm the positions of Mr. Helbig and the 17 new members of the Committee, as well as to identify which parties would be invited to designate 14 new members.

108. With regard to cooperation and coordination with other scientific bodies, she reported that the Secretariat had facilitated information sharing with the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm 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 Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, as well as its first joint meeting with that Committee in October 2013. The two committees planned to hold their eleventh meetings back to back, the committees' reactions to the joint meeting having been largely positive, with most members saying that they were 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.

109. She added that an orientation workshop had been conducted in Rome from 19 to 21 May 2014 to acquaint new members with the operations of the Committee, including the working procedure and policy guidance documents that the Committee used to achieve consistency in its work.

110. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the confirmation of the appointment of the 17 new members of the Committee, thanking the outgoing members for their contribution to its work, and for the election of Mr. Helbig as Chair. He also urged parties to provide resources to enable the Secretariat to continue to organize orientation workshops to acquaint new Committee members with the operations of the Committee, which were considered very useful.

111. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/6, 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.

112. Decision RC-7/3, on the operation of the Chemical Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

113. In accordance with the decision, the following experts were nominated to serve as members of the Chemical Review Committee, with terms to run from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2020, by the parties listed in the annex to the decision:

From African States:	[To be nominated] (Djibouti) Mr. Arsonina Bera (Madagascar) Ms. Alimatou Abdou Douki (Niger) Mr. Khidir Gibril Musa (Sudan)
From Asian-Pacific States:	Mr. W. Bharat Singh (India) Ms. Champa Magamage (Sri Lanka) Mr. Viliami Toalei Manu (Tonga) Mr. Shehab Al-Shameri (Yemen)
From Central and Eastern European States:	Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia)
From Latin American and Caribbean States:	[To be nominated] (Argentina) Mr. Jorge Requena (Panama)
From Western European and other States:	[To be nominated] (Germany) Ms. Marit Randall (Norway) [To be nominated] (United Kingdom)

114. As indicated in the decision, it was agreed that Argentina, Djibouti, Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would nominate experts to serve as members of the Committee. By the close of the current meeting, however, the four parties had not yet nominated

those experts. The nominations would therefore be communicated to the Secretariat and thence to the parties following the close of the current meeting.

C. Non-compliance

115. The discussion summarized in the present section, on non-compliance (agenda item 5 (c)), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 116–136 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 237–257.

116. 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.

117. 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.

118. 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.

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

1. Rotterdam Convention

120. 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.

121. 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.

122. 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.

123. 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.

124. 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.

125. 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.

126. 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.

127. 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.

128. Given the lack of consensus on the co-chairs' draft decision, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision prepared by the President, 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.

129. 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 the annex to the present report.

2. Stockholm Convention

130. 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.

131. 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.

132. 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.

133. 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.

134. 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.

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

136. 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36).

D. Technical assistance

137. The discussion summarized in the present section, on technical assistance (agenda item 5 (d)), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 138–145 and 149–162 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 137–144 and 148–161, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 161–168 and 172–186.

138. 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

139. 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.

140. 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.

141. 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.

142. 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.

143. 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.

144. 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.

145. 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 E.3 below should consider the sub-item further.

146. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam 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.

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

148. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on technical assistance. Decisions BC-12/9 and SC-7/16, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), respectively.

2. Implementation of decision V/32 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention

149. 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 1 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.

150. In the 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.

151. 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.

152. 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 E.3 below should consider the sub-item further.

153. 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.

154. 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 the annex 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

155. 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

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

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.

156. 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.

157. 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 that it was 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.

158. 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, combating 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.

159. 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.

160. 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.

161. 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.

162. 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 E.3 below should consider the sub-item further.

163. Subsequently the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2016–2017 or that they would have no budgetary implications, the draft decisions on Basel and Stockholm convention regional, subregional and coordinating centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology prepared by the contact group.

164. Decisions SC-7/17 and BC-12/10, on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology and on Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for training and technology transfer, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), respectively.

E. Financial resources

165. The discussion summarized in the present section, on financial resources (agenda item 5 (e)), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 166–180 and 184–185 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 212–226 and 230–231, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 190–204 and 208–209.

166. 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

167. 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.

168. 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.

169. 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 on Mercury 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.

170. 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.

171. 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.

172. 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.

173. 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.

174. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention 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.

175. 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.

176. 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36).

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

177. 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.

178. 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.

179. 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.

180. 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.

181. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam 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.

182. Decision RC-7/8, on implementation of the integrated approach to financing, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

183. In addition the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm 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 Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-12/18 and SC-7/22, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), respectively.

3. Establishment of a contact group

184. Following the discussion summarized in section D above and in the present section E, on technical assistance and financial resources, 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).

185. 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.

F. International cooperation and coordination

186. The discussion summarized in the present section, on international cooperation and coordination (agenda item 5 (f)), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 187–192 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 203–208, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 259–264.

187. 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.

188. 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.

189. 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.

190. 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.

191. 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.

192. 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.

193. Decision RC-7/9, on international cooperation and coordination, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in the annex to the present report.

194. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on international cooperation and coordination that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-12/17 and SC-7/27, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), respectively.

VII. Programme of work and budget (agenda item 6)

195. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the programme of work and budget (agenda item 6), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 196–206, 210–217, 221–224 and 227 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 246–256, 260–267, 271–274 and 277, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 268–278, 282–289, 293–296 and 299.

196. 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

197. 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.

198. 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.

199. 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.

200. 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.

201. 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 per cent of the voluntary resources budgeted for the Stockholm Convention, 60 per cent of those budgeted for the Basel Convention, and only 31 per cent 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.

202. 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 towards the implementation of the three conventions rather than to offset budget shortfalls owing to arrears.

203. 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.

204. 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 Hernaus (Netherlands).

205. 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.

206. 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 separate draft decisions on the budget and programme of work for each of the three conventions.

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

208. Decision RC-7/15, on the programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2016-2017, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in the annex to the present report.

209. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the programmes of work and budgets for those conventions for the biennium 2016–2017. Decisions BC-12/25 and SC-7/33, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/36), respectively.

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

210. 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).

211. 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.

212. 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.

213. 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.

214. 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.

215. 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.

216. 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.

217. 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.

218. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam 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".

219. Decisions RC-7/10, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and RC-7/12, entitled "From science to action", as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, are set out in the annex to the present report.

220. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, 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 Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-12/20 and BC-12/22 and decisions SC-7/28 and SC-7/30, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), respectively.

C. Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

221. 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.

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

223. 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.

224. 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.

225. Decision RC-7/11, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in the annex to the present report.

226. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm 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 Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-12/21 and SC-7/29, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), respectively.

D. Establishment of a contact group on cooperation and coordination

227. 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.

VIII. Venue and date of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 7)

228. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the venue and date of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 7), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 229–234 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 279–284, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 301–306.

229. 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.

230. 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.

231. 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.

232. 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 the 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.

233. 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.

234. 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.

235. Decision RC-7/13, on the venue and date 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 Rotterdam Convention, is set out in the annex to the present report.

236. In addition, the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm 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 Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-12/23 and SC-7/31, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), respectively.

IX. Other matters (agenda item 8)

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

237. The discussion summarized in the present section, on 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 (agenda item 8), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 238–244 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 288–294, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 310–316.

238. 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.

239. 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.

240. 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.

241. 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.

242. 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.

243. 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.

244. 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.

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

246. Decision RC-7/14, on the draft memorandum of understanding between FAO, UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, is set out in the annex to the present report.

247. 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 Stockholm Convention adopted a decision on a draft memorandum of understanding between UNEP and that Conference of the Parties. Decisions BC-12/24 and SC-7/32, as adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex 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 the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), respectively.

B. Admission of observers

248. The discussion summarized in the present section, on the admission of observers (agenda item 8), took place during joint sessions of 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. Paragraphs 249–252 below are replicated in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its twelfth meeting (UNEP/CHW.12/27), paragraphs 299–302, and in the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its seventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36), paragraphs 321–324.

249. 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.

250. 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.

251. 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.

252. 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

253. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat referred to Article 4 of the Convention, which required that each party designate one or more national authorities authorized to act on its behalf in the performance of the administrative functions required by the Convention. Furthermore, decision RC-6/13, by which the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised harmonized form for notification of contacts, urged parties to nominate official contact points and designated national authorities if they had not already done so and to confirm and provide the Secretariat with updated contact details for existing official contact points and designated national authorities. It also requested the Secretariat to maintain a list of official contact points and designated national authorities and to continue to make the list publicly available on the Rotterdam Convention website, with the goal of ensuring the completeness and accuracy of the information available on the website. Since the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat had made the revised form available on the website and had undertaken bilateral follow-up with parties, particularly those who had not already designated official contact points and designated national authorities. To date, 148 parties had nominated 325 official contact points and 149 parties had nominated 249 designated national authorities.

254. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided and urged parties to nominate their official contact points and designated national authorities, as well as to provide updated information to the Secretariat when necessary on a timely basis.

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

255. 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.

256. 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.

257. 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.

258. 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.

X. Adoption of the report (agenda item 9)

259. 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/FAO/RC/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.

XI. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 10)

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

Annex

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

- RC-7/1: Proposal for activities to increase notifications of final regulatory action
- RC-7/2: Proposal on ways of exchanging information on exports and export notifications
- RC-7/3: Operation of the Chemical Review Committee
- RC-7/4: Listing of methamidophos in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-7/5: Intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-7/6: Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-7/7: Technical assistance
- RC-7/8: Implementation of the integrated approach to financing
- RC-7/9: International cooperation and coordination
- RC-7/10: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- RC-7/11: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange
- RC-7/12: From science to action
- RC-7/13: Venue and date of the next meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- RC-7/14: Draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- RC-7/15: Programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2016–2017

RC-7/1: Proposal for activities to increase notifications of final regulatory action

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the activities that the Secretariat is undertaking with regard to notifications of final regulatory action to ban or severely restrict pesticides and industrial chemicals;¹
2. *Urges* parties to exchange information in accordance with the provisions of the Convention by submitting notifications of final regulatory action for banned or severely restricted chemicals;
3. *Encourages* parties to provide the Secretariat with texts of national legislation and other measures adopted by them to implement the Convention;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to collect the following information that may assist parties in preparing notifications of final regulatory action and to make it available to parties and other stakeholders in a user-friendly format:
 - (a) Scientific and technical information for risk assessment and decision-making;
 - (b) National legislation and other measures adopted by parties to implement the Convention;
5. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To provide assistance to parties, upon request, in order to facilitate an increase in the number of notifications of final regulatory action;
 - (b) To follow up with parties on an individual basis with the objective of ensuring that their notifications meet the information requirements of Annex I to the Convention;
 - (c) To use existing materials in its technical assistance activities and to develop additional guidance material, as appropriate, so as to enhance their effectiveness;
 - (d) To provide assistance to developing country parties and parties with economies in transition, subject to the availability of resources, aimed at increasing the number of proposals for the listing of severely hazardous pesticide formulations;
 - (e) To carry out, subject to the availability of resources, a survey on the final regulatory actions adopted by parties and to make the results of the survey available to all parties by publishing it on the website of the Convention;
 - (f) To include in its technical assistance programme:²
 - (i) Activities to support parties in strengthening national coordination mechanisms for decision-making;
 - (ii) Activities to advise parties on the use of risk evaluations and exposure assessments completed in other countries and the use of international risk evaluations as bridging information to support their submissions;
 - (g) To identify the main constraints faced by parties when implementing Article 5 of the Convention.

¹ See UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/4.

² See UNEP/CHW.12/13-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/13-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/13.

RC-7/2: Proposal on ways of exchanging information on exports and export notifications

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report prepared by the Secretariat on the information received from parties on ways of exchanging information on exports and export notifications;³
2. *Urges* parties to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention, including the obligations under paragraph 2 (c) of Article 11 and under Article 12 of the Convention;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to provide assistance to parties, upon request, in implementing paragraph 2 (c) of Article 11 and Article 12 of the Convention;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to facilitate, subject to the availability of resources, the exchange of information and to report at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of paragraph 2 of Article 11 and Articles 12 and 14 of the Convention.

³ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/5, annex.

RC-7/3: Operation of the Chemical Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the reports of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its ninth and tenth meetings;⁴
2. *Appoints* the 17 designated experts to serve as members of the Committee;⁵
3. *Adopts* the list of 14 parties to nominate Committee members for terms of office commencing on 1 May 2016 set out in the annex to the present decision;
4. *Elects* Mr. Jürgen Helbig (Spain) as the Chair of the Committee;
5. *Welcomes* the guidance to assist parties to the Convention and the Chemical Review Committee in their work when a chemical under consideration is a persistent organic pollutant listed under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;⁶
6. *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;⁷
7. *Welcomes* the handbook of working procedures and policy guidance for the Chemical Review Committee;⁸
8. *Takes note* of the holding of an orientation workshop for new members and requests the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to organize further such workshops and to report on the results of that activity to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;
9. *Adopts* the amendment to section B.2 (6) of the process for drafting decision guidance documents and accompanying explanatory notes⁹ as proposed in paragraph 26 of the note by the Secretariat.¹⁰

Annex to decision RC-7/3

List of parties identified by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting to nominate Chemical Review Committee members whose terms of office commence on 1 May 2016

African States

Djibouti
Madagascar
Niger
Sudan

Asian-Pacific States

India
Sri Lanka
Tonga
Yemen

Central and Eastern European States

Armenia

⁴ UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.9/11 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.10/10.

⁵ See UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.9/INF/4 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.10/INF/3.

⁶ See UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.10/INF/14/Rev.1.

⁷ See UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.10/INF/16.

⁸ www.pic.int/crcguidance.

⁹ Decision RC-2/2, annex.

¹⁰ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/6.

Latin American and Caribbean States

Argentina
Panama

Western European and other States

Germany
Norway
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

RC-7/4: Listing of methamidophos in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee,

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

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

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

Chemical	Relevant CAS number(s)	Category
Methamidophos	10265-92-6	Pesticide

2. *Also decides* to delete the existing entry in Annex III for “methamidophos (soluble liquid formulations of the substance that exceed 600 g active ingredient/l)”;

3. *Further decides* that this amendment shall enter into force for all parties on 15 September 2015;

4. *Approves* the draft decision guidance document on methamidophos.¹¹

¹¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/7/Add.1, annex.

RC-7/5: Intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the objective of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade provided in Article 1 of the Convention,

1. *Decides* to establish an intersessional working group composed of interested parties and observers to undertake the work described in paragraph 4 of the present decision;
2. *Invites* parties and observers to nominate experts to participate in the intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 31 July 2015;
3. *Invites* parties to consider serving as lead country for undertaking the work of the intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their willingness to do so by 31 July 2015;
4. *Requests* the lead country or, if there is no lead country, the Secretariat to facilitate the intersessional work, underpinned by a workshop subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To review the cases in which the Conference of the Parties was unable to reach consensus on the listing of a chemical by identifying the reasons for and against listing and, based on that and other information such as the information set out in documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/12 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.4/13, to develop options for improving the effectiveness of the process;
 - (b) To develop proposals for enabling improved information flows that support the prior informed consent procedure for those chemicals;
5. *Requests* the intersessional working group to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

RC-7/6: Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 17 of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,

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

1. *Decides* to consider further at its eighth meeting, for adoption, the procedures and mechanisms on compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention;
2. *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;
3. *Decides* that the draft text 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;
4. *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 RC-7/6

Procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention

1. A compliance committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) is hereby established.

Members

2. The Committee shall consist of 15 members. Members shall be 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.
3. Members shall have expertise and specific qualifications in the subject matter covered by the Convention. They shall serve objectively and in the best interests of the Convention.

Election of members

4. At the meeting at which the Committee is established, the Conference of the Parties shall elect eight members of the Committee for one term and seven 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 decision, “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.
5. If a member of the Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete his or her term of office or to perform his or her functions, the party who nominated that member shall nominate an alternate to serve for the remainder of the term.

Officers

6. 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

7. The Committee shall hold meetings as necessary and wherever possible in conjunction with meetings of the Conference of the Parties or other Convention bodies.
8. Subject to paragraph 9 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 12 or 13, 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.

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.

9. Where a submission is made with regard to the possible non-compliance of a party, it shall be invited to participate in the consideration of the submission by the Committee. Such a party, however, may not take part in the elaboration and adoption of a recommendation or conclusion of the Committee.
10. The Committee shall make every effort to reach agreement on all matters of substance by consensus. Where this is not possible, the report shall reflect the views of all the Committee members. 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 four-fifths majority of the members present and voting or by eight members, whichever is greater. Ten members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
11. Each member of the Committee shall, in respect of 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.

12. Submissions may be made in writing, through the Secretariat where subparagraphs (a) and (b) apply, by:

(a) A party which believes that, despite its best endeavours, it is, or will be, unable to comply with certain obligations under the Convention. Such a submission 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, may be provided. The submission may include suggestions for solutions which the party considers may be most appropriate to its particular needs;

(b) A party that is directly affected or likely to be directly affected by another party's alleged failure to comply with the obligations of the Convention. A party intending to make a submission under this subparagraph should before so doing undertake consultations with the party whose compliance is in question. The submission should include details as to which specific obligations are concerned, and information substantiating the submission, including how the party is affected or likely to be affected.

13. The Committee in order to assess possible difficulties faced by parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Articles 4 (1) , 5 (1) and (2) and 10 of the Convention, upon receipt of information from the Secretariat provided by such Parties pursuant to those provisions, 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 16 to 24.

14. The Secretariat shall forward submissions made under subparagraph 12 (a) above, within two weeks of receiving such submissions, to the members of the Committee for consideration at the Committee's next meeting.

15. The Secretariat shall, within two weeks of its receiving any submission made under subparagraph 12 (b) or in furtherance to paragraph 13, 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.

16. Parties whose compliance is in question may present responses or comments at every step of the proceedings described in the present decision.

17. Without prejudice to paragraph 16 above, additional information, provided by a party whose compliance is in question in response to a submission, should be forwarded to the Secretariat within three months of the date of receipt of the submission by that party, unless the circumstances of a particular case require an extended period of time. 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 12 (b) above, the information shall be forwarded by the Secretariat also to the party that made the submission.

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

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

Facilitation

19. The Committee shall consider any submission made to it in accordance with paragraph 12 or in furtherance of paragraph 13 above with a view to establishing the facts and the root causes of the matter of concern and to assisting in its resolution, taking into account Article 16 of the Convention. To that end, the Committee may provide a party with:

- (a) Advice;
- (b) Non-binding recommendations;
- (c) Any further information required to assist the party in developing a compliance plan, including timelines and targets.

Possible measures to address compliance issues

20. If, after undertaking the facilitation procedure set forth in paragraph 19 above and taking into account the cause, type, degree and frequency of compliance difficulties, including financial and technical capacities of the parties whose compliance is in question, the Committee considers it necessary to propose further measures to address a party's compliance problems, it may recommend to the Conference of the Parties, bearing in mind its ability under Article 18, paragraph 5 (c), of the

Convention, that it consider the following measures, to be taken in accordance with international law, to attain compliance:

- (a) Further support under the Convention for the party concerned, including facilitation, as appropriate, of access to financial resources, technical assistance and capacity-building;
- (b) Providing advice regarding future compliance in order to help parties to implement the provisions of the Convention and to promote cooperation between all parties;
- (c) Requesting the Party concerned to update on its efforts;
- [(d) Issuing a statement of concern regarding possible future non-compliance;
- (e) Issuing a statement of concern regarding current non-compliance;
- (f) Requesting the Executive Secretary to make public cases of non-compliance;]
- (g) Recommending that a non-compliant situation be addressed by the non-compliant party with the aim of resolving the situation.

Handling of information

21. (1) The Committee may receive relevant information, through the Secretariat, from:

- (a) The parties;
- (b) Relevant sources, as it considers necessary and appropriate, with the prior consent of the party concerned or as directed by the Conference of the Parties;
- (c) The Convention clearing-house mechanism and relevant intergovernmental organizations. The Committee shall provide the Party concerned with such information and invite it to present comments thereon.

(2) The Committee may also request information from the Secretariat, where appropriate in the form of a report, on matters under the Committee's consideration.

22. For the purposes of examining systemic issues of general compliance under paragraph 25, the Committee may:

- (a) Request information from all parties;
- (b) In accordance with relevant guidance by the Conference of the Parties, request relevant information from any reliable sources and outside experts; and
- (c) Consult with the Secretariat and draw upon its experience and knowledge base.

23. Subject to Article 14 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.

Monitoring

24. The Compliance Committee should monitor the consequences of action taken in pursuance of paragraphs 19 or 20 above.

General compliance issues

25. The Compliance Committee may examine systemic issues of general compliance of interest to all parties where:

- (a) The Conference of the Parties so requests;
- (b) The Committee, on the basis of information obtained by the Secretariat, while acting pursuant to its functions under the Convention, from Parties and submitted to the Committee by the Secretariat, decides that there is a need for an issue of general non-compliance to be examined and for a report on it to be made to the Conference of the Parties.

Reports to the Conference of the Parties

26. 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 or 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

27. Where the activities of the Committee in respect of particular issues overlap with the responsibilities of another Rotterdam Convention body, the Conference of the Parties may direct the Committee to consult with that body.

Information sharing with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements

28. Where relevant, the Committee may solicit specific 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 these activities to the Conference of the Parties.

Review of the compliance mechanism

29. The Conference of the Parties shall regularly review the implementation of the procedures and mechanisms set forth in the present decision.

Relationship with settlement of disputes

30. These procedures and mechanisms shall be without prejudice to Article 20 of the Convention.

RC-7/7: 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;¹²
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, 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 technical assistance 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 to propose recommendations and take action to address those problems;
6. *Welcomes* the technical assistance programme¹³ 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 Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 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 Annex III to the Convention;
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;
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 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.

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

¹³ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/25-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/17-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/16.

RC-7/8: 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;¹⁴
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 on the Control of the 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 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 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, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 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.

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

RC-7/9: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;¹⁵
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 Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to 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;

¹⁵ 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.

RC-7/10: 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 conventions¹⁶ 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 arrangements¹⁷ 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;¹⁸
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.

¹⁶ UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1, annex I.

¹⁷ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9.

¹⁸ UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1, annex II.

Annex to decision RC-7/10

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 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;¹⁹
 - (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;²⁰
 - (f) Report by the consultant on the review of job descriptions;

¹⁹ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2 /INF/7.

²⁰ 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 2013,²¹ 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;²²
- (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;
- (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.

²¹ UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/5 and UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/6.

²² 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.

RC-7/11: 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 strategy²³ 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.

²³UNEP/CHW.12/INF/50-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/36-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/56.

RC-7/12: 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 Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to 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.

RC-7/13: 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 Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; 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.

RC-7/14: Draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Takes note* of the proposed draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention;²⁴
2. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme 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;²⁵
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. *Acknowledges* the continued application of the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning arrangements for performing jointly the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention, which was approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision RC-2/5 and entered into force on 28 November 2005;
8. *Recalls* its decision RC-6/15, in which it requested the executive secretaries to submit a draft memorandum of understanding to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;
9. *Requests* the executive secretaries to prepare, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, 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 draft tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties, the Director-General and the Executive Director concerning the provision of the secretariat for the

²⁴ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex.

²⁵ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/56- UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/40-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/60.

Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision;

10. *Also requests* the executive secretaries, should such a draft tripartite memorandum of understanding not be possible, to prepare:

(a) In consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly 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 and the Executive Director concerning the provision of the secretariat for the Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision;

(b) In consultation with the Director-General, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Director-General concerning the provision of the secretariat for the Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision and mirrors as far as possible the revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director referred to in paragraph 10 (a) of the present decision.

RC-7/15: Programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2016–2017

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the financial reports on the Rotterdam Convention trust funds for 2014 and estimated expenditures for 2015 from the Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund),²⁶

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 143,692 United States dollars, will have to be deducted from the end 2014 fund balance of the Rotterdam 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 Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

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 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, 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 Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2016–2017 of 4,169,819 United States dollars for 2016 and 3,976,959 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 secretaries of the Rotterdam Convention to make commitments in an amount up to the approved operational budget, drawing upon available cash resources;

5. *Decides* to maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for the biennium 2016–2017;

²⁶ See UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/25.

6. *Invites* the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue their financial and other support for the operation of the Convention and its Secretariat in the biennium 2016–2017;

7. *Notes with appreciation* that in its programme of work and budget for 2016–2017, which will be approved at the thirty-ninth session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization, in June 2015, the Organization intends to maintain its level of contributions by making a provision for the allocation of 1.5 million United States dollars from its regular budget for direct support to the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and that those funds will be allocated and managed directly by the Secretariat;

8. *Invites* the governing body of the Food and Agriculture Organization at its thirty-ninth session to consider establishing the post of Senior Coordinator within its programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

9. *Welcomes* the continued annual contribution by Italy and Switzerland, the host countries of the Secretariat, of 600,000 euros each to the Secretariat to offset planned expenditures;

10. *Notes* that Switzerland's annual host country contribution of 600,000 euros will be allocated to the Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund and to the voluntary Special Trust Fund in the proportion of 65 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively, in 2016 and 50 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively, in 2017 and thereafter;

11. *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 secretaries, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2016 for 2016 and before 1 January 2017 for 2017;

12. *Recognizes* that contributions to the Rotterdam 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;

13. *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;

14. *Decides*, with regard to assessed and host country 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;

15. *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;

16. *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;

17. *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;

18. *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;

19. *Authorizes* the executive secretaries to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that the executive secretaries 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 report;

20. *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.

Voluntary Special Trust Fund

21. *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 3,158,729 United States dollars for 2016 and 3,241,702 United States dollars for 2017;

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

23. *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;

24. *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

25. *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;

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

27. *Requests* the executive secretaries, bearing in mind decision RC.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 their efforts in that regard;

28. *Also requests* the executive secretaries 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;

29. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing the parties with timely information on the financial consequences of various options and, to that end, requests the executive secretaries to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2018–2019 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 27 above and are based on:

(a) Their assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase 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;

30. *Requests* the executive secretaries 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;

31. *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								Biennium	
		Source of funding								Source of funding									
		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual		Basel Convention		Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention		Annual			
		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		
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
7 (BC)	Meeting of the Bureau of the conference of the Parties to the	50 900						50 900										50 900	

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
8 (RC)	Basel Convention and joint meetings of the bureaux to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions																		
	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		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									
		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 (S1)	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 technical assistance and capacity-building 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									
15 (RC)	Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention at national and regional levels	1 178 600								1 178 600									
										778 400									
16 (SC)	Training and capacity-building activities to enhance the implementation of the Stockholm Convention at the regional level									1 190 800									
										-									
										616 200									
										-									
										1 807 000									

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	532 000	540 000	530 000	1 602 000	341 000	354 000	368 000	1 063 000	2 665 000	
	2016–2017 total technical assistance and capacity-building 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 technical assistance and capacity-building c)	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 technical assistance and capacity-building 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

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	
	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				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
25 (S10)	Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, including PIC database and Rotterdam Convention website in English, French and Spanish Publications	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)		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									
		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						190 000		380 000
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									
		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	4 248 543	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
	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>	<i>2 412 147</i>	<i>330 579</i>	<i>726 516</i>		<i>2 551 037</i>	<i>374 451</i>	<i>731 058</i>		
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>				<i>2 741 316</i>				<i>2 826 450</i>		
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	347 208
1303	Meetings/Documents Assistant	170 200	–		170 200	177 008	–		177 008	347 208
1306	Information Assistant	137 500	–		137 500	143 000	–		143 000	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	280 500

1303	Administrative Assistant (abolished)		↘							
1305	Programme Assistant		↘	137 500	137 500		143 000	143 000	280 500	
1302	Information Systems Assistant		↘	137 500	137 500		143 000	143 000	280 500	
1308	Research Assistant		↘	170 200	170 200		177 008	177 008	347 208	
1320	Programme Clerk		↘	137 500	137 500		143 000	143 000	280 500	
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	1 955 040	3 834 886
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	548 325	
1332	Conference of the Parties to SC (HLS)						9 250	9 250	9 250	
1331	POPs Review Committee			316 847	316 847		316 847	316 847	633 694	
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 regional centres									
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

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	322 431
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	3 933 380	7 668 020	3 857 764	3 815 743	7 673 507
Host country contributions*	1 358 344	1 358 344	2 716 688	1 320 000	1 200 000	2 520 000
Covered by parties	2 376 296	2 575 036	4 951 332	2 537 764	2 615 743	5 153 507
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
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\$ 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
	<i>Subtotal RO staff</i>		<i>275 000</i>				<i>286 000</i>		<i>286 000</i>	<i>286 000</i>
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

		2016				2017			2016–2017	
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
	<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
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

		2016				2017			2016–2017	
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
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									
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

		2016				2017			2016–2017	
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
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
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

		2016				2017			2016–2017	
		BD	RV	SV	Total	BD	RV	SV	Total	Total
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

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 assessments for the General Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention
(RO) for the operational budget for the biennium 2016–2017 (in United States dollars)**

Portion of operational budget to be covered by assessed contributions:		2016	2 535 764²⁷		
		2017	2 613 743²⁸		
Party		United Nations scale of assessments 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
<i>No.</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>US dollars</i>	<i>US dollars</i>
1	Afghanistan	0.005	0.010	254	261
2	Albania	0.010	0.013	324	334
3	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.010	254	261
4	Argentina	0.432	0.552	14 006	14 437
5	Armenia	0.007	0.010	254	261
6	Australia	2.074	2.652	67 243	69 311
7	Austria	0.798	1.020	25 873	26 668
8	Bahrain	0.039	0.050	1 264	1 303
9	Belgium	0.998	1.276	32 357	33 352
10	Belize	0.001	0.010	254	261
11	Benin	0.003	0.010	254	261
12	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.009	0.010	254	261
13	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.017	0.022	551	568
14	Botswana	0.017	0.022	551	568
15	Brazil	2.934	3.751	95 126	98 051
16	Bulgaria	0.047	0.060	1 524	1 571
17	Burkina Faso	0.003	0.010	254	261
18	Burundi	0.001	0.010	254	261
19	Cabo Verde	0.001	0.010	254	261
20	Cambodia	0.004	0.010	254	261
21	Cameroon	0.012	0.015	389	401
22	Canada	2.984	3.815	96 747	99 722
23	Chad	0.002	0.010	254	261
24	Chile	0.334	0.427	10 829	11 162
25	China	5.148	6.582	166 908	172 040
26	Colombia	0.259	0.331	8 397	8 655
27	Congo	0.005	0.010	254	261
28	Cook Islands	0.001	0.010	254	261
29	Costa Rica	0.038	0.049	1 232	1 270
30	Côte d'Ivoire	0.011	0.014	357	368
31	Croatia	0.126	0.161	4 085	4 211
32	Cuba	0.069	0.088	2 237	2 306
33	Cyprus	0.047	0.060	1 524	1 571

²⁷ The 2016 and 2017 costs apportioned among parties have been reduced by US\$ 2,000 annually to correct an error in the calculation of parties' contributions for the 2014–2015 biennium arising from the fact that costs that should have been funded from the Fund Balance were inadvertently apportioned among parties.

²⁸ Ibid.

	Party	United Nations scale of assessments 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
34	Czech Republic	0.386	0.494	12 515	12 900
35	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.006	0.010	254	261
36	Democratic Republic of Congo	0.003	0.010	254	261
37	Denmark	0.675	0.863	21 885	22 558
38	Djibouti	0.001	0.010	254	261
39	Dominican Republic	0.045	0.058	1 459	1 504
40	Dominica	0.001	0.010	254	261
41	Ecuador	0.044	0.056	1 427	1 470
42	El Salvador	0.016	0.020	519	535
43	Equatorial Guinea	0.010	0.010	254	261
44	Eritrea	0.001	0.010	254	261
45	Estonia	0.040	0.051	1 297	1 337
46	Ethiopia	0.010	0.013	324	334
47	European Union	2.500	2.500	63 394	65 344
48	Finland	0.519	0.664	16 827	17 344
49	France	5.593	7.151	181 335	186 912
50	Gabon	0.020	0.026	648	668
51	Gambia	0.001	0.010	254	261
52	Georgia	0.007	0.010	254	261
53	Germany	7.141	9.130	231 524	238 644
54	Ghana	0.014	0.018	454	468
55	Greece	0.638	0.816	20 685	21 321
56	Guatemala	0.027	0.035	875	902
57	Guinea	0.001	0.010	254	261
58	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.010	254	261
59	Guyana	0.001	0.010	254	261
60	Honduras	0.008	0.010	254	261
61	Hungary	0.266	0.340	8 624	8 889
62	India	0.666	0.852	21 593	22 257
63	Indonesia*	0.346	0.442	11 218	11 563
64	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.356	0.455	11 542	11 897
65	Ireland	0.418	0.534	13 552	13 969
66	Israel*	0.396	0.506	12 839	13 234
67	Italy	4.448	5.687	144 212	148 647
68	Jamaica	0.011	0.014	357	368
69	Japan	10.833	13.851	351 226	362 027
70	Jordan	0.022	0.028	713	735
71	Kazakhstan	0.121	0.155	3 923	4 044
72	Kenya	0.013	0.017	421	434
73	Kuwait	0.273	0.349	8 851	9 123
74	Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.010	254	261
75	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.002	0.010	254	261
76	Latvia	0.047	0.060	1 524	1 571
77	Lebanon	0.042	0.054	1 362	1 404

	Party	United Nations scale of assessments 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
78	Lesotho	0.001	0.010	254	261
79	Liberia	0.001	0.010	254	261
80	Libya	0.142	0.182	4 604	4 745
81	Liechtenstein	0.009	0.010	254	261
82	Lithuania	0.073	0.093	2 367	2 440
83	Luxembourg	0.081	0.104	2 626	2 707
84	Madagascar	0.003	0.010	254	261
85	Malawi	0.002	0.010	254	261
86	Malaysia	0.281	0.359	9 111	9 391
87	Maldives	0.001	0.010	254	261
88	Mali	0.004	0.010	254	261
89	Marshall Islands	0.001	0.010	254	261
90	Mauritania	0.002	0.010	254	261
91	Mauritius	0.013	0.017	421	434
92	Mexico	1.842	2.355	59 721	61 558
93	Moldova	0.003	0.010	254	261
94	Mongolia	0.003	0.010	254	261
95	Montenegro	0.005	0.010	254	261
96	Morocco	0.062	0.079	2 010	2 072
97	Mozambique	0.003	0.010	254	261
98	Namibia	0.010	0.013	324	334
99	Nepal	0.006	0.010	254	261
100	Netherlands	1.654	2.115	53 626	55 275
101	New Zealand	0.253	0.323	8 203	8 455
102	Nicaragua	0.003	0.010	254	261
103	Niger	0.002	0.010	254	261
104	Nigeria	0.090	0.115	2 918	3 008
105	Norway	0.851	1.088	27 591	28 439
106	Oman	0.102	0.130	3 307	3 409
107	Pakistan	0.085	0.109	2 756	2 841
108	Panama	0.026	0.033	843	869
109	Paraguay	0.010	0.013	324	334
110	Peru	0.117	0.150	3 793	3 910
111	Philippines	0.154	0.197	4 993	5 147
112	Poland	0.921	1.178	29 861	30 779
113	Portugal	0.474	0.606	15 368	15 841
114	Qatar	0.209	0.267	6 776	6 985
115	Republic of Korea	1.994	2.549	64 649	66 637
116	Romania	0.226	0.289	7 327	7 553
117	Russian Federation	2.438	3.117	79 044	81 475
118	Rwanda	0.002	0.010	254	261
119	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.010	254	261
120	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.010	254	261
121	Samoa	0.001	0.010	254	261

	Party	United Nations scale of assessments 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
122	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.010	254	261
123	Saudi Arabia	0.864	1.105	28 012	28 874
124	Senegal	0.006	0.010	254	261
125	Serbia	0.040	0.051	1 297	1 337
126	Singapore	0.384	0.491	12 450	12 833
127	Slovakia	0.171	0.219	5 544	5 715
128	Slovenia	0.100	0.128	3 242	3 342
129	Somalia	0.001	0.010	254	261
130	South Africa	0.372	0.476	12 061	12 432
131	Spain	2.973	3.801	96 390	99 354
132	Sri Lanka	0.025	0.032	811	835
133	Sudan	0.010	0.010	254	261
134	Suriname	0.004	0.010	254	261
135	Swaziland	0.003	0.010	254	261
136	Sweden	0.960	1.227	31 125	32 082
137	Switzerland	1.047	1.339	33 946	34 990
138	Syrian Arab Republic	0.036	0.046	1 167	1 203
139	Thailand	0.239	0.306	7 749	7 987
140	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.008	0.010	254	261
141	Togo	0.001	0.010	254	261
142	Tonga	0.001	0.010	254	261
143	Trinidad and Tobago	0.044	0.056	1 427	1 470
144	Uganda	0.006	0.010	254	261
145	Ukraine	0.099	0.127	3 210	3 308
146	United Arab Emirates	0.595	0.761	19 291	19 884
147	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.179	6.622	167 913	173 076
148	United Republic of Tanzania	0.009	0.010	254	261
149	Uruguay	0.052	0.066	1 686	1 738
150	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.627	0.802	20 329	20 954
151	Viet Nam	0.042	0.054	1 362	1 404
152	Yemen	0.010	0.013	324	334
153	Zambia	0.006	0.010	254	261
154	Zimbabwe	0.002	0.010	254	261
	Total	78	100	2 535 764²⁹	2 613 743³⁰

* New parties that have ratified the Convention.

** United Nations scale of assessments 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.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

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>	<i>8.00</i>	<i>6.25</i>
B. General Service category		
GS	3.00	4.00
<i>Subtotal B</i>	<i>3.00</i>	<i>4.00</i>
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.