

## **IX/4: Review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* paragraph 1 of article 14 of the Convention,

*Recognizing* the role of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in the implementation of the Basel Convention and its Strategic Plan,

*Considering* the conclusions and recommendations of the report by the Secretariat on the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* paragraph 4 of decision VI/4 of the Conference,

*Considering* the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions with regard to the coordinated use of regional offices and centres,<sup>2</sup>

*Noting* with appreciation the precedent set by the Global Environment Facility in deciding to designate a Basel Convention regional centre as an executing agency for activities funded by the Facility,

*Mindful* that several Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres have applied to serve as Stockholm Convention regional or subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technology,

*Mindful also* that, at its sixth session, the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal was requested to initiate the review of the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, including their relationship with Convention bodies, including the Secretariat, and other stakeholders, in order to enhance the combined effectiveness and capacity of the centres and the Secretariat,

1. *Concludes*, in consideration of the conclusions and recommendations set out in the report by the Secretariat:

(a) That it is necessary to ensure the performance of the core functions of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres identified in appendices I and II to decision VI/3 of the Conference of the Parties and to encourage the exchange of information and expertise between the various centres;

(b) That, in relation to the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the Secretariat, pursuant to the provisions of the Basel Convention, plays, inter alia, an important facilitative and catalytic role in mobilizing financial resources and technical assistance for programmes delivered through regional centres and in providing guidance on effective governance and administration arrangements, subject to the availability of resources;

(c) That it is necessary to ensure adequate training for the centres' staff in fund-raising and project management and to set in place effective governance arrangements, with the aim of having Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres that are capable of effectively and efficiently supporting Parties in the implementation of the Convention in a sustainable manner;

(d) That the regional nature of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres should be reinforced, including through strengthening and building on existing mechanisms and through the full and active engagement of all countries in the activities of the centres, without prejudice to existing framework agreements;

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.9/INF/6.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.9/14.

(e) That the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres could play an important role in implementing activities related to chemical and waste instruments, including 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 and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, while acknowledging that some centres already play that role;

2. *Encourages* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to revise their business plans to follow up relevant recommendations in the report by the Secretariat on their operation;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of funds, to prepare the following documents to be published on the Basel Convention website by 30 November 2009 and to be submitted to the Open-ended Working Group at its next session with a view to developing further the conclusions and recommendations set out in the report by the Secretariat on the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and to addressing the recommendations of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:

(a) Draft workplan for the strengthening of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, taking into account the catalogue of actions set out in section 3 of the report by the Secretariat;

(b) Detailed list of the necessary elements for the performance of the core functions based on appendices I and II to decision VI/3;

(c) Draft strategic framework for the financial sustainability of the centres that would assist the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in developing strategies for their financial sustainability, including exploring the use of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Technical Cooperation Trust Fund);

(d) Set of indicators to measure performance and impediments in relation to the functions and impacts of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;

4. *Invites* Parties, signatories and others to submit comments on the documents referred to in paragraph 3, above, to the Secretariat by 30 April 2010;

5. *Mandates* the Open-ended Working Group, in finalizing the workplan for strengthening the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, based on the draft to be prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) above, to consider the actions proposed in the workplan and to submit the final workplan to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting for consideration and adoption;

6. *Urges* Parties and signatories, especially donor countries, and invites other constituents in a position to do so and, where appropriate, multilateral donors to provide necessary financial support, including to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, for the strengthening of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in order to enable the centres to operate in accordance with their core functions and regional roles;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting on developments in the operation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres.