

The Conference,

Referring to decision III/28 of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the experience of the work of the Extended Bureau and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention during the period between the third and fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

1. Expresses its concern over the delays in payment of the agreed contributions by Parties as well as the voluntary contributions by Parties and non-Parties according to the agreements reached at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in accordance with which: "all contributions are due to be paid in the year immediately preceding the year to which the contributions relate";
2. Approves the budget for the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Basel Convention in the amount of US\$ 3,001,854 for 1999 and US\$ 3,001,854 for 2000 to be met from the allocated scale of assessments (attached as Annex I to this decision);
3. Recognizes that voluntary contributions are essential to the effective implementation of the Convention and expects to receive additional voluntary contributions from the signatory(ies) as well as other countries;
4. Notes that, in accordance with the Annex I to this decision, the budget projects significant drawdown on a surplus and requests the Extended Bureau of the Parties to ensure that the surplus in the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Convention be kept under review of the Extended Bureau;
5. Takes note of the budget for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund to the amount of US\$ 2,647,900 for 1999 and US\$ 1,937,900 for 2000 (attached as Annex II to this decision);
6. Invites Parties to notify the Secretariat of the Basel Convention of all contributions made to the Basel Convention Trust Funds at the time such payments are made;
7. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the two Trust Funds to the Basel Convention for 2003-2004 and mutatis mutandis the Terms of Reference for their administration as adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
8. Requests the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to ensure the implementation of all decisions adopted by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties within the approved budgets for 1999 and 2000, ensuring that the only limiting factors in the implementation of the decisions would be the availability of financial resources in the Trust Funds;
9. Also requests the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to secure the lowest possible costs for translation, reproduction and dispatch of the documents for the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;
10. Notes the monies owned by the Trust Fund for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to the United Nations Environment Programme and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the budgetary constraints of this Trust Fund in deciding whether and when to recover those monies, after consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention;
11. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention to report every six months to the Extended Bureau on all sources of income received, including carry-over, plus actual provisional expenditures and commitments; further requests the Executive Secretary to report all expenditures against the agreed budget lines;

12. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in addition to requirements referred to in paragraph 17 of the Terms of Reference for the Administration of the Trust Funds of the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.1/24, Annex II, page 25-26), to provide every six months to the Extended Bureau through the Executive Secretary information on all sources of income received on the Trust Funds of the Basel Convention, including carry-over, plus actual provisional expenditures and commitments related to these Trust Funds;

13. Requests the Extended Bureau to keep under review the information provided under paragraphs 11 and 12 above;

14. Decides that the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be held in December 1999 in Basel, Switzerland, at the kind invitation of the Government of Switzerland, also to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the signature of the Basel Convention.