

VI/37. Work programme of the Open-ended Working Group

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision V/26 on the work programme of the Technical Working Group, its decision V/22 on the work programme of the Legal Working Group and its decision V/34, paragraphs 4 and 6, on the establishment and work programme of the Working Group for Implementation,

Noting with appreciation the substantial progress made, in particular in clarifying issues related to Annex IX, in the preparation of technical guidelines and in the development of work on hazardous characterization,

Noting also the progress made by the Legal Working Group in the implementation of the tasks assigned to it by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,

Commending those Parties, Signatories and others for their continuing effective support that resulted in delivering documents considered essential to meet the environmentally sound management objectives of the Convention,

1. Adopts the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2003-2004 as contained in the appendix to the present decision;

2. Requests the Open-ended Working Group, at its first session, to arrange its work programme, taking into account the priorities established by the Conference of the Parties.

Appendix

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP

I. Technical Activities

Tasks	Activities
I. Classification and hazardous characterization of waste	<p>1. Classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review or adjustment of lists of wastes contained in Annexes VIII and IX;• Issues related to the questionnaire concerning the national classification and control procedures for the import of wastes in Annex IX; further elaborate the paper on issues related to Annex IX. <p>2. Hazardous characterization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalization of work on the hazardous characteristics H 6.2, H10; H11 and H13;• Initiation of work on the hazardous characteristics not yet covered by the Technical Working Group. <p>3. Review of available and forthcoming scientific information concerning the evaluation of the potential environmental health effects of the disposal of PVC wastes and PVC-coated cables.</p>
II. Technical guidelines on environmentally sound management	<p>1. Preparation or completion of the technical guidelines on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants as wastes including the finalization of the revision of the technical guidelines on PCBs/PCTs/PBBs;• Recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds (R4);• Wastes resulting from surface treatment of metals and plastics (Y17); <p>2. Further possible technical guidelines on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring and closure plans for facilities (guidance to operators);• Ozone-depleting substances. <p>3. Undertake periodic review of the technical guidelines and update them as necessary.</p> <p>4. Initiate an assessment of the implementation of the existing technical guidelines on environmentally sound management with a view to identifying practical difficulties and obstacles to their effective implementation.</p>
III. Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) of the World Customs Organization (WCO)	<p>1. Continue work, through the secretariat, with WCO on the issue of relationship of the lists of wastes of the Basel Convention with the HS codes. The secretariat to liaise with the UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, WHO, IMO and OECD on this matter.</p> <p>2. Propose a framework and action for ensuring proper reflection of the wastes covered by the Basel Convention in the HS.</p>

Tasks	Activities
	3. Address the issue of conformity of the language versions of the lists of wastes contained in the annexes to the Basel Convention.
IV. Annex II to the Basel Convention	Initiate work on the scope of Annex II.
V. Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent	<p>Work related to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperation pertaining to article 6 of the Stockholm Convention (subparagraph 1-d) (Environmentally sound management of persistent organic pollutants as wastes). 2. Providing guidance to the secretariat of the Basel Convention on matters pertaining to coordination among intergovernmental bodies responsible for or involved in persistent organic pollutants, to improve coordination and coherence. 3. The issue of stockpiling for the purpose of disposal/destruction, or for recycling. 4. Consideration of a work programme on dioxins and dibenzofurans. 5. Classification of waste pesticides destined for reformulation, together with details of recovery operations of concern.
VI. Work on harmonization and coordination	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmonization of lists of wastes and related procedures concerning transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes at the world level. Provide guidance to the secretariat of the Basel Convention on technical implications and modalities required to aim at achieving compatibility among the different international and regional systems dealing with the control of transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes. The secretariat of the Basel Convention to cooperate closely with OECD on this matter. 2. Keep under review work under way at intergovernmental forums (e.g., UN Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, WHO, ILO, OECD) on the global harmonization of systems of classification and labelling of chemicals. 3. Keep under review possible linkages with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, in particular on matters related to disposal or destruction technologies.
VII. Dismantling of ships	Provide guidance to the secretariat on the development of a technical assistance project in cooperation with IMO and ILO.
VIII. Capacity-building	Provide technical guidance, as necessary, to the Basel Convention Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer to assist in their establishment or operation.

II. Legal Activities

Tasks	Activities
I. Emergency mechanism/enlargement of the scope of the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund	Analyse the functioning of the emergency mechanism with a view to making adequate proposals for improvements.
II. Legal implications of full and partial dismantling of ships	<p>1. Cooperate with proposed joint working group comprising IMO, ILO and the secretariat of the Basel Convention together with other relevant bodies such as the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, on legal matters pertaining to the full and partial dismantling of ships.</p> <p>2. Analyse legal matters relating to the issue of the full and partial dismantling of ships, in order to contribute to the discussions of the joint working group and report to the Conference of the Parties, at its seventh meeting, on how those discussions have progressed.</p>
III. Protocol on Liability and Compensation	<p>1. Analyse, based on a compilation of the submissions from Parties, the obstacles and difficulties faced by the Parties in their process of ratification of or accession to the Protocol.</p> <p>2. Analyse the financial limits set out in paragraph 2 of Annex B of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation.</p> <p>3. Undertake any other necessary tasks related to the preparation of the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.</p>
IV. Prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic	<p>1. Review and update the guidance elements on illegal traffic.</p> <p>2. Provide legal guidance to the secretariat of the Basel Convention on matters pertaining to the prevention and monitoring of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes covered by the Basel Convention, including its cooperation with other international organizations.</p>
V. Other legal tasks	Provide legal advice to the Basel Convention Regional Centres in order to ensure that all Centres follow a coherent approach in their activities.

III. Activities related to implementation and general activities

Tasks	Activities
I. Budget and financial matters	Consider matters related to the budget of the Basel Convention and other financial matters.
II. Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements	Consider matters related to bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements or arrangements, including consideration of the draft guidance elements for bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements.
III. Reports under article 13	Examine reports submitted by the Parties in accordance with the requirements of article 13 of the Basel Convention.
IV. Basel Convention Regional Centres	Analyse reports and issues related to the activities of the Regional Centres.
V. Information system	Examine, as required, issues related to the information system of the Basel Convention and the development of the secretariat web site.
VI. Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and the strategic plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the priority activities of the strategic plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention and their financing. 2. Provide guidance to the secretariat on the implementation of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management and the strategic plan. 3. Identify activities of relevance to the implementation of the Basel Declaration, taking into account the strategic plan for the Basel Convention.
VII. Issues regarding Annex VII	Oversee the development of the analysis of issues relating to Annex VII and provide guidance to the secretariat, as necessary, and report to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress. The purpose of the analysis is to explore, in a transparent, objective and comprehensive manner, health, environmental, social, economic and other issues that are considered important to the Conference of the Parties and to assist Parties to ratify the Ban Amendment.
VIII. Preparation of draft decisions	Prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
IX. Other tasks	To perform any other tasks as may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Parties.