

## BC-15/25: International cooperation and coordination with other organizations

### *The Conference of the Parties*

1. *Takes note* of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal at its fourteenth meeting related to plastic waste, including marine plastic litter and microplastics,<sup>1, 2</sup> the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2021,<sup>3</sup> the update provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020,<sup>4</sup> and the information on activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme on programmatic matters pertaining to the Basel Convention, 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;<sup>5</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session, including resolution 5/14 entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”,<sup>6</sup> resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste;<sup>7</sup> and resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution;<sup>8</sup> and notes the considerable expertise available within the Secretariat and among Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions relevant to these issues;

3. *Also welcomes* the political declaration of the special session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme;<sup>9</sup>

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to participate in the intergovernmental negotiating committee itself, mentioned in paragraph 1 of Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, and to closely cooperate and coordinate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee; and invites Parties participating in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to ensure that the international legally binding instrument is fully coherent with and complementary to the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions, that it avoids the duplication of actions set out in the relevant provisions of those conventions, and that it promotes cooperation and coordination with those conventions, and to ensure that the expertise of the Secretariat and the Parties and the experience built up in implementing the conventions is fully shared to help the intergovernmental negotiating committee in its deliberations;

5. *Encourages* the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to participate in the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and share their expertise;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to participate in the ad hoc open-ended working group mentioned in paragraph 4 of Environment Assembly resolution 5/8, to contribute to preparation of proposals for the science-policy panel mentioned in paragraph 1 of that resolution, and to cooperate closely with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of

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<sup>1</sup> Decisions BC-14/12, BC-14/13, BC-14/18, BC-14/21 and BC-14/23.

<sup>2</sup> This is only relevant for the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/45.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/43–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/47.

<sup>5</sup> See UNEP/CHW.15/INF/56–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/25–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/46.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.14.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.7.

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/EA.5/Res.8.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/EA.SS.1/4.

the mandate of the science-policy panel; and invites Parties participating in the ad hoc open-ended working group to promote coordination and cooperation; and to promote that the panel will undertake work that is complementary to and does not duplicate the work of the conventions; that the panel will cooperate closely with science-policy bodies under the conventions, as appropriate;<sup>10</sup> and that the extensive experience of science-based promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste is made available to the ad hoc open ended working group;

7. *Notes* the invitation by the United Nations Environment Assembly, in paragraph 3 of its resolution 5/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, for the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider further the issue of increasing levels of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes, as reported by developing countries, and draws attention to the relevant decisions adopted at past meetings of the Conference of the Parties and at its present meeting;<sup>11,12</sup>

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions related to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

9. *Recalls* the provisions on programmatic cooperation of the 2019 memorandums of understanding between the respective conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention, 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 and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and, for the Rotterdam Convention, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

10. *Welcomes* the programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on programmatic matters of mutual interest;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue such programmatic cooperation efforts;

12. *Notes* the progress achieved towards the establishment and operationalization of the e-waste coalition;

13. *Notes with concern* that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have not yet become participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

14. *Urges* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to respond to the request of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals so that the process for consideration of the membership of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions can be completed;

15. *Welcomes* the support of the United Nations Environment Programme for the full participation of the conventions in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

16. *Invites* the Inter-organization Coordinating Committee of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to respond to the request to include the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as participating organizations of the Programme as soon as possible;

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<sup>10</sup> See paras. 5 (c), 6 (d) and 8 of resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

<sup>11</sup> See decisions BC-15/20 and BC-14/17 on national legislation, notifications, enforcement of the Convention and efforts to combat illegal traffic, BC-14/19 on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme, and BC-14/24 on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.

<sup>12</sup> This paragraph is only relevant for the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

17. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue taking the necessary steps for membership and participation in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

18. *Reiterates* the requests contained in paragraphs 6 (a)–(c) of decisions BC-14/21, RC-9/9 and SC-9/19 to the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals relevant to the conventions;

19. *Requests* the Secretariat and invites the relevant custodian agencies<sup>13</sup> to strengthen their collaboration to ensure appropriate linkages between the reporting system of the Basel Convention and that of the Sustainable Development Goals, including commonalities in terminology, in order to enable data-sharing;

20. *Recognizes* the intrinsic linkage between human health and environment, and the coordinating role of the World Health Organization with regard to health matters, and notes the importance of the continued activities of the World Health Organization in the context of that organization's chemicals road map and its global strategy on health, environment and climate change;

21. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To work closely with other international organizations, within their mandates, on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics;

(b) To enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and 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 report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2021;

(c) To continue to participate as an observer, upon invitation, in relevant meetings of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, pending the outcome of the actions mentioned in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the present decision;

22. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the United Nations General Assembly set out in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the annex to its resolution 73/333 on the follow-up to the report of the ad hoc open-ended working group established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/277;<sup>14</sup>

23. *Notes* that decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties over the years and at the present meeting satisfactorily address those recommendations;

24. *Welcomes* the exploratory study entitled “Interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity”, including its conclusions,<sup>15</sup> and the report entitled “Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action”;<sup>16</sup>

25. *Requests* the Secretariat to forward those reports to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, respectively, with an invitation to bring the reports to the attention of the respective conferences of the Parties to those conventions, as appropriate;

26. *Calls on* Parties to take into account the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, once adopted, in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

27. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the conventions could contribute to the post-2020

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<sup>13</sup> The United Nations Environment Programme and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

<sup>14</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/66–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/47–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/69.

<sup>15</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48.

<sup>16</sup> UNEP/CHW.15/INF/45–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/49.

biodiversity framework, once adopted, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;

28. *Encourages* Parties and others to consider the conclusions and technical recommendations of the report entitled “Chemicals, wastes and climate change: interlinkages and potential for coordinated action”<sup>17</sup> in their actions to address the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes and climate change mitigation;

29. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.