

OEWG-II/9

Partnership with environmental non-governmental organizations and with the industry and business sectors

The Open-ended Working Group,

Recalling decision VI/32 of the Conference of the Parties and its own decision OEWG-I/6 on cooperation with environmental non-governmental organizations and with the industry and business sectors,

1. *Adopts* provisionally the text annexed to this decision as the “Interim Partnership Work Programme”;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to initiate and implement the Interim Partnership Work Programme;
3. *Requests* Parties, signatories and other stakeholders to provide written comments on the Interim Partnership Work Programme to the Secretariat by 31 December 2003;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare for consideration and adoption at the third session of the Open-ended Working Group a partnership work programme based on the Interim Partnership Work Programme and comments received;
5. *Encourages* Parties and signatories to follow the lead of Australia and Switzerland in providing additional financial support to the Basel Convention Partnership Programme;
6. *Encourages* civil society, including environmental non-governmental organizations, industry and business, to give financial support to the Basel Convention Partnership Programme and to get involved in specific activities at the regional, national and international levels.

Annex

Interim Partnership Work Programme

A. Background

1. At its sixth meeting, in Geneva in December 2002, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal decided to develop a work programme for cooperation with the industry and business sectors and environmental non-governmental organizations with the aim of developing strategic partnerships in domains of relevance to the implementation of the Convention, its amendments and protocols (decision VI/32).
2. The present document outlines a work programme that responds to that decision. In particular, it:
 - (a) Takes into account activities for 2003-2004 under the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention;
 - (b) Takes into account the Basel Convention regional centres as potential delivery mechanisms for the promotion and nurturing of public-private partnerships that take into consideration regional or sub-regional specificities;
 - (c) Supports the aims of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management;
 - (d) Recognizes and complements existing initiatives and projects.

B. Introduction

3. The world-wide environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes as called for in the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management requires action at all levels of society. Training, information, communication, methodological tools, capacity-building with financial support, transfer of know-how, knowledge and sound and proven cleaner technologies and processes are driving factors to assist in the concrete implementation of the Basel Declaration.

4. The effective involvement and coordination by all concerned stakeholders is seen as essential for achieving the aims of the Basel Declaration.

5. The challenge is to find and develop practical, sustainable solutions to de-link economic development and the waste it traditionally generates. Alternative development models do exist. Industry and Governments have begun to embrace cleaner production technologies and extend producer liability, which provide built-in incentives for greener, less wasteful production and products.

6. Growth in partnerships is hindered by a broad perception that the Basel Convention deals only with hazardous wastes and/or only with the transboundary movement of such wastes. This is particularly acute when efforts are made to engage industry with respect to the end-of-life implications of products that during their life are neither hazardous nor wastes. Conversely, considerable potential exists for a broader interpretation of the role of the Basel Convention as an instrument contributing to effective life cycle management of materials and products - e.g., in areas of waste minimization, design for environment, cleaner production and changing consumption patterns, as well as management of wastes, including municipal wastes.

C. General principles

1. Rights and responsibilities

7. Partnerships cannot create or abrogate rights or responsibilities of Parties under the Basel Convention.

8. The Basel Convention Partnership Programme is under the authority of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

2. United Nations guidelines for cooperation with the business community

9. Irrespective of any situation-specific nature, United Nations guidelines¹ stipulate that cooperative arrangements should be guided by the following general principles:

(a) Advance United Nations goals: The objectives need to be articulated clearly and must advance United Nations goals as laid out in the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Clear delineation of responsibilities and roles: The arrangements must be based on a clear understanding of respective roles and expectations, with accountability and a clear division of responsibilities;

(c) Maintain integrity and independence: Arrangements should not diminish the United Nations's integrity, independence and impartiality;

(d) No unfair advantage: Every member of the business community should have the opportunity to propose cooperative arrangements, within the parameters of these guidelines. Cooperation should not imply endorsement or preference of a particular business entity or its products or services;

(e) Transparency: Cooperation with the business sector must be transparent. Information on the nature and scope of cooperative arrangements should be available within the organization and to the public at large.

D. Programme objectives

¹ *Building Partnerships: Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Community* (United Nations publication, sales no. E.02.I.12).

10. Given the size and nature of the waste challenge, and the call on both expertise and resources (internal and external), the Basel Convention Partnership Programme is focused on the following objectives:

- (a) To initiate and oversee practical project activity in priority areas, with particular regard to the generation, movement and environmentally sound management of waste and active promotion of the transfer and use of cleaner technologies;
- (b) To broaden the resource and support base of the Convention, particularly through:
 - (i) Improved local and regional participation;
 - (ii) Improved analysis, understanding and political support for the broadest programme perspective of the role of the Basel Convention in the waste challenge;
 - (iii) Enhanced access to external expertise and resources (for example, from industry, environmental non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and other United Nations agencies and regional and national authorities);
- (c) To improve stakeholder participation and communication.

E. Priority areas

11. The Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010, adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (December 2002), identifies priority waste streams as including electronic wastes, used lead-acid batteries, used oils, obsolete stocks of pesticides, PCBs, dioxins/furans, by-products from the dismantling of ships, biomedical wastes and healthcare wastes. At the first session of the Open-ended Working Group (April-May 2003), it was agreed to fund new partnerships with municipalities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous waste in urban areas (decision OEWG-I/1). These priorities are included in the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

12. Existing and planned programme activity encompassed within these programme objectives is represented in table 1.

F. Stakeholders

13. The Basel Convention Partnership Programme recognizes old friends but acknowledges that sustained interest in the waste challenge and the broadening programme perspective needed of the Convention will require additional partners.

14. There is also a need to look beyond the traditional environmental non-governmental organizations if the Basel Convention is to succeed in developing strategic alliances with organizations with potentially related agendas (e.g., non-governmental organizations involved in poverty reduction, economic or social development, health promotion or occupational, health and safety issues) and foundations involved in broader philanthropic work.

15. Basel Convention regional centres have a key role to play both in promoting the Convention amongst potential partners and in providing capacity-building, training and other services at the regional level.

16. Stakeholders will vary according to the particular project or initiative. The criteria for selection of partners will include:

- (a) Demonstrated commitment to the principles, practice and promulgation of environmentally sound management;
- (b) Demonstrated commitment to engage in meaningful dialogue and cooperation with other partners, the Parties and signatories to the Basel Convention, Basel Convention regional centres, and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention;
- (c) Demonstrated expertise or standing in the subject of the particular project or initiative;
- (d) Demonstrated networking capacity.

17. The involvement of partners will at all times be voluntary.

G. Management

18. The senior programme officer (partnerships) will manage the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

Table 1

Basel Convention Partnership Programme

	Objective	Programme elements	Key activities	Performance indicators
1	Initiate and oversee practical project activity in priority areas, with particular regard to the generation, movement and environmentally sound management of waste and active promotion of the transfer and use of cleaner technologies	Cooperative project development and implementation Awareness raising Stakeholder participation	<p>Phase I Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative Used Oils Partnership for Africa Electrical and electronic waste Obsolete stocks of pesticides in Africa</p> <p>Phase II Biological and medical waste Used lead-acid batteries Partnerships with municipalities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes in urban areas Dismantling of ships</p> <p>Phase III PCBs Dioxins/furans</p> <p>Ongoing Promotion of ratification and implementation of the Basel Convention, its protocols, amendments and decisions</p>	<p>Effective partnerships established with relevant stakeholders to support environmentally sound management activities for priority waste streams identified in the strategic plan</p> <p>Ratifications and implementation of the Basel Convention, its protocols, amendments and decisions</p>
2	Broaden the resource and support base of the Convention	Awareness raising Fundraising Stakeholder participation	<p>Development of a project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage the development and use of data on waste trends at the national level; 2. To identify, collate and disseminate data on global waste trends. <p>(Tentatively called “WasteWatch”, the project would assist the mobilization of political support and benchmark progress in the waste challenge.)</p> <p>Development of a fund-raising programme</p> <p>Development of a recognition programme for donors</p>	<p>Improved local and regional participation</p> <p>Improved analysis, understanding and political support</p> <p>Enhanced access to external expertise and resources (for example, from industry, environmental non-governmental organizations, philanthropic organizations and other United Nations agencies and regional and national authorities)</p>

	Objective	Programme elements	Key activities	Performance indicators
3	Improve stakeholder participation and communication	Stakeholder participation Communications and public affairs activities	Establishment of a Basel Convention partners forum (Aimed at formalizing regular discussion between non-governmental organization partners of the Convention)	Improved support from key industry and non-governmental organization leaders for the aims of the Basel Convention Improved support for Basel Convention regional centres Improved Convention newsletter