

OEWG-I/10 Relationship of the lists of wastes of the Basel Convention with their identification in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS)

The Open-ended Working Group,

Noting that several amendments to the nomenclature utilized in the World Customs Organization's Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System concerning the separate identification of certain categories of wastes came into force in 2002,

Noting also that negotiations for new entries into the fourth edition of the Harmonized System Codes in 2007 are scheduled to be completed by April 2004,

Noting further that proposals for any changes and new applications should be submitted to the World Customs Organization secretariat as soon as possible and preferably by the end of June or early July 2003,

Aware of the difficulties encountered in having separate identification for hazardous wastes within the Harmonized System,

Aware also of the imminent deadline for submitting applications to the World Customs Organization secretariat,

Considering that enhanced control of transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes will act as an incentive for their environmentally sound management and for the reduction of such movements,

Concerned about the problem of illegal transboundary traffic in hazardous and other wastes,

Recognizing the usefulness and importance of ensuring conformity and consistency between the control system of the Basel Convention and other international rules, standards or regulations regarding trade in commodities that include wastes for which control is required for environmental reasons,

1. Invites Parties to submit, through the secretariat, proposals for the separate identification of hazardous wastes within the Harmonized System by the end of June 2003;

2. Requests the secretariat urgently to assist those Parties in need of such assistance in their submission of any proposal for amendments to the Harmonized System;

3. Also requests the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive report with recommendations on the issue of the relationship between the lists of wastes covered by the Basel Convention and the Harmonized System nomenclature and to submit it to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session.