

SC-1/18: Enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of decisions SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 and 23/9 of 25 February 2005 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, which stress the need to enhance cooperation, collaboration and synergies among multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats where common issues arise in chemicals and waste issues,

1. *Welcomes* the proposal made at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, for a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and the Rotterdam conventions;
2. *Decides* that further possibilities for additional synergies should be explored;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant Secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on how cooperation and synergies between the Secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and other relevant programmes could be improved, taking into account the special nature of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, which is jointly provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of the role common structures might play;
4. *Decides* to consider the results of the study referred to in paragraph 3 at its second meeting;
5. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting to consider the results of the study;
6. *Invites* the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session to consider the results of the study as well as the considerations and decisions from the above-mentioned bodies;
7. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, when making arrangements for the performance of the Secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention, to provide for the future adaptation of these arrangements to any decisions regarding this issue that might be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting;
8. *Invites* contributions from those Parties in a position to contribute to the voluntary trust fund to finance the study.

Annex to decision SC-1/18

Excerpts from important relevant decisions on synergies between chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats

United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision SS.VII/1 on international environmental governance (February 2002)

“In particular, there is support for enhancing collaboration among multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats in specific areas where common issues arise, such as current work among the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreement Secretariats and including the interim Secretariats”.

Rotterdam Convention Conference of the Parties decision RC-1/17 on financing and budget for the biennium 2005–2006 (September 2004)

“*Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants at its first meeting to consider, if feasible and appropriate, co-financing in 2006 the position of a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions at the level of D-1.”

United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 23/9 on chemicals management (February 2005)

“1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen support, within available resources, for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 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;

“2. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation between the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention, the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Customs Organization in addressing international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes;

“3. *Requests* the Executive Director further to promote cooperation with the Basel Convention regional training centres in the implementation of activities, as appropriate, of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions related to hazardous wastes and chemicals;

“4. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote full cooperation and synergies between the Secretariats of the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and UNEP Chemicals;

“5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present decision, as it relates to cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme, relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session”.