



**Basel Convention on the Control of  
Transboundary Movements of  
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior  
Informed Consent Procedure for  
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and  
Pesticides in International Trade**



**Stockholm Convention on Persistent  
Organic Pollutants**

**Conference of the Parties to the  
Basel Convention on the Control  
of Transboundary Movements  
of Hazardous Wastes and  
Their Disposal**

**Thirteenth meeting**

Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017  
Item 4 (e) (ii) of the provisional  
agenda\*

**Matters related to the  
implementation of the Convention:  
international cooperation,  
coordination and partnerships:  
international cooperation and  
coordination**

**Conference of the Parties to the  
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior  
Informed Consent Procedure for  
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and  
Pesticides in International Trade**

**Eighth meeting**

Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017  
Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda\*\*

**Matters related to the  
implementation of the Convention:  
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**Conference of the Parties to the  
Stockholm Convention on  
Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Eighth meeting**

Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017  
Item 5 (k) of the provisional  
agenda\*\*\*

**Matters related to the  
implementation of the Convention:  
international cooperation and  
coordination**

**Activities of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on  
Mercury, in particular those activities relevant to the work of the  
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

**Note by the Secretariat**

The annex to the present note sets out information on activities of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in particular those activities relevant to the work of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The information has been submitted by the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

\* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

\*\* UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/1.

\*\*\* UNEP/POPS/COP.8/1.

## Annex

### **Activities of the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in particular those activities relevant to the work of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

1. The interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury works to support the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury and its activities until the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The interim secretariat is requested to cooperate and coordinate, as appropriate, with other relevant actors, including the Secretariat of 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, in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise. The interim secretariat also facilitates activities at the regional and country levels to support implementation during the interim period in an effective and efficient manner. The following document sets out the activities undertaken since May 2015, the last meetings of the conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

#### **I. Seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a globally legally binding instrument on mercury**

2. The interim secretariat organized the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee at the Dead Sea, Jordan in March 2016. This included drafting and sending out invitation letters, and organizing logistical matters, working in close cooperation with the host country.

3. The preparation of technical material, in particular meeting documents, was led by the interim secretariat. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (in particular the co leads of certain partnership areas) and other relevant actors, in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) made significant contributions to these documents. The Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions provided substantive input to documents in areas where it has particular expertise, such as import and export controls, storage, waste, contaminated sites, monitoring and reporting. The experience gathered by the conventions themselves was drawn upon in the development of the draft rules of procedure and draft financial rules for the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention.

4. The interim secretariat built on the experience of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in working with GEF, to develop a draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention and the GEF Council, and for draft guidance to GEF on overall strategies, policies, programme priorities, eligibility for access to and utilization of financial resources and on an indicative list of categories of activities that could receive support from the GEF Trust Fund. The experience and contribution of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions Secretariat was taken into consideration by the Executive Director in his report on proposals on how he will perform the functions of the permanent secretariat for the Convention, as well as in his information document prepared at the request of the ad hoc expert group on financing on the options for the hosting institutions of the specific international programme to support capacity building and technical assistance referred to in paragraph 6 (b) of article 13 of the Minamata Convention.

5. Both the Chemicals and Waste Branch and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions provided support to the interim secretariat for the running of the session. The full report of the meeting is available at <http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Negotiations/INC7/tabid/4506/Default.aspx>

#### **II. Preparation for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

6. In anticipation of the Minamata Convention entering into force in the first half of 2017, the interim secretariat has been undertaking preparatory work for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This has included logistical arrangements with the host government and a range of technical intersessional work as requested by the seventh session. The development of technical documents, particularly those on interim storage of mercury, has been carried out in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Following the seventh session of

the intergovernmental negotiating committee, the interim secretariat has been updating the Executive Director's report on the proposal on how he will perform the functions of the permanent secretariat for the Convention in light of the discussions on this agenda item at the session. This update is being prepared with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

### **III. Meetings of the bureau of the intergovernmental negotiating committee**

7. Since March 2015, five meetings of the bureau have been held. Among the main objectives of these meetings was to take stock of the outcome of the committee's sixth and seventh sessions, and to have strategic and policy discussions and develop logistical plans initially for the seventh session and also for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Reports of the bureau meetings are available on the Convention website. Cooperation with the secretariats of GEF and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in particular was also addressed at these meetings, through briefings and updates provided by the two secretariats. The interim secretariat supported the organization of these meetings through logistical preparations and the delivery of necessary information prior to and during the meetings.

### **IV. Regional meetings**

8. Regional meetings were organised to assist in preparation for the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee. These meetings contributed to the success of the committee's seventh session by giving countries in the regions the opportunity to consult each other in advance of the session, to consider meeting documents, to discuss substantive matters on the agenda for the session, to identify regional priorities and challenges and to facilitate the preparation of regional positions. The regional meetings included presentations by the interim secretariat of the documents for the seventh session, followed by discussions among Governments and possible development of positions on the various issues to be addressed at the seventh session. The regional meetings were organized by the interim secretariat in cooperation with the Basel or Stockholm conventions regional centres in the respective countries, and in close cooperation and coordination with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The meetings were funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Switzerland as the principal contributor and contributions from the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands.

9. The interim secretariat has also arranged Working Sessions on the Minamata Convention on Mercury in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as providing input to the regional preparatory meetings for the Conferences of the Parties of those conventions. The working sessions provided an opportunity to provide further support for the implementation of the Convention in developing countries, as well as to consider certain technical issues forwarded from the seventh session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee.

### **V. Group of technical experts to prepare the guidance called for under article 8 of the Convention**

10. Since May 2015, the interim secretariat has organized one meeting of the group of technical experts established by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to finalize the guidance called for under article 8 of the Convention, bringing to four the total number of meetings held by the expert group. The meeting was supported by the Government of Sweden as well as by the European Union.

11. The UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have each provided a resource person for each of the meetings of the group. These resource persons have contributed to the discussions on the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, providing input based both on technical expertise and on the experience within the convention concerned in preparing guidance material. In preparing input material for the meetings of the group, the secretariat also drew on relevant material prepared previously under the Stockholm Convention.

## **VI. Ad-hoc working group of experts on financing established at the sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on mercury**

12. At its sixth session, held from 3 to 7 November 2014 in Bangkok, the intergovernmental negotiating committee established an ad hoc working group of experts on financing to work during the period between its sixth and seventh sessions. The ad hoc working group of experts met once, from 26 to 29 October 2015 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, at the invitation of the Brazilian Government and with the financial support of the Government of Germany. The meeting was organized by the interim secretariat, with logistical support provided by the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer for Latin American and Caribbean Region in Sao Paulo. In addition to logistical preparations, the interim secretariat invited and compiled comments from Governments and prepared, among others, a document outlining options for hosting institutions for the specific international programme and available information on arrangements with the hosting institutions. The interim secretariat also assisted in the conduct of the meeting and prepared additional background documents to support the ad hoc working group of experts and the co-chairs in their work.

## **VII. Support for the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention**

13. In addition to its work in support of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and its activities, the interim secretariat has supported activities at the national and regional levels to facilitate the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention. The interim secretariat has provided support to the implementing agencies working on enabling activities at the national and subregional level.

14. The interim secretariat continued its support for pilot projects at the national level to promote activities intended to lead to ratification and implementation of the Convention in a number of countries. The interim secretariat is also supporting the implementation with partner organizations of pilot projects at the regional level, including support for a project to determine mercury levels in hair in women of child bearing age in selected countries of the Asian-Pacific Region, as well as work for a selected number of Francophone African countries on the implementation of the Convention's provisions on dental amalgam. Additionally, the interim secretariat has worked through a partner organization to support preparatory work on the development of national action plans for artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

15. The Convention's outreach activities have been boosted by the hosting of the Convention website on a platform provided by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, together with technical support provided by that Secretariat in the maintenance and further development of the website. The interim secretariat has continued to work to improve the dissemination of information on the Convention website, including through the publication of updated supporting documentation.

16. The interim secretariat supported the organization, in New York on 24 September 2015, of a special high-level event hosted by the Governments of Japan, Switzerland, the United States of America and Uruguay to promote the ratification of the Convention in the margins of the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Governments of Chad and Samoa announced their ratification of the Minamata Convention and deposited their instruments of ratification on that occasion.

## **VIII. Other activities undertaken by the interim secretariat**

17. The interim secretariat took part in a number of processes along with the Chemicals and Waste Branch, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions Secretariat and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. It contributed to work on the integration of the sound management of chemicals and wastes into the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the establishment of the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

18. Members of the interim secretariat provided logistical and substantive support for the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions held in Geneva from 4 to 15 May 2015, as well as for the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which took place in Geneva from 28 September to 2 October 2015.

19. Finally, the interim secretariat took part in a joint retreat between GEF, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention in Geneva on 5 October 2015. It has also contributed to the development of documents relating to the negotiation of the GEF 7 replenishment, as well as working closely with the secretariat of the GEF and with implementing agencies on the delivery of work related to support for implementation. It also participated in a number of meetings relevant to mercury and the chemicals and waste agenda, namely, the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant (ICMGP), held in Jeju, Republic of Korea, from 14 to 19 June 2015, and the annual joint meetings to enhance cooperation and coordination between regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions in 2015 and 2016.

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