
Basel Convention and its linkages to other MEAs

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***WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STOCKHOLM
CONVENTION AND SYNERGIES WITH OTHER CHEMICAL
RELATED AGREEMENTS, 21-24 February 2005 Cairo, Egypt***



Basel Convention

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention)

History

- 1989 Adoption of the Basel Convention
- 1992 Entry into force, 5th May 1992
- At present 162 countries and the European community are Parties to the convention.
- In response to the concern regarding the transport of hazardous wastes from industrialized countries to developing countries.
- To establish a control system on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes based on written notifications.
- To minimize and manage hazardous and other wastes in an environmentally sound manner



Basel Convention

Two Main Pillars

- 1. Regulation of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes**
- 2. Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes (Disposal), including POPs waste**

Basel Convention's Website:
www.basel.int



Objectives

- To treat and dispose of hazardous wastes as close as possible to their source of generation.
- To reduce transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes to a minimum consistent with their environmentally sound management.
- To minimize their generation at its source and the hazardousness of wastes.



The Environmentally Sound Management (ESM)

General Obligations for the Parties (Art. 4)

- **Generation** of hazardous wastes is reduced to a **minimum**.
- Availability of adequate **disposal facilities** is ensured.
- Persons involved are adequately **trained**.
- **Transboundary movement** is reduced to a **minimum**.
- Management of wastes in an environmentally sound manner.
- **Co-operate** in activities with other Parties in order to improve ESM and to prevent illegal traffic.
- Technical Guidelines for ESM shall be decided by the COP.



Implementation of the principle « ESM »

- 1. Development of Technical Guidelines and Training Manuals** on specific waste streams, treatment technologies, etc.
- 2. Establishment of Regional Centres for Training and Technology Transfer (COP III/19, 1995)**
- 3. The Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management of hazardous wastes (COP V/1, 1999)**
- 4. Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010 (COP VI/1, 2002)**
- 5. Partnership programmes and projects (since 2002),**
e.g. Mobile Phones Partnership
- 6. Cooperation with other UN entities,**
e.g. Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention, International Maritime Organization, World Health Organization (WHO), UNEP



Strategic Plan and Ministerial Statement

Secretariat's plans to support the continued implementation of the Strategic Plan, including resource mobilization for 2005-2006.

Strategic Plan and Ministerial Statement:

- ❑ The Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention to 2010 was adopted by COP6 (Decision VI/1, 2002)
 - 1.2 million financed from reserve of BCTF for 2003-2004
- ❑ The Ministerial Statement on Partnership for Meeting the Global Waste Challenge, adopted at the occasion of COP7, emphasizes the need not to lose the momentum gained during 2003-2004 in implementing the Strategic Plan and that priority should be given to capacity building on hazardous waste minimization.
 - No funds allocated from BCTF for 2005-2006



Strategic Plan and Ministerial Statement

The Ministerial Statement acknowledged the importance of focusing on four policy directions, namely:

- hazardous waste minimization,
- life-cycle approach,
- integrated waste management and
- regional approach.



Strategic Plan and Ministerial Statement

The Ministerial Statement identified the following waste streams requiring priority attention in the context of partnerships. These are:

- POPs wastes
- E-wastes (electrical and electronic wastes)
- Household wastes mixed with hazardous wastes
- Biomedical and healthcare wastes
- Used lead-acid batteries
- Used oils

Emphasis on partnership with Parties and non-Parties, industries, NGOs and local governments/municipalities to implement relevant activities and through mobilization of extra budgetary resources



Resource mobilization

- ✓ The resource mobilization approach of the Secretariat is conceived so as to address waste streams identified in the Ministerial Statement as requiring priority attention in the context of partnerships.
- ✓ The approach takes into account the limited resources of the Secretariat and the BCRCs as well as the need to develop a small number of medium-to large-scale projects.
- ✓ The Secretariat is working very closely with the BCRCs. The Centres are the main planning and delivery mechanism.
- ✓ The Secretariat's approach builds on the experience gained in the development and implementation of projects carried out under the Strategic Plan (2003-2004 phase) for example, more efficient monitoring and financial accounting



Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs)

- **Main functions:** Training, Technology Transfer, Information Exchange, Consulting, Awareness-raising
- **Important role in the implementation** of the Basel Convention: Entrusted with the implementation of priority measures of the Strategic Plan
- **Business Plans of the Centres for 2005-2006:** workplan, projects, workshops and seminars, implementation time table, budget, etc. prepared in consultation with countries they serve.
- **Framework Agreements:** Five Framework Agreements have been signed for SPREP, BCCC-Uruguay, BCRCs-Egypt, Indonesia and Trinidad & Tobago.



• **Carry out 17 projects** within the framework of the
Secretariat of the Basel Convention

Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs)

At present 14 Regional Centres in operation:

- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Argentina, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay
- **Africa:** Egypt, Senegal, South Africa, Nigeria
- **Asia and Pacific:** China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), SPREP
- **Central and Eastern Europe:** Russian Federation, Slovakia



Role of the BCRCs

- Entrusted with the implementation of priority measures of the Strategic Plan by COP6: Main channel for implementing the Strategic Plan
- Preparation, updating and implementation of Business Plans for 2005-2006 for all BCRCs within the framework of the Strategic Plan of the Basel Convention and the Ministerial Declaration agreed at COP7
- Carry out projects within the framework of the Strategic Plan:
 - **OEWG 1: 15 projects financed totaling US\$ 880,000**
 - **OEWG 2: 6 projects financed totaling US\$ 320,000**



Role of the BCRCs

- Elaboration of project proposals within the framework of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or chemical substances and/or their import, export and control, presented to OEWG and donor countries
- Some projects approved by OEWG show the coordination and coherence of the activities between the Basel and Stockholm Conventions
- Legal establishment by a Framework Agreement
- Focal points of the Basel Convention more involved in the development and work of BCRCs



Business Plan for 2005-2006 BCRC-Egypt

A review of the Business Plan for 2005-2006 of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States for Training and Technology Transfer located in Cairo (BCRC-Egypt) by the Secretariat indicates:

- ✓ Biomedical and healthcare wastes (Project 3. Analysis and study of the main hazardous waste streams in the region-hospitals) (WHO)
- ✓ Household waste related activities (Landfill project)
- ✓ The countries served by the Centre support the activities and projects being developed in this region.

Planned Activities

- Activity A: Regional consultation with national focal points
- Activity B: Training courses and workshops: Four
- Activity C: Projects: Four



BCRC-Egypt: Status

Framework Agreement

The Framework Agreement for the Establishment and Legal Status of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Arab States was signed during the seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP7), that was held from 25 to 29 October 2004 in Geneva.

The Framework Agreement between the Government of Egypt and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (on behalf of the Parties to the Basel Convention) was signed on 29 October 2004 by the Ambassador of Egypt H.E. Ms. Naéla Gabr and Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Secretary.

Project Implementation

Ongoing:

- ✓ Preparation of a set of tools for the selection, design and operation of hazardous waste landfills in hyper-dry areas (BC:\$135,541)



Technical guidelines (adopted at COP 7)

- Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants on persistent organic pollutants (Technical guidelines on POPs)
- Technical guidelines for environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs)



Technical guidelines (adopted at COP 7)

- *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines to Parties, signatories, intergovernmental organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry in all official languages of the United Nations; and
- To submit the technical guidelines to the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention at its first meeting through the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention;
- *Invites* Parties and others to use these technical guidelines, taking into account article 6.2 of the Stockholm Convention, and, two months before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, on their experience in the application of the guidelines, including any difficulties or obstacles encountered, with a view to improving them as necessary;
- *Invites* the bodies of the Stockholm Convention to consider best available technologies and best environmental practices with respect to unintentionally produced POPs, including the more recent technologies for destruction and incineration of the Basel Convention listed in the general technical guidelines



Technical guidelines (adopted at COP 7)

- Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound recycling/reclamation of metals and metal compounds (R4)
 - *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines to Parties, signatories, intergovernmental organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry, in all official languages of the United Nations;
 - *Invites* Parties and others to use the technical guidelines and to report at least two months before the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, on their experiences, including any difficulties in the application of the technical guidelines, with a view to improving the technical guidelines as necessary.



Technical guidelines in preparation

- Draft technical guidelines regarding polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs) and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs);
- First draft of technical guidelines on dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT);
- Draft technical guidelines on the group of eight pesticides comprising aldrin, chlordane, dieldrin, endrin, hexachlorobenzene (HCB), heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene;
- First draft of the technical guidelines regarding HCB
- Draft technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes resulting from surface treatment of metals and plastics (Y17)



Linkages to other MEAs

- **Stockholm Convention**
- **Rotterdam Convention**
- **Montreal Protocol**



Linkages to Stockholm Convention (Article 6)

- Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from stockpiles and wastes
- Identifying stockpiles of POPs
- Manage (handle, collect, transport, storage) stockpiles and wastes in an environmentally sound manner
- Dispose of in such a way that the POP content is destroyed or irreversibly transformed



Linkages to Stockholm Convention (Article 6)

- Not to transport such waste across international boundaries notwithstanding relevant international rules, standards and guidelines, such as the Basel Convention
- Not to permit such waste to be disposed of in such away which may lead to its recovery, recycling, reclamation, direct reuse or alternative uses of POPs
- Endeavour to develop appropriate strategies for identifying sites contaminated by POPs, and if remedying those sites, to do so in an environmentally sound manner



Linkages to Stockholm Convention (Article 6)

- COP shall cooperate closely with the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention (Article 6(2))
 - Levels of destruction and irreversible transformation
 - Methods that constitute ESM
 - Levels of POPs that are considered low

- ✓ Development of guidelines
 - Technical Guidelines for the ESM of POPs
 - Technical guidelines for ESM of PCBs, PCTs or PBBs



Linkages to Stockholm Convention

✓ Cooperation

- Feasibility study on Regional and Sub-regional Centres for capacity building and technology transfer
- Case Studies
 - International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya
 - Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, Uruguay
 - University Sains Malaysia, Malaysia and
 - Basel Convention Regional Centre for the South Pacific region, SPREP, Samoa

✓ Relationship with the WTO



Linkages to Rotterdam Convention

- Article 10: Obligations in relation to imports of chemicals listed in Annex III
- Article 11: Obligations in relation to exports of chemicals listed in Annex III
- Article 12: Export notification seeking prior informed consent
- Article 13: Information to accompany exported chemicals
- Article 14: Information exchange



Linkages to Rotterdam Convention

- ✓ The COP1 of the Rotterdam Convention by its decision RC-1/1 on Regional delivery of technical assistance invited the Basel Convention Regional Centres and Regional Coordinating Centres, to participate in the regional delivery system to make full use of synergies among those entities, organizations and multilateral environmental agreements
- ✓ BCRCs could assist in developing the infrastructure and capacity to manage chemicals at the regional level.
- ✓ Enforcement and awareness
- ✓ Relationship with the WTO



Linkages to Montreal Protocol

- Recovery, recycling and reclamation (Decision IV/24)
- Trade in controlled substances and the Basel Convention (Decision V/24)
- Status of recycled CFCs and halons under the Basel Convention (Decision VII/31)
- Destruction technologies and procedures (Decisions I/12F, II/1, III/10, IV/1, V/26, VII/35, XIV/6)
- Disposal of controlled substances (Decision XII/8)



Linkages to Montreal Protocol

Similarities

- Non-Compliance Procedure and Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance (Implementation and Compliance Committee)
- Prevention of illegal traffic, and thus consequently limiting illegal trade
- Relationship with the WTO



For Further Information

**Visit the Basel Convention's
Website:**

www.basel.int

