



# BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

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Geneva, 9 February 2016

Subject: **the first part of the report of the Secretariat on the progress of the implementation of the Conventions, pursuant to the decision adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Parties (2014/10/1)**

Dear Madam,

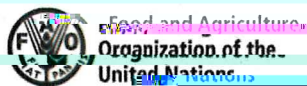
I am writing with reference to the letter of invitation from the Secretariat dated 15 October 2015, in view of the proposed agenda for the sixteenth meeting of Informal Consultative Parties (ICPs) on "Integrating Environmental Protection and Economic Development" (the "ICP meeting"). You will find attached the contribution of the Secretariat to the meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to the process.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Rayét  
 Executive Secretary of the  
 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

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## Contribution of the Secretariat to the first part of the report of the Secretary-General on oceans pursuant to General Assembly Human Resolution A/65/69

Reference is made to the invitation of the same Commission on Sustainable Development, established by the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on the issue of the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development for the part related to the Organization fostering an integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development to oceans:

### (i) Information regarding the relevant activities of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

#### Background information:

The concern of countries that the health of oceans and marine biodiversity was negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastic, persistent organic pollutants, metals and nitrogen-based compounds, from numerous marine and land-based sources, was expressed in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”

Marine litter, including plastics stemming from land and sea-based sources, is in particular of great concern because of its impact on the marine environment, marine ecosystems, marine mammals, marine resources, fisheries, tourism, and human health. It may also have adverse effects on the terrestrial marine ecosystems of persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, and other contaminants which are in or adhere to the particles.

The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are part of the international legal instruments that promote the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, and contribute to the prevention and minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment, including oceans and marine biodiversity.

The Conventions contribute to making consumption and production patterns and waste management more sustainable and hence reduce direct discharge or land runoff of hazardous pollutants or wastes into the marine and coastal environments. This is of extreme importance to Small Island Developing States that have identified waste management among their priorities for action.

Below is a summary of relevant activities of the Secretariat fostering an integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development with regard to oceans:

#### Improved wastes management:

- Under the Basel Convention’s Indonesian-Swiss Controlled Initiative, Parties have adopted decisions to improve the effectiveness of the Convention and Rotterdam Convention Ban Amendment and to explore means by which its objectives might be achieved. This includes the formulation of entry lists, environmentally sound management (ESM) and providing legal clarity with respect to the interpretation of certain terminology used in the Convention.
- A number of technical guidelines for the ESM of the wastes streams and disposal under the scope of the Basel Convention (e.g. plastics, municipal waste, PCB wastes, etc.) are available to countries. A technical manual on the ESM of municipal waste is also available.

guidelines provide for the foundation upon which sound environmental standards are not less environmentally sound than that required by the Basel Convention. Some countries also transfer their national guidelines and other national standards to their industries.

- A number of projects have been or are being implemented in line with the treaty, however, in the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to build the capacity of or develop the standards to improve chemical and waste management. Several African countries have implemented or initiated projects for strengthening monitoring and control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and enhancing waste management at ports.

This cluster of activities contributes to prevent pollution and protect the environment, ecosystem services, marine natural resources, preservation of major environmental elements, tourism and other natural resources upon which the economy of countries in the region depends.

**Cooperation with the International Maritime Organization on Ship-generated and other pollution from ships**

- The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is collaborating with the IMO, which is intended to assist the Government of Bangladesh in achieving the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships. The Secretariat is also supporting in the development of standards for hazardous wastes in the Caribbean coastal region in relation to the ship.
- The Secretariat of the Basel Convention is collaborating with the IMO on activities aimed at improving the sea-land interface to address the issues related to the disposal of ship-generated wastes in the scope of MARPOL, since ship-generated wastes are regulated in an environmentally sound manner. An assessment of the gaps in the current MARPOL Convention covers wastes covered by MARPOL, as well as a guidance manual for the ship-generated wastes currently being developed. By undertaking these activities, further clarity is provided to countries with regards to the relationships between the Basel Convention and the IMO in regulating maritime affairs. This work aims at assisting countries to provide reception facilities for the disposal of ship-generated wastes in an environmentally sound manner to the needs of ships entering their ports while complying with the IMO regulations discharges from ships.

This cluster of activities contributes to prevent pollution and protect the environment, ecosystem services, marine natural resources, preservation of major environmental elements, tourism and other natural resources upon which the economy of countries in the region depends.

**Description of the work on the Secretariat to mainstream chemicals and wastes into sustainable development goals in particular for the goal on oceans**

One of the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post-2015 development agenda. The Secretariat in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention and other relevant entities, is working to ensure that the chemicals and wastes management issues are integrated into the sustainable development goals. This includes conducting studies on the various inter-linkages between chemicals and wastes and thematic areas including water and ocean issues and provision of technical input into the various Sustainable Development Goals through the UN Technical Support Team.