

Contribution of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 76/72 of 9 December 2021

1. 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 contribute to protect the marine environment against the adverse effects which may result from hazardous chemicals and wastes.
2. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are part of the international action being taken to promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle in ways that lead 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.
3. Below are the main developments which have occurred in the framework of the Conventions since the last submission of the Secretariat in June 2021 in relation to relevant paragraphs of General Assembly resolution 76/72.

Paragraph 34: Capacity-building for developing States to address the multiple facets of intersorganized jointly and Crime, to promote effective control of transboundary movements of plastic waste to prevent cases of illegal traffic in September and October 2021;

- Regional training to strengthen the capacity of Parties in the Eastern Europe and Asia regions related to national legal and institutional frameworks, enforcement, prevention and combating of illegal traffic and trade on hazardous chemicals and wastes in October 2021.
 - See the Guide for the implementation of the Basel Convention provisions on the Guidance Elements for Detection, Prevention and Control of Illegal Traffic and Prosecution of Illegal Traffic of Hazardous Wastes or Other Wastes, and the Guidance Elements for Customs and Enforcement Agencies, available at: <http://basel.int/Implementation/LegalMatters/IllegalTraffic/Guidance>
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operations led by members of ENFORCE and organize joint training workshops to train competent authorities as well as enforcement authorities involved with illegal traffic.

Paragraph 35: Capacity-building to improve waste management practices

7. Actions taken under the Basel Convention to build capacities for improved waste management practices include the following:

(a) Environmentally sound management of waste

8. On the matter related to environmentally sound management (ESM) of waste, the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopted the practical manual for stakeholders to ensure that notifications of transboundary movements met ESM requirements². This is the final tool to be added to the ESM Toolkit developed under the Basel Convention.³

9. Capacity building projects are being implemented to enhance the ESM of hazardous waste streams e.g. asbestos containing or contaminated wastes, waste lead-acid batteries and e-waste, including mercury containing e-waste. New technical assistance activities were requested by Basel Convention Parties on lithium-ion batteries, on solar panels and other e-wastes. These projects aim to reduce the emissions into air and water of hazardous chemicals and substances, to avoid dumping and the human health exposure to hazardous chemicals and wastes. Capacity building projects on the ESM of plastic wastes are referred to in paragraphs 25-28 of the present document.

(b) Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of waste

10. The Convention stipulates that technical guideline for the ESM of the waste falling under its scope should be developed and adopted by the Conference of the Parties. Although not legally-binding at the international level, technical guidelines provide for the foundation upon which countries can operate at a standard that is not less environmentally sound than that required by the Basel Convention. Some Parties have also transposed certain technical guidelines into their national legislation and

waste pneumatic tyres; and considering whether technical guidelines on the ESM of rubber wastes (entries B3040 and B3080) should be developed.

(c) Household Waste Partnership

16. Established by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2017, the Household Waste Partnership aims at promoting the ESM of household waste, including its prevention and minimization, through the development of guidance, tools and manuals for governments, regional and local authorities and other stakeholders on, among other things, best practices, business models, policies and innovative solutions for the ESM of household waste.

17. The Partnership provides the necessary infrastructure to address the global household wastes challenge in an efficient and innovative way, through global information exchange, sharing of best practices by key stakeholders in the field, development and provision of technical guidance based on the latest science available, active engagement of the private sector for enhanced action to promote ESM of wastes, including issues such as extended producer responsibility, active engagement of the civil society and the general public through targeted awareness raising.

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27. The Basel Convention's Plastic Waste Partnership's pilot project programme has held two successive calls for proposals. The first, in 2020, saw the selection of 23 pilot project proposals for implementation globally. These projects are generously funded by the governments of Germany, Norway and Switzerland. A second call for projects issued in 2022 has elicited over 100 pilot project proposal submissions which are currently being evaluated by the steering group of the Partnership.

28. At its seventeenth meeting, on 24-28 January 2022, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee adopted the risk management evaluation on methoxychlor and recommended to the Conference of the Parties that it consider listing the chemical in Annex A to the Convention without specific exemptions. The recommendation will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting in 2023.

29. The Committee also adopted the risk profile for Dechlorane Plus, a flame retardant, and UV-328, an antioxidant for plastics, moving this chemical to the next review stage requiring the preparation of a risk management evaluation, that includes an analysis of possible control measures.

30. The Committee also agreed that chlorpyrifos, chlorinated paraffins with carbon chain length of C14 and chlorination levels at or exceeding 45% chlorine by weight, and long-chain perfluorocarboxylic acids, their salts and related compounds met the screening criteria in Annex D and decided to review the respective proposals further and to prepare draft risk profiles in accordance with Annex E to the Convention.

31. The Committee furthermore established intersessional working groups to review information related to specific exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated; and agreed on the terms of reference for the assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and established an intersessional working group to undertake the activities according to the evaluation process.

32. The Stockholm Convention controls various persistent organic pollutants which have been used as plastic additives such as flame retardants, plasticizers, oil and water repellents and in manufacture of fluoropolymers. Those persistent organic pollutants include: brominated diphenyl ethers, hexabromocyclododecane, short-chain chlorinated paraffins, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds.

Paragraph 243: Continued cooperation between the Parties to the Basel Convention and the International Maritime Organization on regulations on the prevention of pollution from ships

33. The Secretariat continues to cooperate with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to implement decisions BC-

outreach, education and awareness-raising. Each project group has developed a workplan and is progressing its work.⁹

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