**SIWG on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents under the Basel Convention**

Summary notes of the informal consultation of 16 October 2023

**Topics discussed:**

1. Welcome to new colleagues (Parties and Observers)
   * The Secretariat showed the list of Parties and Observers which are part of this working group as of October 2023.
2. Meetings and informal consultations under the Basel Convention (BC)
   * As there are many new Parties and Observers in this working group, the Secretariat briefly explained the differences between formal meetings of working groups, their purposes, and what informal consultations are.
   * The Secretariat highlighted that for this working group, so far, no Party has volunteered to lead the work or to chair the group.
     + **Action: Parties who have the capacity and are willing to help in these roles, please contact the Secretariat.** It would be important if the group could have a chairperson, to work closely with the Secretariat in the organization of the work and meetings.
3. Recap of what has been done so far.
   * The Secretariat highlighted that work of this thematic area started in 2016, and that since then multiple actions took place in the form of reports prepared, surveys, rounds of comments, one consultative workshop, and the establishment of this working group. New members can get more familiarized with the actions and documents by looking at the BC website: <https://www.basel.int/Implementation/Controllingtransboundarymovements/eapproachesfornotificationandmovement/Overview/tabid/7375/Default.aspx>
   * The Secretariat highlighted that another working group was established to look on improving the PIC procedure, and that these two working groups need to collaborate and exchange information.

4 and 5) Recall mandate from COP-16 / Next steps

* + The Secretariat highlighted the main points of the latest COP decision on this working area (BC-16/10), with invitations for pilot projects, a request for the working group to prepare a report with further recommendations on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents, and requests to the Secretariat to work on technical assistance and awareness-raising events.
  + **On pilot projects:**
    - The Secretariat mentioned that there are some funds for pilot projects, and that it could try fund raising more to support pilot projects. It was also highlighted that pilot projects could be designed as “proof of concepts”, and they could involve one or more countries, and one or more stakeholders. A few Parties and Observers commented on their experience in doing similar pilot projects in regions and specific countries.
    - **Action:** Parties and Observers who wish to provide guidance and inputs on the scope, requirements, and ideas for pilot projects, to send their **suggestions/comments via email by 17 November 2023**.
  + **On the report with further recommendations:**
    - The Secretariat explained that some of the reports prepared under this thematic area indicate technical building blocks that the group can start working on, which can then help identify recommendations for the consideration by the OEWG-14 and COP-17 in 2025. The Secretariat can fund raise and hire technical consultants to help develop small papers to advance the work, and that those papers could indicate alternative approaches (e.g., of system architecture), requirements (e.g., security, languages), interoperability related aspects to be considered (e.g., format, technologies, data models), among others.
    - The Secretariat informed the group that there are funds available to organize a face-to-face meeting of this SIWG in this biennium, once the group has made progress with the work. The Chair of the SIWG working on improving the PIC procedure suggested that the two SIWGs could consider meeting back-to-back in the future.
    - **Action:** Parties and Observers who wish to assist the Secretariat with draft papers on technical topics to be considered, to send their **suggestions/comments via email by 17 November 2023.**
  + **On the requests to the Secretariat:**
    - The Secretariat mentioned that future events under the Basel Convention (e.g., the OEWGs and COPs), and other events organized by the Secretariat and by stakeholders could be considered for raising awareness about electronic approaches.
    - **Action:** Parties and Observers who have ideas and suggestions for this part of the work, to send their **suggestions/comments via email by 17 November 2023.**

1. Any other business

* No decision was taken about the next informal consultation yet.
* Secretariat to share slides and summary of the discussions with the SIWG.
* One observer offered to talk to Parties about pilot projects and the Secretariat suggested her to use the country contacts directly:

<https://www.basel.int/Countries/CountryContacts/tabid/1342/Default.aspx>