

Teleconference of the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention

Thursday 4 September 2014, 3:00 – 4:00 pm (CEST)

Participants: Ms. Magda Gosk (Co-Chair, Poland), Mr. Prakash Kowlessar (Co-Chair, Mauritius), Mr. Alberto Capra (Vice-Chair, Argentina), Ms. Jacinthe Seguin (Canada), Mr. Nassereddin Heidari (Rapporteur, Islamic Republic of Iran), Secretariat.

1. OEWG-9 logistics

- In accordance with paragraph 2 of decision BC-11/19, the ninth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG-9) would be held from 16 to 19 September 2014, with two days of interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations provided on 16 and 19 September. Other meetings will be in English only.
- The Secretariat had received 66 requests from eligible Parties for funding for travel to this meeting within given deadlines. As of 30 June 2014, the Secretariat received voluntary contributions in the amount of US\$ 386,867, which allowed supporting all requests for travel support (Africa 35; Asia-Pacific 16; CEE 5; GRULAC 10). Financial contributions for this purpose were received from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland and were very much appreciated.
- As at 4 September 2014, 249 participants had registered for OEWG-9, representing 96 party governments, 1 non-party State, 2 United Nations bodies, 9 intergovernmental organizations, 13 non-governmental organizations, and 7 other observers.

2. Meeting documents

- The Secretariat informed that all the working documents in the six official languages of the United Nations and most of the information documents in English only were posted on the OEWG-9 website (www.basel.int/oewg9) before 2 July 2014. The following remaining information documents would be posted shortly: draft updated technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins, polychlorinated dibenzofurans, hexachlorobenzene, polychlorinated biphenyls or pentachlorobenzene (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.9/INF/13); report of the responses to the survey on existing information gaps and needs in order to facilitate agreement on the remaining issues relating to paragraph 26 (b) of the draft technical guidelines on transboundary movements of electronic and electrical waste and used electrical and electronic equipment (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.9/INF/14); and science fair at the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in May 2015 (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.9/INF/32).
- The Secretariat was informed by the drafter of the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with the pesticides that the guidelines would not be submitted to OEWG-9. Document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.9/6 as well as the annotated agenda would be revised to reflect the change.

3. Tentative schedule of the meeting

a. Plenary sessions

- The Bureau agreed on the tentative schedule of the meeting as set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.9/INF/2/Rev.1. It was clarified that the plenary session on Friday morning will start with the consideration of results of contact groups, including draft decisions.
- The Secretariat informed that as Ms. Jimena Nieto (Colombia), the Chair of the Committee for Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Convention (ICC) and Chair of the SIWG on legal clarity would be unable to participate in OEWG-9, arrangements had been made for the introduction of item 3 (c) (i) on consultation with ICC and item 3 (c) (ii) on providing further legal clarity, on her behalf.

b. Contact groups

- The potential need for the following contact groups had been identified: (1) contact group on technical matters to consider draft technical guidelines and prepare draft decisions for items 3 (b) (i) a, b, and c on technical guidelines; (2) contact group on legal and compliance matters to discuss draft guidance documents and prepare a draft decision for item 3 (c) (i) on consultation with ICC and to finalize draft glossary and prepare a draft decision for item 3 (c) (ii) on providing further legal clarity. The contact group on technical matters may also consider the amendments to the annexes to the Basel Convention (item 3 (b) (iii)) if necessary.

- Other agenda items that may require the establishment of contact groups included item 3 (a) (ii) on Cartagena Declaration on the Prevention, Minimization and Recovery of Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes, item 3 (a) (iv) on options for operation of the Open-ended Working Group, and item 3 (b) (ii) on national reporting. Those groups may be attended by a smaller number of participants compared to the contact groups on technical matters and on legal and compliance matters and be short-lived
- It was noted that the contact groups on technical matters and on legal and compliance matters have issues of interest to the participants in both groups. In order to allow delegates to participate effectively in the discussions of both groups, it was suggested that the (co-)chairs of the contact groups, once identified, coordinate the schedule and avoid meeting in parallel when such issues are discussed. The smaller groups, e.g. contact group on national reporting if established, may meet in parallel with the contact groups on technical matters or on legal and compliance matters.
- A Bureau member suggested that under the contact group on technical matters, a sub-group to discuss the issue on paragraph 26 (b) of the technical guidelines on e-waste may be established as necessary. Another Bureau member supported the establishment of such a sub-group, but suggested that the group should first discuss the matter in the whole group.
- Potential (co-)chairs for the contact groups had not yet been identified. The Secretariat had contacted a number of potential co-chairs of the contact groups; however, none had confirmed. It was highly encouraged that each region to consult and identify potential co-chairs of contact groups. The Bureau members would consult with their constituencies in order to come up with further proposals. Further consultation may be conducted during the pre-meetings on 15 September.
- A Bureau member suggested that a presentation on the revised reporting format would be given under agenda item 3 (b) (ii) on national reporting.
- Upon request by a Bureau member, the Secretariat provided updates on the development of technical guidelines on e-waste.
- With regard to paragraph 26 (b), as decided at the meeting of the small intersessional working group (SIWG) on e-waste held in January 2014, a questionnaire was sent out to Parties and other stakeholders in May with deadline of 30 June 2014. A total of 43 responses were received, and a summary report of the survey was presented for consideration by the SIWG during the teleconference on 25 July 2014. At that teleconference, the SIWG suggested the Secretariat to draft a proposal on principles to be respected when formulating cases for possible inclusion in paragraph 26 (b). The proposal was sent for comments by the SIWG on 22 August with 6 September. It is expected that OEWG-9 will discuss the principles and consider the draft alternative texts for paragraph 26 (b).

c. Side events and reception

- Side events will be organized during the lunch time on 16, 17, and 18 September. A reception hosted by the Government of Switzerland will be held on 16 September from 6.15 p.m. If required, contact groups could convene after the reception.

d. Pre-meetings on Monday, 15 September

- Pre-meetings will be held on 15 September 2014, including the meetings on technical guidelines for persistent organic pollutants and e-waste from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (open to all registered participants to OEWG-9), Bureau meeting from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., and regional meetings from 3 to 6 p.m.
- The Bureau agreed to meet every morning during the OEWG-9 before the regional meetings.
- The information on pre-meetings, side events, reception and rooms available for regional meetings can be found in the OEWG-9 website (www.basel.int/oewg9).

4. Other matters

- The Co-Chair of the OEWG provided a report on the teleconference with the (co-)chairs of the groups established under the country-led-initiative and other groups held on 25 August 2014. The objective of the teleconference was to exchange information on the status of their work and facilitate their coordination for the preparation of OEWG-9.
- During the teleconference referred to in the preceding paragraph, the (co-)chairs of each group were able to highlight and agree on those areas of overlaps and interlinkages, noting that coordination was already ongoing among these groups on such areas of overlaps and interlinkages.