

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

Friday, 29 April 2016, 2:15–3:15 p.m. (CEST)

Participants:

Co-Chairs: Mr. Jahisiah Benoit (Dominica) (Technical); Mr. Santiago Dávila Sena (Spain) (Legal)

Vice-Chairs: Dr. (Ms.) Shruti Rai Bhardwaj (India) (Technical); Ms. Gordana Petkovic (Serbia) (Legal)

Rapporteur: Ms. Petronella Rumbidzai Shoko (Zimbabwe)

Secretariat: Mr. Rolph Payet, Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, Mr. David Ogden, Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, Mr. Ibrahim Shafii, Mr. Matthias Kern, Ms. Juliette Kohler, Ms. Yvonne Ewang, Ms. Susan Wingfield, Ms. Carla Valle-Klann, Mr. Alain Wittig, Ms. Kei Ohno Woodall

A. Plenary sessions

The Secretariat introduced a draft tentative schedule of the meeting, which contained agenda items to be discussed in two plenary sessions per day (10 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3 p.m.–6 p.m.). Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision BC-12/19, on Monday, 30 May, Tuesday, 31 May, and Thursday, 2 June, simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations would be provided in plenary sessions. On Wednesday, 1 June, contact or drafting groups would meet as needed in English only.

The Co-chair expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for supporting one of the three days of plenary sessions with simultaneous interpretation.

A question was raised whether simultaneous interpretation could be provided in contact groups if all agenda items were introduced in plenary in less than two days and plenary was suspended. The Secretariat explained that interpretation could be provided in one room at a time only, i.e. interpretation could be arranged for one contact group, in case plenary was suspended. It was noted that the interventions in plenary should be succinct in order to make such an arrangement possible.

The Bureau agreed on the tentative schedule of the meeting as set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/2.

B. Contact groups

The potential need for the following contact groups had been identified: (i) contact group on strategic issues to discuss work related to environmentally sound management (ESM) and Cartagena Declaration; (ii) contact group on technical matters to discuss technical guidelines and national reporting; (iii) contact group on legal matters to discuss documents presented under items related to legal matter.

The contact group on technical matters may also consider issues related to follow-up to PACE and Household waste partnership, if necessary.

It was encouraged that each region to consult and identify potential co-chairs of contact groups, taking into consideration the neutrality of the position in addition to geographical balance. One member stressed the importance of avoiding any potential conflict of interest when selecting the co-chairs of the 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 Sunday, 29 April.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to inquire availability of potential co-chairs.

C. Pre-meetings on Sunday, 29 May 2016

The Co-chair informed that the provision for regional meetings on Sunday, 29 May, had been made. The tentative schedule was as follows: Bureau meeting (11:00-12:00); Regional meetings (14:00-17:00). The Co-chairs agreed to have a meeting with the Secretariat prior to the Bureau meeting on Sunday.

The Bureau agreed on the tentative schedule of the pre-meetings and requested the Secretariat to announce it on the website of the OEWG-10.

D. Side events

The Secretariat informed that as of 29 April 2016, the following two requests for organizing side events had been received: E-waste Challenge MOOC (UNEP/BRS); PACE outcomes (PACE Working Group).

Up to two side events could be held in parallel during lunch breaks and in the evenings following the plenary sessions.

The Bureau invited Parties and observers to contact the Secretariat if they were interested in organizing side events.

E. Reception

The Secretariat informed that no funding had been received for organizing a reception during the OEWG-10.

F. Key issues to be considered

The Co-chair introduced the scenario note set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/1 which contained the objectives and expected outcomes of the meeting. The key issues highlighted were as follows:

- (a) Strategic framework: review the progress on the preparation of the mid-term evaluation;
- (b) Developing guidelines for ESM: review the inventory of existing Basel Convention documents on ESM; review the revised set of draft practical manuals and fact sheets;
- (c) Cartagena declaration: review the progress made in the implementation of the road map;
- (d) Technical guidelines: consider the revised draft technical guidelines for POPs wastes and the interim technical guidelines on e-waste;
- (e) National reporting: agree on a list of waste streams for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories should be developed;
- (f) Consultation with ICC: provide comments on the draft guidance on the implementation of paragraphs 2-4 of Article 9 (Illegal traffic);
- (g) Providing further legal clarity: finalize the draft glossary; consider recommendations on the review of Annex IV and related issues under Annex IX; consider views from parties and others on the review of Annex I and III;
- (h) Basel Convention Partnership Programme: consider the revised section 3 of the guidance on the ESM of used and end-of-life computing equipment; consider the draft concept note on a follow-up partnership to the PACE; consider the draft concept note on a household waste partnership;
- (i) Other international cooperation: finalize the revised draft guidance manual on how to improve the sea-land interface in cooperation with IMO; provide guidance to the Secretariat on continuing to move forward on the matter of identifying the wastes covered by the Basel Convention in the WCO HS Code;
- (j) Consider and agree on the draft work programme of the OEWG for the biennium 2018–2019.

G. Meeting documents

Noting that all the meeting documents had been made available in the six UN languages on the website of the Basel Convention (www.basel.int/oewg10) more than two months before the meeting, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to make available all the remaining information documents as soon as possible.

H. Voluntary contributions for travel support

The Secretariat had received 66 requests from eligible Parties for funding for travel to this meeting within given deadlines. As of 29 April 2016, the Secretariat received voluntary contributions in the amount of US\$ 136,217, which allowed supporting 45 requests (68%) for travel support (Africa 18; Asia-Pacific 15; CEE 3; GRULAC 9), of which 13 participants will attend ICC-12 and 2 participants will attend UNEA-2, the meetings to be held back-to-back with OEWG-10. Financial contributions for this purpose received from Denmark, Germany, Japan and Sweden were very much appreciated.

As of 29 April 2016, a total of 140 participants had registered for OEWG-10 (105 parties, 35 observers).

I. Other matters

The Secretariat informed that as requested in decision BC-12/19, the Secretariat would carry out an online survey on the last day of the OEWG-10 meeting to collect comments on the arrangements for OEWG-10. After the meeting, a letter would be sent to all parties and observers inviting further comments on the arrangements for OEWG-10. Based on those comments, the Conference of the Parties would adopt at its thirteenth meeting a decision on future institutional arrangements for the operations of the OEWG.