



BASEL CONVENTION



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Secretariat of the Basel Convention

United Nations Environment Programme

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18 September 2018

Subject: Invitation to submit comments in follow up to part I of the thirteenth meeting of the Implementation and Compliance Committee

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a follow up to the first part of the thirteenth meeting of the Committee administering the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance of the Basel Convention (hereinafter "the Committee") that took place from 7-10 September 2018 in Geneva.

During the first part of its meeting, the Committee considered the activities of its work programme for 2018-2019, as set out in the annex to decision BC-13/9. It adopted ten decisions pertaining to specific submissions and agreed on conclusions following its review of general issues of implementation and compliance. I also agreed to suspend the meeting and to resume it through a supplementary online session at the end of October 2018.

In its conclusions, the Committee agreed to invite comments from Parties and others as follows.

1. Benchmark national report

With a view to improving timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, the Committee is to develop an updated version of the benchmark report aimed at facilitating reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Basel Convention as of the reporting year 2016, based on the revised reporting format for national reporting adopted in decision BC-12/6 as amended by decision BC-13/9. In its conclusions, the Committee requested the Secretariat to:

- Make the draft benchmark report available to Parties and others with an invitation to comment thereon by 15 October 2018;
- Finalize the draft benchmark report for the consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;
- Fundraise to enable the translation of the benchmark report in the 5 other languages of the United Nations.

The draft benchmark report is attached to this letter, for the consideration of Parties and observers.

2. Programme of work for 2020-2021

In its decision, BC-13/9, the Conference of the Parties requested the Committee to consult Parties, in advance of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on a draft work programme for 2020–2021. A first draft work programme for 2020–2021 was made available to Parties during the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in the annex to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/29. During its thirteenth meeting, the Committee developed a second draft work programme for 2020–2021 reflecting the outcome of its deliberations. In its conclusions, the

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Committee requested the Secretariat to:

- Make an annotated version of the second draft work programme for 2020–2021 available to Parties with an invitation to comment thereon by 15 October 2018;
- Finalize the draft work programme for 2020–2021 under the guidance of the members, for the consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

In accordance with paragraph 21 of the terms of reference, the Committee shall, as directed by the Conference of Parties, review general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention relating to, inter alia:

- (a) Ensuring the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous and other wastes;
- (b) Training customs and other personnel;
- (c) Accessing technical and financial support, particularly for developing countries, including technology transfer and capacity-building;
- (d) Establishing and developing means of detecting and eradicating illegal traffic, including investigating, sampling and testing;
- (e) Monitoring, assessing and facilitating reporting under article 13 of the Convention;
- (f) The implementation of, and compliance with, specified obligations under the Convention.

An annotated version of the draft work programme for 2020–2021 is attached to this letter, for Parties' consideration. The annotations point to the relevant meeting documents that served as a basis for the Committee's deliberations during its thirteenth meeting.

3. Guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention

With a view to improving the implementation of and compliance with Article 6 of the Convention, the Committee is to develop, taking into account the report on the implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention on transit transboundary movements (document UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.1, annex) in particular its paragraphs 81–83, guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting. A first draft guidance document was developed by the Committee and made available to Parties during the eleventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in the annex to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.11/INF/28. During its thirteenth meeting, the Committee agreed to seek further comments from Parties and others on this first draft document, and to include the finalization of the guidance in its draft work programme for 2020–2021. In its conclusions, the Committee requested the Secretariat to:

- Make the first draft guidance document on the implementation of paragraph 4 of article 6 of the Basel Convention on transit transboundary movements available to Parties and others with an invitation to comment thereon, in particular on the section on innocent passage and freedom of navigation (paragraphs 46–50) by 11 January 2019.

The first draft guidance document on the implementation of paragraph 4 of article 6 of the Basel Convention on transit transboundary movements is attached to this letter, for the consideration of Parties and observers.

Please send your comments to the Secretariat (Ms. Juliette Voinov Kohler; e-mail: juliette.kohler@brsmeas.org).

We look forward to receiving your submissions and thank you in advance for your kind attention.

Yours sincerely,

FOR 

Rolph Payet

Cc: Competent authorities and Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva