

BASEL CONVENTION

Secretariat of the Basel Convention
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Geneva, 4 March 2019

Mr Chair, Members of the Committee,

Re: Submission by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting the Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention regarding Bahamas (CHW/CC/9c/2019/1)

I am writing with reference to paragraph 9 (c) of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention whereby the Secretariat may make a submission to the Committee administering the Mechanism “if, while acting pursuant to its functions under paragraph 1 of Article 3, paragraph 1(a) of Article 4, Article 5 and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, provided that the matter has not been resolved within three months by consultation with the Party concerned”.

With this letter, the Secretariat respectfully makes a submission to the Committee, on the basis of the aforementioned paragraph 9 (c), with respect to Bahamas. As a Party to the Basel Convention since 1992, Bahamas is among the Parties to the Convention that have not, according to our records, submitted a national report since 2006, as required under Article 13 paragraph 3 of the Basel Convention. On 7 March 2017, the Secretariat initiated consultations with Bahamas in an effort to identify whether Bahamas was facing difficulties in complying with its reporting obligations under the Convention and to possibly resolve the matter by 15 June 2017. Attached to the letter sent to Bahamas was a questionnaire aimed at providing Bahamas with the opportunity to communicate to the Secretariat the nature of the possible difficulties faced by this Party as well as its views on how best these difficulties might be addressed. Both documents are attached to this letter.

The Secretariat has not received a national report since the initiation of the consultations and the matter accordingly remains unresolved. The Secretariat trusts that Bahamas may be facing possible difficulties in complying with its reporting obligations under Article 13 paragraph 3 of the Convention.

During its thirteenth meeting held in Geneva from 7 to 10 September 2018, the Committee administering the Mechanism was informed of the status of the consultations initiated by the Secretariat in March 2017 with 46 Parties not having transmitted a report since at least 2009. At that time, the Committee agreed to encourage the Secretariat to make an adequate number of submissions to the Committee as a follow up to its consultations.

The Secretariat thanks the Committee for its consideration of this submission and remains at the disposal of the Committee for further information.

Yours sincerely,



Rolph Payet
Executive Secretary

Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting the Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention.

Copy : Mr Philip Weech
Director
The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission, Office of the Prime Minister