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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Thirteenth meeting**

Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017

Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters: election of officers

Election of officers

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its thirteenth meeting the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal is expected to elect the officers of the Conference of the Parties that will serve during its fourteenth meeting and the officers of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention. The present note provides information regarding these elections.

2. In addition to electing those officers, the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting is expected to elect five members of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention (see UNEP/CHW.13/9) and nine members of the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (see UNEP/CHW.13/14).

3. A table providing an overview of all the elections expected to take place during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is set out in the annex to document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/6-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/22-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/34.

II. Implementation

A. Officers of the Conference of the Parties

4. Paragraphs 1 and 2 of rule 21 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties, as adopted by decision I/1 and as amended by decisions VII/37, BC-10/1 and BC-11/24, set out the following procedures for the election of the officers of the Conference of the Parties:

* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

Rule 21

1. At each ordinary meeting, a President, and nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom will serve as Rapporteur, are to be elected from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. In conducting these elections, the Conference of the Parties shall have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation. The offices of President and Rapporteur shall normally be subject to rotation among the five United Nations regional groups.

2. The President and nine Vice-Presidents elected at an ordinary meeting shall commence their terms of office at the closure of the meeting at which they are elected and remain in office until the closure of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for which they will serve as the Bureau, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting. Exceptionally, one or more of these officers may be re-elected for one further consecutive term.

5. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties elected one President and nine Vice-Presidents from among the representatives present at the meeting to serve as officers from the closure of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties until the closure of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

President:	Mr. Mohammed Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Els Van De Velde (Belgium)
	Ms. Alison Kennedy (Canada)
	Ms. Gaia Hernandez (Colombia)
	Mr. Henry Williams (Liberia)
	Mr. Laurence Edwards (Marshall Islands)
	Mr. Dragan Asanovic (Montenegro)
	Ms. Magda Gosk (Poland)
	Mr. Abderrazak Marzouki (Tunisia)
	Ms. Augustina Camilli (Uruguay)

6. Mr. Dragan Asanovic was also elected to act as Rapporteur. Following the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Marshall Islands named Mr. Lowell Alik to replace Mr. Laurence Edwards, and Colombia named Claudia Vásquez Marazzani to replace Ms. Gaia Hernandez.

7. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, at its thirteenth meeting the Conference of the Parties is to elect a President and nine Vice-Presidents, one of whom is to act as Rapporteur, from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting. Those officers are to commence their terms of office at the closure of the thirteenth meeting and serve until the closure of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting.

8. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure, and in accordance with past practice, for the purposes of regional rotation the next President would be expected to be elected from among the African States represented at the meeting and the Rapporteur from among the Asia-Pacific States.

9. To facilitate the election of officers a list of the regions and Parties from which the offices of President and Rapporteur have been filled since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties is set out in annex I to the present note.

B. Officers of the Open-ended Working Group

10. The Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting is expected to elect, in accordance with its practice since its eighth meeting, the officers of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019. In accordance with paragraph 7 of decision VI/36, the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019 is to comprise two co-chairs, one with technical expertise and another with legal/implementation expertise; two vice-chairs, one with technical expertise and the other with legal/implementation expertise; and one Rapporteur, having due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation.

11. In accordance with the decisions mentioned above and the past practice of regional rotation, the co-chairs would be expected to be elected from among the African States, the Asia-Pacific States or the Central and Eastern European States.

12. A list of members of the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group since the first meeting of the Working Group is set out in annex II to the present note.

13. During its meeting of 11 and 12 July 2016, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention requested the Secretariat to provide additional information on how often the three regional groups referred to in paragraph 11 above had had representatives elected as co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group.¹ The Bureau was subsequently – at its joint meeting with the bureaux of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on 3 and 4 November 2016 – provided with a table showing the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group from each region since the Working Group's first meeting.²

C. Arrears in contributions and gender

14. In accordance with rule 5 para. 3 (e) (i) and (iii) of the financial rules of the Convention, no Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years is eligible to become a member of the bureau of the Conference of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies unless the Party is a least developed country or small island developing State or has agreed to and is respecting a schedule of payments.

15. Information on arrears in assessed contributions to the general trust funds of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is provided in a note by the Secretariat on a combined proposal for the programmes of work and proposed budgets of the three conventions for the biennium 2018-2019, including joint activities (UNEP/CHW.13/26-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/25-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/29), and associated documents cited therein.

16. Pursuant to the Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for 2016–2017,³ the Secretariat promotes active gender-balanced participation in meetings of the bodies of the conventions, including by officers.

III. Proposed action

17. The Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting is invited:

(a) To elect a President and nine Vice-Presidents, including one Vice-President to act as Rapporteur, to serve as the officers of the Conference of the Parties from the closure of its thirteenth meeting to the closure of its fourteenth meeting, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting;

(b) To elect two co-chairs, one with technical expertise and another with legal/implementation expertise; two vice-chairs, one with technical expertise and another with legal/implementation expertise; and one Rapporteur to serve as the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019.

¹ Paragraph 39 of the report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, available at <http://www.basel.int/tabid/5086/Default.aspx>.

² Document 4 of the joint bureaux meeting, annex II, available at <http://brsmeas.org/tabid/5286/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

³ Available at <http://brsmeas.org/Gender/BRSGenderActionPlan/tabid/3652/language/fr-CH/Default.aspx>.

Annex I

Regions and Parties from which the offices of President and Rapporteur have been filled since the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties

	<i>First meeting</i>	<i>Second meeting</i>	<i>Third meeting</i>	<i>Fourth meeting</i>	<i>Fifth meeting</i>	<i>Sixth meeting</i>	<i>Seventh meeting</i>	<i>Eighth meeting</i>	<i>Ninth meeting</i>	<i>Tenth meeting</i>
President	Latin American and Caribbean States (Uruguay)	Western European and other States (Australia)	African States (Senegal)	Asia-Pacific States (Malaysia)	Western European and other States (Switzerland)	Central and Eastern European States (Romania)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Uruguay)	African States (Kenya)	Asian and Pacific States (Indonesia)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Colombia)
Rapporteur	Central and Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American and Caribbean States (El Salvador)	Western European and other States (Netherlands)	African States (Mauritius)	Asian and Pacific States (India)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Peru)	Western European and other States (Australia)	Central and Eastern European States (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)	African States (United Republic of Tanzania)	Asia-Pacific States (Bahrain)
	<i>Eleventh meeting</i>				<i>Twelfth meeting</i>			<i>Thirteenth meeting</i>		
President	Western European and other States (Switzerland)				Central and Eastern European States (Poland)			Asia-Pacific States (Jordan)		
Rapporteur	Latin American and Caribbean States (Dominican Republic)				Western European and other States (Switzerland)			Central and Eastern European States (Montenegro)		

Annex II

Members of the Bureau of the Open-ended Working Group since the first meeting of the Working Group

	<i>First–third meetings (2003–2004)</i>	<i>Fourth–fifth meetings (2005–2006)</i>	<i>Sixth meeting (2007)</i>	<i>Seventh meeting (2010)</i>	<i>Eighth meeting (2012)</i>	<i>Ninth meeting (2014)</i>	<i>Tenth meeting (2016)</i>
	Elected by the Open-ended Working Group at its first meeting (2003)	Elected by the Open-ended Working Group at its fourth meeting (2005)	Elected by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting (2006)	Elected by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting (2008)	Elected by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting (2011)	Elected by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting (2013)	Elected by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting (2015)
Co-Chair Legal	African States (Ethiopia)	Western European and other States (Canada)	Asia-Pacific States (Bahrain)	Western European and other States (Australia)	Asia-Pacific States (Iraq)	Central and Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Spain)
Co-Chair Technical	Central and Eastern European States (Poland)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Mexico)	Central and Eastern European States (Estonia)	African States (Nigeria)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Colombia)	African States (Mauritius)	Western European and other States (Dominica)
Vice-Chair Legal	Latin American and Caribbean States (Mexico)	Central and Eastern European States (Serbia and Montenegro)	African States (Kenya)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Jamaica)	Central and Eastern European States (Russian Federation)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Argentina)	Central and Eastern European States (Serbia)
Vice-Chair Technical	Western European and other States (Australia)	Asia-Pacific States (Sri Lanka)	Western European and other States (Finland)	Asia-Pacific States (Jordan)	African States (Zambia)	Western European and other States (Canada)	Asia-Pacific States (India)
Rapporteur	Asia-Pacific States (Islamic Republic of Iran)	African States (Uganda)	Latin American and Caribbean States (Costa Rica)	Central and Eastern European States (Croatia)	Western European and other States (Finland)	Asia-Pacific States (Islamic Republic of Iran)	African States (Zimbabwe)