



**Basel Convention on the Control of  
Transboundary Movements of  
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

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**Stockholm Convention on Persistent  
Organic Pollutants**

**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 4 (d) (ii) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Matters related to the implementation  
of the Convention: technical assistance:  
Basel Convention regional and  
coordinating centres**

**Conference of the Parties to the  
Stockholm Convention on  
Persistent Organic Pollutants  
Eighth meeting**  
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017  
Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda\*\*  
**Matters related to the implementation  
of the Convention: technical assistance**

**Report on the activities of the Basel and Stockholm conventions  
regional centres**

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. As referred to in the notes by the Secretariat on the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres (UNEP/CHW.13/11) and on the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology (UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1), the annexes to the present note set out a report by the Secretariat on the activities of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres, including an assessment of how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the network of centres.
2. Annex I sets out the status of submission of business plans or workplans for 2016–2019 and activity reports for 2015–2016 by the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres.
3. Annex II sets out a list of training and capacity-building activities, including projects and workshops, implemented by the regional centres in collaboration with the Secretariat over the period between January 2015 and December 2016.
4. Annex III sets out a list of regional centres that participated in the annual joint meetings of the regional centres.
5. Annex IV sets out information on enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of the network of centres, including an assessment of how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the network of centres.
6. Annex V sets out a list of online meetings and webinars facilitated by the Secretariat to support the regional centres in their work and consultations.

\* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

\*\* UNEP/POPS/COP.8/1.

7. Annex VI sets out a note from a working group established by a number of regional centres on marine litter plastic and microplastics.
8. The present note, including its annexes, has not been formally edited.

## Annex I

**Status of submissions of business plans or workplans for 2016–2019  
and activity reports for 2015–2016 by the Basel and Stockholm  
conventions regional centres**

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centre</i>	<i>Date of submission of business plan or workplan (2016-2019)</i>	<i>Date of submission of activity report (2015-2016)</i>
<b>Africa</b>	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Algeria (SCRC Algeria)	2 October 2015	5 February 2017
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Arab States in Egypt (BCRC Egypt)	22 February 2016	31 December 2016
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Kenya (SCRC Kenya)	30 September 2015	31 December 2016
	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Africa in Nigeria (BCCC Africa)	28 June 2016	20 January 2017
	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Senegal (BCRC/SCRC Senegal)	30 September 2015	20 January 2017
	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in South Africa (BCRC/SCRC South Africa)	30 September 2015	20 January 2017
<b>Asia- and the Pacific</b>	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in China (BCRC/SCRC China)	30 September 2015	31 December 2016
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in India (SCRC India)	26 August 2015	20 January 2017
	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre for South East Asia in Indonesia (BCRC/SCRC Indonesia)	30 September 2015	21 January 2017
	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Iran (BCRC/SCRC Iran)	28 December 2015	24 January 2017
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Kuwait (SCRC Kuwait)	27 December 2015	19 January 2017
	Basel Convention Regional Centre-SPREP	30 September 2015	-
<b>Central and Eastern Europe</b>	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Czech Republic (SCRC Czech Republic)	1 October 2015	3 January 2017
	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Russian Federation (BCRC/SCRC Russian Federation)	-	-
	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	29 September 2015	26 December 2016
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America in Argentina (BCRC South America)	14 December 2015	31 December 2016
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	30 September 2015	31 December 2016
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico in El Salvador (BCRC CAM)	4 July 2016	-
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for the Caribbean Region in Trinidad and Tobago (BCRC Caribbean)	-	-
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Mexico (SCRC Mexico)	14 June 2016	-
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Panama (SCRC Panama)	6 October 2015	-
	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay)	1 October 2015	31 December 2016
<b>Western Europe and others</b>	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain)	27 October 2015	20 January 2017

## Annex II

### List of training and capacity-building activities, including projects and workshops, implemented by the regional centres in collaboration with the Secretariat over the period between January 2015 and December 2016

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centres</i>	<i>Type of activity</i>	<i>Month / Year</i>	<i>Title of the activity</i>	
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Kenya (SCRC Kenya)	Workshop	Nov 2015	Sound management of DDT and promotion of non-chemical vector control options	
	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Africa in Nigeria (BCCC Nigeria)	Workshop	Feb 2015	Sub-regional workshop on enhancing effective participation in the work of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) and the POPs Review Committee (POPRC)	
			Oct 2015	Regional training on e-waste for the African countries in collaboration with PACE	
	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Senegal (BCRC/SCRC Senegal)	Project	Oct 2016	PACE pilot project "Management of e-waste in Burkina Faso"	
	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in South Africa (BCRC/SCRC South Africa)	Project	Jul 2016- Jun 2017	Enhancing Parties capacities for the environmentally sound management of e-wastes in Africa	
		Project	Dec 2016	PACE pilot project "Demonstration of environmentally sound management (ESM) of e-wastes in South Africa, Lesotho and Namibia"	
		Workshop	Sept 2016	Sub-Regional workshop on enhancing national cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Bamako conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the SADC countries	
			Sept 2016	Regional African consultations on the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention	
			Nov 2016	National workshop on industrial chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention, and pilot testing of the pocket guide and a training module on exemptions under the Stockholm Convention	
			Dec 2016	Facilitate the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of obligations under the Rotterdam Convention for Lesotho	
			Dec 2016	UNIDO Regional Workshop on the Minamata Convention on Mercury in Pretoria	
	Asia- and the Pacific	Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in China (BCRC/SCRC China)	Project	Aug 2016	Module on e-waste (online training course)
				Dec 2016 – Jun 2017	Life-cycle approach: regional study on socio-economic impacts
Nov 2016- Nov 2017				Sound management of HBCD in insulation materials and wastes generated from construction and demolition in Asia-Pacific countries	
Mar 2017- Feb 2018				Pilot project to test the 'Manual for Permits, Licenses or Authorizations', the 'Fact Sheet on Waste Lead Acid Batteries' and the 'Fact Sheet on Waste Oils	
Mar 2017 – Mar 2018				Pilot project on promoting environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous wastes in industry kilns in selected countries in Asia	
Mar 2017 – Sept 2018				Pilot project to assess the environmentally sound management status of used lead-acid battery recycling and to identify priority actions in selected countries in Asia	
Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Indonesia (BCRC/SCRC Indonesia)		Workshop	Dec 2015	Development, review and update of implementation plans and strategies, POPs wastes and exemptions under the Stockholm Convention (phase III)	
		Project/WS	Nov 2016	Supporting developing countries in phasing out pesticides and industrial POPs subject to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions	

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centres</i>	<i>Type of activity</i>	<i>Month / Year</i>	<i>Title of the activity</i>	
<b>Central and Eastern Europe</b>	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Czech Republic (SCRC Czech Republic)	Training	Jun 2015	11th Summer School of Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology	
		Meeting	Dec 2015	Expert meeting on the effectiveness evaluation of implementation of the Stockholm Convention for PCB and the sixth meeting of the advisory committee of the PCB Elimination Network	
		Project	2015-16	Monitoring of POPs at MONET sites in Africa under the global monitoring plan under the Stockholm Convention	
	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Slovakia (BCRC Slovakia)	Workshop	Feb 2015	Global workshop on updating national implementation plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention	
		Meeting	July 2016	Fifth meeting of the Expert Working Group on environmentally sound management	
			Sep 2016	Expert meeting on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices and the Toolkit	
			Oct 2016	Meeting of coordination group for the global monitoring plan under the Stockholm Convention	
		Project	Apr 2016 Apr 2016	PACE pilot project "Capacity-building for e-wastes management in Serbia"	
			Oct 2017	PACE pilot project "Reduction of risks associated with end-of-life computing equipment in Moldova through raising public awareness and strengthening national capacities"	
		Meeting	Sept 2016	Expert meeting on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices and the Toolkit	
		Project	Mar – Dec 2017	Pilot project to test the 'Manual on General Policies and Legislation' and the 'Fact sheet on E-waste' in Belarus, Montenegro and Moldova	
		<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	Basel Convention Regional Centre in Argentina (BCRC South America)	Project	Feb 2016
	Apr 2017 – Apr 2018				Pilot project on assessing financial guarantees to cover transboundary movements of hazardous and other wastes in South America
	Nov 2016 – Dec 2017				Pilot project identifying feasible strategies for the environmentally sound management of spent lighting products in Chile
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Brazil (SCRC Brazil)	Meeting		May 2016	ENFORCE face-to-face meeting	
Basel Convention Regional Centre in El Salvador (BCRC-CAM)	Project		Nov 2016	PACE Pilot project "Workshops for sharing regional advances in guidelines for the collection, temporary storage, transportation, testing, repair and refurbishment, disassembly, recycling and export of WEEE, as well as the Revision and validation of draft WEEE Guidelines"	
Basel Convention Regional Centre in Trinidad and Tobago (BCRC Caribbean)	Project		Jun 2016	PACE pilot project "Assessment of waste electrical and electronic equipment management and data for the Republic of Suriname"	
	Meeting		Jan-Mar 2017	Participation in high-level consultations on the Ban Amendment to certain Parties in the Caribbean region on request	
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Mexico (SCRC Mexico)	Project		Dec 2016- Dec 2017	National activities and case studies on pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters	
			Dec 2016- Apr 2017	Reviewing and updating of NIP guidance documents	
Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Panama (SCRC Panama)	Workshop		Apr 2016	Development, review and update of implementation plans and strategies under the Stockholm Convention (including Article 5 of Annex C)	
Basel and Stockholm conventions Regional Centre in Uruguay (BCCC/SCRC Uruguay)	Workshop		Nov 2015	Enhancing Parties capacities for the ESM of mercury wastes through the enhanced regional delivery in support of the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative	
	Meeting		Aug 2016	First face-to-face meeting of the informal group on household waste	
	Project		Oct 2016 Dec 2016 –	Module on POPs listed in the annexes of the Stockholm Convention (online training course)	
			Aug 2017	Enhancing Parties capacities for the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes in LAC	
<b>Western Europe</b>	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCRC Spain)	Project/ workshop	Feb 2015	Review of the interactive industrial chemicals Toolkit under the Rotterdam Convention	
			Jan 2017	Development of draft guidance on preparing inventory and identifying alternatives to PCP	

## Annex III

### List of regional centres that participated in the annual joint meetings of the regional centres<sup>1</sup>

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centre</i>	<i>Participated in the joint meeting of the regional centres held from 5 to 8 October 2015</i>	<i>Participated in the joint meeting of the regional centres held from 31 October to 2 November 2016</i>
<b>Africa</b>	SCRC Algeria	Yes	Yes
	BCRC Egypt	Yes	Yes
	SCRC Kenya	Yes	Yes
	BCCC Nigeria	Yes	Yes
	BCRC/SCRC Senegal	Yes	Yes
	BCRC/SCRC South Africa	Yes	Yes
<b>Asia- and the Pacific</b>	BCRC/SCRC China	Yes	Yes
	SCRC India	Yes	Yes
	BCRC/SCRC Indonesia	Yes	Yes
	BCRC/SCRC Iran	Yes	Yes
	SCRC Kuwait	Yes	Yes
	SPREP	Yes	Yes
<b>Central and Eastern Europe</b>	SCRC Czech Republic	Yes	Yes
	BCRC/SCRC Russian Federation	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes <sup>3</sup>
	BCRC Slovakia	Yes	Yes
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	BCRC South America	Yes	Yes
	SCRC Brazil	Yes	Yes
	BCRC CAM	Yes	Yes
	BCRC Caribbean	Yes	Yes
	SCRC Mexico	Yes	Yes
	SCRC Panama	No	Yes
	BCRC/SCRC Uruguay	Yes	Yes
<b>Western Europe and others</b>	SCRC Spain	Yes	Yes

<sup>1</sup> List of participants and the reports of both meetings are available on the conventions' website: <http://synergies.pops.int/tabid/5281/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> Due to change of host organization, a representative of the proposed institution participated as an observer.

<sup>3</sup> Due to change of host organization, a representative of the proposed institution participated as an observer.

## Annex IV

### Enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of the network of regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions

#### I. Assessment of how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the network of centres

This assessment is based on the activity reports submitted by regional centres, discussion points and experience shared during meetings of the regional centres and regular information provided by the centres to the Secretariat on the activities implemented.

Based on the information available, it appears that cooperation and coordination take place between centres within regions and between regions. The degree of formality of cooperative arrangements varies, ranging from formalized cooperation mechanisms, such as entering legal agreements, to more ad-hoc cooperation. Cooperative activities are sought in most cases with a view to increasing efficiency, resources and expertise for the delivery of the centres mandate in line with their workplans.

#### A. Good practices identified contributing to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the network

The following arrangements have been identified as good practices that may enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the network of regional centres

- **Inter- and intra-regional cooperation and coordination among regional centres**

Regional centres operate within their areas of expertise and experience. Most of the coordinated activities occur within regions but coordination also happens between centres from different regions. Below is a non-exhaustive list of activities which were delivered by regional centres with the support of other centres.

Activities involving cooperation and coordination among centres within regions:

- BCCC-Nigeria organizing laboratory capacity-building training for BCRC-Egypt in 2015.
- BCRC-CAM, BCRC-Argentina and SCRC-Brazil working on the development of a national strategy for El Salvador and identifying key elements for regional strategy for the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes.

Activities involving cooperation and coordination among centres between regions:

- BCRC-SCRC China inviting BCRC-CAM in a field visit on the environmentally sound management of cathod ray tubes monitors and disposal of lead-acid batteries; in 2014
- SCRC-Brazil inviting SCRC-Czech Republic and BCCC-Nigeria as resource persons in the training course on monitoring POPs in various environmental samples in 2014;
- BCRC-SCRC-China frequently inviting other centres including BCCC-Nigeria, SPREP to take part in conducted activities.

- **Signing of legal agreements between the centres**

Various regional centres have signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for mutual cooperation, for example, BCRC-SCRC China signed a MOU with BCCC-Nigeria and with SPREP, respectively; and BCRC-Egypt signed a MOU with BCCC-Nigeria.

- **GRULAC network for regional coordination**

The Stockholm Convention regional centres located in Latin America and the Caribbean established formally a network of regional centres in 2011, as set out in annexes II and III of decision SC-5/21. The objective of the network is to develop a coordinated joint action to strengthen and enhance the implementation of the Convention in the countries of the region. It provides the coordinated and cooperative method in which the centers:

- (a) Undertake work in a systematic and organized manner, in a spirit of communication and mutual support among members;

(b) Establish the role of a Coordinator of the Network and designate the regional center in Brazil to assume the coordination at this moment. This function will be exercised on a rotating basis, with a year duration;

(c) Work together in a coordinated manner on issues of common interest in order to assist all countries of the region within the network's framework;

(d) Endeavour to hold regular meetings face-to-face or through forums among the centers and the countries that they serve. It is the role of the Coordinator to convene these meetings;

(e) Identify "friends and partners" of the Centers and strive to seek closer ties with them, including regional centers of other Conventions located in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The BCRCs of the same region also joined the network. The network has been effective in coordinating the activities of the centres through exchange of expertise.

- **Meetings of regional centres (quarterly and annual meetings)**

The meetings organized by the Secretariat with regional centres on regular basis assist in promoting information exchange and coordination among regional centres. Since 2013, online meetings with regional centres are held on a quarterly basis upon their request. The quarterly meetings are aimed at discussing various issues, as relevant, including preparation for meetings of the COPs, follow-up on decisions taken at the COPs, setting the agenda of annual regional centres' meetings; and exchanging views on performance evaluation reports. The face-to-face annual meetings provide also opportunities for the centres to discuss ways to enhance cooperation and coordination among them. Discussions and exchange of experience may be structured with a view to increasing the delivery of activities within a region or focus on thematic issues of interest to centres across different regions.

- **"Focal centres"**

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in decision VI/3, defined the role of regional centres and coordination centres in order to ensure proper coordination among the centres. The synergy decisions (IX/10, RC-4/11 and SC-4/34) called for selecting a limited number of "focal centres" with the responsibility to facilitate coordinated activities in the regions. These focal centres were expected to: (a) Ensure that the regional centres deliver their work in accordance with defined priorities and serve as an entry point for countries needing assistance or guidance on which centre in a region could provide assistance for a specific purpose; (b) Strengthen regional centres to enable them to exercise a more synergistic approach as delivery mechanisms under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; (c) Play a special role in providing an overview of their activities and results to the conferences of the Parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as examples of lessons learned on enhanced practical implementation of the conventions. With the exception of the GRULAC region, this model does not appear to have been followed within regions.

- **Reaching out to other networks in the regions**

Efforts to enhance cooperation and collaboration among regional centres and the regional offices of UNEP and FAO regional offices and other centres have been undertaken, in line with relevant mandate<sup>1</sup>. As such, meetings have been held in 2016 to promote networking and coordinated activities with UNEP chemicals and waste subprogramme coordinators, UNEP regional MEAs focal points, and other entities (e.g. cleaner production centres). More details on these meetings are provided in section II below.

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<sup>1</sup> Decisions BC-12/10, paragraphs 17(a) and (b), and SC-7/17, paragraphs 18 (a) and (b).



## II. List of meetings aimed at promoting the network of centres for strengthening regional delivery of technical assistance

<i>Title of the meeting</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Key recommendations on improving effectiveness of the network of centres</i>
Annual joint meeting of the directors of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions 5-8 October 2015 Geneva	BCRCs and SCRCs directors, representatives of permanent missions in Geneva, UNEP Chemicals and Waste Branch, SAICM secretariat, interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention, ROE/UNEP; Swedish Chemical Agency (KemI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariat to continue assisting centres to increase capacity to leverage financial resources through training, etc.</li> <li>• The centres to take advantage of the international training courses on the management of chemicals, such as the one offered by KemI;</li> <li>• To improve Parties' access to information and the expertise available in regional centres through the conventions clearing-house mechanism</li> <li>• The meeting report is available at: <a href="http://www.brsmeas.org/JointRCsMeeting2015/tabid/4624/language/en-US/Default.aspx">http://www.brsmeas.org/JointRCsMeeting2015/tabid/4624/language/en-US/Default.aspx</a></li> </ul>
Meeting of the representatives of the permanent missions in Geneva of the countries that host regional centres 10 December 2015 Geneva	Representatives of the permanent missions in Geneva of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Egypt, India, Iran, Kuwait, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretariat to keep the permanent missions informed of any communications transmitted with the centres</li> <li>• Permanent missions will provide a facilitation support to the centres for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establishing and or renewal of framework agreements</li> <li>○ Providing links between various thematic areas across UN organizations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Teleconference to touch base on promoting of Networking between cleaner production centres and Stockholm and Basel conventions regional centres 5 February 2016	Representative of the industry and value chain unit of UNEP SCP/DTIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To share information on the RECPnet with BCRC/SCRC network and vice versa</li> <li>• To offer membership to the RECPnet to interested BCRCs/SCRCs</li> </ul>
Teleconference BRS secretariat and UNEP chemicals regional coordinators 15 March 2016	Kakuko Nagatani-Yoshida (ROAP); Jordi Pon (ROLAC); Kaj Madsen (UNEP Chemicals and wastes Branch); Maarten Kappelle (UNEP Chemical and waste subprogramme); Mijke Hertoghs (ROE); Haddy Jallow Guisse (DELIC); BRS Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To explore reciprocal participation e in training and capacity-building workshops held on various issues in different geographical locations.</li> <li>• To work at establishing a network of regional entity aimed at delivering technical assistance on the matters related to chemicals and wastes</li> <li>• To continue quarterly online meetings</li> <li>• To share list of emails of the participants</li> </ul>
Annual joint meeting of the directors of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions 31 October-2 November 2016 Geneva	BCRCs and SCRCs directors; Representatives of permanent missions; Chemicals and Waste Branch UNEP; Special Programme secretariat; interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention; UNEP Chemicals and Waste Subprogramme Coordinator and Regional subprogramme coordinator; UNEP Law Division; RECPnet/industry value chain unit/DTIE/UNEP; Swedish Chemical Agency (KemI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve efficiency and effectiveness of the network of centres it was suggested that other regions could follow suit of the GRULAC network model by putting in place of similar networks for effective regional coordination.</li> <li>• To ensure efficiency in the coordination between the Secretariat and the centres, a formal coordinating mechanism could be envisaged.</li> <li>• The Secretariat to assist centres in mobilizing resources for the implementation of various tasks as requested by COP decisions. The meeting report is available at: <a href="http://www.brsmeas.org/JointRCsMeeting2016/tabid/5281/language/en-US/Default.aspx">http://www.brsmeas.org/JointRCsMeeting2016/tabid/5281/language/en-US/Default.aspx</a></li> </ul>

## Annex V

### List of online meetings and webinars facilitated by the Secretariat to support the regional centres in their work and consultations

<i>Date of meeting</i>	<i>Title of the meeting</i>	<i>Type of meeting</i>	<i>Participants</i>
21, 23, 29 and 30 January 2015	SCRC Czech Republic: Enhancing the use of the GMP electronic tool and on data management and use of POPs data	Online trainings	Global online training attended by various Parties
16 and 18 Feb 2015 20 and 22 Apr 2015	Consultations with regional centres in preparation for the COPs	Online meetings	All regional centres
21 and 23 July; 4 and 6 August; 22 and 24 September 2015	Quarterly meetings including consultations on the agenda of the directors' meeting and logistics	Online meetings	All regional centres
8 July 2015	Annual steering committee meeting of the BCRC-Caribbean	Online meeting	Steering committee members of the BCRC Caribbean, the director of the centre and a representative of the Secretariat
3 August and 4 September 2015	Consultations on the business plan of BCRC-Caribbean for 2016-2019	Online meetings	Steering committee members of the BCRC Caribbean, the director of the centre and a representative of the Secretariat
15-17 September 2015	Development and implementation of a sustainable management mechanism for POPs in the Caribbean	Face to face (the Secretariat participated remotely)	Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; Belize; St. Kitts and Nevis; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; and Trinidad and Tobago
7-9 December 2015	Regional workshop on ESM of chemicals and hazardous wastes and clearing-house mechanism to enhance synergies under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the Arab Countries	Face to face (the Secretariat participated remotely)	Representatives of the country Parties served by BCRC Egypt
5 February 2016	Consultation on the Business Plan of BCRC South America for 2016-2019	Online meeting	Steering committee members of the BCRC South America
5 and 7 April, 12 and 14 July, and 27, and 29 September 2016	Quarterly meetings including consultations on finalizing of the agenda of the directors' meeting and logistics	Online meetings	All regional centres
26-28 July 2016	Training workshop on developing inventories of new POPs in Algeria	Face to face (the Secretariat participated remotely)	Representatives of Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Libya, international experts from GIZ
24 October 2016	Steering committee meeting of the BCRC China	Face to face (the Secretariat participated remotely)	Steering committee members from Cambodia, China, Laos, and Mongolia, other local participants and a representative of the Secretariat
10-12 December 2016	Regional round-table on enhancing a supporting environment for technology transfer in the Arab States	Secretariat provided welcoming remarks	Parties served by the BCRC Egypt

## Annex VI

### Challenges and measures to tackle marine litter plastics and microplastics and their POPs and EDC components

During the joint annual meeting of the Regional Centres of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions in November 2016, different Centres expressed their interest in working on the impact of plastic waste and its toxic chemicals, in particular Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs), ending up as marine litter. After consulting with the BRS Secretariat, the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCP/RAC) coordinated a working group of Stockholm and Basel Conventions Regional Activity Centers on “Marine litter plastics and microplastics and its POP and EDC components: challenges and measures to tackle the issue”. The main aim of this working group was to develop a document with recommendations in the frame of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions to the Parties and also on possible future activities of the Centres to address the issue.

The working group was formed by representatives of the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre in Spain (SCP/RAC), the Regional Centre of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Basel Convention Regional Centre (BCRC) for South America, the Basel Convention Regional Centre Slovakia and by experts from the University of Sienna, the Endocrine Society, Greenpeace Research Laboratories, IPEN, IUCN, UNEP Environment Economy Division, EUCC Mediterranean Centre, the Institute for Chemical and Bioengineering of ETH-Zurich, and POPs consultants.

The document highlights that large quantities of plastics, 8 million tonnes per year, are leaking to the oceans. It is estimated that the ocean may already contain over 150 million tonnes of plastics and it is predicted that this may double to 250 million tonnes already by 2025. As a result, plastic marine litter is ubiquitous in all oceans and in all its compartments (surface, water column, sea floor, sediments and shores). Without immediate action, the environmental impacts and the economic costs are due to become much worse in the short term: the strongly increasing global tendency of plastic production and consumption and the lack or insufficient waste management facilities and efficient waste collection infrastructures at global level makes extremely uncertain the ability to achieve already established objectives of reduction of marine litter at global, regional, sub-regional or national levels. Although there is still need to carry out focused scientific research to fill the knowledge gaps about the impacts of plastic litter in the marine environment, the food chain and human health, the already existing scientific evidence and concerns should be enough to support actions by the scientific, industry, policy and civil society communities to curb the leaking of plastics and the toxic chemicals they contain into the marine environment by taking strong preventive measures.

The working group has outlined a set of recommendations to the parties of the Stockholm and Basel Conventions to address the issue, including acknowledging plastic marine litter, especially micro and nanoplastics, as an issue of global environmental and health concern, due to its persistence, wide distribution and long range transport capacity of toxic chemicals.

The WG recommends to the Parties of the Stockholm Convention that due to the toxic chemicals exposure of marine biota through uptake of microplastics, which represents a hazard to marine ecosystems and its biodiversity, food availability and food security, and which potentially may affect human health, to take into consideration the risks of chemicals in plastics ending up as marine litter when selecting and assessing substances for the listing of new POPs; in particular additives in plastics with acknowledged endocrine disrupting properties, taking into account that those chemicals in plastics may have much longer half-life in marine conditions than in standard laboratory conditions; and the introduction of measures to reduce marine plastic litter in National Implementation Plans;

Recommendations to Parties of the Basel Convention include the development of efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of marine plastic litter; the revision of Annex 1 and Annex 3 of the Convention in order to ensure that EDCs in plastics are included; the adoption of new guidelines on Environmental Sound Management of plastic and plastic containing wastes, with a view to minimize the possibility of plastic leaks into the oceans coming from waste management; to review policies related to the export of plastic containing waste to countries where no environmentally sound recycling, recovery or final disposal of the plastic materials contained in the waste exist; and to develop efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of marine plastic litter.

Finally the WG identified a number of possible future activities of UNEP Regional Activity Centres or other institutions to address the issue, such as:

- Dissemination, information and training activities to improve awareness and knowledge on the risks posed by plastic marine litter and on measures to reduce it;

- Technical assistance and capacity-building activities to support parties and other stakeholders in implementing waste management and efficient waste collection measures to reduce plastic marine litter:
- To promote innovation and technology transfer to avoid persistent plastics and sound chemical substitution of toxic components in plastic packaging and other plastics.

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