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CERTAIN PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

Sixth session

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Basel Convention regional centres for training and technology transfer**

Note by the secretariat

As provided for in UNEP/POPS/INC.6/16, attached to the present note is information on the regional centres for training and technology transfer referred to in the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, provided by the secretariat of the Basel Convention. The information has been circulated as submitted and has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/POPS/INC.6/1.

** Stockholm Convention, article 12, paragraph 4; Basel Convention, article 14, paragraph 1.

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BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRES FOR TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Background

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal provides in Article 14 for the establishment of Regional Centres. The main goal of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (BCRCs) is to strengthen the capacity of countries of the regions for the implementation of the Basel Convention. The Article stipulates that “according to the specific needs of different regions and sub-regions, regional or sub-regional centres for training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the minimisation of their generation should be established.”

In consultation with the countries which expressed interest to host the centres, and through a series of feasibility studies, the potential host countries have been identified and endorsed in by the Parties in Decision III/19.

The following Basel Convention Regional Centres have been endorsed and established by the Parties to the Basel Convention:

- 1) For the African region: Egypt, South Africa, and Senegal (operative but not yet endorsed)¹ with Nigeria as coordinating centre
- 2) For the Asia and Pacific region: China and Indonesia²
- 3) For the Central and Eastern European region: the Slovak Republic and the Russian Federation
- 4) For Latin America and the Caribbean region: Argentina, El Salvador and Trinidad and Tobago with Uruguay as the coordinating centre.

The activities of the BCRCs are summarized in Annex I.

Having reviewed the status and activities of the BCRCs, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fifth meeting (December 1999), in decision V/5 (paragraph 17), requested the Secretariat to prepare a framework agreement, which will form the basis of a legally binding agreement to be concluded between the representatives of the governments hosting the BCRCs and the secretariat of the Basel Convention on behalf of the Parties.

The purpose of the Framework Agreement is to provide the centres a formal legal status as the regional mechanism for the implementation of the Basel Convention.

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at its sixth meeting (9 to 13 December 2002 in Geneva) will consider the adoption of the Framework Agreement in a decision which also includes the financial mechanisms for the operation of the BCRCs, their membership, the core functions of BCRCs³ and the roles and functions of the Coordinating Centres of the Basel Convention. These elements are considered essential for the legal establishing and operation of the centres and ensuring their long-term sustainability.

The Strategic Plan for the Basel Convention, which will also be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its sixth meeting, calls on the further strengthening of BCRCs as effective

¹ The endorsement of Senegal, as the regional centre for French-speaking countries in Africa, will be submitted for decision at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

² An official proposal by India to host a Basel Convention Regional Centre in New Dehli will be submitted for decision at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

³ See Annex II.

regional mechanisms to facilitate the coordinated implementation of the Basel Convention, its amendments and protocols, and related conventions and programmes.

Some of the specific activities of the Strategic Plan are: carrying out a review of the training and technology transfer needs of Parties in each region, development and implementation of common action plans and prioritised regional programmes, joint public awareness and information dissemination programmes on environmentally sound management including minimization of wastes and chemicals.

The BCRCs provide for regional infrastructures aimed at carrying out activities toward the coordinated implementation of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions. Some concrete activities have already been carried out like the First Regional Workshop for the Caribbean for the Management, Prevention and Environmentally Sound Management of Pesticides in the context of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions and the preparation of a regional project proposal for the environmentally sound management of pesticides (Trinidad, 22-25 April 2002) and the preparation of a Pilot Dioxins and Furans Assessment Project in Africa with specific focus on impact of specific local practices.

In the future, the Stockholm Convention involvement in the BCRCs could strengthen their viability, avoid duplication and enhance the collaboration between the Stockholm and Basel Conventions to support environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes through their whole life-cycle, including production, use, trade and disposal.

ANNEX I

BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRES

AFRICA

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Egypt

- ◆ Established in June 1998
- ◆ Hosted by: Cairo University
- ◆ Centre Location: Cairo Centre for Environmental Hazard Mitigation, Cairo University P.O. Box 453, El-Orman, Giza, Cairo, Egypt, Tel. (202) 571 96 88, Fax. (202) 571 9687, E-mail: samarzyad@usa.net
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Director (Prof. Yehia E. Abdelhady)
- ◆ Geographical scope: Arabic speaking countries in Africa and West Asia
- ◆ Activities: Regional Workshop on hazardous wastes management and implementation of the Basel Convention (2000); Consultative Meeting of the Basel Convention Regional Centres (2002). Planned regional workshops: Identification of regional priorities and problems; Legal implementation of the Basel Convention; Environmentally Sound Management - What is hazardous waste?; Supplementary projects to the workshops and comprehensive studies; Assistance and advisory services; Promotion and public awareness; Information gathering and dissemination and Networking.
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$853,150
- ◆ Source of Funding: Finland (agreement under preparation)

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Dakar, Senegal

- ◆ Established in 1998
- ◆ Hosted by: IAGU (Institut African de Gestion Urbaine), Dakar
- ◆ Centre Location: Institut Africain de Gestion Urbaine (IAGU), B.P. 7263, Dakar, Senegal, Tel. (221) 824 44 24, Fax: (221) 825 08 26 E-mail: iagu@cyg.sn
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Interim Coordinator (Mr. D. Doucouré), two technical experts
- ◆ Geographical scope: French speaking countries in Africa
- ◆ Activities: Regional Workshop on National Reporting and Inventory of Hazardous Wastes (1999); Meeting of Board of Directors of the Regional Centre (1999); Pilot Project on Health Care Waste management in Côte d'Ivoire (2000); Pilot Project on PCB Management in Côte d'Ivoire (2000-2001); Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Basel Convention (2002); Drawing regional contest for children to participate in the Children Conference on Environment in Canada (2002); Pilot Project on dioxins and furans (planned 2002).
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$ 465'000
- ◆ Sources of funding: Host Government (in-kind), Canada, Norway, US, Secretariat of the Basel Convention

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, South Africa

- ◆ Established in June 2000
- ◆ Hosted by: Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Vista University, Pretoria
- ◆ Centre Location: Vista University, Private Bag X634, Pretoria 0001, South Africa, Tel./Fax: (27-12) 320 57 59, Fax: (27-12) 52 4108/41 11 E-mail: john@acaleph.vista.ac.za
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Executive Director (Dr. John Mbogoma), Senior Adviser (Dr. Danny Walmsley), Training Coordinator (Ms Nomphele Daniels), Training Coordinator (Mr F Molelekwa), Secretary (Mrs Annelize Jooste), Accountant (Mrs Christina Hutton)
- ◆ Geographical scope: English speaking countries in Africa
- ◆ Activities: Regional Workshop on National Reporting and Inventories of Hazardous Waste (2000). In addition to training activities, the Centre is carrying out a number of information gathering and dissemination activities, developing networks, developing hazardous wastes projects and undertaking fund-raising activities.

- ◆ The Centre is currently implementing a regional capacity programme which has convened training and networking workshops in Pretoria (2001; 2002) and Mauritius (2002). Awareness seminars for senior decision-makers have been convened in Kenya (2001) and Tanzania (2002)
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$2,836,000
- ◆ Sources of funding: Denmark, South Africa, the secretariat of the Basel Convention

Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centre, Nigeria

- ◆ The Centre is not yet officially established
- ◆ Proposed to be hosted by: Federal Environmental Protection Agency (FEPA) - University of Ibadan Linkage Centre for Cleaner Production, Technology and Hazardous Waste Management, Nigeria
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: to be headed by an Executive Director (yet to be appointed)
- ◆ Geographical scope: Africa
- ◆ Proposed functions: promoting of interaction among the regional centres, Parties and other related institutions; convoking regional consultations to identify priorities and formulate strategies; supporting and coordinating common tasks of the regional centres in the field of policies, information, communication, technical and financial assessment; defining and executing programmes of regional scope in coordination with the regional centres; identifying promoting and strengthening the synergies and mechanisms of cooperation among the regional centres and other stakeholders in hazardous waste management and technology transfer in and outside the region; keeping a compilation system for information and making such information accessible to stakeholders.

ASIA

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, China

- ◆ Established in 1997
- ◆ Hosted by: Tsinghua University, Beijing
- ◆ Centre Location: Environmental Engineering Building, No. 401, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, Tel (+86 10) 62782029, Fax (+86 10) 62772048, E-mail: jinhui@tsinghua.edu.cn
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Director (Mr. Lu Xinyuan), Administrative Director (Dr. LI Jinhui)
- ◆ Geographical scope: Asia and Pacific
- ◆ Activities: 1st Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Hazardous Waste Management and Practice (1999); Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Hazardous Waste Management and Practice (1999); The Third Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on Hazardous Waste management in Mining Industry (2000). Mid-term Workshop for Pilot Project for the Monitoring and Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes in the Asian Region (2002).
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$209,000
- ◆ Source of funding: Australia, Japan

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Indonesia

- ◆ Established in August 1997
- ◆ Hosted by: Environmental Impact Management Agency (BAPEDAL), Jakarta
- ◆ Centre location: Otorita Batam Bld. 5th Floor, Jl. D.1, Panjaitan Kav. 24, Jakarta 13410, Indonesia, Tel. 62-21-8590 4932, Fax. 62-21-8590 4932: The Environmental Management Center, Serpong, Jakarta. E-mail : haruki@indo.net.id
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Director (Ms. Sulistyowati, Head of division for research and Development of Technology, Ministry of Environment, Director for Solid Waste and Hazardous Substances Management, BAPEDAL)
- ◆ Geographical scope: Asia and Pacific

- ◆ Activities: Regional Workshop on Hazardous Waste Management and the Implementation of the Basel Convention (2000); Regional Workshop on the Ratification and Implementation of the Basel Convention and its Ban Amendment (2001); Regional workshop on national reporting and the undertaking of national inventories of hazardous wastes under the Basel Convention (2002, tentative).
- ◆ Funds Managed: US\$170,000
- ◆ Source of funding: Denmark, Japan

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Slovakia

- ◆ Established in 1996.
- ◆ Hosted by: Slovak Environmental Protection Agency, Bratislava
- ◆ Centre Location: Klobucnika 7/1, 81 101 Bratislava, Slovak Republic, Tel./fax: +421 2 544 32 023/ Tel./fax: +421 2 544 32 023/+421 2 544 195 05), E-mail: lapesova@sazp.sk.
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Director Mrs. Dana Lapesova.
- ◆ Geographical scope: Eastern and Central Europe
- ◆ Activities: The centre started up its activities in February 1997. During that time it has held 10 regional workshops for CEE countries on various technical and legal aspects of the Basel Convention and has carried out a number of waste related projects. Workshop on Comparative Analysis of International Waste List and Control Systems (2002). In addition to regional workshops, the Bratislava Centre provides practical assistance to the countries of the region, through: Supplementary projects to the workshops, as well as comprehensive studies; Assistance and advisory services; Promotion and public awareness; Information gathering and dissemination and Networking.
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$ 895,000
- ◆ Sources of funding: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Slovak Republic, Switzerland.

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Russia

- ◆ Established in 1996
- ◆ Hosted by: Centre for International Projects, State Committee of the Russian Federation for Environmental Protection, Moscow
- ◆ Centre Location: 105043 Pervomaiskaya Street, 58Bm, App 104-106, CIP, Moscow, Russia (or 117292 P.O.Box 165, CIP, Moscow, Russia), Tel (+ 7 095) 165 05 62, Fax 165 08 90, E-mail Cip.tse@g23relcom.ru
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Director (Mr. Sergey E. Tikhonov)
- ◆ Geographical scope: Commonwealth of Independent States, Eastern Europe, Russian Federation
- ◆ Activities: Regional Seminar on Institutional and Technical Aspects of the Implementation of the Basel Convention (1998); Regional Seminar on Management of Hazardous Wastes and their Transboundary Movements (2000)
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$ 40,000
- ◆ Sources Funding: Russian Federation, The Netherlands

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Argentina

- ◆ Established in 2002
- ◆ Hosted by: Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Industrial (INTI), Buenos Aires
- ◆ Centre Location: Leandro N. Alem 1067, 7° Piso, C1001AAF Buenos Aires. Tel (+ 5411) 4313-3013/3092/3054 Fax (54-11) 4313-2130; Website: <http://www.inti.gov.ar/>
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Interim Coordinator (Ms. Leila Devia)
- ◆ Geographical scope: South America

- ◆ Activities: Regional Workshop on Best Available Technologies and Best Environmental Practices (SBC/UNEP – Chemicals, tentative 2002); First meeting of the Board of Directors of the BCRC in Argentina (tentative 2002)
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$ 85'000
- ◆ Sources of Funding: Host Government, secretariat of the Basel Convention, UNEP-Chemicals

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, El Salvador

- ◆ Established in 1999
- ◆ Hosted by: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, San Salvador
- ◆ Centre Location: Edificio Torre El Salvador, Alameda Roosevelt, San Salvador, El Salvador, Tel. And Fax: (503) 260 5614, E-mail: opozono@salnet.net; <http://www.marn.gob.sv/>
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Interim Director (Mr. Roberto Rivas), three technical experts
- ◆ Geographical scope: Central America
- ◆ Activities: Regional Workshop for the ESM of hazardous wastes and their minimization (2000); International Workshop for the Regional Centres of the Basel Convention (2000); National workshops for the Implementation of the Basel Convention in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras (planned), Panama, Nicaragua; Set-up of a database and dissemination to countries; Preparation of an Action Plan for the Region for the Implementation of the Basel Convention; First Meeting of the Board of Directors (2002); Regional Programme for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs in the context of the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention (2002); Coordination of regional project for the management of spent lead-acid batteries in Central America (2001-2002); Regional Seminar on the environmentally sound management of spent lead-acid batteries in the Caribbean and Central America (2002);
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$ 755'000
- ◆ Sources of funding: host Government and countries in the region (in-kind), Netherlands, Switzerland, UK, US, secretariat of the Basel Convention, UNCTAD, National Cleaner Production Centres in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico.

Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Trinidad & Tobago

- ◆ Established in 1998
- ◆ Hosted by: Caribbean Institute for Research and Industry, (CARIRI), Port of Spain
- ◆ Centre Location: c/o Tunpuna Post Office Trinidad and Tobago Tel. 868 662 7171 Fax: 868 662 9770; E-mail: basel_ca@tsst.net.tt; Website: <http://www.cariri.it/welcome.htm>
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Interim Director (Mr. Liaquat Ali Shah CEO, CARIRI), Coordinator (Ms. Sharon Laurent), secretary
- ◆ Geographical scope: Caribbean
- ◆ Activities: Regional Seminar and International Forum on Asbestos Management (1998), Regional Seminar on Inland Water Systems and Marine Environment (1999); Meeting of the Advisory Council for the Regional Centre (2001); Regional Workshop for the ESM of lead-acid batteries for Central America and the Caribbean (2001); Regional Inventory of Discarded Chemicals and Hazardous Wastes (2000, CEHI); Coordination of the Project for the ESM of lead-acid batteries in the Caribbean (2001); Preparation of an Action Plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention in the Caribbean (2002); Regional workshop on the Reduction / Elimination and Management of Pesticides in the Context of the Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention (2002); Drawing regional contest for children to participate in the Children Conference on Environment in Canada (2002); GEF/UNEP Regional Workshop on Support to the Stockholm Convention (2002); Preparation of Project Proposal for the Disposal of Obsolete Stocks of Pesticides (2002); Regional Workshop on National Reporting and Inventories of Hazardous Wastes under the Basel Convention (planned, 2002); Regional Project for the ESM of used oils in the Caribbean (planned 2002-2003).
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$ 642'000
- ◆ Sources of funding: Host Government, Canada, US, secretariat of the Basel Convention, UNEP

Basel Convention Regional Coordinating Centre, Uruguay

- ◆ Established in 1998
- ◆ Hosted by: Focal point to the Basel Convention, Dirección Nacional de Medio Ambiente (DINAMA), Montevideo
- ◆ Centre Location: Rincón 422, Piso 1, Montevideo 11000, Uruguay, Tel. (598 2) 916 8287/916 9127, Fax: (598 2) 916 8288, E-mail: suspel@adinet.com.uy, Website: <http://www.desechospeligrosos.org/>
- ◆ Staff of the Centre: Interim Coordinator (Ms. Silvia Aguinaga), two technical experts
- ◆ Geographical scope: Latin America and the Caribbean
- ◆ Activities: Regional Seminar for Latin America for the monitoring and control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes (1999); UNEP/Chemicals Regional Workshop for South America on POPs (2000); Regional Workshop for South America on National Reporting under the Basel Convention and Inventory of Hazardous Wastes (2001); Development and maintenance of the web-page (English/Spanish) and dissemination of information to all Parties (1999-2001); Coordination of Awareness-raising programme in several countries in Latin America and Caribbean (2001); GEF/UNEP Regional Workshop on Support to the Stockholm Convention (2002);
- ◆ Proposed functions: promoting of interaction among the regional centres, Parties and other related institutions; convoking regional consultations to identify priorities and formulate strategies; supporting and coordinating common tasks of the regional centres in the field of policies, information, communication, technical and financial assessment; defining and executing programmes of regional scope in coordination with the regional centres; identifying promoting and strengthening the synergies and mechanisms of cooperation among the regional centres and other stakeholders in hazardous waste management and technology transfer in and outside the region; keeping a compilation system for information and making such information accessible to stakeholders.
- ◆ Funds managed: US\$ 340'000
- ◆ Sources of funding: Host Government (in-kind), secretariat of the Basel Convention, UNEP

ANNEX II⁴

CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE BASEL CONVENTION REGIONAL CENTRES

The role of the Centres is to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, within their own region, through capacity building for the environmentally sound management to achieve the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention.

The description of the **core functions**⁵ of the Centres are as follows:

1. Training
2. Technology Transfer
3. Information
4. Consulting
5. Awareness

The explanations of the core functions of the Centres are as follows:

- (a) Developing and conducting training programmes, workshops, seminars and associated projects in the field of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, transfer of environmentally sound technology and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes with specific emphasis on training the trainers.
- (b) Identifying, developing and strengthening mechanisms for the transfer of technology in the field of the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes or their minimization in the region.
- (c) Gathering, assessing and disseminating information in the field of hazardous wastes and other wastes to Parties of the region and to the Secretariat.
- (d) Collecting information on new or proven environmentally sound technologies and know-how relating to environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes and disseminating these to Parties of the region at their request.
- (e) Establishing and maintaining regular exchange of information relevant to the provisions of the Basel Convention, and networking at the national and regional levels.
- (f) Organising meetings, symposiums and missions in the field, useful for carrying out these objectives in the region.
- (g) Providing assistance and advice to the Parties of the region at their request, on matters relevant to the environmentally sound management or minimization of hazardous wastes, the implementation of the provisions of the Basel Convention and other related matters.
- (h) Promoting public awareness.
- (i) Encouraging the best approaches, practices and methodologies for the environmentally sound management and minimization of the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes, e.g. through case studies and pilot projects.

⁴ Annex 5 of the Consultative Meeting of the Basel Convention Regional Centres Cairo, Egypt, 4 to 5 April 2002

⁵ The core functions of the BCRCs as well as the roles and functions of the Coordinating Centres of the Basel Convention will be formally adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, at its sixth meeting that will be held from 9 to 13 December 2002 in Geneva)

- (j) Cooperating with the United Nations and its bodies, in particular UNEP and the Specialised Agencies, and with other relevant intergovernmental organisations, industry and non-governmental organisations, and, where appropriate, with any other institution, in order to coordinate activities and develop and implement joint projects related to the provisions of the Basel Convention.
- (k) Developing, within the general financial strategy approved by the Parties, the Centres' own strategy for financial sustainability.
- (l) Cooperating in mobilisation of human, financial and material means in order to meet the urgent needs at the request of the Party (ies) of the region faced with incidents or accidents which cannot be solved with the means of the individual Party(ies) concerned.
- (m) Performing any other functions assigned to it by the decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Basel Convention or by Parties of the region, consistent with such decisions.
