

SC-11/13: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

I

Technical assistance

Noting the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-11/17 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to technical assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the biennium 2022–2023,¹ including capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and of the database summarizing technical assistance needs;²

2. *Invites* developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to submit to the Secretariat through an online questionnaire, by 31 March 2024, information on their needs for technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Parties may coordinate their replies and submit them jointly;

3. *Invites* developed-country Parties and others with the capacity to do so to submit to the Secretariat through an online questionnaire, by 31 March 2024, information on the technical assistance and technology that they have available to be transferred, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;

4. *Emphasizes* the key role of the regional centres, as described in the provisions of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, as well as the roles of the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering technical assistance upon request, particularly at the regional level, for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties, and invites the regional centres and others in a position to do so to continue to provide and prioritize capacity-building relating to legal and institutional frameworks;

5. *Encourages* Parties, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, according to their mandates and the priorities that have been established, to continue to support the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To continue to implement the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in cooperation with relevant actors;

(b) To develop online questionnaires to collect information from Parties in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present decision, to continue to update the technical assistance needs database accordingly, to make that information available on the websites of the conventions, and to prepare a report on the assessment of the information on the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance and technology transfer, based on the information submitted by Parties, taking into account the relevant recommendations set out in the report on the second effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention;³

(c) To continue to include information on the monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken under the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the report requested in paragraph 7 of the present decision;

¹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/25.

² www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4898.

³ See executive summary set out in UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, annex, part III, sect. J.

(d) To develop a technical assistance plan for the period 2026–2029, taking into account the reports referred to in subparagraphs 6 (b) and (c) of the present decision, and to present it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

II

Regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions⁴

Recalling decisions BC-IX/10, RC-4/11 and SC-4/34 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, in which Parties and other stakeholders are invited to promote the full and coordinated use of regional centres to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance under all three conventions and to promote coherent chemicals and waste management, bearing in mind the existing and ongoing work of other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions, and recalling that this work should promote the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycles, and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment,

8. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres in enhancing the provision of technical assistance for capacity-building to support the national efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the chemicals and waste conventions, in accordance with their core functions;

9. *Also emphasizes* the role of the regional centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and invites them to cooperate and coordinate with each other and with relevant partners in areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

10. *Takes note of:*

(a) The activity reports^{5, 6} for the period January 2021–December 2022 submitted by the regional centres and the available business plans⁷ or workplans⁸ for the period January 2024–December 2027;

(b) The report on the activities of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions;⁹

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and of the 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat¹⁰ and the summaries of the draft evaluation reports;^{11, 12}

11. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the interim criteria and interim methodology set out in annexes I and II to decision BC-11/13, the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres established in accordance with decisions III/19, VI/6, VI/8, VII/10 and BC-14/18;¹³

⁴ In decision BC-16/17, on technical assistance, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted part II, on regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions, which is substantially identical to part II of the present decision.

⁵ www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx.

⁶ www.pops.int/?tabid=4112.

⁷ www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx.

⁸ www.pops.int/?tabid=482.

⁹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/27.

¹⁰ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/26.

¹¹ UNEP/CHW.16/18, annex.

¹² UNEP/POPS/COP.11/16, annex

¹³ This paragraph is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

A¹⁴

12. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties;¹⁵

13. *Notes* the performance of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and actions in support of developing-country Parties;

14. *Endorses* for another period of four years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology listed in the annex to the present decision;

15. *Also endorses* the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region, Trinidad and Tobago, as a Stockholm Convention regional centre for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, in accordance with decision SC-3/12, for a period of four years;

B

16. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2023–31 December 2024, by 31 December 2024, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

(b) Their business plans or workplans for the period 1 January 2024–31 December 2027, by 30 September 2023, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

17. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for consideration by the respective conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

(b) To prepare the draft evaluation reports on the performance and sustainability of all 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, in accordance with the interim criteria and interim methodology set out in annexes I and II to decision BC-11/13, and on the performance and sustainability of all 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9 and the methodology set out in annex III to decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the respective conferences of the Parties at their eighteenth and thirteenth meetings, respectively;

(c) To undertake the following activities to facilitate the work of the regional centres, subject to the availability of resources:

- (i) Organize two annual meetings of the coordinators of the Stockholm Convention regional centres and the directors of the Basel Convention regional centres, with a view to enhancing the performance of the regional centres and fostering cooperation and collaboration among them, and attend meetings of the regional centre steering committees;
- (ii) Continue to facilitate the implementation of subregional, regional and national projects, based on the business plans or workplans of regional centres, through the Regional Centre Small Grants Programme;
- (iii) Foster the activities of the regional centres to increase their visibility, highlighting the resources needed to fulfil their business plans or workplans;
- (iv) Assist the regional centres in identifying and mobilizing sources of financial support to foster implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

¹⁴ This section is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

¹⁵ Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21, SC-6/16 and SC-9/14.

III¹⁶

18. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and Transfer of Technology, Trinidad and Tobago (SCRC Caribbean), and of the centres listed in the annex to the present decision, and to reconsider their status as Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology at its thirteenth meeting;

19. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a draft evaluation report on the regional centres listed in paragraph 11 above, based on the methodology adopted in decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;

20. *Invites* Parties, observers and institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable the regional centres to implement their business plans or workplans, with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

¹⁶ This section is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

Annex¹⁷ to decision SC-11/13

Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres evaluated by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting and endorsed until the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centres</i>
African States	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Algeria (SCRC-Algeria) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kenya (SCRC-Kenya) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Senegal (SCRC-Senegal) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, South Africa (SCRC-South Africa)
Asian and Pacific States	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, China (SCRC-China) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, India (SCRC-India) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Indonesia (SCRC-Indonesia) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran (SCRC-Iran) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kuwait (SCRC-Kuwait)
Central and Eastern European States	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Czechia (SCRC-Czechia) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Russian Federation (SCRC-Russian Federation)
Latin American and Caribbean States	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Brazil (SCRC-Brazil) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Mexico (SCRC-Mexico) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Panama (SCRC-Panama) Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and Transfer of Technology, Uruguay (SCRC-Uruguay)
Western European and other States	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Spain (SCRC-Spain)

¹⁷ This annex only applies to the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres.