



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

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**Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm  
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
Second meeting**  
Geneva, 1–5 May 2006  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Other matters**

**Enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster\*\***

**Note by the Secretariat**

1. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants adopted decision SC-1/18, in which, among other things, it welcomed the proposal made at the first 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, for a joint head of the Secretariats of both the Stockholm and the Rotterdam conventions and decided that further possibilities for additional synergies should be explored.
2. In paragraph 3 of decision SC-1/18, the Conference of the Parties requested:  
“... the Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with other relevant secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on how the cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and other relevant programmes could be improved, taking into account the special nature of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, which is jointly provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of the role common structures might play”.
3. According to the decision, the results of the study are to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting.

\* UNEP/POPS/COP.2/1.

\*\* Report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/18.

4. In addition, in decision SC-1/18, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention invited the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider the results of the study at their third and eighth meetings, respectively. It also invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to consider, at its twenty-fourth session, the results of the study as well as the considerations and decisions of the above-mentioned bodies.

5. In paragraph 7 of decision SC-1/18, the Conference of the Parties invited the Executive Director of UNEP, when making arrangements for the performance of the Secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention, to provide for the future adaptation of these arrangements to any decisions regarding this issue that might be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting.

6. In response to the above invitation, the Secretariat has conducted a study on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland. The results of the study are set out in a note by the Secretariat contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12.

7. Following up on decision SC-18 of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted at its second meeting decision RC-2/6 on enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and wastes conventions.<sup>1</sup>

8. In paragraph 5 of decision RC-2/6, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention considered:

“... that to enable the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions to take any decisions which they may deem appropriate at their next meetings, they will require in addition to the above-mentioned study a supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that the three convention secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme may propose. In addition, such supplementary analysis should identify any financial savings that might accrue, as well as any implications for adjustments to secretariat expenditures on United Nations administrative fees.”

9. In paragraph 6 of decision RC-2/6, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention invited:

“... the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the conventions, to prepare the supplementary analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above and to make it available for consideration at the next meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions.”

10. In response to the above invitations, UNEP prepared the supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that the three convention secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme may propose to enhance cooperation and synergies among the chemicals and wastes conventions. The analysis is provided in a note by the Secretariat, contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18.

#### **Possible action by the Conference of the Parties**

11. The Conference may wish:

(a) To consider the report of the study on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12;

(b) To consider the supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that the three convention secretariats and UNEP may propose to enhance cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and wastes conventions, as set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/18;

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its second meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.2/19), annex I, decision RC-2/6.

(c) To invite the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider co-financing, beginning in 2007, 50 per cent of the position of the joint executive secretary of the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the position of co-executive secretary of the UNEP part of the secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention;

(d) To agree on modalities for improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, taking into consideration the options set out below, as described in document UNEP/POPS/COP.2/INF/12. Those modalities might include:

- (i) A common head and common convention support limited to core management functions, including adoption of initial steps towards exploiting the benefits potentially offered by increased coordination between the three secretariats, namely, the appointment of a single Executive Secretary in charge of the three secretariats and the unification of administrative, legal and financial support into a single unit serving all three secretariats;
- (ii) Integrated administrative support plus integrated implementation and technical assistance services including the partial amalgamation of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to provide for common management and a single support unit to provide all support functions that are common to the three secretariats;
- (iii) The same as (ii) above without integration of the relevant functions of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, thus including only the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the UNEP part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention;

(e) To authorize the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention to undertake necessary arrangements to implement the modalities agreed upon by the Conference;

(f) To invite the Executive Director to undertake necessary arrangements to implement those aspects of the modalities agreed upon by the Conference that pertain to its role as the provider of the Secretariat of the Convention;

(g) To request the Secretariat to forward the report of the study on improving cooperation and synergies between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the decision of the Conference on this issue to the Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention for consideration at its third meeting, the Conference to the Parties of the Basel Convention for consideration at its eighth meeting and the Governing Council of UNEP for consideration at its twenty-fourth session.

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