



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

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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for Certain
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides
in International Trade**



**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
Sixteenth meeting
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Item 4 (d) of the provisional agenda***
**Matters related to the
implementation of the Convention:
technical assistance**

**Conference of the Parties
to the Rotterdam Convention
on the Prior Informed Consent
Procedure for Certain Hazardous
Chemicals and Pesticides
in International Trade
Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda****
**Matters related to the
implementation of the Convention:
technical assistance**

**Conference of the Parties
to the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Item 5 (f) of the provisional agenda*****
**Matters related to the
implementation of the Convention:
technical assistance**

**Technical assistance and capacity-building for the
implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In section I of decisions BC-15/21, RC-10/12 and SC-10/15 on technical assistance, the conferences of the Parties to 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 took note of the report on the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance and

* UNEP/CHW.16/1.

** UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/1.

*** UNEP/POPS/COP.11/1.

technology transfer,¹ the database summarizing technical assistance needs² and the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021,³ and welcomed the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025.⁴

2. In the same decisions, the conferences of the Parties requested the Secretariat to disseminate the technical assistance plan by various means and to facilitate awareness of the plan by the relevant actors.

3. The conferences of the Parties also requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To implement, in cooperation with relevant actors, the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in accordance with relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties;

(b) To maintain the database referred to in paragraph 1 of the decision and ensure that it remained accessible through the websites of the conventions;

(c) To continue to include information in the report referred to in paragraph 12 of the decision on the monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken under the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025.

4. The conferences of the Parties further requested the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the decisions to the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings.

II. Implementation

A. Technical assistance activities carried out and planned in the biennium 2022–2023

5. Technical assistance activities constitute an integral part of the programmes of work of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Activities pertaining to the implementation of specific thematic matters under the conventions, including their technical assistance aspects, are referred to in the relevant working documents for the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, as appropriate. In order to leverage resources, avoid duplication and harmonize approaches, the implementation of technical assistance activities is being coordinated within the Secretariat, as well as with relevant partners.

6. The technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 is made available on the conventions' website⁵ and referred to in relevant activities, such as when the Secretariat establishes priorities for fundraising activities, organizes technical assistance and training activities and projects or holds relevant meetings of the conventions and briefings about the three conventions.

7. Based on the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 and the programme of work activity factsheets detailing the implementation of the plan by the Secretariat in the biennium 2022–2023,⁶ the Secretariat undertook various technical assistance activities.

8. The report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2023⁷ includes information on capacity-building activities by the Secretariat in that biennium, as well as information on planned activities for 2023.

9. Under the Stockholm Convention, the effectiveness evaluation committee considered the aspects related to technical assistance for the implementation of the Convention. The main findings, conclusions and recommendations of the committee pertaining to technical assistance can be found in the executive summary of the evaluation report.⁸

¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/30–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/30.

² www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4898.

³ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/28.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/29–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/29.

⁵ www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Technicalassistanceplan/tabid/8495/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/54/Rev.2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/35/Rev.2–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/58/Rev.2.

⁷ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/25.

⁸ See UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, part III, sect. J.

B. Means of implementation of the technical assistance plan

10. The technical assistance plan has been implemented by the Secretariat through the following means:

(a) **Technical assistance.** Developing, strengthening and maintaining the capabilities needed by Parties to implement the conventions continues to be the main means of supporting developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in implementing the conventions. Owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, some face-to-face activities continued to be replaced with alternative and innovative means of delivering technical assistance, such as online training activities on various topics related to the implementation of the conventions.

(b) **Regional delivery.** The technical assistance plan has been implemented with the support of the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its regional, subregional and country offices, and other relevant organizations that carry out activities supporting the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the regional and national levels. Within the Secretariat, regional focal points continue to facilitate communication with Parties requesting technical assistance support. Detailed information on specific regional delivery, including through the projects on plastic waste of the Regional Centre Small Grants Programme,⁹ is set out in the report on the activities of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres.¹⁰

(c) **Working with partners.** The Secretariat continues to work with relevant organizations with a mandate to support Parties in their implementation efforts. Further information is available in the notes by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations¹¹ and on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.¹²

11. In addition, the implementation of the technical assistance plan is supported by the joint clearing-house mechanism to provide access to related information through various tools, such as the webinar library,¹³ the workshop library,¹⁴ the e-learning library¹⁵ and the joint scientific and technical publications library.¹⁶

12. Moreover, the respective mandates and work programmes of the working groups of partnerships established under the Basel Convention may include pilot projects and other capacity-building activities to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention.¹⁷ In addition, the review of general issues of implementation and individual support to Parties is also provided through the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Basel Convention.¹⁸ Under the Rotterdam Convention, similar mandates are entrusted to the Compliance Committee, which administers the procedures and mechanisms on compliance with the Rotterdam Convention.¹⁹

C. Resources for implementation of the technical assistance plan

13. All technical assistance activities undertaken by the Secretariat are funded through voluntary contributions by Parties and through regular-budget resources of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.²⁰ Fundraising was carried out by means of a set of project concept notes, developed based on the approved programmes of work for the biennium 2022–2023,²¹ that provided details on activities to be implemented and the budget allocated to them. Financial support and in-kind contributions provided towards technical assistance activities under the Basel, Rotterdam

⁹ www.basel.int/SGPonplasticwaste/tabid/8402/Default.aspx.

¹⁰ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/27.

¹¹ UNEP/CHW.16/22–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/23.

¹² UNEP/CHW.16/19.

¹³ www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=3583.

¹⁴ www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=3498.

¹⁵ www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=4905.

¹⁶ www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=3790.

¹⁷ See UNEP/CHW.16/19.

¹⁸ See UNEP/CHW.16/13.

¹⁹ See UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14.

²⁰ See UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/37 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/45–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/50.

²¹ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/53/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/34/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/57/Rev.1.

and Stockholm conventions are outlined in the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2023.²²

14. Support is also provided to Parties to the Stockholm Convention that are developing-country Parties or Parties with economies in transition through activities financed by the Global Environment Facility, and to Parties to the three conventions through 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. Further information is provided in the report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its eleventh meeting,²³ annex I to the note by the Secretariat on the financial mechanism²⁴ and the report by the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the Special Programme.²⁵

D. Technical assistance needs

15. The Secretariat has maintained the database on technical assistance needs as per the request of the conferences of the Parties and it remains accessible through the website of the conventions.²⁶

III. Proposed action

16. Each of the three conferences of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-11/[--] on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to technical assistance,²⁷

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2023,²⁸ 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; as well as of the database summarizing technical assistance needs;²⁹

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;

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 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 on legal and institutional frameworks in line with Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention;

²² UNEP/CHW.16/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/25.

²³ UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/33.

²⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.11/17.

²⁵ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/35–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/35.

²⁶ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4898.

²⁷ Applies only to the decision to be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

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

²⁹ www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4898.

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 as set out in the report on the second effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention;³⁰

(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;

(d) To develop a technical assistance plan for the period 2026–2029, taking into account the reports referred to in subparagraphs 7 (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.

³⁰ See UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, part III, sect. J.