



**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**

Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 16 of decision BC-15/21, on technical assistance, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal requested the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2021–31 December 2022, by 31 December 2022, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(b) Their business plans for the period 1 January 2024–31 December 2027, by 30 September 2023, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

2. In paragraph 17 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(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, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

(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 regional centres under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the directors of the regional centres under the Basel Convention, 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;

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** UNEP/CHW.16/1.

- (ii) Continue to facilitate the implementation of national, subregional and regional projects, based on the business plans or workplans of regional centres, through the Small Grants Programme;
- (iii) Foster the activities of the regional centres to increase their visibility and to support them in fulfilling their mandate.

II. Implementation

A. Business plans and activity reports of the regional centres

3. As at 9 January 2023, none of the 14 regional and coordinating centres had submitted their business plan due by 30 September 2023 for the period between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2027 to the Secretariat. Any business plans submitted in advance of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be made available on the website of the Convention.¹

4. As at 9 January 2023, 9 regional and coordinating centres had submitted their activity reports due by 31 December 2022 for the period between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2022.²

5. A report by the Secretariat on the activities of the regional centres is set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/27.

B. Report on the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

6. Pursuant to paragraph 17 (b) of decision BC-15/21, the Secretariat has prepared a draft report on the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres based on the interim performance evaluation criteria and methodology set out in annexes I and II to decision BC-11/13. The summary of the draft evaluation report is set out in the annex to the present note, and the full draft evaluation report is set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/26.

C. Activities to facilitate the work of the regional centres

1. Annual meetings

7. Two annual joint meetings of the directors of the regional centres under the Basel Convention and the coordinators of the regional centres under the Stockholm Convention were held to enhance performance and to foster cooperation and collaboration. The 2021 annual joint meeting was held online on 23 and 24 November 2021. Thanks to the generous financial support provided by the Government of Switzerland, the Secretariat organized the 2022 annual joint meeting from 7 to 9 November 2022 in Geneva. The reports of the meetings are available on the website of the conventions.³

2. Small Grants Programme of the conventions

8. Thanks to generous financial support provided by the Government of Norway, the Secretariat launched the Regional Centre Small Grants Programme on plastic waste.⁴ The regional centres were invited to submit project proposals through two rounds of applications held between 15 May 2020 and 18 September 2020. 15 projects submitted by 11 regional centres are currently being implemented to support a total of 32 countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean to improve the management of plastic waste.⁵

9. In response to a third call for project proposals to be submitted by 25 May 2022, the Secretariat received 18 proposals from 9 regional centres. These proposals are being evaluated against the criteria for their selection for funding.

¹ www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx.

² www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx.

³ www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=8958 (2021 meeting) and www.brsmeas.org/?tabid=9324 (2022 meeting).

⁴ www.basel.int/SGPonplasticwaste/tabid/8402/Default.aspx.

⁵ <http://synergies.pops.int/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-CHW-PlasticWaste-TA-Projects-BRSNorad2-SGP-ProjectList-2021.English.pdf>.

3. Other facilitating activities

10. The Secretariat participated remotely in the following meetings of the steering committees of Basel Convention regional centres, at which the proposed business plans prepared by the respective centres were discussed and endorsed:

(a) The meeting of the steering committee of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Asia and Pacific Region, China (BCRC-China), and the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, China (SCRC-China), on 28 June 2021; and the extraordinary meeting of the steering committee held on 19 November 2022;

(b) The meeting of the steering committee of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region, Trinidad and Tobago (BCRC-Caribbean), on 16 February 2021 and 21 July 2022;

(c) The meeting of the steering committee of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Islamic Republic of Iran (BCRC-Iran), and the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran (SCRC-Iran), on 28 June 2022;

(d) The meeting of the steering committee of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for French-speaking Countries in Africa, Senegal (BCRC-Senegal), and the Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Senegal (SCRC-Senegal), on 15 April 2021.

III. Proposed action

11. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Emphasizes* the role of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating 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;

2. *Also emphasizes* the role of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Basel Convention, and invites them to cooperate and coordinate among themselves and with relevant partners in areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

3. *Takes note of:*

(a) The activity reports⁶ for the period January 2021–December 2022 submitted by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the available business plans⁷ for the period January 2024–December 2027;

(b) The report on the activities of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions;⁸

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres prepared by the Secretariat⁹ and the summary of the draft evaluation report;¹⁰

4. *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;

5. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to submit to the Secretariat:

⁶ www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspxx.

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

⁸ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/27.

⁹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/26.

¹⁰ UNEP/CHW.16/18, annex.

- (a) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2023–31 December 2024, by 31 December 2024, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;
- (b) Their business plans for the period 1 January 2024–31 December 2027, by 30 September 2023, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

- (a) To prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting;
- (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, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;
- (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 Small Grants Programme;
 - (iii) Foster the activities of the regional centres to increase their visibility and to support them in fulfilling their mandate;

7. *Invites* Parties, observers and institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to implement their workplans, with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention.

Annex

Summary of the draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centre</i>	<i>Performance evaluation score based on activities reported for 2019–2022</i>
Africa	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Arab States, Egypt (BCRC-Egypt)	23
	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the African Region, Nigeria (BCCC-Nigeria)	33
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for French-speaking countries in Africa, Senegal (BCRC-Senegal)	27
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for English-speaking African countries, South Africa (BCRC-South Africa)	29
Asia and the Pacific	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Asia and Pacific Region, China (BCRC-China)	33
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South-East Asia, Indonesia (BCRC-SEA)	33
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer, Islamic Republic of Iran (BCRC-Iran)	33
	Pacific Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Joint Implementation of the Basel and Waigani Conventions in the South Pacific Region (SPREP)	25
Eastern Europe	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Commonwealth of Independent States Countries, Russian Federation (BCRC-Russian Federation)	14
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Central Europe, Slovakia (BCRC-Slovakia)	33
Latin America and the Caribbean	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the South American Region, Argentina (BCRC-Argentina)	33
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region, Trinidad and Tobago (BCRC-Caribbean)	33
	Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Central America and Mexico Subregion, Panama (BCRC-Panama)	31
	Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Latin America and Caribbean Region, Uruguay (BCCC-Uruguay)	31