



**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 3 (b) of the provisional agenda\*  
**Organizational matters:  
organization of work**

**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 3 (b) of the provisional agenda\*\*  
**Organizational matters:  
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**Conference of the Parties  
to the Stockholm Convention  
on Persistent Organic Pollutants  
Eleventh meeting**  
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Item 3 (b) of the provisional  
agenda\*\*\*  
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**Scenario note for the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the  
Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

**Note by the Secretariat**

**I. Introduction**

1. The present scenario note, which was prepared in consultation with the presidents of 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, sets out a proposal for arrangements for the conduct of, and thereby aims to assist participants in preparing for, the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the

\* UNEP/CHW.16/1.

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

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

Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

2. The note is intended to be read together with the tentative schedule of work for the meetings,<sup>1</sup> as agreed to by the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties at their joint meeting held on 18 January 2023. If the conferences of the Parties so agree, the 2023 meetings will take place as described below.

## **II. Meeting agendas**

3. The provisional agendas for the meetings are set out respectively in documents UNEP/CHW.16/1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/1. The provisional agendas list the matters before the respective conferences of the Parties for their consideration.

## **III. Organization of work**

4. The two-week period of the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties will comprise 11 days of sessions, from 1 to 12 May 2023 (Monday to Friday of the first week and Sunday of the first week to Friday of the second week), with provision for regional meetings and a joint meeting of the bureaux on Sunday, 30 April. No formal sessions are scheduled for Saturday, 6 May.

5. From Monday to Friday of the first week and from Sunday of the first week to Friday of the second week, the proposed daily schedule for plenary sessions will be two 3-hour sessions per day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m.

6. Each morning from 8 to 9 a.m., the bureaux will meet to, among other things, agree on the order of business for the day. The Secretariat will post the order of business for the day on the intranet site for the meetings. The respective bureau members are encouraged to facilitate the dissemination of information on the order of business for each day to their regional groups. Interpretation will not be provided for regional meetings.

7. Each Conference of the Parties is expected to adopt its convention-specific decisions at the conclusion of the main block of sessions for that Conference of the Parties, unless the conferences of the Parties decide otherwise.

8. The meetings will be paperless, and pre-session documents will be available on the website for the meetings.<sup>2</sup> In addition, all documents, including in-session documents, will be available on an intranet site created for the meetings. Participants are expected to bring their own laptop computers or other devices to access the documents. Technical support will be available on site.

### **A. Monday, 1 May 2023**

#### **1. Morning session**

9. In the morning of Monday, 1 May, the three presidents will sequentially open the meetings of the conferences of the Parties, and each Conference of the Parties will then adopt the agenda for its meeting.

10. There will be an opportunity for statements by representatives speaking on behalf of groups of Parties. As agreed by the bureaux, the duration of each statement will be limited to five minutes. Longer statements, as well as national statements and statements by organizations, can be submitted to the Secretariat for publication on the intranet site.

11. Following the adoption of the agendas, the conferences of the Parties will hold joint sessions. The sessions will cover cross-cutting issues that are on the agendas of at least two of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties and are aimed at strengthening cooperation and coordination among the conventions and the adoption of harmonized decisions by the conferences of the Parties.

12. For practical reasons and in accordance with past practice, the three presidents will invite the respective conferences of the Parties to agree that the presidents will take turns presiding over the joint sessions of the meetings and that, in so doing, each president will act on behalf of all three.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.16/INF/2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/2–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/2.

<sup>2</sup> [www.brsmeas.org/2023COPs](http://www.brsmeas.org/2023COPs).

<sup>3</sup> All three presidents of the conferences of the Parties are expected to be present during the joint sessions. Any president who cannot participate in a session will designate a vice-president to act as president for that session.

13. The conferences of the Parties will then begin a joint session to consider organizational matters. The conferences of the Parties will first consider the organization of work of the meetings (item 3 (b) of the provisional agendas) on the basis of the tentative schedule of work and the present scenario note.

14. The Secretariat will then introduce item 3 (a) of the provisional agendas, on the election of officers, providing information on all the elections expected to take place during the meetings. Regional groups will thus be in a position to consider the distribution of nominations, taking into account the required expertise and other relevant considerations. In line with past practice, each regional election focal point will coordinate the process for identifying the candidates proposed for election by completing the respective election packages, and the bureaux will monitor progress. The election packages with the nominated candidates selected by each region are to be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 May. The elections are expected to take place during the plenary session in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 May.

15. Thereafter, the conferences of the Parties will consider credentials of representatives (item 3 (c) of the provisional agendas). The Secretariat will remind Parties of the approach agreed to by the bureaux, according to which the bureau of each Conference of the Parties will examine the credentials of representatives attending its meeting and will, in accordance with the schedule of work, report to its Conference of the Parties in the afternoon of Friday, 5 May, and possibly again in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 May, on the outcome of that examination. Credentials are to be submitted no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 2 May, if possible, and the bureaux will monitor progress.

16. Following the introduction on the matter of credentials, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions will consider waste issues related to persistent organic pollutants (item 4 (b) (i) of the Basel Convention provisional agenda and item 5 (c) of the Stockholm Convention provisional agenda). The two conferences of the Parties will first discuss technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutant wastes, following which the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention may wish to establish a contact group<sup>4</sup> to consider the issue further and to prepare a draft decision for consideration later during the meeting.<sup>5</sup> The two conferences of the Parties will then discuss measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention is expected to consider a decision on the matter later in the week.

## **2. Afternoon session**

17. In the afternoon of Monday, 1 May, a Basel Convention session will be held to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider the remaining issues under item 4 (b) (i) of the provisional agenda, namely technical guidelines other than on persistent organic pollutant wastes. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties may then wish to mandate the contact group set up earlier that day to carry out further work under the agenda item. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention would then consider item 4 (c) (ii) of the provisional agenda, on providing further legal clarity, following which it may wish to establish a contact group to consider the topic further.

18. Following the Basel Convention session, a Stockholm Convention session will be held to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention to consider agenda item 5 (e), on the listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention. The Conference of the Parties may then wish to establish a contact group to further consider the item, as relevant, and to prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties later during the meeting. With regard to items not requiring further discussion, the Conference of the Parties will conclude their consideration and adopt decisions, as appropriate.

## **B. Tuesday, 2 May 2023**

### **1. Morning session**

19. The conferences of the Parties will hold a joint session to consider the item on technical assistance (item 4 (d) of the Basel Convention provisional agenda, item 5 (e) of the Rotterdam Convention provisional agenda and item 5 (f) of the Stockholm Convention provisional agenda), and

<sup>4</sup> For the list of possible contact and other groups, see document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/2–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/2, annex II.

<sup>5</sup> The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention is also expected to give other mandates to the group after it considers the other technical matters on its agenda in the afternoon of Monday, 1 May and on Sunday, 7 May.

in particular matters related to technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions. The conferences of the Parties will discuss these matters and may wish to establish a contact group to further discuss them and to prepare draft decisions for consideration by each Conference of the Parties later during the meetings.

20. The conferences of the Parties will continue their joint session to consider items on compliance (item 4 (c) (i) of the Basel Convention provisional agenda, item 5 (d) of the Rotterdam Convention provisional agenda and item 5 (j) of the Stockholm Convention provisional agenda). Consideration of those agenda items would be limited to an introduction by the Secretariat, as well as a report by the respective chairs of the committees of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions on their work. Discussions and conclusions on the way forward would take place during convention-specific sessions later during the meetings.

21. The discussion will then focus on the programmes of work and the budgets of the three conventions (item 7 of the Basel Convention provisional agenda and item 8 of the provisional agendas of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions). The Secretariat will present a budget for the biennium 2024–2025 that includes separate budgets for each convention and for joint activities. The conferences of the Parties may wish to establish a joint contact group to consider the budget for each of the three conventions and to prepare three separate but harmonized draft decisions on the programme of work and budget for each convention for consideration later during the meetings.

22. The conferences of the Parties will then discuss the memorandums of understanding between each Conference of the Parties and the United Nations Environment Programme and, in the case of the Rotterdam Convention, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (item 8 of the Basel Convention provisional agenda and item 9 of the provisional agendas of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions). If further discussions are warranted, these could take place in the joint contact group to consider the budget for each of the three conventions, if established.

## **2. Afternoon session**

23. In the afternoon of Tuesday, 2 May, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will discuss matters related to the implementation of the Convention (item 5 of the provisional agenda). With regard to items not requiring further discussion, the Conference of the Parties will conclude discussion of those items and consider adopting, as applicable, draft decisions at that time. For items requiring further consideration, the Conference of the Parties will consider draft decisions, as applicable, later during the meeting, or may wish to establish contact groups or other groups to consider those items further and to prepare draft decisions for consideration later during the meeting.

## **C. Wednesday, 3 May 2023**

### **1. Morning session**

24. In the morning of Wednesday, 3 May, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will consider the remaining issues under the item on matters related to the implementation of the Convention (item 5 of the provisional agenda).

### **2. Afternoon session**

25. In the afternoon of Wednesday, 3 May, a Rotterdam Convention session will be held to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention to consider one topic under item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda on enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention, namely the proposal by Australia, Mali and Switzerland to amend Articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and to add a new Annex VIII to the Convention, which subsequently became co-sponsored by Burkina Faso and Ghana. The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention may wish to establish a contact group to consider the issue further and to prepare a draft decision for consideration later during the meeting. A contact group, if established, would not meet before Sunday, 7 May. The remaining topics under this agenda item would be taken up on Tuesday, 9 May.

26. The conferences of the Parties will then convene a joint session of their meetings to consider financial resources and mechanisms (item 4 (f) of the Basel Convention provisional agenda, item 5 (f) of the Rotterdam Convention provisional agenda and item 5 (g) of the Stockholm Convention provisional agenda). The joint session will cover financial resources and mechanisms under the Stockholm Convention and the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes under the three conventions. The conferences of the Parties will discuss these matters and

may wish to extend the mandate of the contact group referred to in paragraph 19 above to further discuss the matters and to prepare draft decisions, as relevant, for consideration by each Conference of the Parties later during the meetings.

27. The conferences of the Parties will continue their consideration of joint issues with the items on international cooperation and coordination (item 5 of the Basel Convention provisional agenda and item 6 of the provisional agendas of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions), covering cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and cooperation and coordination with other organizations. Depending on whether the items require further discussion, the conferences of the Parties will either conclude discussion of those items and consider adopting, as applicable, draft decisions at that time, or consider draft decisions, as applicable, later during the meetings, or may wish to establish a contact group to consider them further and to prepare draft decisions. The draft decisions would be considered for adoption by the three conferences of the Parties in a joint session in the afternoon of Thursday, 11 May.

## **D. Thursday, 4 May 2023**

### **1. Morning session**

28. A Stockholm Convention session will be held to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention to consider any outcomes of contact groups and draft decisions, and item 4 of its provisional agenda, on rules of procedure.

29. Thereafter, the conferences of the Parties will convene a joint session of their meetings to consider the item on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (item 6 of the Basel Convention provisional agenda and item 7 of the provisional agendas of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions), covering the sub-item on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.

30. That will be followed by consideration of the venue and dates of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties (item 9 of the Basel Convention provisional agenda and item 10 of the provisional agendas of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) and other matters of relevance to the three conferences of the Parties (item 10 of the Basel Convention provisional agenda and item 11 of the provisional agendas of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions), including the admission of observers.

### **2. Afternoon session**

31. During the afternoon session on Thursday, 4 May, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will consider any outstanding issues, including under item 11 of the provisional agenda on other matters, specific to the Stockholm Convention, as well as the outcomes of the contact groups, including adoption of draft decisions on matters specific to the Stockholm Convention.

## **E. Friday, 5 May 2023**

### **1. Morning session**

32. Following the early Basel Convention session on Monday, 1 May, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention will resume consideration of its agenda items on Friday, 5 May. The Conference of the Parties is expected to consider the outstanding issues under the item on matters related to the implementation of the Basel Convention (item 4 of the provisional agenda), namely item 4 (b) (i) on technical guidelines, if its consideration has not been completed on 1 May, item 4 (a) on strategic issues and item 4 (c) (i) on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, in order for the Conference of the Parties to agree on a way forward. The Conference of the Parties may wish to establish a contact group to further consider strategic issues, as relevant, and to prepare draft decisions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties later during the meeting. For other items requiring further consideration, the Conference of the Parties will consider draft decisions, as applicable, later during the meeting, or may wish to forward issues to contact groups already established. With regard to items not requiring further discussion, the Conference of the Parties will conclude discussion of those items and consider adopting, as applicable, draft decisions at that time.

**2. Afternoon session**

33. In the afternoon of Friday, 5 May, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will adopt outstanding draft decisions on matters specific to the Stockholm Convention, as well as the report of its meeting (item 12 of the provisional agenda).

34. The three conferences of the Parties will subsequently hold a joint session to consider and each adopt the report on credentials prepared by their respective bureau.

**F. Saturday, 6 May 2023**

35. No meetings of the conferences of the Parties will be held on Saturday, 6 May.

**G. Sunday, 7 May 2023****1. Morning session**

36. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention is expected to consider outstanding issues under item 4 (c) on legal, compliance and governance matters and item 4 (e) on the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

**2. Afternoon session**

37. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention will resume its work and consider any remaining issues under item 4 (b) on scientific and technical matters.

**H. Monday, 8 May 2023****1. Morning session**

38. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention will consider the outcomes of contact groups and draft decisions on matters specific to the Basel Convention, and take up any outstanding issues, including under item 4 (g) on the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for the period 2024–2025 and item 10 on other matters for issues specific to the Basel Convention.

**2. Afternoon session**

39. The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention is expected to resume consideration of item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda on compliance, with a view to agreeing on a way forward for the discussions.

40. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention will consider the item on the listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention (item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda).

41. With regard to items not requiring further discussion, the Conference of the Parties will conclude discussion of those items and consider adopting draft decisions, as applicable, at that time. For items requiring further consideration, the Conference of the Parties will consider draft decisions, as applicable, later during the meeting, or may wish to establish contact or other groups to consider them further and to prepare draft decisions for consideration later during the meeting.

**I. Tuesday, 9 May 2023****1. Morning session**

42. A Basel Convention session will be held to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to consider the outcomes of contact groups and draft decisions on matters specific to the Basel Convention.

**2. Afternoon session**

43. The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention will take up any outstanding issues under item 5 of the provisional agenda, namely item 5 (b) on the listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention, if its consideration has not been completed on 8 May; item 5 (c) on enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention, to take up remaining topics under this agenda item; and item 5 (a) on the status of implementation. Consideration of those items will be followed by the consideration of item 4 on the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties and item 11 on other matters specific to the Rotterdam Convention.

**J. Wednesday, 10 May 2023****1. Morning session**

44. A Rotterdam Convention session will be held to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention to consider the outcomes of contact groups and draft decisions on matters specific to the Rotterdam Convention.

45. Thereafter, the conferences of the Parties will convene a joint session of their meetings to consider outstanding issues related to enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (item 6 of the Basel Convention provisional agenda, item 7 of the Rotterdam and Stockholm convention provisional agendas).

**2. Afternoon session**

46. In the afternoon of Wednesday, 10 May, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention will adopt outstanding draft decisions on matters specific to the Basel Convention, as well as the report of its meeting (item 11 of the provisional agenda).

47. The three conferences of the Parties will subsequently hold a joint session to consider and adopt the sections of the reports of their meetings covering the joint sessions.

**K. Thursday, 11 May 2023****1. Morning session**

48. A Rotterdam Convention session will be held to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention to consider the outcomes of contact groups and draft decisions on matters specific to the Rotterdam Convention.

**2. Afternoon session**

49. In the afternoon of Thursday, 11 May, the conferences of the Parties will hold a joint session to consider the outcomes of joint contact group discussions, to adopt any updates to their respective reports on credentials, to proceed with all elections, and to adopt any outstanding decisions.

**L. Friday, 12 May 2023****1. Morning session**

50. The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention will adopt outstanding draft decisions on matters specific to the Rotterdam Convention, as well as the report of its meeting (item 12 of the provisional agenda).

**2. Afternoon session**

51. In the afternoon of Friday, 12 May, each Conference of the Parties will consider the adoption of a decision on the programme of work and budget for work under its Convention.

52. The meetings of the conferences of the Parties will then be closed.