



**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
Fifteenth meeting**
Geneva (online), 26–30 July 2021*
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
Tenth meeting**
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**Conference of the Parties to the
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**Scenario note for the online segment of the 2021–2022 meetings
of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and
Stockholm conventions**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the agreement of the bureaux 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, in the light of the exceptional circumstances caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

* Face-to-face resumed meetings 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 are tentatively scheduled to take place in 2022.

** UNEP/CHW.15/1.

*** UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/1.

**** UNEP/POPS/COP.10/1.

pandemic, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will be held back to back in two segments: the first online from 26 to 30 July 2021, and the second face to face over a two-week period in 2022 (tentatively in Geneva in June 2022). The arrangements for the high-level segment will be further considered by the bureaux after the closure of the online segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

2. The present scenario note, which was prepared in consultation with the presidents of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions, sets out a proposal for arrangements for the conduct of, and thereby aims to assist participants in preparing for, the online segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties. The note is intended to be read together with the tentative schedule for the three meetings, covering both the plenary sessions and the budget contact group sessions, as agreed to by the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties at their joint meeting held from 27 to 29 January and on 26 February 2021 (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/2–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/2). If the proposed arrangements are agreed to by the conferences of the Parties, the online segment of the meetings will take place as described below.

II. Dates and duration

3. The online segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will be held over five days from Monday, 26 July to Friday, 30 July, from 1 to 5.30 p.m. each day.¹ It will consist of two days of joint plenary sessions in the six official languages of the United Nations on Monday, 26 July, and on Friday, 30 July, and three days of joint contact group sessions, in English only, on the programmes of work and budgets, on Tuesday, 27 July, Wednesday, 28 July, and Thursday, 29 July. The duration of each session of the meetings will be four and a half hours and will include a 30-minute break after the first two hours of the session.

III. Meeting agendas

4. The provisional agendas for the meetings (UNEP/CHW.15/1; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/1; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/1) list the matters before the respective conferences of the Parties for their consideration. The annotations to the provisional agendas (UNEP/CHW.15/1/Add.1; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/1/Add.1; UNEP/POPS/COP.10/1/Add.1) identify issues for consideration under each agenda item and the documents pertaining to that item.²

IV. Organization of work

5. During the online segment of their meetings, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are expected to consider the prioritized items of their respective agendas, in accordance with the agreement of the bureaux regarding the organization of work of the online segment.

6. The prioritized agenda items and draft decisions expected to be considered during the online segment relate to the following matters:

(a) *Elections of officers:* The conferences of the Parties are expected to elect the members of the effectiveness evaluation committee of the Stockholm Convention; to elect the members of the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention; and to extend the terms of office of members of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention and of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention whose terms of office expire on 30 April 2022 and 4 May 2022, respectively, until the closure of the respective meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

(b) *Programmes of work and budgets:* The conferences of the Parties are expected to approve an interim budget for 2022 to allow for activities to continue under the conventions, including the operation of the Secretariat, beyond 31 December 2021, pending the adoption of a full budget for

¹ All time references are to Geneva time (UTC + 2).

² Information on technical details and support for the online segment, including information on the meeting platform to be used and how to access it, will be made available on the webpage for the 2021–2022 meetings on the conventions' website (www.brsmeas.org/2021COPs) and sent to all registered meeting participants by email. The Secretariat will arrange technical trials on the meeting platform in advance of the online segment of the meetings and provide information to all registered participants by email on how to join them.

the biennium 2022–2023 by the conferences of the Parties during the face-to-face segment of their meetings in 2022.

(c) *Venue and date of the resumed face-to-face meetings of the conferences of the Parties and of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties:* The conferences of the Parties are expected to agree on the venue and dates of the face-to-face segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2022, while the decisions on the venue and dates of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties are expected to be taken during the face-to-face segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

(d) *Financial resources and mechanisms of the Stockholm Convention:* The conferences of the Parties are expected to forward to the Global Environment Facility the reports on needs assessment and on the review of the financial mechanism, and to invite the Facility to consider that information, on an interim basis, in the context of the replenishment discussions, pending the adoption of a final decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the matter, which is expected to take place at the face-to-face segment of its tenth meeting, in 2022.

7. Joint meetings of the bureaux will be held daily prior to the start of the plenary or contact group sessions, as necessary, to discuss progress at the meetings and any adjustments that may be required to the organization of work of the meetings. The Secretariat will post the order of business of each day on the intranet site for the meetings. Regional groups may also meet at any time prior to and after the daily sessions and may wish to contact the Secretariat if they need support in accessing an online platform for their meetings. Interpretation will not be provided for regional meetings.

A. Monday, 26 July (opening of the meetings)

8. The three presidents will open the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in a sequential manner at 1 p.m. on Monday, 26 July. During the opening of the meetings, the conferences of the Parties are expected to hear opening remarks by the presidents, the executive secretaries of the conventions, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. Representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries will have an opportunity to deliver short statements, the duration of which will be limited to five minutes. Longer statements, as well as national statements, can be submitted to the Secretariat for publication on the intranet site.

9. After the opening statements, each Conference of the Parties will adopt the agenda for its meeting.

B. Monday, 26 July (joint and Stockholm Convention-specific sessions)

10. Following the adoption of the agendas, the conferences of the Parties will hold a joint session, which will be followed by a Stockholm Convention-specific session.

11. The conferences of the Parties will begin the joint session on Monday, 26 July, with the consideration of organizational matters. The conferences of the Parties will first consider the organization of work of the meetings (agenda item 3 (b) of the provisional agendas) on the basis of the tentative schedule of work and the present scenario note, which cover the prioritized items as agreed by the bureaux at their joint meeting (see para. 6 above). The Secretariat will then introduce item 3 (a) of the provisional agendas for the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the election of officers, providing information on the elections expected to take place during the online segment of 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, one Bureau member from each region will coordinate the process for identifying the candidates proposed for election by completing the respective election packages. The election packages with the nominated candidates selected by each region is to be submitted to the Secretariat no later than 1 p.m. on Thursday, 29 July. The elections are expected to take place during the plenary session on Friday, 30 July.

12. Thereafter, the conferences of the Parties will consider the credentials of representatives (item 3 (c) of the provisional agendas). The Secretariat will introduce the approach agreed to by the bureaux at their joint meeting, 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 on Friday, 30 July, on the outcome of that examination. Credentials are to be submitted no later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 27 July.

13. Following the introduction on the matter of credentials, the conferences of the Parties will focus on the interim programmes of work and the budgets of the three conventions for 2022 (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 an interim budget for 2022 that includes separate interim budgets for each convention and for joint activities. The conferences of the Parties may wish to establish a joint contact group to consider the interim budget for each of the three conventions and to prepare three separate but harmonized draft decisions on the interim programme of work and budget for 2022 for each convention for their consideration and possible adoption on Friday, 30 July.

14. The conferences of the Parties will then consider the venue and dates of the resumed face-to-face 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).

15. A Stockholm Convention-specific session will then be held to enable the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to consider item 5 (g) of its provisional agenda, pertaining to financial resources and mechanisms. Under the item, consideration will be given to forwarding to the Global Environment Facility the reports on needs assessment and on the review of the financial mechanism, and inviting the Facility to consider that information, on an interim basis, in the context of the replenishment discussions, pending the adoption of a final decision on the matter by the Conference of the Parties, which is expected to take place during the face-to-face segment of its tenth meeting, in 2022, and to consider possible further modalities for the continuation of the intersessional work with respect to the agenda item.

16. For practical reasons, and in accordance with previous practice, the three presidents will invite the respective conferences of the Parties to agree that the presidents will take turns in presiding over the joint sessions of the online segment of the meetings and that, in so doing, each will act on behalf of all three.³

C. Tuesday, 27 July; Wednesday 28 July; and Thursday 29 July (joint contact group sessions on the interim programmes of work and budgets for 2022)

17. On Tuesday, 27 July, Wednesday, 28 July, and Thursday, 29 July, from 1 to 5.30 p.m. daily, the conferences of the Parties will hold joint contact group sessions on the interim programmes of work and budgets for 2022, in English only. In line with past practice, it is expected that the joint contact group on programmes of work and budgets will be closed to observers.

D. Friday, 30 July (joint and convention-specific sessions)

18. On Friday, 30 July, the conferences of the Parties will hold joint and convention-specific sessions as necessary to:

- (a) Hear a report from the joint contact group on the interim programmes of work and budgets for 2022;
- (b) Adopt their respective reports on credentials;
- (c) Adopt a decision on the interim programme of work and budget for 2022 for each convention;
- (d) Adopt any outstanding decisions on the prioritized items of their respective agendas, namely on the election of officers, on the venue and dates of the face-to-face segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2022, and on the financial resources and mechanisms of the Stockholm Convention.

19. Under item 11 of the provisional agenda of the Basel Convention and item 12 of the provisional agendas of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the conferences of the Parties will jointly consider the adoption of the sections of the reports of the online segment of their meetings covering the joint plenary sessions held on Monday, 26 July. Thereafter, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will consider the section of its meeting report covering the Stockholm Convention-specific session held on Monday 26 July, with any amendments that may be considered necessary. Consistent with past practice, each conference of the Parties may agree that the sections of the report pertaining to the plenary sessions held on Friday, 30 July, will be prepared by the

³ 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.

Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, and incorporated into the final meeting report of the online segment under the authority of the respective presidents.

20. Each meeting of the conferences of the Parties will then be adjourned by its president and is expected to be reconvened as a face-to-face meeting on the dates and at the venue to be decided on by the conferences of the Parties during the online segment, subject to an improvement in the global situation with regard to the COVID-19 pandemic.
