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**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
Thirteenth meeting
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017

Conference of the Parties to the
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade
Eighth meeting
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017

Conference of the Parties to the
Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants
Eighth meeting
Geneva, 24 April–5 May 2017

**Organization of the high-level segment of the 2017 meetings of
the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and
Stockholm conventions**

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. By decisions BC-12/23, RC-7/13 and SC-7/31, 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 decided, among other things, to convene their next meetings back to back in Geneva from 24 April to 5 May 2017 and that the meetings would include a high-level segment of no more than one day's duration.

B. Process

2. The bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, during their joint meeting on 3 and 4 November 2016, agreed on the organization of the

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high-level segment of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties as outlined in the paragraphs below.

C. Objectives

3. The objectives of the high-level segment are:
 - (a) To provide overall policy guidance and political leadership for renewed commitment to the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
 - (b) To raise political awareness of and support for the implementation of the conventions;
 - (c) To provide an interactive and dynamic platform for ministers and other high-level delegates to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices.

II. Schedule

4. The high-level segment will take place at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) and the nearby Varembe Conference Centre in Geneva on Thursday, 4 May, from 3–6 p.m. and Friday, 5 May, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m. In addition a ministerial dinner will take place on the evening of 4 May.

5. The Secretariat will provide a short advance briefing for delegates on the high-level segment. The briefing will take place at CICG at a date and time to be announced during the 2017 meetings. Relevant materials will be sent to participating ministers, deputy ministers and ambassadors and made available on the meetings' webpage, <http://www.brsmeas.org/2017COPs>.

A. Thursday, 4 May 2017: afternoon session

1. Opening of the high-level segment (3–3.45 p.m.) (plenary session, CICG)

6. Opening remarks will be made by representatives of the host country and other dignitaries. The theme and sub-themes of the high-level segment will then be introduced briefly by a keynote speaker to stimulate discussion during the ministerial round-table discussions to follow.

2. Ministerial photo (3.50 p.m.) (CICG)

7. A group photo of the ministers, deputy ministers and ambassadors will be taken.

3. Ministerial round-table discussions (4–6 p.m.) (Varembe Conference Centre)

8. Ministers, deputy ministers and ambassadors will focus their round-table discussions on the theme and sub-themes of the high level segment. Guiding questions to facilitate the discussions are listed in section III of the present note. The round-table discussions are intended to encourage an open exchange of views and experiences between participants and will not involve negotiations or decision-making on any of the items on the agendas of the 2017 meetings.

9. A number of round-table discussions, including approximately 10 ministers each, will take place simultaneously and will be organized according to language preference as no interpretation will be provided. In addition, one or more representatives from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations may participate in the round-table discussions. A moderator will facilitate each discussion and Secretariat staff members will be present to assist the proceedings. Note-takers will capture key messages emerging from the round-table discussions, which will be summarized and presented during the plenary session on the morning of Friday, 5 May.

B. Ministerial dinner (7.30 p.m.) (location to be determined)

10. The Government of Switzerland is kindly hosting a ministerial dinner on the evening of Thursday, 4 May. Invitations to the dinner will be distributed during the meetings.

C. Friday, 5 May 2017: morning session

Presentation of key messages emerging from the ministerial round-table discussions (10 a.m.–1 p.m.) (plenary session, CICG)

11. On Friday morning, a second keynote speaker may address the high-level segment. Then a report on each round-table discussion will be made, highlighting key messages emerging from the discussions, and participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

12. A moderated panel discussion will then follow on the sub-themes of the high-level segment. A general discussion will follow the panel discussion and all interested participants will be invited to take the floor.
13. Following the panel and general discussions, a summary of key messages emerging from the round-table discussions, general and panel discussions will be presented as part of the closing remarks. The high-level segment will be closed no later than 1 p.m.
14. The outcomes of the high-level segment will consist of a report of the high-level segment and a consolidation of the key messages from the round-table discussions.

III. Themes and sub-themes

15. As decided by the presidents of the three conferences of the Parties in consultation with the bureaux, the theme of the 2017 meetings and the high-level segment will be “A future detoxified: Sound management of chemicals and waste”. For the purposes of the ministerial round-table discussions the theme is sub-divided into following sub-themes:

- (a) Opportunities for a detoxified future in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;
- (b) Opportunities for strengthened implementation through partnerships;
- (c) Opportunities for reducing waste and pollution.

A. Opportunities for a detoxified future in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals

16. Under this sub-theme, round-table participants may wish to discuss the following questions:
- (a) What are the key benefits of and opportunities presented by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in addressing sustainable development challenges and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
 - (b) How can the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions be fully integrated into national sustainable development strategies and plans?
 - (c) What actions can be undertaken at the national level to achieve specific targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relating to chemicals and wastes?
 - (d) How can the pursuit of sustainable development goals on matters other than those specific to chemicals and wastes, such as gender, partnership, climate change and health, contribute to achieving the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions?
 - (e) What are the challenges for reaching the goals of multilateral environmental agreements, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Sustainable Development Goals at the global, regional, subregional and national levels and how they can be overcome?
 - (f) What are opportunities to renew countries’ commitments to the effective implementation of the conventions through the Sustainable Development Goals?

B. Opportunities for strengthened implementation through partnerships

17. Under this sub-theme, round-table participants may wish to discuss the following questions:
- (a) What type of new and existing partnerships that promote sound chemicals and waste management can contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the post-2020 process of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management?
 - (b) How can multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the private sector, be strengthened to promote new technologies and innovation in support of the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions?
 - (c) How can the interests of key stakeholders – industry, civil society, the public – be strengthened in national efforts to prevent and minimize waste and reduce pollution?
 - (d) How can the role of regional centres in capacity-building and technology transfer for the sound management of chemicals and wastes be promoted and strengthened?
 - (e) How can the private sector be engaged to implement, invest in and finance the environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes in relevant industrial sectors?

(f) What strategies for mobilizing resources for the sound management of chemicals and wastes can be pursued in an era of shifting priorities?

C. Opportunities for reducing waste and pollution while enabling economic and social prosperity

18. Under this sub-theme, round-table participants may wish to discuss the following questions:

(a) How does implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions benefit countries in their efforts to achieve environmentally sound management, reduce waste and pollution and enable economic and social prosperity?

(b) What are the challenges and opportunities in national efforts to prevent or minimize waste, including through the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration under the Basel Convention?

(c) What are the gaps in implementing environmentally sound management and reducing wastes and pollution at the national level and how can the work under the conventions address them?

(d) How can the visibility of the impact of the conventions (e.g., the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Basel Convention; the effectiveness of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention; and the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention) be increased, thus enhancing their contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the conventions?
