

## **2023 session of United Nations High Level Political Forum and Economic and Social Council**

### **Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels**

**10 to 19 July 2023 / Ministerial Segment 17 to 19 July 2023**

#### **Input by the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal**

##### ***Instruction***

*The General Assembly in resolution 75/290 B defined the theme of the 2023 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC to be “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. The HLPF in 2023 will also review in-depth Goals 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. The forum will take into account the different and particular impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across these SDGs and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals.*

*The HLPF in July 2023 will also help prepare for the September 2023 SDG Summit – the HLPF to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly from 19 to 20 September 2023. Substantive inputs are invited to be provided for the 2023 HLPF on its review of the above five SDGs and its theme, bearing in mind the preparations for the SDG Summit. Contributions could showcase the views, findings, research, data and policy recommendations from your intergovernmental bodies on specific aspects of an SDG-driven response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the SDGs.*

## **Introduction**

**The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal** was adopted on 22 March 1989 and entered into force in 1992. As at February 2023, it has 190 Parties and thus its coverage is global. The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects that may result from the generation and management of hazardous and other wastes. Its scope of application covers a wide range of wastes defined as “hazardous wastes” based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics or so defined by domestic legislation and notified to the Secretariat, as well as wastes defined as “other wastes” requiring special consideration - household waste and incinerator ash, certain plastic wastes.

**(a) Progress, experience, lessons learned, challenges and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17 from the vantage point of your intergovernmental body, bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the SDGs and targets, including policy implications of their synergies and trade-offs.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the inter-dependence of countries in the area of waste management and its transboundary movements. It revealed the lack of capacities in some countries to manage their waste in the environmentally sound manner as well as the importance of having a system for the environmentally sound management in place which could absorb increasing volumes of some waste streams as it happened with clinical wastes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, COVID-19 restrictions limited enforcement capabilities of Parties to prevent and combat illegal shipments of wastes.

From the viewpoint of the Basel Convention, the Covid-19 impacted the progress on the implementation of the selected SDGs in the following manner:

### ***SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation***

Pollution represents a significant challenge for clean water and sanitation. Plastic pollution in particular is an environmental problem occurring on a global scale today. The exponential growth of trade in plastic wastes, which are in some cases hazardous and in others unsuitable for recycling has become a major concern. Global plastic production has reached 320 million tonnes a year. Only 9% has been recycled and another 12% incinerated of the estimated 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste produced since the 1950s. 95% of disposable plastic packaging is wasted and marine debris remain intact in the ocean for long period of time. With the Plastic Waste Amendments, adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2019, the Basel Convention is at the forefront in promoting the prevention, environmentally sound management and control of transboundary movements of plastic waste, thus protecting human health and the environment, including rivers, lakes and oceans.

Parties have built on the momentum under the Basel Convention to take additional measures to regulate their imports and exports of plastics. As reported by UNCTAD, 83% of all trade-related measures notified to WTO are related to plastics originating from developing countries, including Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), demonstrating their awareness of controlling influx of plastics into their countries and the need to safely manage them once becoming wastes.

Land-locked countries face challenges linked to polluted rivers and lakes that threaten their ecosystems and jeopardizes their livelihoods. Landlocked countries have no territory connections to either an ocean or endorheic basins, however inland fishing activities play a critical role in providing livelihoods for both local communities and private sector players. Discarded waste of plastic fishing nets constitutes a significant part of river plastic litter.

Plastic wastes also represent risks to sanitation systems and can incite floods due to the blockage of the drainage waste systems.

To address challenges related to plastic wastes there are various work streams and processes that are taking place under the Basel Convention:

- (a) Updating of the 2002 technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management of plastic wastes and for their disposal<sup>1</sup>;
- (b) Consideration by the expert working group on the review of annexes whether any additional constituents or characteristics in relation to plastic waste should be added to Annexes I and III to the Convention<sup>2</sup>;
- (c) Consideration by the Open-ended Working Group, as part of its work programme for 2022-2023, of whether, how and when the Conference of the Parties should assess the effectiveness of the measures taken under the Convention to address the plastic waste contributing to marine plastic litter and microplastics; and which further activities could possibly be conducted under the Convention in response to developments in scientific knowledge and environmental information related to plastic waste as a source of land pollution, marine plastic litter and microplastics<sup>3</sup>;
- (d) Development of a practical guidance manual on the development of inventories of plastic waste<sup>4</sup>;
- (e) Submission of a draft proposal to the World Customs Organization on amendments to the Harmonized System with respect to plastic waste, taking into consideration the amendments to annexes to the Basel Convention adopted by decision BC-14/12<sup>5</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> Mandated by part V of decision BC-14/13 on further actions to address plastic waste under the Basel Convention.

<sup>2</sup> Mandated by part IV of decision BC-14/13.

<sup>3</sup> Mandated by part VIII of decision BC-14/13

<sup>4</sup> Mandated by decision BC-14/10 on national reporting.

<sup>5</sup> Mandated by decision BC-14/9 on cooperation with the World Customs Organization on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

- (f) Cooperation and coordination with other international organizations, within the scope of their mandates, on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics in particular the multi-stakeholder platform within the UNEP established by UNEA-4<sup>6</sup>;
- (g) Technical assistance and capacity building in the area plastic wastes. This includes a series of projects on plastic waste being undertaken under the Basel and Stockholm Conventions' Regional Centers Small Grants Programme (SGP)<sup>7</sup>. Funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Government of Norway, these projects aim to improve the management of plastic waste in partner countries and thus contribute towards preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution. In total, 15 projects have been selected for funding. The projects benefit 32 countries in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe.
- (h) Furthermore, the Secretariat is managing a number of projects on marine litter and microplastics aimed at promoting the environmentally sound management of plastic waste and achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of plastic waste in Ghana and Sri Lanka, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and in Malawi and Zimbabwe funded by the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund.
- (i) Efforts to curb plastic pollution are also undertaken by the Plastic Waste Partnership (PWP) established under the Basel Convention to mobilize business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to improve and promote the environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and to prevent and minimize its generation.

### ***SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy***

While the Basel Convention doesn't have a direct impact on affordable and clean energy, some of its issues are related to clean energy. In particular, one may refer to the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound co-processing of hazardous wastes in cement kilns adopted in 2011. Co-processing of wastes in properly controlled cement kilns provides energy and materials recovery while cement is being produced, offering an environmentally sound recovery option for many wastes. As countries strive for greater self-sufficiency in hazardous waste management, particularly in developing countries that may have little or no waste management infrastructure, properly controlled co-processing can provide a practical, cost-effective and environmentally preferred option to landfill and incineration. In general, co-processing of waste in resource-intensive processes can be an important element in a more sustainable system of managing raw materials and energy. Co-processing is the use of alternative fuel and/or raw materials for the purpose of energy and/or resource recovery.

### ***SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure***

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<sup>6</sup> Mandated by decision BC-14/13 and decisions BC-14/21, RC-9/9 and SC-9/19 on international cooperation and coordination

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<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/Technicalassistance/Projects/BRSNorad2/SGPonplasticwaste/tabid/8402/Default.aspx>

The infrastructure for the management of hazardous and other wastes is critical to ensure that wastes are indeed managed in an environmentally sound manner. The environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes (ESM) means taking all practicable steps to ensure that hazardous wastes or other wastes are managed in a manner which will protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects which may result from such wastes.

Parties regularly develop, update and promote policy guidance for the environmentally sound management of different waste streams. For example, at its 2022 meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to update the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste lead-acid batteries as a priority and a matter of urgency, and that technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of waste batteries other than waste lead-acid batteries should be developed.

One of the aspects related to the industry, innovation and infrastructure in waste management is the extended producer responsibility (EPR) and financing. Investments in infrastructure and costs relating to the operation and maintenance of facilities require a sustainable flow of financing. In principle, it means that the producers of a product are held responsible for the collection and disposal of that product once it has become waste. Generally, producers include these costs in the pricing of their products. EPR instruments aim at making producers responsible for the environmental impacts of their products throughout their life cycle, from design to the waste phase. EPR policies seek to shift the burden of managing certain wastes from municipalities and taxpayers to producers, in line with the polluter pays principle. See the ESM toolkit for more information.<sup>8</sup>

It is also important to promote the environmentally sound management in the informal sector. Informal waste pickers undertake a significant share of the collection of wastes, in particular plastic waste, in many developing countries. Working with little societal or personal protection, informal waste collectors face a double risk: to their livelihoods, because they cannot work or can only work at reduced capacity; and to their health, as they often do not have access – or lack the necessary awareness – to protective equipment and/or to adequate government support. The poor and marginalized are among those worst impacted by both COVID-19 and environmental harms, such as plastic pollution, which directly and indirectly threaten the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights including the rights to life, water and sanitation, food, health, and housing.

### ***SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities***

Escalating challenges in household waste management across the globe are widely acknowledged and draw attention to the importance of its environmentally sound management. While most developed countries already introduced complex household waste management practices, many developing countries and countries in transition are still struggling with the sound management of

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<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Overview/tabid/5839/Default.aspx>

the ever-increasing volume of household waste. The problems related to household waste may be attributed to many causes such as:

- Poverty and high rate of population growth;
- Unplanned urbanization;
- Increase in quantities and volumes of household waste;
- Increase in waste management costs/lack of financial resources;
- Inefficient institutional arrangements;
- Inappropriate technology and equipment;
- Inadequate legislation;
- Low awareness of the public and informal sector;
- Enforcement.

A significant part of household waste in developing countries and countries with economies in transition is burnt in open air in the back yards or at uncontrolled dumping sites and poorly managed landfills. Overflowing landfills are often intentionally set on fire to reduce the total volume of deposited waste. Open burning releases POPs and other hazardous chemicals into the air. Leachate from landfills and dumpsites contaminates surrounding soil and water. Plastic waste comprises a large portion of household waste and plastic pollution in oceans, rivers and lakes is a great concern globally.

The environmentally sound management of household wastes includes source separation, collection, transportation, storage, recycling, energy recovery and final disposal. Based on their origin, composition and characteristics, household waste may contain hazardous materials commingled with non-hazardous materials. Because of the potential for contamination with hazardous substances, the Basel Convention classifies waste collected from households as requiring special consideration (Basel Convention, Annex II, Y46).

One of the tools used to support Parties with the environmentally sound management of household wastes is the Household Waste Partnership which was established by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention in 2017 to address this important issue and to provide technical assistance worldwide, supporting all countries to benefit from already available solutions for environmentally sound management, including issues such as separation at source, collection, transport, storage, recycling, energy recovery and final disposal.

The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention took note in 2022 of the Practical guidance for the development of an inventories of plastic waste which also use the data on the household wastes collection and generation for the calculation of the generation of plastic wastes.

The issue of generation and environmentally sound management of household waste is important from the perspective of the SDGs indicators 12.5.2: National recycling rate, tons of material

recycled, and Indicator 11.6.1: Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated by cities.

### *SDG 17 on partnerships*

Under the Basel Convention, partnerships have been used for a number of years as a mechanism to enhance collaboration between stakeholders; tap into expertise and knowledge at a broader level, bring together experts and policy makers to develop guidance and guidelines leveraging scarce resources at all levels; and reduce costs by working together to identify options and solutions and developing needed tools and strategies to enhance the environmentally sound management of used products and wastes.

The Partnership Programme was initiated pursuant to the adoption of the Basel Declaration on Environmentally Sound Management by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (COP-5) in 1999. The Declaration emphasized the importance of partnerships with industry, NGOs and academia.

Five global multi-stakeholder Partnerships have to date been established under the Partnership Programme under the Basel Convention:

- (a) The Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative, established in 2002 and the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE), established by the Basel Convention Parties in 2008 were public - private multi-stakeholders platforms to support developing countries in tackling the growing e-waste challenge, focusing on new solutions for enhancing the environmentally sound management of mobile phones and computing equipment, respectively, as well as the overall compliance with the Basel Convention.<sup>9</sup> In 2019, the Parties decided to establish a new partnership as a follow up to the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment, since PACE had concluded its activities, in 2017. The follow-up to PACE continues to implement pilot projects to promote activities on the environmentally sound management of computing equipment, mobile phones and e-waste. In 2022, the Parties extended the scope of this partnership to include activities on used and wastes TV screens, audio and video equipment as well as on refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment. To reflect this broader scope, the Parties adopted a new name: Partnership for Action on Challenges relating to E-waste, abbreviated PACE II. The partnership is mandated to promote innovative solutions for the environmentally sound management of e-waste, undertake outreach and dissemination activities, for example conducting awareness raising campaigns or promoting training in schools and universities, implement projects to enhance the environmentally sound management of e-waste and develop guidance on environmentally sound repair and refurbishment of used equipment and on environmentally sound management of wastes of TVs, audio and video equipment, refrigerators, cooling and heating equipment.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/PACE/Overview/tabid/3243/Default.aspx>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/FollowuptoPACE/Overview/tabid/8089/Default.aspx>

- (b) The Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic or ENFORCE was established by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting (COP-11) in 2013, with the objective of promoting compliance with the Convention's provisions on preventing and combating illegal traffic through the better implementation and enforcement of national law, through a network of relevant experts. ENFORCE facilitates information sharing between its members and observers through developing a roadmap of activities and helps to identify opportunities for cooperation. COP-15 strengthened ENFORCE by inviting it to undertake capacity-building activities on illegal traffic and increase cooperation with its members <sup>11</sup>.
- (c) The Household Waste Partnership has the following objectives: (a) promoting the environmentally sound management of household waste including its prevention and minimization and (b) enabling the decoupling of economic growth and environmental impacts associated with the generation of household waste and its initial handling by the public in their households. The Partnership developed an overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste to promote and share existing practical and concrete solutions in order to assist stakeholders in achieving the ESM of household waste. Its adoption and dissemination is of particular importance with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic and the management of infectious waste at the household level, particularly in light of gender disparities in this area.
- (d) A Partnership on Plastic Waste was established by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting (COP-14) in 2019 to mobilize business, government, academic and civil society resources, interests and expertise to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste at the global, regional and national levels and to prevent and minimize its generation so as to reduce significantly and in the long-term eliminate the discharge of plastic waste and microplastics into the environment, in particular the marine environment. The reduction of the discharge of plastic waste into the environment was particularly topical during the COVID-19 pandemic, where single-use plastic, including PPE such as masks and packaging are increasingly being found in the marine and terrestrial environment. The Plastic Waste Partnership is carrying out work in four areas, namely prevention and minimization, plastic waste collection, recycling and other recovery, including financing and related markets; transboundary movements of plastic waste; and outreach and awareness raising. Pilot projects are being implemented under the Partnership in countries or at regional level to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic waste and to prevent and minimize its generation. A total of 23 pilot projects are currently being implemented, with information on the selection of the project proposals is to be released in February 2023. <sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/ENFORCE/Overview/tabid/4526/Default.aspx>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/Plasticwaste/PlasticWastePartnership/tabid/8096/Default.aspx>

**(b) Three key areas where transformative actions for accelerated progress have been successful, and three key areas where support is most urgently needed, with regard to the cluster of SDGs under review in July 2023**

- One of the key successes of the Basel Convention has been the **adoption of amendments of the Convention**, specifically on plastic waste and e-waste, in 2019 and 2022 respectively. This reflects the ability of the Convention to adapt to new realities and environmental challenges. These amendments ensure that the competent authorities to the Basel Conventions are involved in the national decision-making process for the import, transit and export of wastes that fall within the scope of the Convention. This serves to protect countries which are not in the position to manage imported wastes in an environmentally sound manner. The implementation of the amendments contributes towards achieving all SDGs which are under review in 2023 as more targeted sound management of waste and better control of its transboundary movements play an important role for clean water and sanitation, clean energy, industry, innovation and infrastructure, sustainable cities and communities, partnerships.
- **Science-policy interface**. Science is a core component of each of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions<sup>13</sup>, informing technical experts', policymakers' and other stakeholders' evaluation of problems, formulation of recommendations and policy responses, and supporting implementation by Parties and other stakeholders at the regional and national levels.

The BRS conventions have been working at the interface of science and policy since their coming into force, meeting new challenges and emerging trends in their respective areas of responsibility for management of chemicals and waste. Each of these conventions is structured to ensure that science plays a significant role in policymaking; as such, stakeholders can draw lessons from the successes and challenges that Parties, technical experts, and diverse stakeholders encountered while working to fulfill the objectives of each of these conventions.

The "From Science to Action" initiative has yielded valuable insights into the challenges that need to be addressed to enhance science-based action to support implementation of the BRS conventions, such as the following:

- Essential data related to local and national environments are often difficult to access or entirely unavailable, making implementation of effective policy very difficult;
- Capacity to generate data at the national level as well as access to data is severely limited in many countries due to inadequate research facilities and infrastructure;
- Capacity for institutional data generation and management should be strengthened at the national level;
- Enabling environments should be created for publication of research;
- Industry should be incentivized to invest in scientific research; and

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<sup>13</sup> For more information see the information brochure and other related document:  
<http://www.brsmeas.org/Implementation/FromSciencetoAction/Overview/tabid/4749/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

- Methods of communicating information to policymakers should be improved through training activities.

Science-policy interface is crucial for the implementation of all SDGs as policymaking based on science and knowledge promotes innovative solutions and effectiveness.

- Another area of a key success is the network of **Regional and Coordinating Centers for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer (BCRCs) and the Small Grant Programme**. The centers' focus is on training and technology transfer regarding the management of hazardous and other wastes and the minimization of their generation. These autonomous institutions operate under the authority of the Conference of the Parties. The Regional Centers have been established either in inter-governmental institutions or in national institutions that possessed relevant expertise and capacity to undertake the task of providing technical assistance and capacity building at the regional level. BCRCs have been given mandates on their core functions and responsibilities.
- The Secretariat manages the Regional Centers Small Grant Programme (SGP) designed to channel bilateral donor funds for implementing the Convention through the regional and coordinating centers. The motto of SGP is to identify and implement low cost high impact projects from the workplan of the regional centers. In order to achieve a high impact with relatively low resources, the project promotes a competitive sense among the Centers by providing them with an opportunity to implement discrete project activities assisting eligible Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention. The initial funding was made available by the Government of Norway for SGP in 2009 for that year. Norway has given continuation to the activity by making the funding available every year since its inception in 2009. In the meanwhile other donors such as Government of Sweden, and the EU have also made financial contributions to undertake project activities under this programme.
- In the past few years, the SGP was specifically dedicated to plastic waste. A series of projects on plastic waste is being undertaken by BCRCs but also Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centers. They aim to improve the management of plastic waste in partner countries and thus contribute towards preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution. In total, 15 projects have been selected for funding so far. The projects benefit 32 countries in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Central and Eastern Europe. Funding has been provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation and the Government of Norway. The third round of project proposals is closed, and the selection of the projects will be made available shortly.

BCRCs and SGP primarily contribute to Goal 17 on partnerships as BCRCs build partnerships with Governments and various entities in the scope of SGP.

- In terms of key areas where support is most urgently needed, Parties still need support with meeting the obligations of the Basel Convention, including developing or strengthening legislation, setting up collection, recycling and disposal systems, developing systems for

effective collection of data and developing inventories of wastes to name a few. **Capacity building** efforts are needed to support Parties with these activities.

- **Illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes** continues to pose challenges to environment and human health. Prevention and combatting of illegal traffic is a challenging task requiring effective national inter-agency mechanisms, and close collaboration among Parties and regions. Training, awareness and political will of the enforcement community is needed in detection, classification, investigation and prosecution of confirmed cases of illegal traffic.
- Finally, some Parties face difficulties with setting up **infrastructure for the sound management of wastes, including financing schemes** that provide sustainable platform for managing not only profitable but also unprofitable waste streams.

Improvements in these areas will contribute towards achieving goals under review by HLPF in 2023, in particular on clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities and communities, and partnerships.

**(c) Examples of specific actions taken to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic that also accelerate progress towards multiple SDG targets, including actions identified by your intergovernmental body, building on interlinkages and transformative pathways for achieving SDGs**

One of the examples of specific actions to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic that also accelerates progress towards multiple SDG targets is the work under the Basel and Rotterdam conventions to further explore the integration into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework of obligations to transmit information under the conventions. With regards more specially to the Basel Convention, at its fifteenth meeting (COP-15), the Conference of the Parties reiterated the importance of the connection between achieving Sustainable Development Goal 12 and the transmission of national reports under the Convention and emphasized the possibility that the lack of transmission of national reports under the Convention indicates an underlying need for support for the implementation of other obligations set out in the Convention, for instance in relation to the control of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes, minimization of the generation of wastes and the environmentally sound management of wastes. In this regard, Parties with reporting needs were called upon to integrate actions to address their needs with respect to the implementation of the Convention into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (formerly the United Nations Development Assistance Framework), in particular, during the national development planning process, the agreement of Cooperation Framework outcomes and outputs and the drafting of the Cooperation Framework document.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Decision BC-15/17: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance

There are a number of measures and policy recommendations<sup>15</sup> within the mandate of the Basel Convention which will support Parties in accelerating progress for those affected by hazardous and other wastes, with focus on SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17. In light of enhancing coordination and cooperation of the implementation between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm, conventions, some of the recommendations address all three conventions:

- 1) To encourage Parties to develop or strengthen national legal frameworks and take measures to promote the implementation and enforcement of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
- 2) Emphasizing the important role that the Basel Convention plays in addressing the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic wastes and microplastics and associated marine pollution, to urge States to commit themselves to support efforts to achieve the prevention, the minimization and the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, as well as the effective control of its transboundary movements.
- 3) Given the complexity and accelerating growth of e-waste, to intensify efforts of Parties in addressing e-wastes through its environmentally sound management and controlling its transboundary movements using a circular approach and positive contribution to climate change.
- 4) To encourage efforts of Parties to promote gender equality to ensure that women and men from all Parties are equally involved in the implementation of the three conventions and are represented in their bodies and processes and thus inform and participate in decision-making on gender-responsive hazardous chemicals and wastes policies.
- 5) To encourage efforts of Parties and stakeholders to join and actively contribute to the activities of Partnerships established under the Basel Convention.

**(d) Assessment of the situation in the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic and within the respective areas addressed by your intergovernmental body, and policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery from the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

Pursuant to Article 15, paragraph 7 of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties among other things is required to undertake an evaluation of its effectiveness. In 2011 the Conference of the Parties adopted the strategic framework for the implementation of the Basel Convention for the period 2012-2021. The framework consisted of a vision, guiding principles, strategic goals and objectives, means of implementation, indicators for measuring achievement and performance and evaluation.

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<sup>15</sup>Please see reports and decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention:  
<http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/ReportsandDecisions/tabid/3303/Default.aspx>

In 2022 the Conference of the Parties adopted the final evaluation of the strategic framework for 2012-2021<sup>16</sup> which provides information on the overall assessment of the implementation of the Basel Convention by 2021. Currently there is ongoing work to develop recommendations to improve the framework.

In terms of policy recommendations, commitments and cooperation measures for promoting a sustainable, resilient and inclusive recovery the following is to be considered:

- 1) To call for States and Regional Economic Integration Organisations to increase their efforts on the implementation of global treaties on hazardous chemicals and wastes, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions with the purpose of protecting human health and the environment and in support of circular economy and resource efficiency.
- 2) To increase efforts of Parties towards the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions including through the establishment of coherent and comprehensive legal and institutional frameworks and multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.
- 3) To provide safe and decent jobs involving hazardous chemicals and waste in manufacturing, design, processes and productions, including resources recovery and recycling.
- 4) Given the cross-cutting nature of hazardous chemicals and waste in our lives, to promote an integrated approach to chemicals and waste management by mainstreaming chemicals and wastes issues into plans and strategies on sustainable development, health, agriculture and other sectors.
- 5) To provide priority attention to developing, enforcing and/or strengthening national legislation and/or regulations implementing the Convention.
- 6) To mainstream gender considerations in policies and strategies that promote the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- 7) To promote the adoption of best practices on the sound management of hazardous chemical and wastes throughout the value chain, including extended producer responsibility, publicly available information about chemical hazards and risks, green design and best available techniques and best environmental practices, and monitoring of contamination of air, water and land by hazardous chemicals and wastes.
- 8) To call upon Parties, in particular those with reporting needs to integrate their needs with respect to the implementation of the Basel Convention into the UN Sustainable

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/StrategicFramework/Evaluation/Finalevaluation/tabid/6108/Default.aspx>

Development Cooperation Framework, in particular during the national development planning process.

**(e) Key messages for inclusion into the Political Declaration of the September 2023 SDG Summit**

- 1) To recognize the importance of multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous chemicals and wastes, including the **Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions** in their contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, the three planetary crises, in particular the one on pollution, and their critical role in the overarching architecture of environmental governance in building post-COVID-19 a resilient path to achieve the Agenda 2030.
- 2) chemicals and wastes, including the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and its evolving role in the overarching architecture of environmental governance in building post-COVID-19 a resilient path to achieve the Agenda 2030.
- 3) To recognize the role of the Basel Convention as the only global legally binding instrument that currently and specifically addresses plastic waste and its important contributions towards the future legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.
- 4) To accelerate efforts of Parties to implement and comply with their obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to protect human health and the environment from adverse impacts of chemicals and hazardous and other wastes.
- 5) To mainstream the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions into plans and strategies on sustainable development, health, agriculture and other sectors and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in light of raising profile and visibility of chemicals and waste on the national level, thereby facilitating the integration of information and national reporting needs into such Frameworks and supporting implementation of the Conventions.
- 6) To mainstream gender considerations in policies and strategies that promote the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- 7) To emphasize the importance of data transmission in accordance with the obligations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to avoid non-reporting, incomplete reporting or late reporting and add value to the global indicator framework for the follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 8) To promote knowledge building and information sharing on hazardous chemicals and wastes for better management and risk reduction throughout their lifecycle.