



2022 face-to-face segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and the 10th meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and to the Stockholm Convention (BRS COPs) are resuming for their face-to-face segment from 6 to 17 June 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meetings include a high-level segment which will be held on 1 June 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden in connection with the Stockholm+50 international meeting. Ministers will gather to exchange experiences and to provide political leadership towards the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

1. Why are there two different segments of the meetings of the BRS COPs?

Due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the COPs could not meet face-to-face as originally planned in July 2021. In their decisions [BC-15/1](#), [RC-10/2](#) and [SC-10/2](#), the BRS COPs decided to hold their meetings in two segments: an online segment held from 26 to 30 July 2021 and a face-to-face segment to be held from 6 to 17 June 2022 in Geneva.

The tentative schedule of the meetings is available as document [UNEP/CHW.15/INF/2/Rev.1- UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/2/Rev.1- UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/2/Rev.1](#).
Pre-meetings will be held on Sunday, 5 June 2022.

2. Who attended the online segment and what was decided at this segment?

Over 160 Parties and 1300 participants attended the online segment of the meetings of the BRS COPs. The online segment of the COPs allowed for the adoption of a number of prioritized and time sensitive decisions. In particular, the COPs adopted interim programmes of work and budgets for 2022 to ensure the continuation of the work under the conventions in 2022.

The Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions also each adopted a decision on the election of members of subsidiary bodies to allow certain committees to start their work or current members to continue working until new members would be elected at the face-to-face segment.

This online segment was also an opportunity for Parties to the Stockholm Convention to transmit to the Global Environment Facility an evaluation of the funds needed for the implementation of the Convention for 2022-2026 to inform the eighth replenishment of the Facility.

3. What are the main topics for discussion at the face-to-face segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties?

At their face-to-face segment, Parties will consider all items on the agendas of the meetings that were not taken up or concluded during the online segment.

The BRS COPs will be held under the theme “**Global Agreements for a Healthy Planet: Sound management of chemicals and waste**”.



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All three COPs will jointly consider relevant outcomes of the 5th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), in particular those to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to forge an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and a Science-Policy Panel to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. Both UNEA resolutions emphasize the importance of ensuring the cooperation of these mechanisms with the BRS conventions to promote complementarity.

Parties will also consider the needs of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance. A new technical assistance plan for 2022-2025 has been prepared.

Some other topics for consideration by the COPs include:

- Electing officers and renewing the membership of certain committees;
- Adopting full programmes of work and budgets for 2022-2023;
- Considering the cooperation of the BRS conventions with the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- Deciding on the venue and date of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

Related to the **Basel Convention**, the Parties will consider proposals to amend the Convention. The European Union is proposing to amend [Annex IV](#) of the Convention which is key to determining whether a substance or object is waste.

Switzerland and Ghana propose to amend the e-waste entries and to add a new entry in Annex II, so that all types of e-waste are covered by the Convention.

The Russian Federation proposes to amend paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention to set a 30-day deadline for the State of import to respond to a proposed transboundary movement.

This COP is expected to consider the adoption of revised technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes, and if further actions on plastic wastes need to be taken.

A **plastics forum** to promote solutions to plastics will be held from 8 to 10 June 2022.

Parties and observers will also have the opportunity to showcase their work related to the conventions **during side events**.

The COP will be an opportunity to determine whether to update the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of lead-acid batteries and whether to embark on the development of a future strategic framework and/or effectiveness evaluation for the Convention.

The Parties will consider a range of other technical guidelines and guidance documents prepared by intersessional working groups.

Financial support from the following Parties for the participation of delegates from developing countries and countries with economies in transition is greatly appreciated: China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

One of the main issues for the **Rotterdam Convention** will be the consideration of the inclusion of seven new industrial chemicals, pesticides and severely hazardous pesticide formulations in [Annex III](#) of the Convention. If listed, the following chemicals would be subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure:

- Acetochlor
- Carbosulfan
- Chrysotile asbestos
- Decabromodiphenyl ether
- Fenthion formulations
- Liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds

Parties will also consider the inaugural work programme of the newly established Compliance Committee.

Parties to the **Stockholm Convention** will consider, among other things, the addition of a new chemical, perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), its salts and PFHxS-related compounds to [Annex A](#) of the Convention. The items listed in Annex A may no longer be produced, used, imported and exported by the Parties to the Convention.

Parties will also consider measures to reduce or eliminate releases from POPs, for example the continued need for exemptions for decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins, the phase-out of DDT, the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and the evaluation of brominated diphenyl ethers.

4. Will the meetings go ahead given the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic?

There are currently no COVID-19 related travel restrictions in place in Switzerland. Delegates need to familiarize themselves with the regulations in place in their countries of origin and transit.

A range of precautionary and hygiene measures will be put in place at the meeting venue, in accordance with the requirements of the United Nations and the Government of Switzerland to ensure the health and safety of all participants. These requirements are subject to change. The Secretariat strongly recommends that all participants in the meetings be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.



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