

RC-9/12: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions BC-13/21, RC-8/14 and SC-8/24, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes,

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by Parties about their experience with the establishment of coordinating mechanisms and lessons learned from such experience, and about cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;¹
2. *Encourages* Parties that have not yet done so to establish national-level coordination mechanisms with a view to facilitating the exchange of information among relevant authorities responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of 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, aimed at controlling the export and import of the chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions, and encourages Parties to provide information to the Secretariat about cases of illegal traffic and trade in the chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, where the provision of such information is appropriate under existing reporting procedures;
3. *Takes note* of the report, including recommendations, on further areas in which legal clarity could be improved, prepared by the Secretariat;²
4. *Also takes note* of the information provided by the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and relevant global and regional enforcement networks about their activities aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes as well as lessons learned from those activities;³
5. *Encourages* the organizations mentioned in paragraph 4 of the present decision to undertake activities aimed at assisting Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, and to inform the Secretariat thereof;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To develop, taking into account lessons learned from experience with the Basel Convention, a draft form and explanatory document to enable Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to voluntarily provide information about cases of trade occurring in contravention of those conventions, for comments by Parties and subsequent consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;
 - (b) To prepare, taking into account existing information⁴ as well as the information received pursuant to paragraph 5 of the present decision, recommendations concerning opportunities for strengthened cooperation for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;

¹ UNEP/CHW.14/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/26 and UNEP/CHW.14/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/42, annex I.

² UNEP/CHW.14/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/34–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/43, annex.

³ UNEP/CHW.14/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/26 and UNEP/CHW.14/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/42, annex II.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/42, annex II.

(c) To continue to provide advice and, subject to the availability of resources, undertake technical assistance activities to strengthen the capacity of Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in the chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(d) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.