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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
Sixteenth meeting**
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Agenda item 6 (b)

**Enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions: mainstreaming gender**

**Conference of the Parties
to the Rotterdam Convention
on the Prior Informed Consent
Procedure for Certain Hazardous
Chemicals and Pesticides in
International Trade
Eleventh meeting**
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Agenda item 7 (b)

**Enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions: mainstreaming gender**

**Conference of the Parties
to the Stockholm Convention
on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Eleventh meeting**
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023
Agenda item 7 (b)

**Enhancing cooperation and
coordination among the Basel,
Rotterdam and Stockholm
conventions: mainstreaming gender**

**Report on gender-related activities implemented by the
Secretariat**

Note by the Secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out the updated Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as amended during the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 25 May 2023.

Annex

BRS Gender Action Plan

Updated May 2023¹

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
I. Data gathering and sharing					
A. Update the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS) and Secretariat baseline data disaggregated by sex, age, geographical distribution and other demographic factors and develop a report ²	Updated statistics are compiled and report is produced	Updated baseline report determining progress and ongoing challenges	Subject to available resources Staff costs	Short term	Gender task team
B. Using the updated baseline data on gender distribution in the staffing of the Secretariat, monitor the changes in staffing and adhere to the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN-SWAP)	Gender balance achieved within Secretariat	UN-SWAP reports	Cost neutral	Ongoing	Executive Office, Gender task team
C. Undertake mapping exercise across multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), selected intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to determine activities/initiatives on gender mainstreaming relating to chemicals and waste that are ongoing and completed	Activities and initiatives of relevance identified Cooperation with other entities	Internal report	Staff costs	Short term	Gender task team
D. Gather information from Parties and others on actions being taken at national and regional levels to promote gender mainstreaming	Call for information issued Information gathered	Information published on dedicated section of BRS website	Staff costs	Short term	Gender task team, those submitting information

¹ The BRS Gender Action Plan (GAP) was updated and reformatted for simplicity in April 2023 for submission to the 2023 BRS meetings of the conferences of the Parties (COPs) in May 2023. It was further updated during the 2023 BRS meetings of the COPs. Activities within the BRS GAP are to be carried out subject to the availability of resources.

² The previous report is available at UNEP/CHW.12/INF/49-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/54.

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
E. Compile a library or databank of information on the impacts of sub-standard chemicals and waste management on vulnerable populations	Library/Database prepared and made available Updates on website, number of case studies prepared	Secretariat records BRS website	Staff costs if done in-house Subject to available resources	Medium term	Gender task team
II. Training and skill development within BRS Secretariat					
A. Continue training of BRS staff on gender mainstreaming	BRS staff well-versed in concepts relating to gender mainstreaming Number and frequency of trainings organized	Secretariat records	Subject to available resources	Short to medium term	Gender task team, Human Resources, trainers (experts)
B. Share availability of mentoring programmes with staff (within the United Nations (UN) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP))	Number of staff accessing mentoring services	Secretariat records	Cost neutral	Short term	Executive Office, Gender task team
C. Organize and provide opportunities for training for staff on management skills (e.g. leadership programmes)	Number of events / opportunities provided	Secretariat records	Subject to available resources	Ongoing	Executive Office, BRS staff, Gender task team
III. Principles of gender equality, equity and mainstreaming in BRS Standard Operating Procedures					
A. Include specific text in invitation and confirmation letters to encourage gender balanced representation in BRS meetings and capacity building activities	Letter templates reflect gender balanced approach	BRS invitation and confirmation letter templates for COPs, subsidiary bodies and workshops/training activities	Cost neutral	Ongoing	COP and subsidiary body coordinators
B. Include questions relating to gender mainstreaming in post-event evaluation forms	Number of questionnaires with gender related questions	Secretariat records	Cost neutral	Ongoing	Gender task team, BRS staff
C. Include gender considerations in funding proposals and reporting to donors	Proposals and reports include a section/sub-section on gender issues	Secretariat records	Staff costs	Ongoing	Gender task team, BRS staff

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
D. Improve Secretariat knowledge and practices on inclusion of women and girls in all their diversity, as appropriate	Research and surveys undertaken	Internal report	Staff costs	Short term	Gender task team, BRS staff
IV. Capacity building and technical assistance activities					
A. Determine types of activities to be undertaken that will have the greatest impact in relation to gender mainstreaming	Impact and needs assessment study prepared	Impact and needs assessment study	Subject to available resources	Short term	Gender task team, consultancy (experts)
B. Include gender in planning and implementation of new and ongoing programmes and projects to support activities that have an impact on gender-related issues	Gender component in new and ongoing projects included Proposals and reports include a section/sub-section on gender issues/considerations	Programmes, project proposals and reports	Staff costs Subject to available resources	Medium-long term	BRS staff
C. Develop national-level case studies to identify sectors including waste streams / chemicals of concern and vulnerable populations	Sectors, waste streams and chemicals of concern identified Most vulnerable populations identified	Case study reports	Subject to available resources	Short to medium term	Gender task team, consultants (experts)
D. Develop and implement pilot projects with gender focus on specific challenges faced by vulnerable groups	At least one pilot project is implemented Specific vulnerable groups are aware of hazardous chemicals and wastes or practices that may expose those groups to harmful effects Measures addressing hazardous chemicals and wastes management take	Progress and final reports	Subject to available resources	Short to medium term	Gender task team, consultants (experts)

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
	gender issues into considerations at the national level, etc.				
E. Update BRS training programme on gender mainstreaming for Parties and other stakeholders and provide training, including to “train the trainers”	BRS training programme updated Training of representatives of Parties and other stakeholder groups	BRS website Secretariat records	Subject to available resources	Short to medium term	Gender task team, consultants (experts), relevant partners
F. Develop activities and initiatives with relevant partners (Parties, IGOs, NGOs, new constituencies)	Number of activities developed with partners	Secretariat records BRS website	Staff costs Subject to available resources (depending on the activity)	Short to medium term	Gender task team, relevant partners
V. Public outreach and awareness					
A. Maintain a dedicated gender-related section on the BRS website ³	Webpage prepared and regularly updated	Website	Staff costs	Ongoing	Gender task team
B. Develop awareness-raising materials on gender issues	Social media, brochures, videos, exhibitions or other awareness-raising material produced and circulated to/among vulnerable groups and sub-groups	BRS social media, website, publications	Staff costs (social media and website) Subject to available resources	Ongoing	Gender task team, Public Awareness and Outreach team
C. Develop a new publication on topical issues related to gender mainstreaming	Topical issues identified, researched and published	BRS gender publication	Subject to available resources	Short to medium term	Gender task team, consultant (expert)
D. Build new constituencies and public awareness by connecting with and engaging women’s groups and actors	New actors identified and engaged with	Secretariat records	Staff costs	Short to medium term	Gender task team, relevant partners

³ Available at: <http://synergies.pops.int/Gender/Overview/tabid/3651/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
who have not previously engaged with chemicals and waste issues					
VI. Gender-balanced participation in BRS meetings and activities					
A. Promote active gender-balanced participation in meetings: i. Inform the bureaux, including at their joint meetings, about the BRS approach on gender ii. Consider gender balance in selecting co-chairs iii. Consider gender balance in selecting / proposing rapporteurs iv. Consider gender balance in proposing speakers, leads for specific tasks, etc.	Gender balanced approach during BRS meetings	Secretariat records	Cost neutral	Ongoing	BRS staff, relevant partners
B. Invite / encourage organizations (IGOs and/or NGOs) to present gender-related issues of hazardous chemicals and wastes management at the COPs (e.g. in side-event, thematic round table, INF document, etc.)	Number of side-events and other events organized at the COPs Level of visibility of gender issues at the COPs	COPs side event schedule	Cost neutral	Ongoing	BRS staff, relevant partners
C. Include gender focus in appropriate decisions at meetings of COPs	Number of decisions taking into consideration gender issues related to chemicals and waste management, where appropriate	Decision texts and meeting reports	Cost neutral	Ongoing	BRS staff, relevant partners
VII. Cooperation with partners through networks and partnerships on gender					
A. Continue to participate in the International Gender Champions initiative (IGC)	Information on the BRS commitment gender parity pledge is available on the web	IGC and BRS websites	Staff costs	Ongoing	BRS Gender focal point / IGC focal points

Activities	Indicators of achievement	Means of verification	Funding source	Proposed timelines	Responsible actors
	Implementation reports sent to the IGC initiative				
B. Continue to participate in the UN and UNEP gender focal points networks	Relevant information available in reports to the COPs and on the BRS website	Meeting documents BRS website	Staff costs	Ongoing	BRS Gender focal point
C. Continue to participate in the GEF Gender Partnership	Relevant information available in reports to the COPs and on the BRS website	Meeting documents BRS website	Staff costs	Ongoing	BRS Gender focal point
VIII. Evaluation of BRS GAP and development of new BRS GAP					
A. Review implementation of the BRS GAP (2013-2023)	Evaluation of BRS GAP prepared BRS GAP evaluation submitted to 2025 BRS COPs	Meeting documents	Subject to available resources Staff costs	Short term	Gender task team
B. Consult with Parties and others on new BRS GAP: potential activities and opportunities for greater inclusion of all stakeholder groups	Consultations scheduled New BRS GAP submitted to 2025 BRS COPs BRS COPs decisions on gender mainstreaming adopted	Consultation reports Meeting documents BRS COPs decisions on gender mainstreaming	Subject to available resources Staff costs	Short term	Gender task team, BRS staff, Parties and others