



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



UN  
environment  
programme

## BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

### Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

United Nations Environment Programme

Office Address: International Environment House 1

11-13, chemin des Anémones, 1219 Châtelineau, Geneva, Switzerland

Postal Address: c/o Palais des Nations, 8-14, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 917 8271 | Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 8098 | E-mail: [brs@brsmeas.org](mailto:brs@brsmeas.org)

### Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Tel.: +39 06 5705 2061 | Fax: +39 06 5705 3224 | E-mail: [pic@fao.org](mailto:pic@fao.org)

## COMMUNICATION

### 2021 MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE PARTIES TO THE BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

In accordance with the agreement by the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, taking into account the exceptional circumstances of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention will be held in two segments, with an online segment of the meetings to be held from 26 to 30 July 2021, and a face-to-face segment of the meetings to be held over two weeks in 2022. The arrangements for the high-level segment will be further considered by the bureaux after the online segment of the conferences of the Parties.

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

The organization of work of the online segment of the conferences of the Parties, scheduled over five days **from 26 to 30 July 2021**, will comprise of two days of joint sessions of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties, with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations on the first and last days, and three days of meetings of the joint contact group on the programmes of work and budgets on the second, third and fourth days, in English only. At the end of the online segment on the fifth day, the meetings will be suspended and will be resumed at the face-to-face segment of the conferences of the Parties in 2022. Regional groups will be able to meet during the online segment of the conferences of the Parties. The online segment is expected to consider the agenda items of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties that have been identified as essential for the continuation of the operations of the conventions by the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties, including consideration and approval of an interim simplified budget for 2022.

The face-to-face segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties is expected to be held over two weeks in 2022, with interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations to consider the agenda items on the respective agendas of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties which were not considered or concluded during the online segment and deferred to the face-to-face segment. The dates of the face-to-face resumed meetings of the conferences of the Parties will be decided at the online segment.

To: Designated country contacts for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions  
Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Permanent Representatives to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome and Permanent Missions to the United Nations Environment Programme  
Admitted observers at meetings of conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The provisional agendas and annotations to the provisional agendas for the meetings, and the tentative schedule for the online segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties will be made available on the conventions' websites at: <http://www.brsmeas.org/2021COPs/Overview/tabid/8395>.

Parties will be invited to designate one or more representative(s) to participate in the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Official invitation letters will be sent in due course to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva, Basel Convention Focal Points, Rotterdam Convention Official Contact Points and Stockholm Convention Official Contact Points, with a copy to other contact points under the three conventions, Permanent Representatives to the Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome and Permanent Missions to the United Nations Environment Programme. During the COVID-19 pandemic, in accordance with UNEP and Secretariat's policies, an exceptional support for the reimbursement of communication costs to assist developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition will be provided to participate in the online segment of the meetings, under the modalities to be specified in the invitation letters.

Invitation letters will contain the provisional agendas of the meetings, information on the schedule of work of the online segment of the conferences of the Parties, information on credentials, a registration form, as well as other information for participants to the meetings.

The meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are open to observers in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 15 of the Basel Convention, paragraph 7 of Article 18 of the Rotterdam Convention, paragraph 8 of Article 19 of the Stockholm Convention and the respective Rules of Procedure for meetings of the conferences of the Parties. Bodies or agencies previously admitted as observers at meetings of the conferences of the Parties will be notified of the upcoming meetings and will be invited to register representatives to participate in the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

Opportunities for holding online side-events in the margins of the online segment of the meetings will be available. Further information on the arrangements for online side-events will be made available on the conventions' websites in due time. Additional side events are foreseen to be organized during the face to face resumed meetings in 2022.

Further information on the meetings will also be made available on the conventions' websites at: <http://www.brsmeas.org/2021COPs/Overview/tabid/8395>.



Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions  
Geneva and Rome, 18 March 2021