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**United Nations
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**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
First meeting**

Geneva, 24–29 September 2017

Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for action by the Conference of the Parties at its
first meeting: programme of work of the secretariat and
budget for the period 2018–2019**

Decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that make specific reference to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a compilation of decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to 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 since their 2013 meetings that make specific reference to the Minamata Convention on Mercury as well as, more generally, to the “chemicals and waste conventions” or “UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements.” For ease of reference, the relevant paragraphs are shown in red. For a full list of decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that may be of relevance to the Minamata Convention, please see the respective websites of the three conventions.¹ The information set out in the annex has been submitted by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. It is presented as received, without formal editing by the secretariat.

*UNEP/MC/COP.1/1.

¹ www.basel.int; www.pic.int; www.pops.int.

Annex

Compilation of decisions adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions since their 2013 meetings

Table of contents

I.	Relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their 2017 meetings ¹	4
1.	Decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10 and SC-8/20: International cooperation and coordination (<i>identical decisions</i>)	4
2.	Decision BC-13/24: Programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019.....	5
3.	Decision RC-8/17: Programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019.....	16
4.	Decision SC-8/27: Programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2018–2019.....	19
5.	Decision BC-13/11: Technical assistance	21
6.	Decision RC-8/9: Technical assistance	24
7.	Decision SC-8/15: Technical assistance.....	25
8.	Decision BC-13/23: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.....	26
9.	Decision RC-8/16: Draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	27
10.	Decision SC-8/26: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	28
11.	Decision BC-13/14: Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste	28
12.	Decision BC-13/9: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance.....	29
II.	Relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their 2015 meetings ²	36
1.	Decision BC-12/4: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury	36
2.	Decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27: International cooperation and coordination (<i>identical decisions</i>)	36
3.	Decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22: Implementation of the integrated approach to financing (<i>identical decisions</i>).....	37
4.	Decision BC-12/10: Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for training and technology transfer	38
5.	Decision SC-7/17: Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology	40
6.	Decision BC-12/24: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.....	43

¹ See UNEP/CHW.13/27, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/27 and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32, Annex I.

² See UNEP/CHW.12/27, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/21 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/36, Annex I.

7.	Decision RC-7/14: Draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade	43
8.	Decision SC-7/32: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.....	45
III.	Relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their 2013 meetings ³	45
1.	Decision BC-11/5: Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury	45
2.	Omnibus decision BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1, SC.Ex-2/1 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (identical decisions).....	46

³ See UNEP/CHW.11/24, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.6/20, UNEP/POPS/COP.6/33 and UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/4, Annex I.

I. Relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their 2017 meetings

1. Decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10 and SC-8/20: International cooperation and coordination (*identical decisions*)

The Conference of the Parties

0. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;¹ the note by the Secretariat on integrating chemicals and waste management into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;² and the information provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020;³
1. *Welcomes* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the sound management of chemicals and wastes as an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development;
2. *Emphasizes* the important contributions 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 to supporting the Parties to those conventions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets;
3. *Takes note* of the methodology for the collection of data relevant to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of other chemicals and wastes-related multilateral environmental agreements to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of the methodology;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available to the United Nations Environment Programme information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted to it by Parties, as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
5. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;⁴
6. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to assist Parties, upon request, in their efforts to integrate relevant elements of the conventions into their national plans and strategies for sustainable development, and, as appropriate, legislation;
7. *Welcomes* the adoption of relevant resolutions by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the conventions in the implementation of those resolutions, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of those resolutions;
8. *Welcomes* the resolutions adopted at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including in particular the endorsement of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, and the resolution to launch an intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in this respect and to participate in and provide relevant input to the Strategic Approach intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/39-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/28-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/45.

³ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/54-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/42-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/58.

⁴ In accordance with the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

9. *Requests the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as with the international organizations and the activities listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;*⁵

10. *Also requests the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.*

2. **Decision BC-13/24: Programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019**

The Conference of the Parties,

*Taking note of the financial reports on the Basel Convention trust funds for 2016 and estimated expenditures for 2017 from the Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention Trust Fund),*⁶

I

Trust Fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

1. *Approves the programme budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 of 9,634,869 United States dollars for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;*

2. *Authorizes the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention to make commitments in an amount up to the approved operational budget, drawing upon available cash resources;*

3. *Decides to maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for the biennium 2018–2019;*

4. *Adopts the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2018–2019 set out in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the Executive Secretary, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2018 for 2018 and before 1 January 2019 for 2019;*

5. *Recalls that contributions to the Basel Convention Trust Fund are expected by or on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, requests Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2017 for the calendar year 2018 and by 16 October 2018 for the calendar year 2019 and requests the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;*

6. *Notes with concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Basel Convention Trust Fund for 2016 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules;*

7. *Urges Parties to pay their contributions promptly by or on 1 January of the year to which the contributions apply and requests the Secretariat to present information on the state of play⁷ regarding arrears and their consequences at regional meetings;*

8. *Recalls the provisions of paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5 of the financial rules on outstanding contributions due from 1 January 2001 onwards and paragraph 10 of decision BC-12/25 and decides to continue the practice that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for four or more years and that has not agreed on or is not respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of rule 5 of the financial rules shall be eligible to receive financial support for attendance at intersessional workshops or other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years must be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;*

⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/53.

⁷ For the present decision, “state of play” consists of the current status of arrears, difficulties with paying assessed contributions due to restrictions that go beyond national jurisdiction, and the status of any payment plans agreed on with the Secretariat.

9. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers of foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, requests that this practice continue and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

10. *Takes note* of the indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2018–2019 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

11. *Authorizes*, on an exceptional basis, the Executive Secretary, as a last resort, to draw additional funds, not exceeding 100,000 United States dollars, from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions' three general trust funds' net balance to cover any shortfall from the approved staffing envelope for the biennium 2018–2019, should the annual increase applied to real staff costs and used to determine the staffing envelope not be adequate, provided that they are not reduced below the working capital reserve, except in the case of the Stockholm Convention, where the working capital reserve can temporarily be used for this purpose;

12. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that he remains within the overall cost of the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2018–2019 as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its audit report;⁸

13. *Invites the Executive Secretary to continue cooperating on programmatic matters with the interim secretariat to the Minamata Convention and provide any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;*

14. *Requests* the Secretariat to ensure the full utilization of the programme support costs available to it in 2018–2019 and, where possible, to offset those costs against the administrative components of the approved budget;

II

Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention

15. *Takes note* of the funding estimates included in table 1 of the present decision for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Technical Cooperation Trust Fund) in the amount of 6,657,894 United States dollars for the biennium 2018–2019;

16. *Notes* that the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget represents the Secretariat's best efforts to be realistic and reflects priorities agreed upon by all Parties and urges Parties and invites non-Parties and others to make voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund so as to encourage contributions from donors;

17. *Also notes* the importance of having funding available in the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the participation in the meetings of the Convention of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition;

18. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute urgently to the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

⁸ Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at: <https://oios.un.org/page/download/id/120>.

III

Preparations for the next biennium

19. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2019 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2018–2019, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

20. *Takes note* of the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the joint secretariat and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2020–2021, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the 2020–2021 period in a programmatic format;

22. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of various options and, to that end, requests the Executive Secretary to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2020–2021 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 20 above and are based on:

(a) The Executive Secretary's assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms, to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms;

23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Open-ended Working Group on the status of the implementation of the present decision;

24. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary at the fourteenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions before the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

25. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the 2020–2021 Technical Cooperation Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;

26. *Requests* the Secretariat to identify elements of programmatic cooperation with other organizations of the chemicals and wastes cluster for the programme of work for 2018–2019 in line with decision BC-13/16 on international cooperation and coordination.

Table 1
 Programme budget, reserves and financing for the 2018–2019 biennium (United States dollars)
 Programme Budget

	General trust fund			Voluntary trust Fund		
	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
1 Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention	557 575			1 014 871		
2 Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention		557 575			1 014 871	
3 Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention			557 575			1 014 871
4 Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention	347 982			669 512		
5 Meetings of the Chemical Review Committee		517 208			89 535	
6 Meetings of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee			952 962			111 552
7 Basel Convention Bureau meetings	50 900					
8 Rotterdam Convention Bureau meetings		30 200				
9 Stockholm Convention Bureau meetings			44 000			
10 Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee meetings	35 000			30 280		
12 Support for scientific bodies				40 000	40 000	40 000
13 Technical assistance and capacity-building ¹				516 000	636 500	637 500
14 Technical assistance and capacity-building (Basel)				1 000 000		
15 (Rotterdam)					1 000 000	
16 Technical assistance and Capacity-building (Stockholm)						1 000 000
17 Training and capacity-building (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm)						
18 Partnerships for technical assistance				566 600	278 800	39 600
19 Support for regional centres	44 150		44 150	300 000		300 000
20 Basel Convention scientific support	275 000		20 000	235 000		
21 Rotterdam Convention scientific support		60 000			130 000	
22 Stockholm Convention scientific support			135 000			372 000
23 Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation and global monitoring plan			60 000			398 000
24 National reporting	42 500		70 000	107 500		20 000
25 Clearing-house mechanism	42 705	92 792	42 703	83 334	83 330	83 336
26 Publications	33 400	33 200	33 400			
27 Outreach and public awareness	10 000	10 000	10 000			
28 Executive direction and management	122 300	225 427	204 868			
29 International cooperation						
30 Resource mobilization	12 000	12 000	12 000			
31 Synergy review						
32 Legal and policy (Basel Convention)				457 500		
33 Joint legal and policy activities				20 000		
34 Country-led initiative (environmentally sound management and further legal clarity)				677 500		
35 Office maintenance	364 080	212 040	364 080			
36 Joint ICT services	100 000	80 000	100 000			
37 Staff costs	6 488 841	5 460 797	7 599 014	228 845	228 845	228 845
Total (excluding programme support costs)	8 526 433	7 291 239	10 249 752	5 946 942	3 501 881	4 245 704
Programme support costs	1 108 436	947 861	1 332 468	773 102	455 244	551 941
Total (including programme support costs)	9 634 869	8 239 100	11 582 220	6 720 044	3 957 125	4 797 645
Grand total		29 456 189			15 474 814	

¹ The impact assessment of the implementation of the technical assistance plan shall be funded as a priority using unearmarked contributions to the voluntary Trust Funds of the Conventions Reserves

	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
2018–2019 approved budget from the general trust fund	9 634 869	8 239 100	11 582 220
Working capital reserve			
Current level	705 363	611 008	748 847
Required level	722 615	617 933	868 666
Approved changes to the working capital reserve	17 252	6 924	119 820
Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve			
Current Level	0	292 540	0
Approved changes to the Rotterdam Special Contingency Reserve	0	0	0
Total Required for the Approved Budget and changes to Reserves	9 652 121	8 246 025	11 702 039

Financing

	Basel	Rotterdam	Stockholm
Funded from the trust fund balance	0	0	0
Funded from the Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve	0	0	0
Funded from the host country contributions of Switzerland ^{1,2}	0	651 466	1 934 389
Funded from the host country contributions of Italy ¹	0	1 302 932	0
Funded from Assessed Contributions of Parties	9 652 121	6 291 627	9 767 650

¹The host country contribution for the Rotterdam Convention was pledged in Euros and converted to United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.921 euros on 1 May 2017.

²The host country contribution for the Stockholm Convention was pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.996 Swiss francs on 1 May 2017.

Table 2

Assessed contributions apportioned to Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the 2018–2019 Biennium (United States dollars)

	United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)		
	Party	United Nations Scale	No.	BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium	No.	RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium	No.	SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium
		(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)
	Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)
		Per cent	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars
1	Afghanistan	0.006	1	0.008	362	1	0.010	315	1	0.010	488
2	Albania	0.008	2	0.010	483	2	0.010	315	2	0.010	488
3	Algeria	0.161	3	0.201	9 717	-	n.a.	n.a.	3	0.213	10 400
4	Andorra	0.006	4	0.008	362	-	n.a.	n.a.	4	n.a.	n.a.
5	Angola	0.010	5	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	0.010	488
6	Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	6	0.003	121	3	0.010	315	5	0.010	488
7	Argentina	0.892	7	1.115	53 834	4	1.131	35 595	6	1.180	57 623
8	Armenia	0.006	8	0.008	362	5	0.010	315	7	0.010	488
9	Australia	2.337	9	2.923	141 043	6	2.964	93 256	8	3.091	150 969
10	Austria	0.720	10	0.900	43 454	7	0.913	28 731	9	0.952	46 511
11	Azerbaijan	0.060	11	0.075	3 621	-	n.a.	n.a.	10	0.079	3 876
12	Bahamas	0.014	12	0.018	845	-	n.a.	n.a.	11	0.019	904
13	Bahrain	0.044	13	0.055	2 655	8	0.056	1 756	12	0.058	2 842
14	Bangladesh	0.010	14	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	13	0.010	488
15	Barbados	0.007	15	0.009	422	-	n.a.	n.a.	14	0.010	488
16	Belarus	0.056	16	0.070	3 380	-	n.a.	n.a.	15	0.074	3 618
17	Belgium	0.885	17	1.107	53 412	9	1.123	35 315	16	1.171	57 170
18	Belize	0.001	18	0.001	60	10	0.010	315	17	0.010	488
19	Benin	0.003	19	0.004	181	11	0.010	315	18	0.010	488
20	Bhutan	0.001	20	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
21	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.012	21	0.015	724	12	0.000	0	19	0.016	775
22	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.013	22	0.016	785	13	0.016	519	20	0.017	840
23	Botswana	0.014	23	0.018	845	14	0.018	559	21	0.019	904
24	Brazil	3.823	24	4.781	230 726	15	4.849	152 554	22	5.057	246 963
25	Brunei Darussalam	0.029	25	0.036	1 750	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
26	Bulgaria	0.045	26	0.056	2 716	16	0.057	1 796	23	0.060	2 907
27	Burkina Faso	0.004	27	0.005	241	17	0.010	315	24	0.010	488
28	Burundi	0.001	28	0.001	60	18	0.010	315	25	0.010	488
29	Cabo Verde	0.001	29	0.001	60	19	0.010	315	26	0.010	488
30	Cambodia	0.004	30	0.005	241	20	0.010	315	27	0.010	488
31	Cameroon	0.010	31	0.013	604	21	0.013	399	28	0.013	646
32	Canada	2.921	32	3.653	176 288	22	3.705	116 561	29	3.864	188 695
33	Central African Republic	0.001	33	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	30	0.010	488
34	Chad	0.005	34	0.006	302	23	0.010	315	31	0.010	488
35	Chile	0.399	35	0.499	24 080	24	0.506	15 922	32	0.528	25 775
36	China	7.921	36	9.906	478 049	25	10.048	316 082	33	10.477	511 691
37	Colombia	0.322	37	0.403	19 433	26	0.408	12 849	34	0.426	20 801
38	Comoros	0.001	38	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	35	0.010	488
39	Congo	0.006	39	0.008	362	27	0.010	315	36	0.010	488
40	Cook Islands	0.001	40	0.001	60	28	0.010	315	37	0.010	488
41	Costa Rica	0.047	41	0.059	2 837	29	0.060	1 876	38	0.062	3 036
42	Côte d'Ivoire	0.009	42	0.011	543	30	0.011	359	39	0.010	488
43	Croatia	0.099	43	0.124	5 975	31	0.126	3 951	40	0.131	6 395
44	Cuba	0.065	44	0.081	3 923	32	0.082	2 594	41	0.086	4 199
45	Cyprus	0.043	45	0.054	2 595	33	0.055	1 716	42	0.057	2 778
46	Czech Republic	0.344	46	0.430	20 761	34	0.436	13 727	43	0.455	22 222
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.005	47	0.006	302	35	0.010	315	44	0.010	488
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.008	48	0.010	483	36	0.010	315	45	0.010	488
49	Denmark	0.584	49	0.730	35 246	37	0.741	23 304	46	0.772	37 726
50	Djibouti	0.001	50	0.001	60	38	0.010	315	47	0.010	488
51	Dominica	0.001	51	0.001	60	39	0.010	315	48	0.010	488
52	Dominican Republic	0.046	52	0.058	2 776	40	0.058	1 836	49	0.061	2 972

	United Nations Secretariat scale	Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
	Party	United Nations Scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium
	Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)
		Per cent	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars
53	Ecuador	0.067	53	0.084	4 044	41	0.085	2 674	50	0.089	4 328
54	Egypt	0.152	54	0.190	9 174	-	n.a.	n.a.	51	0.201	9 819
55	El Salvador	0.014	55	0.018	845	42	0.018	559	52	0.019	904
56	Equatorial Guinea	0.010	56	0.010	483	43	0.010	315	-	n.a.	n.a.
57	Eritrea	0.001	57	0.001	60	44	0.010	315	53	0.010	488
58	Estonia	0.038	58	0.048	2 293	45	0.048	1 516	54	0.050	2 455
59	Ethiopia	0.010	59	0.010	483	46	0.010	315	55	0.010	488
60	European Community	2.500	60	2.500	120 652	47	2.500	78 645	56	2.500	122 096
61	Fiji	0.003		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	57	0.010	488
62	Finland	0.456	61	0.570	27 521	48	0.578	18 196	58	0.603	29 457
63	France	4.859	62	6.076	293 251	49	6.164	193 895	59	6.427	313 888
64	Gabon	0.017	63	0.021	1 026	50	0.022	678	60	0.022	1 098
65	Gambia	0.001	64	0.001	60	51	0.010	315	61	0.010	488
66	Georgia	0.008	65	0.010	483	52	0.010	315	62	0.010	488
67	Germany	6.389	66	7.990	385 589	53	8.104	254 949	63	8.451	412 725
68	Ghana	0.016	67	0.020	966	54	0.020	638	64	0.021	1 034
69	Greece	0.471	68	0.589	28 426	55	0.597	18 795	65	0.623	30 426
70	Guatemala	0.028	69	0.035	1 690	56	0.036	1 117	66	0.037	1 809
71	Guinea	0.002	70	0.003	121	57	0.010	315	67	0.010	488
72	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	71	0.001	60	58	0.010	315	68	0.010	488
73	Guyana	0.002	72	0.003	121	59	0.010	315	69	0.010	488
74	Honduras	0.008	73	0.010	483	60	0.010	315	70	0.010	488
75	Hungary	0.161	74	0.201	9 717	61	0.204	6 425	71	0.213	10 400
76	Iceland	0.023	75	0.029	1 388	-	n.a.	n.a.	72	0.030	1 486
77	India	0.737	76	0.922	44 479	62	0.935	29 410	73	0.975	47 610
78	Indonesia	0.504	77	0.630	30 417	63	0.639	20 112	74	0.667	32 558
79	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.471	78	0.589	28 426	64	0.597	18 795	75	0.623	30 426
80	Iraq	0.129	79	0.161	7 785	-	n.a.	n.a.	76	0.171	8 333
81	Ireland	0.335	80	0.419	20 218	65	0.425	13 368	77	0.443	21 641
82	Israel	0.430	81	0.538	25 951	66	0.545	17 159	-	n.a.	n.a.
83	Italy	3.748	82	4.687	226 200	67	4.754	149 562	-	n.a.	n.a.
84	Jamaica	0.009	83	0.011	543	68	0.011	359	78	0.010	488
85	Japan	9.680	84	12.105	584 208	69	12.279	386 274	79	12.804	625 321
86	Jordan	0.020	85	0.025	1 207	70	0.025	798	80	0.026	1 292
87	Kazakhstan	0.191	86	0.239	11 527	71	0.242	7 622	81	0.253	12 338
88	Kenya	0.018	87	0.023	1 086	72	0.023	718	82	0.024	1 163
89	Kiribati	0.001	88	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	83	0.010	488
90	Kuwait	0.285	89	0.356	17 200	73	0.362	11 373	84	0.377	18 411
91	Kyrgyzstan	0.002	90	0.003	121	74	0.010	315	85	0.010	488
92	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.003	91	0.004	181	75	0.010	315	86	0.010	488
93	Latvia	0.050	92	0.063	3 018	76	0.063	1 995	87	0.066	3 230
94	Lebanon	0.046	93	0.058	2 776	77	0.058	1 836	88	0.061	2 972
95	Lesotho	0.001	94	0.001	60	78	0.010	315	89	0.010	488
96	Liberia	0.001	95	0.001	60	79	0.010	315	90	0.010	488
97	Libya	0.125	96	0.156	7 544	80	0.159	4 988	91	0.165	8 075
98	Liechtenstein	0.007	97	0.009	422	81	0.010	315	92	0.010	488
99	Lithuania	0.072	98	0.090	4 345	82	0.091	2 873	93	0.095	4 651
100	Luxembourg	0.064	99	0.080	3 863	83	0.081	2 554	94	0.085	4 134
101	Madagascar	0.003	100	0.004	181	84	0.010	315	95	0.010	488
102	Malawi	0.002	101	0.003	121	85	0.010	315	96	0.010	488
103	Malaysia	0.322	102	0.403	19 433	86	0.408	12 849	-	n.a.	n.a.
104	Maldives	0.002	103	0.003	121	87	0.010	315	97	0.010	488
105	Mali	0.003	104	0.004	181	88	0.010	315	98	0.010	488
106	Malta	0.016	105	0.020	966	89	0.020	638	99	0.021	1 034
107	Marshall Islands	0.001	106	0.001	60	90	0.010	315	100	0.010	488
108	Mauritania	0.002	107	0.003	121	91	0.010	315	101	0.010	488
109	Mauritius	0.012	108	0.015	724	92	0.015	479	102	0.016	775
110	Mexico	1.435	109	1.795	86 605	93	1.820	57 263	103	1.898	92 700

	United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)		
	Party	United Nations Scale		BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium		RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium		SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium
	Remarks	(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)
		Per cent	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars
111	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	110	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	104	0.010	488
112	Monaco	0.010	111	0.013	604	-	n.a.	n.a.	105	0.013	646
113	Mongolia	0.005	112	0.006	302	94	0.010	315	106	0.010	488
114	Montenegro	0.004	113	0.005	241	95	0.010	315	107	0.010	488
115	Morocco	0.054	114	0.068	3 259	96	0.068	2 155	108	0.071	3 488
116	Mozambique	0.004	115	0.005	241	97	0.010	315	109	0.010	488
117	Myanmar	0.010	116	0.010	483	-	n.a.	n.a.	110	0.010	488
118	Namibia	0.010	117	0.013	604	98	0.519	16 334	111	0.013	646
119	Nauru	0.001	118	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	112	0.010	488
120	Nepal	0.006	119	0.008	362	99	0.010	315	113	0.010	488
121	Netherlands	1.482	120	1.853	89 442	100	1.880	59 138	114	1.960	95 736
122	New Zealand	0.268	121	0.335	16 174	101	0.340	10 694	115	0.354	17 313
123	Nicaragua	0.004	122	0.005	241	102	0.010	315	116	0.010	488
124	Niger	0.002	123	0.003	121	103	0.010	315	117	0.010	488
125	Nigeria	0.209	124	0.261	12 614	104	0.265	8 340	118	0.276	13 501
126	Niue	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	119	0.010	488
127	Norway	0.849	125	1.062	51 239	105	1.077	33 879	120	1.123	54 845
128	Oman	0.113	126	0.141	6 820	106	0.143	4 509	121	0.149	7 300
129	Pakistan	0.093	127	0.116	5 613	107	0.118	3 711	122	0.123	6 008
130	Palau	0.001	128	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	123	0.010	488
131	Panama	0.034	129	0.043	2 052	108	0.043	1 357	124	0.045	2 196
132	Papua New Guinea	0.004	130	0.005	241	-	n.a.	n.a.	125	0.010	488
133	Paraguay	0.014	131	0.018	845	109	0.018	559	126	0.019	924
134	Peru	0.136	132	0.170	8 208	110	0.173	5 427	127	0.180	8 786
135	Philippines	0.165	133	0.206	9 958	111	0.209	6 584	128	0.218	10 659
136	Poland	0.841	134	1.052	50 756	112	1.067	33 560	129	1.112	54 328
137	Portugal	0.392	135	0.490	23 658	113	0.497	15 643	130	0.519	25 323
138	Qatar	0.269	136	0.336	16 235	114	0.341	10 734	131	0.356	17 377
139	Republic of Korea	2.039	137	2.550	123 058	115	2.586	81 365	132	2.697	131 718
140	Republic of Moldova	0.004	138	0.005	241	116	0.010	315	133	0.010	488
141	Romania	0.184	139	0.230	11 105	117	0.233	7 342	134	0.243	11 886
142	Russian Federation	3.088	140	3.862	186 367	118	3.917	123 225	135	4.085	199 483
143	Rwanda	0.002	141	0.003	121	119	0.010	315	136	0.010	488
144	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	142	0.001	60	120	0.010	315	137	0.010	488
145	Saint Lucia	0.001	143	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	138	0.010	488
146	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	144	0.001	60	121	0.010	315	139	0.010	488
147	Samoa	0.001	145	0.001	60	122	0.010	315	140	0.010	488
148	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	146	0.001	60	123	0.010	315	141	0.010	488
149	Saudi Arabia	1.146	147	1.433	69 163	124	1.454	45 730	142	1.516	74 031
150	Senegal	0.005	148	0.006	302	125	0.010	315	143	0.010	488
151	Serbia	0.032	149	0.040	1 931	126	0.041	1 277	144	0.042	2 067
152	Seychelles	0.001	150	0.001	60	-	n.a.		145	0.010	488
153	Sierra Leone	0.001	151	0.001	60	127	0.010	315	146	0.010	488
154	Singapore	0.447	152	0.559	26 977	128	0.567	17 837	147	0.591	28 876
155	Slovakia	0.160	153	0.200	9 656	129	0.203	6 385	148	0.212	10 336
156	Slovenia	0.084	154	0.105	5 070	130	0.107	3 352	149	0.111	5 426
157	Solomon Islands	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	150	0.010	488
158	Somalia	0.001	155	0.001	60	131	0.010	315	151	0.010	488
159	South Africa	0.364	156	0.455	21 968	132	0.462	14 525	152	0.481	23 514
160	Spain	2.443	157	3.055	147 440	133	3.099	97 486	153	3.231	157 816
161	Sri Lanka	0.031	158	0.039	1 871	134	0.039	1 237	154	0.041	2 003
162	State of Palestine	0.001	159	0.001	60	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
163	Sudan	0.010	160	0.010	483	135	0.010	315	155	0.010	488
164	Suriname	0.006	161	0.008	362	136	0.010	315	156	0.010	488
165	Swaziland	0.002	162	0.003	121	137	0.010	315	157	0.010	488
166	Sweden	0.956	163	1.196	57 697	138	1.213	38 149	158	1.265	61 757
167	Switzerland	1.140	164	1.426	68 801	139	1.446	45 491	159	1.508	73 643
168	Syrian Arab Republic	0.024	165	0.030	1 448	140	0.030	958	160	0.032	1 550

	United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)			Rotterdam Convention (ROL)			Stockholm Convention (SCL)		
	Party	United Nations Scale	No.	BC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium	No.	RC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium	No.	SC adjusted scale, per cent	Average annual contribution for biennium
		(1)		(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)
Remarks	Per cent	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	No.	Per cent	United States dollars	
169	Tajikistan	0.004	166	0.005	241	-	n.a.	n.a.	161	0.010	488
170	Thailand	0.291	167	0.364	17 562	141	0.369	11 612	162	0.385	18 798
171	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.007	168	0.009	422	142	0.010	315	163	0.010	488
172	Togo	0.001	169	0.001	60	143	0.010	315	164	0.010	488
173	Tonga	0.001	170	0.001	60	144	0.010	315	165	0.010	488
174	Trinidad and Tobago	0.034	171	0.043	2 052	145	0.043	1 357	166	0.045	2 196
175	Tunisia	0.028	172	0.035	1 690	146	0.036	1 117	167	0.037	1 809
176	Turkey	1.018	173	1.273	61 438	-	n.a.	n.a.	168	1.347	65 762
177	Turkmenistan	0.026	174	0.033	1 569	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
178	Tuvalu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	169	0.010	488
179	Uganda	0.009	175	0.010	483	147	0.010	315	170	0.010	488
180	Ukraine	0.103	176	0.129	6 216	148	0.131	4 110	171	0.136	6 654
181	United Arab Emirates	0.604	177	0.755	36 453	149	0.766	24 102	172	0.799	39 018
182	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.463	178	5.581	269 351	150	5.661	178 093	173	5.903	288 307
183	United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	179	0.010	483	151	0.010	315	174	0.010	488
184	Uruguay	0.079	180	0.099	4 768	152	0.100	3 152	175	0.104	5 103
185	Uzbekistan	0.023	181	0.029	1 388	-	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.
186	Vanuatu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	n.a.	176	0.010	488
187	Venezuela	0.571	182	0.714	34 461	153	0.724	22 785	177	0.755	36 886
188	Viet Nam	0.058	183	0.073	3 500	154	0.074	2 314	178	0.077	3 747
189	Yemen	0.010	184	0.010	483	155	0.010	315	179	0.010	488
190	Zambia	0.007	185	0.009	422	156	0.010	315	180	0.010	488
191	Zimbabwe	0.004	186	0.005	241	157	0.010	315	181	0.010	488
	Total (annual)	80.490		100.000	4 826 060		100.000	3 145 813		100.000	4 883 825
	Total (biennium)				9 652 121			6 291 627			9 767 650

Notes:

(1) United Nations scale of assessment per General Assembly resolution 70/245, adopted at the seventieth session of the General Assembly for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 on 23 December 2015.

(2) Per Rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Basel Convention, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by the General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that (i) no party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total, (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total and (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(3) Per Rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by the General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that (i) no party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total, (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total and (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(4) This is the annual contribution to be paid by the Parties both in 2018 and 2019. It is the same for both years and is based on the total required funds for the biennium and the average requirement for the year.

Table 3
Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2018–2019
Posts funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Approved 2016-2017 BRS				Total proposed 2018-2019 BRS			
	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP PSC	Total	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP PSC	Total
<u>A. Professional categories</u>								
D-2 level	1.00	0.25	-	1.25	1.00	0.25	-	1.25
D-1 level	1.00	-	-	1.00	1.00	-	-	1.00
P-5 level	7.50	-	-	7.50	7.00	-	-	7.00
P-4 level	8.00	-	2.00	10.00	7.00	-	2.00	9.00
P-3 level	17.50	1.00	-	18.50	16.00	1.00	-	17.00
P-2 level	2.00	-	-	2.00	2.00	-	-	2.00
<i>Sub-total A:</i>	<i>37.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>40.25</i>	<i>34.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>37.25</i>
<u>B. General Service category</u>								
GS	13.00	1.25	6.00	20.25	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
<i>Sub-total B:</i>	<i>13.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>20.25</i>	<i>12.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>19.25</i>
								-
TOTAL (A+B):	50.00	2.50	8.00	60.50	46.00	2.50	8.00	56.50
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(3)		(1)	(2)	(3)	

Notes:

(1) Post funded by Assessed Contributions.

(2) Provided by FAO as in-kind contribution as part of the Rotterdam Secretariat

(3) Funded by the Programme Support Cost (PSC) of 13% accrued from both assessed (core) and voluntary contributions, includes finance, administration and logistics staff.

Posts funded from voluntary special and technical cooperation trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Approved 2016-2017 BRS	Total proposed 2018-2019 BRS
<u>A. Professional categories</u>		
D-2 level	-	-
D-1 level	-	-
P-5 level	-	-
P-4 level	1.00	-
P-3 level	5.25	1.00
P-2 level	-	-
<i>Sub-total A:</i>	<i>6.25</i>	<i>1.00</i>
<u>B. General Service category</u>		
GS	4.00	1.00
<i>Sub-total B:</i>	<i>4.00</i>	<i>1.00</i>
TOTAL (A+B):	10.25	2.00
Remarks		(1)

Notes:

(1) Voluntary funded staff will be recruited only if funds are available

Projected salary costs for Geneva for the biennium 2018-2019 (United States dollars)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-2019
A. Professional category					
D-2	332 988	339 648	346 441	353 370	699 811
D-1	332 988	339 648	346 441	353 370	699 811
P-5	295 207	301 111	307 133	313 276	620 409
P-4	224 791	229 287	233 873	238 550	472 423
P-3	183 774	187 449	191 198	195 022	386 221
P-2	144 919	147 817	150 773	153 789	304 562
B. General Service category					
GS	131 318	133 945	136 623	139 356	275 979
C. Other direct personnel costs					
Retirement and replacement recruitment costs					351 115
ASHI costs	116 000	117 624	119 271	120 941	240 211
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(3), (4)

- (1) Average actual salary costs including staff entitlement of BRS Geneva staff for 2016 was used as basis to project future salary costs.
- (2) Staff costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2016 with an increase of 2 per cent per annum to cover for salary step increase, inflation, exchange rate fluctuations and unexpected adverse movements in salary costs.
- (3) The projected actual salary costs for the biennium exclude the estimated retirement and recruitment costs of a total of USD 351,115 for 4 staff members for staff due to retiring staff and their replacements. The retirement/recruitment costs are an integral part of the staffing costs and have been added separately.
- (4) After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) is a new staff related costs that is 3 % of the net base salary of every staff member, and is mandatory in the UN Secretariat as of 1.1.2017. These costs were not yet mandatory in 2016 and thus are included separately.

Projected salary costs for Rome for the biennium 2018-2019 (United States dollars)

Staff category and level	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-2019
A. Professional category					
P-5	220 381	224 788	229 284	233 870	463 154
P-4	228 301	232 867	237 524	242 274	479 798
P-3	185 452	189 161	192 944	196 803	389 747
P-2	136 869	139 607	142 399	145 247	287 645
B. General Service category					
GS	94 042	95 923	97 842	99 799	197 640
C. Other direct personnel costs					
ASHI costs	22 000	22 308	22 620	22 937	45 557
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2), (3)

- (1) Average actual salary costs including staff entitlements and Improved Cost Recovery Uplift (ICRU) of BRS Rome staff for 2016 was used as basis to project future salary costs.
- (2) Staff costs for 2017, 2018 and 2019 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2016 with an increase of 2 per cent per annum. No retirement or recruitment costs were included in the estimates.
- (3) After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) is a new staff related cost that is 3 % of the net base salary of every staff member, and is mandatory in the UN Secretariat as of 1.1.2017. These costs were not yet mandatory in 2016 and thus are included separately.

3. Decision RC-8/17: Programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the financial reports on the Rotterdam Convention trust funds for 2016 and estimated expenditures for 2017 from the Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund),⁹

I

Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 of 8,239,100 United States dollars for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the executive secretaries of the Rotterdam Convention to make commitments in an amount up to the approved operational budget, drawing upon available cash resources;
3. *Decides* to maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for the biennium 2018–2019;
4. *Invites* the governing bodies of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue and, where possible, increase their financial and other support for the operation of the Convention and its Secretariat in the biennium 2018–2019;
5. *Welcomes* the continued contribution by Italy and Switzerland, the host countries of the Secretariat, of 1,200,000 euros each for the biennium to the Secretariat to offset planned expenditures;
6. *Notes* that 50 percent of Switzerland's host country contribution of 1,200,000 euros for the biennium, equivalent to 651,466 United States dollars,¹⁰ will be apportioned to the Rotterdam Convention General Trust Fund and the remainder to the Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
7. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2018–2019 set out in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the executive secretaries, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2018 for 2018 and before 1 January 2019 for 2019;
8. *Recalls* that contributions to the Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund are expected by or on 1 January of the year for which they have been budgeted, requests Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2017 for the calendar year 2018 and by 16 October 2018 for the calendar year 2019 and requests the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;
9. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Rotterdam Convention Trust Fund for 2016 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules;

⁹ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/38/Rev.2.

¹⁰ The 50 per cent host country contribution of Switzerland to the General Trust Fund of 600,000 euros for 2018–2019 is equivalent to 651,466 United States dollars using the United Nations operational exchange rate of 1 May 2017, according to which 1 United States dollar equals 0.921 euros.

10. *Urges* Parties to pay their contributions promptly by or on 1 January of the year to which the contributions apply and requests the Secretariat to present at regional meetings information on the state of play¹¹ regarding arrears and their consequences;

11. *Recalls* paragraph 14 of decision RC-7/15 and decides to continue the practice, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards, that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties or a member of any subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, provided, however, that this shall not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States or to any Party that has agreed on and is respecting a schedule of payments in accordance with the financial rules;

12. *Also recalls* paragraph 15 of decision RC-7/15 and decides to continue the practice that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for four or more years and that has not agreed on or is not respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of rule 5 of the financial rules shall be eligible to receive financial support for attendance at intersessional workshops or other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years must be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

13. *Takes note* of the efforts of the executive secretaries and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers of foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, requests that this practice continue and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

14. *Also takes note* of the indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2018–2019 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

15. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, should the annual increase applied to real staff costs and used to determine the staffing envelope not be adequate, on an exceptional basis and as a last resort to draw additional funds, not exceeding 100,000 United States dollars, from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions' three general trust funds' net balance to cover any shortfall in the approved staffing envelope for the biennium 2018–2019, provided that the balances are not reduced below the respective working capital reserves, except in the case of the Stockholm Convention, the working capital reserve for which may temporarily be used for this purpose;

16. *Authorizes* the executive secretaries to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its audit report,¹² provided that the executive secretaries remain within the overall cost of the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2018–2019;

17. *Invites the Executive Secretary to continue cooperating on programmatic matters with the interim secretariat to the Minamata Convention and to provide any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;*

18. *Requests* the Secretariat to ensure the full utilization of the programme support costs available to it in 2018–2019 and, where possible, to offset those costs against the administrative components of the approved budget;

II

Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

19. *Takes note* of the funding estimates included in table 1 of the present decision for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Special Trust Fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides

¹¹ For the present decision, “state of play” consists of the current status of arrears, difficulties with paying assessed contributions due to restrictions that go beyond national jurisdiction and the status of any payment plans agreed on with the Secretariat.

¹² Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at <https://oios.un.org/page/download/id/120>.

in International Trade (voluntary Special Trust Fund) in the amount of 3,957,125 United States dollars for the biennium 2018–2019;

20. *Notes* that the voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget represents the Secretariats' best efforts to be realistic and reflects priorities agreed upon by all Parties and urges Parties and invites non-Parties and others to make voluntary contributions to the voluntary Special Trust Fund so as to encourage contributions from donors;

21. *Invites* Switzerland to include in its contribution to the voluntary Special Trust Fund support for, among other things, the participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in meetings of the Convention and joint activities between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

22. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute urgently to the voluntary Special Trust Fund with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

III

Preparations for the next biennium

23. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2019 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2018–2019, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

24. *Takes note* of the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the joint secretariat and encourages the executive secretaries to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

25. *Requests* the executive secretaries to prepare a budget for the biennium 2020–2021, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the 2020–2021 period in a programmatic format;

26. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of various options and, to that end, requests the executive secretaries to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2020–2021 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 24 above and are based on:

(a) Their assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms, to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms;

27. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to report to the Conference of the Parties which activities were financed from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations contribution in the implementation of the 2018–2019 programme of work and to identify which activities are going to be implemented, funded or co-funded from that contribution in the 2020–2021 programme of work and budget;

28. *Requests* the executive secretaries at the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions before the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

29. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the 2020–2021 voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;

30. *Requests* the Secretariat to identify elements of programmatic cooperation with other organizations of the chemicals and wastes cluster for the programme of work for 2018–2019 in line with decision RC-8/10 on international cooperation and coordination.

(Same tables as in decision BC-13/24 above, therefore not reinserted)

4. Decision SC-8/27: Programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2018–2019

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the financial reports on the Stockholm Convention trust funds for 2016 and estimated expenditures for 2017 from the Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention Trust Fund),¹³

I

Trust Fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2018–2019 of 11,582,220 United States dollars for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention to make commitments in an amount up to the approved operational *budget*, drawing upon available cash resources;
3. *Decides* to increase the working capital reserve from 13 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for 2018–2019 to 15 per cent in accordance with the Office of Internal Oversight Services audit recommendation;¹⁴
4. *Welcomes* the continued contribution of 4 million Swiss francs by Switzerland to the Secretariat for the biennium to offset planned expenditures and notes that 2 million Swiss francs, equivalent to 2,008,032 United States dollars,¹⁵ will be allocated as a contribution to the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund and will *include* Switzerland's assessed contribution and that the remainder will be allocated to the Stockholm Convention voluntary Special Trust Fund;
5. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2018–2019 set out in table 2 of the present *decision* and authorizes the Executive Secretary, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2018 for 2018 and before 1 January 2019 for 2019;
6. *Recalls* that contributions to the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund are expected by or on 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, requests Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2017 for the calendar year 2018 and by 16 October 2018 for the calendar year 2019 and requests the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;
7. *Notes with concern* that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Stockholm Convention Trust Fund for 2016 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules;
8. *Urges* Parties to pay their contributions promptly by or on 1 January of the year to which the contributions apply and requests the Secretariat to present information on the state of play¹⁶ regarding arrears and their consequences at regional meetings;
9. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of decision SC-7/33 and decides to continue the practice that, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards, no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties or a member of any subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, provided, however, that this shall not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island

¹³ UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/55/Rev.2.

¹⁴ Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at <https://oios.un.org/page/download/id/120>.

¹⁵ The host country contribution of Switzerland to the General Trust Fund of 2,000,000 Swiss francs for 2018–2019 is equivalent to 2,008,032 United States dollars using the United Nations 1 May 2017 operational exchange rate, according to which 1 United States dollar equals 0.996 Swiss francs.

¹⁶ For the present decision, “state of play” consists of the current status of arrears, difficulties with paying assessed contributions due to restrictions that go beyond national jurisdiction, and the status of any payment plans agreed with the Secretariat.

developing States or to any Party that has agreed on and is respecting a schedule of payments in accordance with the financial rules;

10. *Also recalls* paragraph 11 of decision SC-7/33 and decides to continue the practice that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for four or more years and that has not agreed on or is not respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of rule 5 of the financial rules shall be eligible to receive financial support for attendance at intersessional workshops or other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years must be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

11. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers of foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, requests that this practice continue and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

12. *Also takes note* of the indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2018–2019 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

13. *Authorizes*, on an exceptional basis, the Executive Secretary, as a last resort, to draw additional funds, not exceeding 100,000 United States dollars, from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions' three general trust funds' net balances to cover any shortfall from the approved staffing envelope for the biennium 2018–2019 should the annual increase applied to real staff costs and used to determine the staffing envelope not be adequate, provided that the balances are not reduced below the working capital reserve, except in the case of the Stockholm Convention, where the working capital reserve can temporarily be used for this purpose;

14. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that he remains within the overall cost of the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2018–2019 as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in its audit report;

15. *Invites the Executive Secretary to continue cooperating on programmatic matters with the interim secretariat to the Minamata Convention and provide any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;*

16. *Requests* the Secretariat to ensure the full utilization of the programme support costs available to it in 2018–2019 and, where possible, to offset those costs against the administrative components of the approved budget;

II

Stockholm Convention voluntary Special Trust Fund

17. *Takes note* of the funding estimates included in table 1 of the present decision for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Stockholm Convention voluntary Special Trust Fund in the amount of 4,797,645 United States dollars for the biennium 2018–2019;

18. *Notes* that the voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget represents the Secretariat's best efforts to be realistic and reflects priorities agreed upon by all Parties and urges Parties and invites non-Parties and others to make voluntary contributions to the voluntary Special Trust Fund so as to encourage contributions from donors;

19. *Invites* Switzerland to include in its contribution to the voluntary Special Trust Fund support for, among other things, the participation of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in meetings of the Convention and joint activities between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

20. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute urgently to the voluntary Special Trust Fund with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

III

Preparations for the next biennium

21. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2019 and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2018–2019, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

22. *Takes note* of the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the joint secretariat and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

23. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2020–2021 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which it is based and presenting expenditures for the 2020–2021 period in a programmatic format;

24. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of various options and, to that end, requests the Executive Secretary to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2020–2021 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 22 above and are based on:

(a) The Executive Secretary's assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms, to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2018–2019 level in nominal terms;

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary at the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions that have budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions before the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

26. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the 2020–2021 voluntary Special Trust Fund requirement presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;

27. *Requests* the Secretariat to identify elements of programmatic cooperation with other organizations of the chemicals and wastes cluster for the programme of work for 2018–2019 in line

(Same tables as in decision BC-13/24 above, therefore not reinserted)

5. Decision BC-13/11: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

I

Technical assistance

Noting the recommendations contained in the report on the overall review of the synergies arrangements,¹⁷

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect, through the database established for that purpose, information on the technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;

2. *Welcomes* the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel Convention, 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 for the period 2018–2021¹⁸ and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement it in cooperation with relevant actors striving to attract the programming capacity and financial resources of relevant international organizations;

¹⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46.

¹⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

3. *Encourages* Parties, regional centres and others:
 - (a) To make financial or in-kind contributions to facilitate the availability of capacity-development materials and activities in appropriate official regional languages;
 - (b) To undertake capacity-building activities in official local languages, as appropriate;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with other international organizations to explore additional ways of facilitating North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in its technical assistance plan referred to in paragraph 2 above;
5. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres, as set out in the provisions of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention, as well as the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering, upon request, technical assistance at the regional level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and in facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;
6. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution highlighting the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in assisting the regions in the implementation of the two conventions and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve;¹⁹
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021, including, as appropriate, adjustments to the plan, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

II

Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres

8. *Takes note* of:
 - (a) The business plans for the period from January 2016 to December 2019²⁰ and activity reports for the period from January 2015 to December 2016²¹ submitted by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;
 - (b) The report on the activities of the regional and coordinating centres;²²
 - (c) The report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/29/Rev.1- UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/26/Rev.1;
 - (d) The newly signed framework agreement between the Secretariat on behalf of the Conference of the Parties and both the Government of Argentina²³ and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran;²⁴
9. *Requests* the Secretariat to take the steps necessary to effect the signing, pursuant to decision VI/3, of a framework agreement with the Government of Slovakia in order to formalize the establishment of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central and Eastern European Countries in Slovakia;
10. *Takes note* of the end of the activities of the existing Basel Convention regional centre in the Russian Federation and of the request of the Russian Federation to establish a new Basel Convention regional centre in that country and *authorizes* the Secretariat to take the steps necessary to effect the signing, pursuant to decision VI/3 and in accordance with the criteria agreed in decision II/19, of a framework agreement for the possible establishment of a new Basel Convention regional centre in the Russian Federation;

¹⁹ See United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

²⁰ Available at <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx>.

²¹ Available at <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx>.

²² See UNEP/CHW.13/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/26.

²³ <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/TheCentres/BCRCArgentina/tabid/4838/Default.aspx>.

²⁴ <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/TheCentres/SCRCIran/tabid/4846/Default.aspx>.

11. *Takes note* of the requests of Brazil and of Panama to establish a new Basel Convention regional centre to serve the Central America and Mexico subregion, *authorizes* the Secretariat to initiate a process aimed at the signing, pursuant to decision VI/3 and in accordance with the criteria adopted in decision II/19, of a framework agreement for the possible establishment of a new Basel Convention regional centre to serve the Central America and Mexico subregion, taking into account the views of the Parties in the region on the matter as expressed at the latest at the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group;
12. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to submit to the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting:
- (a) Their business plans for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023 by 30 September 2019;
- (b) Their activity reports for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018 by 31 December 2018;
13. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, including on technology transfer, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;
14. *Encourages* regional and coordinating centres interested to work, under the Convention, on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastics and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management, which should be reflected in the report requested in paragraph 13 above and as appropriate in other relevant reporting;
15. *Takes note* of the notification by the Government of El Salvador of the termination of the framework agreement on the hosting of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Central American subregion, including Mexico, which will become effective on 4 May 2017;²⁵
16. *Invites* Parties, observers and other financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to implement their business plans with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention;
17. *Encourages* Parties, observers and other financial institutions to enhance communication with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres.

III

Implementation of decision V/32 on the enlargement of the scope of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention

18. *Takes note* of the information on activities carried out by the Secretariat pursuant to decision BC-12/11;²⁶
19. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit with regard to emergency situations and encourages its continued cooperation with the Secretariat;
20. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and invites the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to continue to carry out capacity-building activities with relevant partners, such as the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit, relevant to the prevention of incidents and enhancing the preparedness of countries to deal with emergencies caused by transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal, in line with part 3 of the interim guidelines for the implementation of decision V/32 on enlargement of the scope of the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund and in line with decisions BC-IX/10, RC-4/11 and SC-4/34;
21. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue its cooperation and collaboration with the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit;

²⁵ See UNEP/CHW.13/11.

²⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/12.

IV Secretariat report

22. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

6. Decision RC-8/9: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the recommendations contained in the report on the overall review of the synergies arrangements,²⁷

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect, through the database established for that purpose, information on the technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;

2. *Welcomes* the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2018–2021²⁸ and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement it in cooperation with relevant actors striving to attract the programming capacity and financial resources of relevant international organizations;

3. *Encourages* Parties, regional centres and others:

(a) To make financial or in-kind contributions to facilitate the availability of capacity-development materials and activities in appropriate official regional languages;

(b) To undertake capacity-building activities in official local languages, as appropriate;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with international organizations, to explore additional ways of facilitating North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in its technical assistance plan referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres, as set out in the provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering, upon request, technical assistance at the regional level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and in facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;

6. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution highlighting the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in assisting the regions in the implementation of the two conventions and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve;²⁹

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to submit a report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021, including, as appropriate, adjustments to the plan, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

8. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

²⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46.

²⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

²⁹ See United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

7. Decision SC-8/15: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties,

I

Technical assistance

Noting the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-8/18 on effectiveness evaluation as they relate to technical assistance and the recommendations contained in the report on the overall review of the synergies arrangements,³⁰

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect, through the database established for that purpose, information on the technical assistance and capacity-building needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;

2. *Welcomes* the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2018–2021³¹ and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement it in cooperation with relevant actors striving to attract the programming capacity and financial resources of relevant international organizations;

3. *Encourages* Parties, regional centres and others:

(a) To make financial or in-kind contributions to facilitate the availability of capacity-development materials and activities in appropriate official regional languages;

(b) To undertake capacity-building activities in official local languages, as appropriate;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat in collaboration with other international organizations to explore additional ways of facilitating North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in its technical assistance plan referred to in paragraph 2 above;

5. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres, as set out in the provisions of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as well as the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering, upon request, technical assistance at the regional level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and in facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;

6. *Welcomes* the United Nations Environment Assembly resolution highlighting the role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in assisting the regions in the implementation of the two conventions and in other relevant work relating to the multilateral environmental agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster in the countries they serve;³²

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021, including, as appropriate, adjustments to the plan;.

II

Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology

8. *Takes note of:*

(a) The workplans for the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019³³ and activity reports for the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016³⁴ submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;

(b) The reports on activities submitted by the regional and subregional centres;³⁵

³⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/46.

³¹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

³² See United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/7 on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

³³ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx>.

³⁴ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReports/tabid/4112/Default.aspx>.

³⁵ See UNEP/CHW.13/INF/29/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/26/Rev.1.

(c) The report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres³⁶;

9. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting:

(a) Their workplans for the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2023 by 30 September 2019;

(b) Their activity reports for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018 by 31 December 2018;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, including on technology transfer, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

11. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretariat pertaining to the nomination and endorsement of regional centres;³⁷

12. *Encourages* interested regional and subregional centres to work, under the Convention, on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastics and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management and requests the Secretariat to reflect any such work in the report that prepares pursuant to paragraph 10 above;

13. *Invites* Parties, observers and financial institutions in a position to do so to provide financial support to enable Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to implement their workplans with the aim of supporting Parties in their efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention;

14. *Encourages* Parties, observers and financial institutions to enhance communication with the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;

III

Secretariat report

15. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

8. Decision BC-13/23: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties, and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the 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 have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Recalls* its request in decision BC-12/24 for the preparation by the Secretariat of a draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Basel Convention by UNEP and notes with concern that no draft has been submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties in 2017;

2. *Reiterates* its request in decision BC-12/24 for the preparation by the Secretariat of a draft memorandum of understanding for consideration and possible adoption at its next meeting;

3. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/18 on the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements and of the progress report prepared by the Executive Director of UNEP;³⁸

³⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/29/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/26/Rev.1.

³⁷ See UNEP/POPS/COP.8/16/Rev.1.

³⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59.

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to engage actively in the work of the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of other UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, taking into account the UNEP delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the draft memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director;³⁹

5. *Decides* that if the work of UNEP under paragraph 4 above is not finalized in time for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties it should not delay consideration of the draft memorandum of understanding;

6. *Decides* to include the draft memorandum of understanding as an item on the provisional agenda of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with rule 9 (2) of the rules of procedure.

9. Decision RC-8/16: Draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the 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 have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Recalls* its request in decision RC-7/14 for the preparation of draft memorandums of understanding concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Convention and notes with concern that no such draft has been submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties in 2017;

2. *Reiterates* its request in decision RC-7/14 for the preparation of such draft memorandums of understanding for consideration and possible adoption at its next meeting;

3. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/18 on the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat and of the report prepared by the Executive Director of UNEP;⁴⁰

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to engage actively in the work of the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements UNEP administered, towards the development of a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, taking into account the UNEP delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the draft memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director;⁴¹

5. *Decides* that if the work of UNEP under paragraph 4 above is not finalized in time for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, this should not delay consideration of the draft memorandum of understanding;

6. *Acknowledges* the continued application of the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Director concerning arrangements for performing jointly the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention, which was approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision RC-2/5 and entered into force on 28 November 2005 and is distinct from

³⁹ UNEP/CHW.12/25, annex; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex; UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9, annex.

⁴⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59.

⁴¹ UNEP/CHW.12/25, annex; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex; UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9, annex.

the draft memorandum of understanding requested in RC-7/14 to be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

7. *Decides* to include the draft memorandum of understanding as an item on the provisional agenda of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with rule 10 (b) of the rules of procedure.

10. **Decision SC-8/26: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the 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 have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Recalls* its request in decision SC-7/32 for the preparation by the Secretariat of a draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Executive Director of UNEP concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Convention by UNEP and notes with concern that no draft has been submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties in 2017;

2. *Reiterates* its request in decision SC-7/32 for the preparation by the Secretariat of a draft memorandum of understanding for consideration and possible adoption at its next meeting;

3. *Takes note* of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/18 on the relationship between UNEP and multilateral environmental agreements and of the progress report prepared by the Executive Director of UNEP;⁴²

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to engage actively in the work of the Executive Director, in consultation with the secretariats of other UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements, to develop a flexible draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services in an appropriate form, taking into account the UNEP delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and the draft memorandums of understanding between the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Director;⁴³

5. *Decides* that if the work of UNEP under paragraph 4 above is not finalized in time for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties it should not delay consideration of the draft memorandum of understanding;

6. *Decides* to include the draft memorandum of understanding as an item on the provisional agenda of the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with rule 10 (b) of the rules of procedure.

11. **Decision BC-13/14: Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken by the informal group on household waste towards the establishment of a household waste partnership under the Basel Convention;⁴⁴

2. *Decides* to establish a working group of the household waste partnership that will be responsible for overseeing organizational matters pertaining to the implementation of the partnership's activities, including the establishment of project groups and the review of their work products and reports, serving as a forum for information sharing and taking the lead in awareness-raising, outreach and coordination in relation to activities undertaken by the partnership;

⁴² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/56-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/46-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/59.

⁴³ UNEP/CHW.12/25, annex; UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex; UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9, annex.

⁴⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/15.

3. *Adopts the terms of reference for the household waste partnership;*⁴⁵
4. *Requests* the working group to implement the workplan set out in the annex to the present decision;
5. *Also requests* the working group to coordinate and collaborate, as appropriate, on activities with other organizations and initiatives in order to achieve synergies and avoid duplication;
6. *Emphasizes* that the partnership does not have the authority to create additional or abrogate existing rights or responsibilities of Parties under the Basel Convention;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To facilitate and provide expertise to the partnership, subject to the availability of funds;
 - (b) To report on progress in the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

Annex to decision BC-13/14

Household waste partnership workplan for the biennium 2018–2019

The following tasks are to be undertaken by the working group of the household waste partnership and any project groups established thereunder:

- (a) Develop an overall guidance document on the environmentally sound management of household waste, compiling the key outcomes and recommendations resulting from the work of any project groups on:
 - (i) Best practices related to the environmentally sound management of household waste;
 - (ii) Mechanical biological treatment, energy recovery, management of sanitary landfills and compartmentalization to deal with various waste streams;
 - (iii) Assessment of current waste management systems, decision-making and efforts to ensure the environmentally sound management of household waste;
- (b) Collect case studies from various regions related to the topics addressed in the guidance document;
- (c) Enhance awareness-raising and training on the environmentally sound management of household waste and enhance people's participation in household waste management activities and decision-making;
- (d) *Coordinate outreach activities and cooperation with other organizations working on household waste management.*

12. Decision BC-13/9: Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of decision BC-13/17 on the work programme and operations of the Open-ended Working Group for the biennium 2018–2019 relevant to the work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents,

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretariat on the work of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance and the recommendations made therein⁴⁶ and welcomes the work undertaken by the Committee since the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

I

⁴⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33/Rev.1, annex II.

⁴⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/9.

Specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance

2. *Encourages* Parties concerned by a submission covered by the decisions adopted by the Committee at its twelfth meeting to cooperate with the Committee with a view to resolving the matter of concern;
3. *Encourages* the Committee, in the framework of specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance, to continue to inform the relevant Parties about possible means of assistance from the implementation fund and from other sources, such as the United Nations Environment Programme special programme on institutional strengthening,⁴⁷ in accordance with the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste;⁴⁸
4. *Takes note* of the report on the review of the operation of the implementation fund;⁴⁹
5. *Notes that the objective of the special programme on institutional strengthening is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, which will facilitate and enable the implementation of the Basel Convention, among other instruments;*
6. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Committee for its efforts to assist with the resolution of matters of concern with regard to the implementation of and compliance with the Convention, including by recommending to the Secretariat the use of resources from the implementation fund to finance activities listed in the ten compliance action plans submitted by concerned Parties in respect of specific submissions and approved by the Committee;
7. *Notes* that resources in the implementation fund have to date been used to assist seven Parties to implement their compliance action plans and have enabled three Parties to return to compliance with their obligation to submit national reports pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention;

II

Review of general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention

National reporting: individual compliance performance

8. *Welcomes* the slight improvement in the completeness of national reports since 2010 and the positive trend towards an improvement in the timeliness of national reports since 2010;
9. *Notes* with concern that:
 - (a) The targets for the year 2013 approved by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting with regard to the timeliness and completeness of national reports have not been met, with 22 per cent of reports submitted on time against a target of 30 per cent and 7 per cent of reports submitted complete against a target of 20 per cent;
 - (b) As at 31 October 2016, 94 Parties had not submitted their reports for the year 2013;⁵⁰
 - (c) The overall rate of submission of national reports since 2009 does not appear to have improved;
10. *Acknowledges* that the problem of non-reporting, incomplete reporting or late reporting is all the more serious because of the close link between the core obligations of the Convention and the obligation to submit national reports in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention;
11. *Sets*, as a way of measuring progress in the overall implementation of and compliance with paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention, the following interim targets: 10 per cent of reports due for 2014 and 2015 are complete and submitted on time and 20 per cent of reports due for 2014 and 2015 are complete as submitted but late;

⁴⁷ Special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

⁴⁸ See resolution 1/5 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, section II, on an integrated approach to the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

⁴⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/25, annex.

⁵⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/26.

12. *Decides* that, in undertaking the classification of compliance with the national reporting obligation for the years 2014 and beyond, the Committee will:

(a) Classify, for its own consideration under its general review powers, Parties on the basis of two criteria (timeliness and completeness of their reports) and in the five categories as follows:

- (i) Complete report submitted on time;
- (ii) Complete report submitted late;
- (iii) Incomplete report submitted on time;
- (iv) Incomplete report submitted late;
- (v) Not reported;

(b) Classify, for its own consideration under its general review powers, Parties on the basis of the following assumptions:

- (i) Information reported by Parties is presumed to reflect reality, without prejudice to quality control by the Secretariat;
- (ii) The completeness of national reports will be reviewed on the basis of the answers provided by Parties to all questions and sub-questions of the revised reporting format,⁵¹ with the exception of questions and tables that are designated as optional;
- (iii) Should a report contain answers that do not provide the information sought (such as “in preparation”, “no data available” or “no information”), the Party providing such answers will not be considered to have submitted a complete report;
- (iv) Should a report contain answers that provide information sought that is “provisional” or “estimated”, the Party providing such answers will be considered to have submitted a complete report.

National reporting: additional steps to improve the timeliness and completeness of national reporting

13. *Decides* to prioritize efforts and ongoing activities to increase the timeliness and completeness of national reporting and calls on Parties to strengthen their efforts in that regard;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Committee for its work over the years to improve the timeliness and completeness of national reporting and decides that the work programme of the Committee should continue to emphasize activities aimed at improving implementation and compliance with the national reporting obligation;

Illegal traffic

15. *Adopts* the guidance on the implementation of the Basel Convention provisions dealing with illegal traffic (paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 9)⁵² and encourages Parties to use it and to provide information to the Secretariat on their experiences with the guidance for the consideration of the Committee;

National legislation

16. *Invites* Parties, in particular Parties that have not submitted to the Secretariat their legislation for implementing the Basel Convention, to undertake a review of their implementing legislation, using the legislator’s checklist,⁵³ and to submit the outcome of their review to the Committee for its consideration;

Control system: transit issues

17. *Adopts* the revisions to question 3 of the revised reporting format for Basel Convention national reporting adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting⁵⁴ and the revisions to the standardized reporting format for transmitting information under paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of

⁵¹ See UNEP/CHW.12/9/INF/16/Rev.1, adopted by decision BC-12/6 and amended by decision BC-13/9.

⁵² UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.1/Rev.1.

⁵³ UNEP/CHW.12/9/Add.4/Rev.1.

⁵⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1, annex I.

Article 4 and paragraphs 2 (c) and (d) of Article 13 of the Convention (import and export prohibitions);⁵⁵

18. *Reminds* Parties of the obligation:

(a) To inform the Secretariat of any change regarding the designation of competent authorities within one month of the date of the decision by which such change is effected, as provided for in paragraph 3 of Article 5 of the Convention;

(b) To promptly acknowledge receipt of notifications of proposed transit transboundary movements, as provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention;

(c) Of any State of export to not allow a transboundary movement to commence until it has received the written consent of the State of transit, as provided for in paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention;

19. *Also reminds* Parties:

(a) That if at any time a Party decides, pursuant to the fourth sentence of paragraph 4 of Article 6, not to require prior written consent, either generally or under specific conditions, for transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes, or modifies its requirements in that respect, it shall forthwith inform the other Parties of its decision pursuant to Article 13 of the Convention;

(b) That in case a Party has decided not to require prior written consent for proposed transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes and no response is received by a State of export within 60 days of the receipt of a given notification by the State of transit the State of export may allow the export to proceed through the State of transit;

20. *Encourages* Parties:

(a) To respond to notifications of proposed transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other wastes within 60 days in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention;

(b) To ensure that the contact details of competent authorities, including e-mail addresses, are complete and up to date;

Control system: electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents

21. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee on electronic approaches to the notification and movement documents;⁵⁶

Control system: multiple competent authorities

22. *Adopts* the revision to question 1a of the revised reporting format and to the revised form for notification of designation of country contacts⁵⁷ and invites the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, at their eighth meetings, to take note of the change to the former;

III

Work programme for the biennium 2018–2019

23. *Approves* the work programme of the Committee for the biennium 2018–2019 set out in the annex to the present decision;

24. *Invites* Parties to submit comments on the revised version of the Committee's guidance on improving national reporting,⁵⁸ the guide for the development of national legal frameworks to implement the Basel Convention⁵⁹ and the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of

⁵⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1, annex II.

⁵⁶ UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.2, annex; UNEP/CHW.13/9.

⁵⁷ UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2/Rev.1, annexes III and IV. The revised harmonized form for notification of designation of contacts was adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eleventh meeting and was also adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its sixth meeting and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its sixth meeting. It is available from <http://www.basel.int/Procedures/CompetentAuthorities/tabid/1324/Default.aspx>.

⁵⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/59.

⁵⁹ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/27.

Article 6 of the Convention⁶⁰ to the Secretariat by 30 September 2017 for consideration by the Committee;

25. *Requests* the Committee:

(a) To establish priorities, work methods and schedules for the activities in its work programme, to coordinate with the Secretariat and the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to avoid duplication of activities and to consult Parties and others on certain issues as appropriate;

(b) To consult Parties, in advance of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on a draft work programme for 2020–2021;

(c) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on the work that it has carried out to fulfil its functions in accordance with paragraphs 23 and 24 of the terms of reference of the mechanism for promoting implementation of and compliance with the Basel Convention;

IV

Election of members of the Committee

26. *Elects*, in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the appendix to decision VI/12, the following members to serve on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention until the close of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

African States: Mr. Leonard Leswam Tampushi (Kenya)

Asia-Pacific States: Mr. Ali Al-Ghamdi (Saudi Arabia)

Central and Eastern European States: Mr. Artak Khachatryan (Armenia)

Latin American and Caribbean States: Mr. Mario Miranda (Ecuador)

Western European and other States: Ms. Christine Vignon (France)

⁶⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/24.

Annex to decision BC-13/9

Work programme of the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance for the biennium 2018–2019

I. Review of general issues of compliance and implementation under the Convention

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<p>1. National reporting</p> <p>Improve timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention.</p>	<p>(a) Classify and, as appropriate, publish information on Parties' compliance with their annual national reporting obligations for 2014 and 2015, based on the assumptions, criteria, categories and targets adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;⁶¹</p> <p>(b) Develop recommendations on the revision of targets referred to in paragraph 11 of decision BC-13/9 for the reports due for 2016 and subsequent years;</p> <p>(c) Develop an updated version of the benchmark report aimed at facilitating reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Basel Convention as of the reporting year 2016, based on the revised reporting format for national reporting adopted in decision BC-12/6 as amended by decision BC-13/9;</p> <p>(d) Finalize the revised version of the Committee's guidance on improving national reporting⁶² in the light of the revised reporting format adopted in decision BC-12/6 as amended by decision BC-13/9 for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;</p> <p>(e) On the basis of, <i>inter alia</i>, the information contained in the national reports and possible means of technical assistance, develop recommendations for improving the timeliness and completeness of national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Basel Convention.</p>
<p>2. Illegal traffic</p> <p>Prevent and combat illegal traffic.</p>	<p>Consider what additional steps could be taken to improve implementation of and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention.</p>
<p>3. National legislation</p> <p>Improve implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention.</p>	<p>(a) Finalize the guide for the development of national legal frameworks to implement the Basel Convention⁶³ for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;</p> <p>(b) Compile the outcome of Parties' self-review of their legislation for implementing the Convention using the legislator's checklist and consider general trends;</p> <p>(c) Monitor progress achieved by Parties in transmitting to the Secretariat texts of national legislation and other measures adopted by them to implement and enforce the Convention;</p> <p>(d) Monitor requests for information received by the Secretariat from Parties aimed at facilitating the development and review of national legal frameworks as well as the technical assistance activities of the Secretariat aimed at promoting the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention;</p> <p>(e) Monitor activities undertaken by or with the support of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, the United Nations Environment Programme and other entities aimed at assisting Parties to develop legal frameworks for the implementation of the Basel Convention.</p>
<p>4. Insurance, bond or other guarantee</p> <p>Improve the implementation of and compliance with paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention.</p>	<p>Finalize, including through consultation with the Open-ended Working Group, the guidance to improve the implementation of paragraph 11 of Article 6 of the Convention⁶⁴ for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.</p>

⁶¹ Decision BC-13/9.

⁶² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/59.

⁶³ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/27.

⁶⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/24.

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<p>5. Control system Improve the implementation of and compliance with Article 6 of the Convention.</p>	<p>Develop, taking into account the report on the implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Basel Convention on transit transboundary movements,⁶⁵ in particular its paragraphs 81–83, guidance on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Article 6 of the Convention for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.</p>
<p>6. Implementation of and compliance with the Convention Improve the implementation of and compliance with the Convention.</p>	<p>(a) Regularly review the guidance on legal matters developed by the Committee (e.g., the manual for the implementation of the Basel Convention, the guide to the control system and the guidance on illegal traffic), based on periodic feedback from users and suggestions from stakeholders and in the light of decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on their updating;</p> <p>(b) Review the operation of the implementation fund, including the links with the Secretariat's technical assistance plan (document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36), notably in relation to access to technical and financial support.</p>

II. Specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance

1. The Committee shall accord priority to dealing with specific submissions regarding Party implementation and compliance received or initiated in accordance with paragraph 9 of the terms of reference of the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance of the Basel Convention.
2. In relation to the implementation fund, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Executive Secretary on the allocation of the available resources from the implementation fund during the period between the thirteenth and fourteenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties to assist Parties in the context of the facilitation procedure set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of the terms of reference of the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Convention. The resources are intended to fund activities listed in the compliance action plans presented by Parties in relation to specific submissions and approved by the Committee.
3. In relation to the amendment of paragraph 9 (c) of the terms of reference, the Committee shall prepare a report on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the amendment mentioned in paragraph 4 of decision BC-12/7, including recommendations, for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting.

⁶⁵ UNEP/CHW/CC.12/11/Add.1, annex.

II. Relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their 2015 meetings

1. Decision BC-12/4: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes with appreciation* the contribution made by Japan as lead country in the updating of the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury and by the small intersessional working group established in accordance with decision IX/15 of the Conference of the Parties;
2. *Adopts* the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds;⁶⁶
3. *Requests* the Secretariat to disseminate the technical guidelines to parties and others, including the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in the six official languages of the United Nations;
4. *Invites* parties and others to use the technical guidelines and to submit, not later than two months before the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, comments on their experience in so doing and on any developments regarding methods for the environmentally sound disposal of mercury wastes, including the long-term effectiveness of the stabilization and solidification of wastes consisting of mercury;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of the comments and information referred to in paragraph 4 above for the consideration of next actions, including the possible updating of the technical guidelines, by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.

2. Decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27: International cooperation and coordination (*identical decisions*)

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;⁶⁷
2. *Joins* with the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in emphasizing that the sound management of chemicals and wastes is an essential and cross-cutting element of sustainable development and is of great relevance to the sustainable development agenda;
3. *Highlights* the contribution of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement 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 to the protection of human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes through the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform the co-facilitators for the consultations on the post-2015 development agenda under the United Nations General Assembly about the relevance of the conventions and the contribution that they can make to the implementation of that agenda and to provide input (for example information transmitted to the Secretariat in the national reports under the Basel and Stockholm conventions and scientific data prepared by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the Chemical Review Committee and the Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention) to the United Nations Statistical Commission and other relevant forums for the development of indicators relevant to the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
5. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination with other international bodies to facilitate the fulfilment of the objectives of the conventions, in particular within the chemicals and wastes cluster;

⁶⁶ UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1.

⁶⁷ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/31-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/41.

6. *Invites* the Environment Management Group to look at how the United Nations system can deliver in meeting the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;

7. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste and requests the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of that resolution and, more generally, on the continued and coordinated strengthening of the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term;

8. *Joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly in emphasizing the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement and requests the Executive Secretary to participate in the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and to ensure, within available resources, the effective involvement of the Secretariat in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

9. *Also joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly in recognizing the continued relevance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020 and joins with the International Conference on Chemicals Management and others in stressing the importance of considering long-term policies, building on United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 and its annex, on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term;

10. *Encourages* the organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to present for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session specific policies and actions planned by each organization, within their own mandates, to meet the 2020 goal;

11. *Welcomes cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and requests the Secretariat to continue and enhance such cooperation and coordination in areas of mutual interest with a view to fostering policy coherence, where appropriate, and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;*

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To enhance cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster, in particular to facilitate activities at the regional and country levels that would support the implementation of the agreements in the cluster in areas of mutual interest, and to consider which activities of the programmes of work may be effectively implemented in cooperation with other entities within the cluster;

(b) To enhance cooperation and coordination with other international bodies in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including in the areas and with the organizations listed in the aforementioned report;

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

3. **Decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22: Implementation of the integrated approach to financing (*identical decisions*)**

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information presented in the note by the Secretariat;⁶⁸

2. *Joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in welcoming an integrated approach to addressing the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, underscoring that the three components of an integrated approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels and emphasizing the importance of implementing the three components, as agreed in decision 27/12 of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council, requests the Secretariat to assist parties in that respect, subject to the availability of resources, and recognizes the importance of the joint programme of work to that end;

3. *Welcomes* paragraphs 5 and 8 of decision SC-7/21 on the Stockholm Convention guidance to the Global Environment Facility, which encourages the Facility to continue to enhance synergies of its activities taking into account co-benefits for the Basel Convention on the Control of

⁶⁸ UNEP/CHW.12/20/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/14/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/26/Rev.1.

the 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 Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;

4. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, including the agreement to establish the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel Convention on the 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, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, and looks forward to the early start of the special programme's operations;

5. *Welcomes* that according to the terms of reference of the special programme the Executive Secretary may participate as an observer in the meetings of the executive board of the special programme, requests him to attend such meetings and requests the Secretariat to cooperate, as appropriate, with the secretariat of the special programme;

6. *Joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly in encouraging Governments in a position to do so, as well as the private sector, including industry, foundations, other non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, to mobilize financial resources for the fast and effective establishment and start of the implementation of the special programme;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to ensure that the activities of the Secretariat and its support to parties under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions take as reference the integrated approach and the programmes of work of the three conventions;

8. *Also requests* the Secretariat to report back to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the elements of the present decision.

4. Decision BC-12/10: Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for training and technology transfer

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional and coordinating centres as one of the main institutions for enhancing the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building as well as supporting the national efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions;

2. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Basel Convention and requests them to cooperate and coordinate among themselves on areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

3. *Recalls* the omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention, 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 adopted by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their 2013 simultaneous extraordinary meetings,⁶⁹ by which the conferences of the parties made recommendations on follow-up to the review of the synergies arrangements which, among others, underline that synergies should be enhanced at the national and regional levels, with particular attention to reinforcing cooperation and coordination and rationalization of the Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention regional centres;

4. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste, by which the Assembly acknowledged the role of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres to support the implementation of those conventions;

5. *Takes into account* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want", that highlights the critical role that the sound management of chemicals and waste can play in promoting sustainable development and emphasizes its great relevance to the post-2015 development agenda;

⁶⁹ Decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1, annex I.

6. *Takes note of:*
- (a) The information provided in the note by the Secretariat on the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;⁷⁰
 - (b) The activity reports for the period 2013–2014⁷¹ and business plans for the biennium 2014–2015⁷² submitted by the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres;
 - (c) The framework agreements between the centres and the Secretariat referred to in paragraph 6 of the note by the Secretariat and the validity of all existing framework agreements listed in the annex to the present decision;
 - (d) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres⁷³ and the summary of the draft evaluation report;⁷⁴
 - (e) The report on the activities of the regional centres;⁷⁵
7. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the interim criteria set out in annex I and the interim methodology set out in annex II to decision BC-11/13, the performance and sustainability of the 14 Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres established in accordance with decisions III/19, VI/6, VI/8 and VII/10;
8. *Notes* the performance of the regional and coordinating centres and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and actions in supporting developing-country parties;
9. *Underlines* the need to have an efficient and effective network of centres through greater institutional coordination and the promotion of the exchange of information, lessons learned and cooperation among them on areas of expertise in which they provide assistance, through regular communication, including meetings of the centres and increased use of other means of communication;
10. *Requests* the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to submit to the Secretariat:
- (a) Their business plans for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019 by 30 September 2015;
 - (b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 by 31 December 2016 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat:
- (a) To prepare a report on the evaluation of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres, based on the interim criteria and the interim methodology referred to in paragraph 7 above, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting;
 - (b) To prepare a report on the activities of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, including an assessment of how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the network of centres;
 - (c) To consider possible adjustments to the interim criteria and interim methodology for evaluating the regional and coordinating centres set out in annexes I and II, respectively, of decision BC-11/13, taking into account lessons learned, the views of the centres, as well as the views of parties, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, and invites the centres and parties to provide their views on these by 30 June 2016;
12. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the interim criteria set out in annex I to decision BC-11/13, taking into account the possible adjustments referred to in paragraph 11 (c) above, the performance and sustainability of the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres at its fourteenth meeting and every four years thereafter;
13. *Invites* developed country parties and other parties, in accordance with their capabilities, to consider ways to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance and the promotion of

⁷⁰ UNEP/CHW.12/12.

⁷¹ Available at www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivityReports/tabid/2992/Default.aspx.

⁷² Available at www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/BusinessPlans/tabid/2336/Default.aspx.

⁷³ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/13.

⁷⁴ UNEP/CHW.12/12, annex II.

⁷⁵ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14.

technology transfer under the Convention to promote the sound management of chemicals and wastes, sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment and further invites them to consider opportunities for effective and efficient cooperation with the regional and coordinating centres in implementing the regional sound management of chemicals and wastes projects;

14. *Takes note* of the challenges faced by some regional centres and invites parties, as well as other regional centres in a position to do so, to cooperate with and support those regional centres through the exchange of best practices, the provision of technical assistance and the promotion of technology transfer;

15. *Recalls* that sustainable financial and technical resources are necessary for the centres to succeed in their work under the Convention and invites parties, observers and others in a position to do so, including industry and the wider private sector as well as relevant financial institutions, to provide financial support to enable the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres to implement their workplans aimed at supporting parties in implementing their obligations under the Convention;

16. *Invites all regional centres and coordinating centres undertaking activities on mercury-related issues under the Convention, including projects and activities about the dissemination of information, capacity-building and technology transfer, to provide the relevant information, which will be taken into account by the Secretariat for the evaluation, in accordance with the applicable synergy criterion, and requests the Secretariat to forward that information to the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury for possible consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury at its seventh session;*

17. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to recommend concrete activities on synergies between the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other related centres to the Conference of the Parties for possible decision;

(b) To continue to foster a synergistic approach in its relations with the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other related centres, while recognizing the specificities and mandate of each centre;

(c) To continue to organize meetings every two years between the directors of regional centres and the Secretariat, including possible observers as appropriate, and if possible to consider additional meetings, subject to the availability of resources;

(d) To submit a report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

(annex not reproduced)

5. **Decision SC-7/17: Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology**

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional and subregional centres in enhancing the provision of technical assistance for capacity-building to support the national efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions in accordance with their terms of reference;

2. *Emphasizes* the role of the regional centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and requests them to cooperate and coordinate among themselves on areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

3. *Recalls* the omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel Convention on the 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, adopted by the conferences of the parties at their 2013 simultaneous extraordinary meetings,⁷⁶ by which the conferences of the parties made recommendations on follow-up to the review of the

⁷⁶ Decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1, annex I.

synergies arrangements which, among others, underline that synergies should be enhanced at the national and regional levels, with particular attention to reinforcing cooperation and coordination and rationalization of the Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention regional centres;

4. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5, on chemicals and waste, by which the Assembly acknowledged the role of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres to support the implementation of those conventions;

5. *Takes into account* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, that highlights the critical role that the sound management of chemicals and waste can play in promoting sustainable development and emphasizes its great relevance to the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Takes note of:*

(a) The information provided in the note by the Secretariat on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology;⁷⁷

(b) The workplans for the biennium 2014–2015⁷⁸ and activity reports for the period 2013–2014⁷⁹ submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 16 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat⁸⁰ and the summary of the draft evaluation report;⁸¹

(d) The report on the activities of the regional and subregional centres;⁸²

7. *Notes* that it has evaluated, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties;⁸³

8. *Notes* the performance of the regional centres and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and actions in supporting developing-country parties;

9. *Endorses* for another period of four years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision;

10. *Underlines* the need to have an efficient and effective network of centres through greater institutional coordination and the promotion of the exchange of information, lessons learned and cooperation among them on areas of expertise in which they provide assistance, through regular communication, including meetings of the centres and increased use of other means of communication;

11. *Requests* the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to submit to the Secretariat:

(a) Their workplans for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2019 by 30 September 2015;

(b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016 by 31 December 2016, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;

12. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare a report on the evaluation of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision, based on the performance evaluation methodology adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

(b) To prepare a report on the activities of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, including an assessment of how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the network of centres;

⁷⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11.

⁷⁸ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Workplans/tabid/482/Default.aspx>.

⁷⁹ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReport/tabid/4112/Default.aspx>.

⁸⁰ See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/21-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/13.

⁸¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/11, annex II.

⁸² See UNEP/CHW.12/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/14.

⁸³ Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21 and SC-6/16.

(c) To consider possible adjustments to the methodology for evaluating regional centres, taking into account lessons learned, the views of the centres, as well as the views of parties, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, and invites the centres and parties to provide their views on these by 30 June 2016;

13. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, taking into account the possible adjustments referred to in paragraph 12 (c) above, the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres listed in the annex to the present decision and to reconsider, pursuant to decision SC-3/12, their status as regional and subregional centres under the Convention at its ninth meeting and every four years thereafter;

14. *Invites* developed-country parties and other parties, in accordance with their capabilities, to consider ways to strengthen the regional delivery of technical assistance and the promotion of technology transfer under the Convention to promote the sound management of chemicals and wastes, sustainable development and the protection of human health and the environment and further invites them to consider opportunities for effective and efficient cooperation with the regional centres in implementing the regional sound management of chemicals and wastes projects;

15. *Takes note* of the challenges faced by some centres and invites parties, as well as other regional centres in a position to do so, to cooperate with and support those regional centres through the exchange of best practices, the provision of technical assistance and the promotion of technology transfer;

16. *Recalls* that sustainable financial and technical resources are necessary for the centres to succeed in their work under the Convention and invites parties, observers and others in a position to do so, including industry and the wider private sector as well as relevant financial institutions, to provide financial support to enable Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres to implement their workplans aimed at supporting parties in implementing their obligations under the Convention;

17. *Invites all regional and subregional centres undertaking activities on mercury-related issues under the Convention, including projects and activities about the dissemination of information, capacity-building and technology transfer, to provide the relevant information, which will be taken into account by the Secretariat for the evaluation, in accordance with the applicable synergy criterion, and requests the Secretariat to forward that information to the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury for possible consideration by the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury at its seventh session;*

18. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to recommend concrete activities on synergies between the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other related centres to the Conference of the Parties for possible decision;

(b) To continue to foster a synergistic approach in its relations with the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other related centres, while recognizing the specificities and mandate of each centre;

(c) To continue to organize meetings every two years between the directors of regional centres and the Secretariat, including possible observers as appropriate, and if possible to consider additional meetings, subject to the availability of resources;

(d) To submit a report on progress made in the implementation of the present decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

(annex not reproduced)

6. Decision BC-12/24: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the 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 have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Takes note* of the proposed draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Basel Convention by the Programme;⁸⁴
2. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Executive Director of a task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which the Programme provides the secretariat;
3. *Takes note* of the progress report by the Executive Director on the work of the task team pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/12, on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements;⁸⁵
4. *Notes* that many of the issues addressed in the draft memorandum of understanding are currently being discussed by the task team and decides to wait for the task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the memorandum of understanding;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to engage actively in the work of the task team and to inform and consult the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of the task team during the intersessional period;
6. *Invites* the Executive Director to keep the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions informed when preparing meeting documents for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the relationship between the Programme and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session on the relationship between the Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, for consideration and possible adoption at its thirteenth meeting, a revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention and the Executive Director concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Basel Convention by the Programme.

7. Decision RC-7/14: Draft memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous

⁸⁴ UNEP/CHW.12/25, annex.

⁸⁵ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/56.

Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Takes note* of the proposed draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention;⁸⁶
2. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme of a task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which the Programme provides the secretariat;
3. *Takes note* of the progress report by the Executive Director on the work of the task team pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/12, on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements;⁸⁷
4. *Notes* that many of the issues addressed in the draft memorandum of understanding are currently being discussed by the task team and decides to wait for the task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the memorandum of understanding;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to engage actively in the work of the task team and to inform and consult the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of the task team during the intersessional period;
6. *Invites* the Executive Director to keep the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions informed when preparing meeting documents for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the relationship between the Programme and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
7. *Acknowledges* the continued application of the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning arrangements for performing jointly the secretariat functions for the Rotterdam Convention, which was approved by the Conference of the Parties in its decision RC-2/5 and entered into force on 28 November 2005;
8. *Recalls* its decision RC-6/15, in which it requested the executive secretaries to submit a draft memorandum of understanding to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting;
9. *Requests* the executive secretaries to prepare, in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session on the relationship between the Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a draft tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties, the Director-General and the Executive Director concerning the provision of the secretariat for the Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision;
10. *Also requests* the executive secretaries, should such a draft tripartite memorandum of understanding not be possible, to prepare:
 - (a) In consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the relationship between the Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director concerning the provision of the secretariat for the Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision;
 - (b) In consultation with the Director-General, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Director-General concerning the provision of the secretariat for the Convention that takes into account the memorandum of understanding referred to in paragraph 7 of the present decision and mirrors as far as possible the revised draft memorandum of understanding

⁸⁶ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/19, annex.

⁸⁷ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/56- UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/40-UNEP/ POPS/COP.7/INF/60.

between the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director referred to in paragraph 10 (a) of the present decision.

8. Decision SC-7/32: Draft memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the legal autonomy of the Conference of the Parties and noting that the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the 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 have equal decision-making authority within their respective mandates,

1. *Takes note* of the proposed draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention;⁸⁸
2. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Executive Director of a task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which the Programme provides the secretariat;
3. *Takes note* of the progress report by the Executive Director on the work of the task team pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/12, on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements;⁸⁹
4. *Notes* that many of the issues addressed in the draft memorandum of understanding are currently being discussed by the task team and decides to wait for the task team to finalize its work before taking a final decision on the memorandum of understanding;
5. *Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to engage actively in the work of the task team and to inform and consult the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the work of the task team during the intersessional period;*
6. *Invites* the Executive Director to keep the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions informed when preparing meeting documents for the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly on the relationship between the Programme and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Executive Director and taking into account the outcome of the deliberations of the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session on the relationship between the Programme and multilateral environmental agreements, for consideration and possible adoption at its eighth meeting, a revised draft memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Executive Director concerning the provision of secretariat functions for the Stockholm Convention.

III. Relevant decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their 2013 meetings

1. Decision BC-11/5: Technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note of the relationship between the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Basel Convention, in particular regarding the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes;*

⁸⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/9, annex.

⁸⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/60.

2. *Decides to include the updating of the technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group for 2014–2015;*
3. *Invites parties to consider serving as lead country for the updating of the technical guidelines and to inform the Secretariat of their willingness to do so by 30 June 2013;*
4. *Invites parties and others to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group established by decision IX/15 and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 June 2013;*
5. *Requests the lead country or, if there is no lead country, the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group and subject to the availability of funding, to prepare draft updated technical guidelines for publication on the Convention website by 31 December 2013;*
6. *Invites parties and others to submit comments on the draft updated technical guidelines to the lead country, if one is selected, and to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2014;*
7. *Requests the lead country or, if there is no lead country, the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group and subject to the availability of funding, to prepare revised draft updated technical guidelines, taking into account the comments referred to in paragraph 6 above, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its ninth meeting;*
8. *Requests the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the progress of work on the updating of the technical guidelines.*

2. **Omnibus decision BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1, SC.Ex-2/1 on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

[...]

V

Wider cooperation

24. *Welcomes paragraphs 89 and 213–223 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, relating to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including the reaffirmation of the aim to achieve by 2020 the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle and of hazardous wastes, and the call for further enhancing coordination and cooperation with other relevant actors at all levels;*
25. *Requests the secretariats to further enhance cooperation and coordination with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management to contribute to meeting the 2020 goal on the sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle and of hazardous wastes and to report on progress in doing so to the conferences of the parties in 2015, recognizing the different legal statuses of the instruments;*
26. *Welcomes the invitation by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, at its twenty-seventh meeting, to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to use the opportunity of their extraordinary meetings from 28 April to 10 May 2013 to consider steps that would facilitate possible future cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and to forward any outcome of that consideration to the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention;*
27. *Expresses its interest and signals its readiness to cooperate and coordinate with the Minamata Convention on Mercury;*
28. *Invites the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention to consider cooperation and coordination in areas of mutual interest to the four conventions;*
29. *Requests the Executive Secretary to inform the conference of plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention of the present decision;*

[...]

VII

Facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes

34. *Welcomes* decision 27/12, section VIII, on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-seventh session, in February 2013;
35. *Joins* the Governing Council in welcoming an integrated approach to addressing the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, which underscores that the three components of an *integrated* approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, are mutually reinforcing and are all important for the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
36. *Agrees* that an integrated approach supplements and seeks to address the increased need for adequate, predictable, accessible and sustainable financial solutions for the chemicals and wastes cluster at the national, regional and international levels;
37. *Invites* all countries, and urges in particular developed countries, within their capabilities, to further strengthen the element of dedicated external finance so as to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to implement the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
38. *Notes* with appreciation the invitation made by the Governing Council to the Global Environment Facility to revise, in the context of its sixth replenishment process, its focal area structure and strategy in order to address the chemicals and waste cluster and invites donors to increase their financial contributions during the sixth replenishment, taking into account the increasing need for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
39. *Takes note of the country-led meeting to further develop terms of reference for the special programme described in paragraphs 13–15 of section VIII of decision 27/12, emphasizing that institutional strengthening at a national level requires attention;*
40. *Invites* parties to implement actions to further mainstream the sound management of chemicals and wastes into national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sector policies;
41. *Also invites* parties to implement actions to further encourage industry involvement in the integrated approach, including the development of legislation on the responsibilities of industry and national administration, the provision of incentives for sound chemicals and waste management, extended producer responsibility and the promotion of measures by industry to internalize costs as per the polluter pays principle, and urges industry in developed countries, and in other countries in a position to do so, to facilitate experience-sharing on best environmental practices;
42. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the secretariats' activities and support to parties under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions take as reference such an integrated approach, to report on progress in implementing the three mutually reinforcing components of the approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, and to highlight challenges in mobilizing financial resources within these components, for consideration and possible recommendations by the conferences of the parties at their next meetings;
43. *Underlines* that implementation at the regional level, including through regional centres, could be strengthened by mobilizing further financial resources through an integrated approach.
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