



---

**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention  
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of  
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal  
Thirteenth meeting**

Geneva, 24 April –5 May 2017

Item 4 (e) (i) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:  
international cooperation, coordination and partnerships:  
Basel Convention Partnership Programme**

## **Creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. In paragraph 3 of decision BC-12/13, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal agreed to include in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention the development of a workplan on the environmentally sound management of household waste with a focus on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It also agreed that the workplan could include, but would not be limited to, the development of guidance documents and/or manuals on, inter alia, best practices, business models and innovative solutions for the circular economy in various socioeconomic contexts as well as a concept for a partnership to assist municipalities.

2. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and others to indicate to the Secretariat by 30 September 2015 their interest in actively participating in an informal group and requested the informal group to develop the workplan for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting.

3. In paragraph 6 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to facilitate work, subject to the availability of funds, on the development of the workplan by the informal group.

#### **II. Implementation**

4. Based on the discussions of the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting and initial input from interested stakeholders, Mauritius and Uruguay, as lead sponsors of the initiative to develop a workplan, prepared a draft concept note entitled “Household waste partnership”, which was circulated to the participants in the informal group for their comments.

---

\* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

5. The informal group held its first teleconference on 5 November 2015 and designated Mr. Prakash Kowlessar (Mauritius) and Ms. Gabriela Medina (Uruguay) to serve as co-chairs of the group. The group agreed to use the draft concept note referred to in paragraph 4 above as the basis for the development of a workplan on the environmentally sound management of household waste and a concept for a partnership to assist municipalities. The group further agreed to propose the establishment of a household waste partnership under the Basel Convention on the basis of the draft concept note. The informal group submitted a draft concept note for a household waste partnership, as revised by the group at its second teleconference on 26 February 2016, including a workplan for the biennium 2018–2019, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting.
6. At its tenth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group considered the draft concept note for a household waste partnership (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/14). By its decision OEWG.10/10, the Working Group, among other things, invited Parties and others to submit comments on the draft concept note to the Secretariat by 15 September 2016; requested the informal group to finalize the draft concept note, including terms of reference and a workplan for the biennium 2018–2019, taking into account the discussions during the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and comments submitted by Parties and others thereafter; and requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision on the establishment of a household waste partnership for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.
7. Thanks to generous financial support provided by the Governments of Japan and Switzerland, the informal group held its first face-to-face meeting in Montevideo from 2 to 4 August 2016. At that meeting, the group further developed the concept for the household waste partnership. The meeting report (UNEP/CHW/IGHW.1/3) is available on the website of the informal group.<sup>1</sup>
8. At the meeting in Montevideo, the informal group considered, among other things, the need to revise the technical guidelines on wastes collected from households.<sup>2</sup> The informal group decided to recommend that the technical guidelines should not be revised, concluding that they were outdated and should be supplemented by a more comprehensive guidance document to be developed by the household waste partnership as described in the partnership workplan for the biennium 2018–2019.
9. As at 15 September 2016, the Secretariat had received comments on the draft concept note on the household waste partnership from Switzerland, the European Union and its member States, the International Environmental Technology Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Bureau of International Recycling.
10. The informal group held its third teleconference on 26 September 2016 to finalize the draft concept note and terms of reference for the household waste partnership, as well as the workplan for the biennium 2018–2019, taking into account the outcome of the Montevideo meeting and the comments received.
11. As at 28 October 2016, 16 Parties, 4 intergovernmental organizations, 13 regional centres of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2 industry associations and 3 non-governmental organizations were actively participating in the informal group.<sup>3</sup> One Party has signalled its interest in participating in the group as an observer. A generous financial contribution in support of the work of the informal group has been received from the Government of Switzerland.
12. The draft concept note and the terms of reference for the household waste partnership are set out in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33, and the workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 is set out in the annex to the draft decision set out in section III of the present note.

---

1

<http://www.basel.int/Implementation/TechnicalAssistance/Partnerships/HouseholdWaste/Meetings/1stMeetingMontevideo,UruguayAug2016/tabid/5158/Default.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/Basel%20Convention/docs/meetings/sbc/workdoc/old%20docs/tech-y46.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-CHW-IMPL-Partnership-HouseholdWaste-InformalGroup-Members-20160810.En.pdf>.

### III. Proposed action

13. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

*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;<sup>4</sup>
2. *Decides* to establish a working group of the household waste partnership that will be responsible, with the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group and in accordance with the terms of reference developed by the informal group on household waste,<sup>5</sup> for overseeing organizational matters pertaining to the implementation of the partnership's activities, including the establishment of project groups and 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;
3. *Requests* the working group to implement the workplan set out in the annex to the present decision;
4. *Emphasizes* that the partnership does not have the authority to create additional or abrogate existing rights or responsibilities of Parties under the Basel Convention;
5. *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.

---

<sup>4</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/15.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW.13/INF/33, annex II.

## Annex to decision BC-13/[ ]

### 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 the 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 ensuring 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.
-