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**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention  
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of  
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal  
Tenth meeting**

Nairobi, 30 May–2 June 2016

Item 3 (a) (ii) of the provisional agenda\*

**Matters related to the work programme of the  
Open-ended Working Group for 2016–2017:  
strategic issues: developing guidelines for  
environmentally sound management**

## **Developing guidelines for environmentally sound management**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. In paragraphs 5 and 6 of its decision BC-12/1, on the follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention, the Conference of the Parties adopted the work programme of the expert working group on environmentally sound management set out in the annex to that decision, extended the mandate of the group and requested it to develop activities, subject to the availability of resources, to implement its work programme. In paragraph 7 of that decision each regional group was requested to nominate through its Bureau representative, by 31 July 2015, one expert with specific knowledge and expertise in the field of waste prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes, bringing the total membership of the expert working group on environmentally sound management to 30 members.

2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the set of draft practical manuals for the promotion of the environmentally sound management of wastes<sup>1</sup> and the fact sheets on specific waste streams<sup>2</sup> developed by the expert working group. In paragraphs 10–12 and 15 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties set out a process through which parties and others were invited to comment on and test the draft practical manuals and factsheets, and the expert working group was requested to revise the documents on the basis of the comments received and submit the revised documents to the Open-ended Working Group for consideration at its tenth meeting and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties for consideration and possible adoption at its thirteenth meeting.

3. Furthermore, in paragraph 14 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to undertake an inventory and categorize existing Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management, under the guidance of the expert working group on environmentally sound management, for the consideration of the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting.

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\* UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/1.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.12/3/Add.2, annex.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.12/INF/6, annex.

## II. Implementation

4. In response to the request in paragraph 7 of decision BC-12/1, the Secretariat received nominations from three regional groups for new members of the expert working group on environmentally sound management. As at 11 December 2015, nominations were yet to be received from the Central and Eastern European States and the Western European and other States.
5. Thanks to generous financial support provided by the Government of Japan and the kind offer by Sims Recycling Solutions to provide the venue and associated logistics, the expert working group was able to hold its fourth meeting in San Francisco, United States of America, from 10 to 12 November 2015. The meeting was attended by 19 members of the expert working group, including two new members with specific knowledge and expertise in the field of waste prevention and minimization from the African and Asia-Pacific States,<sup>3</sup> and 12 observers.
6. The expert working group made progress on the activities in its work programme on the development of a toolkit for environmentally sound management, or “ESM Toolkit”. It also revised draft practical manuals and waste stream fact sheets on the basis of comments received from parties and others pursuant to decision BC-12/1 and discussions at the meeting. The revised draft practical manuals and the revised draft fact sheets are set out in documents UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/3 and UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/4, respectively.
7. The expert working group also developed an outline of planned guidance to assist parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/5).<sup>4</sup> Working intersessionally, the group is also preparing outlines of manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management.
8. Other areas of work at the meeting included the selection of three additional pilot projects for the implementation of environmentally sound management; the establishment of a working structure for pilot projects; the development of a concept for an internet portal for the exchange of information, best practices and experiences, as well as for the dissemination of the toolkit and related materials; and the formulation of an approach to self-assessment of national environmentally sound management capacity. The report of the group’s meeting<sup>5</sup> is available on the Convention website.<sup>6</sup>
9. In response to paragraph 14 of decision BC-12/1, the Secretariat developed an inventory and categorization of existing Basel Convention documents related to environmentally sound management, which was submitted to the expert working group for comment. In parallel, the Government of Canada kindly offered to further develop the inventory and categorization, including the comments received by the expert working group, and to produce an analysis on that basis. The inventory, categorization and analysis are set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/6.
10. A report of the activities undertaken by the expert working group in accordance with its work programme is set out in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/7.

## III. Proposed action

11. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Open-ended Working Group*

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the expert working group on environmentally sound management and its co-chairs for their work and takes note of the report on the activities undertaken by the group;<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> A third new member, from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, was nominated in December 2015 and thus was unable to attend the meeting.

<sup>4</sup> Decision BC-12/2, on the road map for action on the implementation of the Cartagena Declaration, mandated the expert working group on environmentally sound management to develop guidance to assist parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal. Further information on activities undertaken by the expert working group in relation to the road map can be found in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/4.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP/CHW/CLI\_EWG.4/2.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/Meetings/FourthmeetingoftheExpertWorkingGrouponESM/Overview/tabid/4682/Default.aspx>.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/7.

2. *Requests* the expert working group on environmentally sound management to continue to develop activities, subject to the availability of resources, to implement its work programme;
  3. *Welcomes* the set of revised draft practical manuals for the promotion of the environmentally sound management of wastes<sup>8</sup> and the revised draft fact sheets on specific waste streams;<sup>9</sup>
  4. *Invites* parties and others to submit comments on the set of revised draft practical manuals and the revised draft fact sheets referred to in paragraph 3 above to the Secretariat by 30 September 2016;
  5. *Also invites* parties and others to test the set of revised draft practical manuals and the revised draft fact sheets referred to in paragraph 3 above and to provide comments to the Secretariat for consideration by the expert working group on environmentally sound management;
  6. *Requests* the expert working group on environmentally sound management to revise the set of draft practical manuals and the draft fact sheets referred to in paragraph 3 above, taking into account the comments received pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 above, for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.
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<sup>8</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/3.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/INF/4.