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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**

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Item 3 (d) (i) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters related to the work programme of the
Open-ended Working Group for 2016–2017:
international cooperation and coordination:
Basel Convention Partnership Programme**

Draft concept note for a household waste partnership

Note by the Secretariat

As referred to in the note by the Secretariat on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the environmentally sound management of household waste (UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/10), the annex to the present note sets out the draft concept note for a household waste partnership. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG.10/1.

Annex

Draft concept note for a household waste partnership

I. Introduction

1. One of the key challenges related to waste management faced by national governments and municipalities, particularly in developing countries, countries with economies in transition and small island development states (SIDS), is to achieve the prevention and minimization of household wastes and the environmentally sound management (ESM) of household wastes.
2. The ESM of household waste includes, inter alia, environmentally sound source separation, collection, transport, storage, separation, recycling, other recovery including energy recovery and final disposal of household waste. Among the key issues to be considered are sustainable financing of the ESM of household waste, possibilities for source separation, collection, in-country recycling opportunities, limiting the household waste management costs and challenges in connection with the informal sector. A lot of work related to household waste has already been done and is ongoing, for example at the UNEP IETC under the UNEP Programme of Work and in the context of other multilateral environmental agreements like to Stockholm and Minamata convention, and can to be taken into account.
3. The problems related to household waste may be attributed to a number of causes such as lack of financial resources, increasing waste management cost, inefficient institutional arrangement, inappropriate technology and equipment, weak legislation, unawareness of the public, high rate of population growth, urbanization and increase in quantities and volumes of household waste.
4. The volume of household waste in many countries is increasing while its composition is permanently changing. Based on their origin and/or composition and their characteristics, household waste may contain hazardous materials co-mingled with non-hazardous materials.-Because of the potential for contamination with hazardous substances, waste collected from households is classified under the Basel Convention as requiring special consideration (Basel Convention, Annex II, Y46).
5. At the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its twelfth meeting in May 2015 (COP 12), Parties agreed to initiate the development of a concept for a partnership that will assist governments and municipalities to support circular economy with the aim to prevent the generation and to reduce the amount of waste, separate, recover and recycle as much as possible valuable materials, separate and handle hazardous wastes safely, and create sustainable jobs.
6. COP 12 adopted decision BC-12/13 on creating innovative solutions through the Basel Convention for the ESM of household waste. The Parties agreed to include in the work programme of the Open-ended Working Group the development of a work plan on the ESM of household waste with a focus on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and also agrees that such a workplan could include, but would not be limited to, developing guidance documents and/or manuals on, inter alia, best practices, business models and innovative solutions for the circular economy in various socio-economic contexts, as well as developing a concept for a partnership to assist municipalities.
7. An Informal Group was established and tasked with the development of a work plan for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting.
8. This document provides elements related to the mission statement, scope, key objectives, working principles and structure, financial arrangements and work programme for 2018–2019 for the household waste partnership (here in after referred to as “Partnership”) based on the decision BC-12/13 and the discussion at the COP 12 plenary for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group.

II. Mission statement

9. To achieve the prevention and minimization of household waste, to enable the decoupling of economic growth and the environmental impacts associated with the generation of household waste and its initial handling by households, and to achieve the ESM of household waste, i.e. the environmentally sound collection, transport, separation, recycling, other recovery including energy recovery and final disposal of household wastes, including the sound handling of hazardous objects and substances contained in household waste.

III. Scope

10. The Partnership will consider the ESM of household waste generated nationally and disposed of at the national level as well as household waste imported as a result of a transboundary movement from a State that does not have the technical capacity and the necessary facilities, capacity or suitable disposal sites in order to dispose of the wastes in question in an environmentally sound and efficient manner¹.

IV. Key Partnership objectives

11. The key objectives of the Partnership will be the following:

(a) Develop guidance documents and manuals for governments, regional and local authorities on, inter alia, best practices, business models, policies and innovative solutions for the ESM of household waste in various socio-economic contexts with the aim of preventing the generation of and reducing the amount of household waste, promoting recycling, performing other recovery including energy recovery and finally disposing of the remaining part of municipal wastes in an environmentally sound manner as well as separating and safely handling hazardous substances and objects contained in household wastes, and creating sustainable jobs;

(b) Raise awareness among relevant audiences, e.g., local government officials, schools, academia, business, non-governmental organizations and households, and develop outreach strategies for an integrated approach to the implementation of the ESM of household wastes and the promotion of a circular economy;

(c) Address challenges in connection with the informal sector.

V. Working principles

12. The working principles of the Partnership will be the following:

(a) To promote dialogue amongst governments, regional and local authorities, private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia on initiatives that could be carried out in different regions;

(b) To foster best practice solutions showing concrete and practical results consistent with the Basel Convention, and make recommendations;

(c) To coordinate and cooperate, as appropriate, with other bodies involved in household waste management activities;

(d) Decisions on all matters shall be made by consensus. Decisions taken by the Partnership Working Group shall only be effective as between its members. Any decision taken under the Partnership cannot create or abrogate rights or responsibilities of Parties under the Basel Convention.

VI. Working structure

13. It is proposed that a Partnership Working Group will be established by the Conference of the Parties in its next meeting in 2017. The Working Group shall be the operating and coordinating mechanism for the Partnership and organizational matters, and serves as a forum for information sharing.

14. The Working Group shall operate under the guidance of and report to the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention, through the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

15. The Working Group will decide on the priorities of the Partnership and will establish Project Groups to work on specific tasks. The Project Groups may establish Project Sub-Groups as needed. The Project Groups report to the Working Group which will review and approve the products and reports prepared by the Project Groups.

16. Terms of Reference for the Partnership will be developed and adopted by the Partnership members.

¹ See Article 4.9 (a) of the Basel Convention.

17. The following Project Groups (PG) structure is proposed:

(a) PG 1: To compile and discuss available technical solutions for the ESM of household wastes, define household wastes, collect and analyse data about household wastes, identify gaps and identify possible innovative approaches to:

- (i) Closing material cycles taking into account the whole product life-cycle and strengthening waste prevention and minimization;
- (ii) Treatment of solid waste, biodegradables and hazardous substances and objects contained in household wastes including occupational safety for workers;
- (iii) Identification and classification of the components of household wastes;
- (iv) Separation of household wastes at source;
- (v) Collection and transport;
- (vi) Recycling and other recovery including energy recovery;
- (vii) Final disposal operations.

(b) PG 2: To analyse current systems of the management of household wastes at local level, including financing, e.g. using extended producer responsibility or fees, the socio economic situation of stakeholders and vulnerable groups, business models, to identify shortcomings and barriers, and identify possible innovative approaches to efficient coordination and cooperation at local level, taking into account the following:

- (i) Regulations and competent authorities at municipality level;
- (ii) Facilities, equipment and systems for ESM of hazardous substances and objects contained in household wastes;
- (iii) Involvement of the informal sector;
- (iv) Creation of new jobs;
- (v) Development of pilot projects, case studies and successful examples;
- (vi) Address challenges in connection with the informal sector.

The PG 2 may be lead by one of the Basel Convention Regional and Coordinating Centres for Capacity Building and Technology Transfer (BCRCs/BCCCs) and delegate related tasks to regional Project Sub-Groups, depending on the interest of participating countries and stakeholders, e.g.: Africa (eventually with sub-sub-groups for Anglophone, Francophone and Arab-speaking African countries), South-East Asia, Latin America, SIDS and/or other sub-grouping.

(c) PG 3: To raise awareness and disseminate the Partnership outcomes by compilation and dissemination of existing information on ESM and best practices, data and tools round the world with the aim among others to advice how to develop programs, management plans and strategies for household waste management at national level.

VII. Potential partners

18. Membership of the Partnership Working Group is open to parties and signatories to the Basel Convention, regional and local authorities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations including private sector and academia dealing with the different aspects of waste management, e.g. prevention, minimization, recycling, material and energy recovery and final disposal, as well as manufacturers and BCRCs/BCCCs which have specific expertise and experience required for the activities of this group.

VIII. Financial arrangements

19. In order that the Partnership can begin and operate on a reliable basis, it is essential to have predictable funding. Partners involved in the Partnership should be prepared to make financial contributions as set forth below to enable a successful start to the Partnership.

20. Representatives of industry bodies or associations, individual companies, and environmental non-government organizations would be able to participate as partners in Partnership meetings and teleconferences where their body has paid the appropriate annual subscription, based on a sliding scale of assessment which will be discussed and agreed upon by the partners (see appendix). Exemption from subscriptions may have to be considered for small-scale enterprises and local non-governmental organizations.

IX. Partnership work programme for 2018–2019

21. The following tasks are to be undertaken by the Partnership Working Group and its Project Groups:

(a) Develop an overall Guidance Document for the ESM of household waste compiling the key outcomes and recommendations from the Project Groups and consider whether an updating of the Technical Guidelines on Waste Collected from Households, adopted in 1994, should be initiated;

(b) Evaluate available technical solutions and business models on the ESM of household waste, and analyze environmental, economic, political and social impacts of new strategies / solutions;

(c) Analyse current systems of the management of household wastes at local level, including financing, e.g. using extended producer responsibility or fees, identify different stakeholders and potential beneficiaries, shortcomings and barriers, and identify possible innovative approaches to efficient coordination and cooperation at local level taking into account regional specificities;

(d) Enhance awareness-raising and training on the ESM of household waste, and enhance people's participation in household waste management activities and decision-making;

(e) Coordinate outreach activities and cooperation with other organizations working on household waste management;

(f) Bring orientation for programs, management plans and strategies at national level including waste prevention and minimization programmes.

Appendix

Sliding scales of assessment for annual subscriptions to the Partnership

Individual Companies

| Total asset (USD) | Annual contribution (USD) |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Over 100 billion | \$16,500 |
| 100 billion – 5 billion | \$8,250 |
| 5 billion – 5 million | \$3,300 |
| Below 5 million ² | \$1,000 |

Business Associations and Environmental NGOs (not for profit organizations)

| Total budget (USD) | Annual contribution (USD) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Over 10 million | \$10,000 |
| 10 million to 1 million | \$3,000 |
| 1 million to 100,000 | \$1,000 |
| Below 100,000 ³ | \$200 |

² Exemption from subscriptions may have to be considered for small-scale enterprises.

³ Exemption from subscriptions may have to be considered for small-scale environmental NGOs.