



Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm
Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Ninth meeting
Geneva, 29 April–10 May 2019

Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on the work of its ninth meeting

Introduction

1. At their 2017 meetings, 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, respectively, decided to hold the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (hereinafter, “the 2019 meetings”) in Geneva from 29 April to 10 May 2019 in a format similar to that of the 2017 meetings, with joint sessions covering matters of relevance to at least two of the three conventions and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the three conferences of the Parties. They also decided that the 2019 meetings would not feature a high-level segment and that such segments would occur only at every second set of meetings of the conferences of the Parties.

I. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

2. Ms. Abiola Olanipekun, Chief, Science and Technical Assistance Branch, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed participants to the 2019 meetings.
3. The meetings began with a Swiss cultural musical performance.

A. Opening remarks

4. Opening remarks were delivered by Mr. Marc Chardonens, State Secretary, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment; Ms. Joyce Msuya, acting Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), delivered via video message; Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Mr. Hans Dreyer, Executive Secretary of the Rotterdam Convention; and Mr. Mohammed Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, speaking also on behalf of Mr. Abraham Zivayi Matiza (Zimbabwe), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, and Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez (Chile), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

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5. In his remarks, Mr. Chardonnens noted that, according to the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook report, a projected doubling of the global chemicals market between 2017 and 2030 would increase global chemical releases, exposures, concentrations and adverse health and environmental impacts unless prevailing gaps in the management of chemicals and waste were addressed. Furthermore, the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook report indicated that significant gaps remained in the evaluation and regulation of hazardous chemicals, in part due to insufficient legislation and inadequate implementation. Together, the two reports delivered a strong message that the status quo was not a viable option; robust action was required, both to ensure that chemicals showed real value added where they were used and to prevent their adverse effects on human health and the environment. An international regime was needed for the sustainable management of chemicals and waste, for which environmental agreements were a key tool, and the work of the three conferences of the Parties was therefore of great importance for the future of societies the world over. During the following two weeks, the Parties would have the opportunity to strengthen the international regime by listing new chemicals under the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and setting up a compliance mechanism for the obligations under the Rotterdam Convention. The 2019 meetings also provided an opportunity to address the challenge of plastics; as the only global convention specifically on waste, the Basel Convention needed an approach to plastics that was as comprehensive as possible, based on a new regulatory framework and stronger cooperation, particularly with the private sector, to implement broader, more appropriate solutions. Importantly, the Amendment to the Basel Convention (Ban Amendment) required only two additional ratifications to enter into force, and once in force would significantly improve the situation for many developing countries.

6. Ms. Msuya, in her video message, said that while chemicals had improved daily lives, health, food security and much more besides, the mismanagement of hazardous chemicals and waste critically threatened health and the environment, running counter to the aim of ensuring healthy people and a healthy planet. With the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions playing a vital role in meeting the challenge of sound chemicals and waste management, at their 2019 meetings the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would be seeking to achieve progress on a range of issues crucial to the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Through increased synergy, investment and commitment to that challenge, it would be possible to secure the future of the planet.

7. Mr. Payet, in his statement, said that the three conventions had remained relevant and responsive to emerging global chemicals and waste issues over the decades due to the avant-garde decisions they had adopted; at the current meetings Parties were encouraged to turn their attention to plastic wastes and electronic waste, with particular consideration of upstream issues and preventing pollution and waste at source. The 2019 meetings presented an opportunity to define how the conventions were linked to climate change and biodiversity, which the Secretary-General of the United Nations had designated as a priority. In that regard, the Stockholm Convention targets of eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in equipment by 2025 and achieving the environmentally sound management of liquids containing PCB and equipment contaminated with PCB no later than 2028 were important, and Mr. Payet called on the international community, in particular donors and the funding institutions, to assist Parties in achieving those targets. He took the opportunity to thank Australia, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as donors to the voluntary trust funds, which funded much of the work under the conventions. Gender also remained an important consideration, and Parties were urged to take gender balance into account when selecting their representatives for the various subsidiary bodies of the conferences of the Parties.

8. Mr. Dreyer, in his remarks, said that the use of pesticides and at times quite hazardous ones was often the first reaction to pest outbreaks, which were responsible for major crop losses and predicted only to rise as climate change effects intensified. In those circumstances, sustainable agriculture was key to achieving food security as well as to preventing the indiscriminate use of hazardous pesticides responsible for continuing biodiversity loss and human health problems. Less hazardous, nature-based, replicable and scalable solutions were needed, which in turn demanded strong cooperative efforts and functioning legal frameworks of relevance. In support of those needs, the technical assistance programme of the Rotterdam Convention had been successfully designed to promote sound pesticides management and the use of safer alternatives. Furthermore, the Secretariat of the Convention worked with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to address cross-cutting areas relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, among them the prevention of child labour in agriculture and the identification of high-risk scenarios, with a view to helping Parties to implement the 2030 Agenda.

9. Mr. Khashashneh, in his remarks, said that urgent measures were needed to end deaths from chemicals and hazardous wastes by creating clean alternatives. Any adverse socioeconomic consequences that might ensue were incomparable to the priceless value of health and a clean environment conducive to sustainable development. Concerning the proposal to list two new chemicals under the Stockholm Convention, it must be considered in the light of the successes achieved in eliminating chemicals already listed, albeit that further efforts towards elimination were still necessary. As to the Basel Convention, its developing partnerships promised further success towards the attainment of its objectives, while its establishment of a new partnership on plastic waste would be a key step towards the sound environmental management of all wastes. With regard to the Rotterdam Convention, the approval of the compliance mechanism would enable it to emulate the accomplishments of the Basel Convention in providing technical assistance within the framework of its compliance mechanism and would also promote synergy among the three conventions. Through the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, the Parties to each Convention must also take concrete action to reduce the growing effects of climate change. Finally, technical support, financial resources, and appropriate decision-making in connection with the 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 were all vital to the implementation of the three conventions.

B. Formal opening

10. The fourteenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 11.40 a.m. on 29 April 2019 by Mr. Matiza (Zimbabwe), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Mr. Álvarez-Pérez (Chile), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and Mr. Khashashneh (Jordan), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively.

C. Regional statements

11. Representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries made general statements on the issues to be discussed during the meetings.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

12. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the following agenda for its ninth meeting, on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Organization of work;
 - (c) Report on the credentials of representatives to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties.
5. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use:
 - (i) Exemptions;
 - (ii) DDT;
 - (iii) Polychlorinated biphenyls;
 - (iv) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;
 - (v) Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3;

- (b) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production;
 - (c) Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes;
 - (d) Implementation plans;
 - (e) Listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention;
 - (f) Technical assistance;
 - (g) Financial resources and mechanisms;
 - (h) Reporting pursuant to Article 15;
 - (i) Effectiveness evaluation;
 - (j) Compliance;
6. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
 - (a) International cooperation and coordination;
 - (b) Clearing house mechanism for information exchange;
 - (c) Mainstreaming gender;
 - (d) Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
 - (e) From science to action.
 7. Programme of work and budget.
 8. Memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.
 9. Venue and date of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
 10. Other matters.
 11. Adoption of the report.
 12. Closure of the meeting.
13. In adopting its agenda, the Conference of the Parties agreed to discuss under item 10, other matters, the admission of observers, guidelines on preventing and addressing harassment at meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and further developing partnerships.

III. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)

A. Attendance

14. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 164 Parties: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo,

Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

15. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of 6 Parties that did not submit valid credentials: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Qatar, Rwanda.

16. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following non-Party State: United States of America.

17. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Office at Geneva, World Health Organization.

18. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, Comité inter-états des pesticides d'Afrique centrale, Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, Global Environment Facility, World Customs Organization, World Trade Organization.

19. The following Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres and Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres were represented as observers: Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Latin America and Caribbean Region (BCCC-Uruguay)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Uruguay); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Asia and the Pacific (BCRC-China)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-China); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for French-speaking Countries in Africa (BCRC-Senegal)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Senegal); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for South-East Asia (BCRC-SEA)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Indonesia); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the English-speaking African countries (BCRC-South Africa)/Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-South Africa); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Czechia); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-India); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Spain); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Panama); Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology (SCRC-Algeria).

20. Non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.14/INF/60–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/51–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/62).

B. Election of officers

21. Introducing the sub-item, the President noted that the Parties would need to elect the officers of the three conferences of the Parties whose terms of office would start at the closure of the 2019 meetings, as well as officers and members of subsidiary bodies and expert groups. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in documents UNEP/CHW.14/2, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/2 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/2, and drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/3–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/3–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/3, containing the overview table of elections, as well as documents UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/4 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/4/Rev.1, containing the curricula vitae received in advance of the meetings of candidates nominated for appointment during the 2019 meetings of the Conference of the Parties as, respectively, members of the Chemical Review Committee and of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

22. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the following members of the Bureau elected at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention served during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President:	Mr. Mohammed Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Jean Claude Emene Elenga (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
	Mr. Mehari Wondmagegn Taye (Ethiopia)
	Ms. Ana Berejiani (Georgia)
	Ms. Silvija Nora Kalnins (Latvia)
	Mr. Reginald Hernaus (Netherlands)
	Mr. Sverre Thomas Jahre (Norway)
	Mr. Ali Al-Dobhani (Yemen)

23. Ms. Agustina Camilli (Uruguay) and Mr. Marcus L. Natta (Saint Kitts and Nevis), elected vice-presidents at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, were unable to complete their terms of office. Pursuant to rule 25, their respective compatriots, Ms. Valentina Sierra (Uruguay) and Ms. Jeanelle Kelly (Saint Kitts and Nevis), served in their stead.

24. Mr. Taye served as Rapporteur.

25. Also in accordance with rule 22, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the new Bureau, whose terms would commence upon the closure of the current meeting and terminate upon the closure of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President:	Ms. Silvija Nora Kalnins (Latvia)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Natalia Pacheco Rodriguez (Bolivia)
	Mr. Seyed Mahdi Parsaei (Iran, Islamic Republic of)
	Mr. Yousif Muayad Yousif (Iraq)
	Ms. Nohelia Carolina Vargas Idiáquez (Nicaragua)
	Mr. Alexander Romanov (Russian Federation)
	Mr. Sheikh Ahmed Tunis (Sierra Leone)
	Ms. Noluzuko Gwayi (South Africa)
	Ms. Maria Delvin (Sweden)
	Mr. Felix Wertli (Switzerland)

26. Mr. Parsaei was elected to serve as Rapporteur.

27. The Conference of the Parties agreed to entrust the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, with facilitating during the intersessional period preceding the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the process for nominating candidates for election. The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions also agreed to the same arrangement with a view to ensuring consistency in approaches and, ultimately, to facilitating decision-making on elections during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2021.

C. Organization of work

28. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 29 to 31 below are replicated in section III C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and section III C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

29. The three conferences of the Parties agreed to conduct their meetings in accordance with the scenario note set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/1 and the schedule set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/2–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/2, which prior to the meetings had been

agreed upon by the bureaux of the three conferences. The schedule and conduct of the meetings would be adjusted by the bureaux each day, as necessary, in the light of the progress of the meetings.

30. In accordance with the agreed arrangements, and as described in the scenario note, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would hold both joint and separate sessions during their meetings. During the joint sessions, the conferences of the Parties would discuss cross-cutting issues affecting at least two of the three conventions. In addition, the conferences of the Parties would establish such contact and other groups as they deemed necessary for the various meetings. All decisions would be adopted pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2020–2021 or that they would have no budgetary implications. The total number of contact groups meeting at any one time would be limited to facilitate participation by all delegations. The conferences of the Parties also agreed that the presidents of the three conferences would take it in turn to preside over joint sessions and that each, when so presiding, would act on behalf of all three.

31. In carrying out their work at the current meetings, the conferences of the Parties had before them working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the agenda for the meetings. A list of those documents for each meeting, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, is set out in documents UNEP/CHW.14/INF/59, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/49 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/61.

D. Report on the credentials of representatives to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

32. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 33 to 36 below are replicated in section III D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and section III D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

33. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that during the period leading up to the 2019 meetings the bureaux of the respective meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had agreed to take the same common approach to their consideration of credentials for the current meetings as had been taken during the 2015 and 2017 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions. Pursuant to that approach each bureau would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies thereof, on the understanding that, in the case of the latter, originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

34. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the requirements in respect of credentials set out in rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, saying that in accordance with those rules the bureaux would examine the credentials of the representatives of the Parties present at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively, and that each Bureau would report on the results of its examination to its Conference of the Parties on the afternoon of Thursday, 9 May 2019.

35. The President added that the Parties were to submit the credentials of their representatives to the Secretariat by 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 May 2019.

36. Also under the item it was announced that, as at the start of the 2019 meetings, there were 187 Parties to the Basel Convention, 161 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 182 Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

37. On 9 May 2019, the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at 8 a.m. that day, indicating that the Bureau had further examined the credentials of the representatives of the 170 Parties to the Stockholm Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that those of 161 had been issued by a Head of State or Government or a minister for foreign affairs and were therefore in good order. The credentials of 146 of those 161 representatives were originals, while 15 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

38. It was also reported that the following 9 Parties had, as at 8 a.m. that day, not submitted credentials for their representatives: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Malawi, Micronesia (Federated States of), Qatar, Rwanda and Samoa. Those 9 Parties were therefore participating as observers in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

39. The Conference of the Parties adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials.

40. On 10 May 2019, the report on credentials was updated by the Conference of the Parties to reflect that one Party having previously submitted a copy of the credentials for its representatives had submitted original credentials and that three Parties had submitted copies of credentials, all in good order. Accordingly, of the 170 Parties to the Stockholm Convention that had registered for the meeting, the credentials of 164 Parties had been issued by a Head of State or Government or a minister for foreign affairs and were therefore in good order. The credentials of 147 of those 164 representatives were originals, while 17 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible. In addition, the following 6 Parties had not submitted credentials for their representatives: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Qatar and Rwanda. Those 6 Parties were therefore participating as observers in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

IV. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 4)

41. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/3. She recalled that, at its first meeting, by decision SC-1/1, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention had adopted its rules of procedure, as contained in the annex to that decision, with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45, which it had agreed to maintain in square brackets to indicate that it had not been agreed to and was of no effect. The matter had been discussed at subsequent meetings, but no decision had been taken. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had agreed that the brackets would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide on substantive matters by consensus.

42. As at previous meetings, the Conference of the Parties agreed that it would not adopt a formal decision on the item at the current meeting, that the square brackets around the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45 would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide substantive matters by consensus.

V. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention (agenda item 5)

A. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from intentional production and use

1. Exemptions

43. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/4, containing information on the current status of the register of specific exemptions, registers of acceptable purposes for chemicals listed in annex B, notifications of articles in use and notifications of production and use of chemicals as closed-system site-limited intermediates, along with a draft decision on the matter.

44. She highlighted that, in accordance with note (iii) of Annexes A and B, a closed-system site-limited intermediate should not be transformed into chemicals that exhibited the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants. In the light of the decision by the Conference of the Parties to list dicofol as a persistent organic pollutant, the Conference of the Parties was invited to consider linking the decisions on exemptions and on the listing of dicofol.

45. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted with satisfaction that the number of specific exemptions being registered and the number of Parties registering them was decreasing. She strongly encouraged all Parties to continue those efforts to replace all persistent organic pollutants with safer alternatives as soon as possible. Another representative, however, stressed the need for technical assistance and financial support for developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to enable them to do so. One representative said that his Government was preparing to register exemptions relating to two chemicals used in firefighting.

46. One representative questioned the reason for the limited number of Parties that had registered specific exemptions and whether many had not done so owing to a lack of capacity for identifying and analysing persistent organic pollutants.
47. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to prepare for its consideration a revised version of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/4, taking into account the discussion in plenary. That version would also include an additional paragraph relating to the decision by the Conference of the Parties to amend Annex A to list dicofol and the notifications for the production and use of dicofol as a closed-system site-limited intermediate.
48. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision.
49. Decision SC-9/1, on exemptions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

2. DDT

50. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/5, including a draft decision, and reported that, in accordance with the process set out in decision SC-3/2, and thanks to financial support provided by the European Union, the DDT expert group had prepared a report, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, on its evaluation of the continued need for DDT and its alternatives for disease vector control. In its report, set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/6, the expert group had reaffirmed that there was a continued need for DDT for indoor residual spraying in specific settings for disease vector control where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives were still lacking, and made a number of recommendations, including that national capacity for research and resistance monitoring and implementation of pilot testing and upscaling of existing alternatives to DDT should be increased.
51. The representative of UNEP said that, as described in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/8, UNEP had continued to lead the implementation of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT, in consultation with WHO, the DDT expert group and the Secretariat, and to manage the secretariat of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control, under which there was excellent collaboration between UNEP, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, WHO and other key partners in implementing activities. In addition to those global-level activities, UNEP was involved in the implementation of country-level projects relating to DDT, including a GEF project executed by WHO that focused on demonstrating alternatives to DDT for malaria control in six African countries.
52. The representative of WHO outlined the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/7, drawing attention to changes in the global malaria control effort since the publication in 2011 of the most recent WHO Position Statement on DDT, including a stalling of the global response to malaria in recent years, following a decade of extraordinary progress in malaria control and prevention thanks to a remarkable increase in WHO-recommended core interventions, including the use of insecticide-treated nets; key threats to vector control, including vector resistance to the main insecticide classes used in indoor residual spraying for malaria control and limited ability to rotate between different insecticide classes in order to manage such resistance, due to a limited number of insecticide classes approved for use; and changes to the availability and relative costs of malaria vector control tools. In view of such developments, WHO planned to conduct a comprehensive evidence review on DDT within the following 12 to 24 months. Until that review was completed, however, the 2011 WHO position statement remained unchanged and WHO supported the recommendation of the DDT expert group that there was a continued need for DDT for indoor residual spraying in specific settings for disease vector control where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives were still lacking.
53. In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked the Secretariat, UNEP and WHO for the information presented and the DDT expert group for its report, and expressed appreciation to those who had supported the work undertaken on DDT, including under the road map and the Global Alliance.
54. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that they would continue to use DDT in line with the provisions of the Stockholm Convention and the recommendations of the DDT expert group until safe, effective and affordable alternatives were found. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries requested UNEP and WHO to develop a coherent common approach on indoor residual spraying of DDT to clarify whether it was safe for human health.

55. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft decision, which concluded that countries that relied on indoor residual spraying for disease vector control might need DDT for that purpose in specific settings where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives were still lacking for a sustainable transition away from DDT, but encouraged all Parties and international organizations to engage in efforts to eliminate the use of DDT by replacing it with safer alternatives or methods.
56. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also welcomed the request, in the draft decision, to Parties listed in the DDT register to respond to the DDT questionnaire, stressing that the current low level of reporting and reporting inconsistencies made it impossible for the DDT expert group to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the production, use, import and export of DDT, or to identify which of those Parties required assistance.
57. Many representatives drew attention to national-level efforts to reduce or eliminate the use of DDT, including through the adoption of integrated vector management approaches and the development of suitable alternatives to DDT, or to dispose of DDT stockpiles in an environmentally sound manner. Several said that technical, financial and other assistance should be provided to developing countries in order to support such efforts.
58. One representative said that his country had banned the production, use and sale of DDT a long time ago but continued to experience problems caused by illegal imports and unscrupulous use of the chemical. Noting that the continued use of DDT was causing adverse impacts on human health and the environment and that many vectors were developing resistance to the chemical, he suggested that the DDT expert group propose a concrete timeline for the complete phase-out of the production and use of DDT.
59. A number of representatives, noting that they needed to continue using DDT for malaria control, said that they were experiencing problems of vector resistance to pesticides used as alternatives to DDT, or expressed concern about reports of vector resistance to those alternatives. A number of representatives said that DDT had proven to be a suitable and effective method to control malaria in their countries, with one cautioning against phasing out DDT before suitable, effective alternatives had been developed.
60. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/5, as orally amended. The President said that the names of the Parties to be invited to nominate experts to serve as members of the DDT expert group would be determined by the regions during the present meeting and would be included in the decision.
61. Decision SC-9/2, on DDT, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

3. Polychlorinated biphenyls

62. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat noted that the Stockholm Convention required Parties to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) in equipment by 2025 and to ensure the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with PCB by 2028, and mandated that the Conference of Parties review progress toward the elimination of PCB every four years, a time frame that aligned with the transmission of national reports pursuant to Article 15. She recalled that at its eighth meeting the Conference of the Parties, in decision SC-8/3, had established a small intersessional working group to prepare a report on related progress for consideration at the current meeting and had requested the Secretariat to support the group. Pursuant to that decision, Colombia had served as lead country in the preparation of the report. Thanks to the generous financial support provided by the European Union and the Governments of Japan and Norway, the small intersessional working group had finalized the report on progress towards the elimination of PCB. The report was set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/10 and the recommendations were set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/6/Add.1. The Secretariat had also prepared consolidated guidance on PCB in open applications thanks to financial support provided by the European Union and had made it available on the Convention website. A summary of these processes and a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties were set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/6.
63. Another representative of the Secretariat presented the report on progress towards the elimination of PCB and related recommendations contained in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/10 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/6/Add.1, respectively. She outlined the sources of information on which the report was to be based: the fourth national reports under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, a tabular questionnaire and an online survey. There had, however, been a very low response rate from

Parties in all those cases. Consequently, information from the third national reports was also included and information on PCB for destruction was drawn from annual national reporting under the Basel Convention. The data were, however, still found to be incomplete, inconsistent and difficult to compare. There were discrepancies between data from different sources, differing use of terminology and metrics and lack of clarity regarding calculation methods. The most important recommendation to be given by the group was therefore that all Parties should report every four years, completely and accurately, on the quantities of PCB in use, in storage awaiting destruction, exported for destruction, imported for destruction, and destroyed locally.

64. The representative of UNEP reported that the PCB Elimination Network currently had over 450 registered members and provided an excellent pool of resources to assist Parties in meeting the challenges associated with eliminating PCB. To date, the Network had undertaken a variety of activities and delivered products that facilitated efforts by Parties to meet their obligations. However, the financial basis for the operation of the Network and, more broadly, for implementing its activities, remained weak. More concerted and enhanced collaboration was needed to meet the timelines of the Stockholm Convention on PCB. In addition to its in-kind contribution for the secretarial work of the Network, UNEP had also implemented a number of GEF-funded projects at the national level and implemented other activities aimed at assisting Parties to achieve the goals of the Convention. Details on that work and the PCB Elimination Network were set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/11.

65. The Conference of Parties expressed its appreciation to the members of the small intersessional working group, to the Government of Colombia for leading its work, to the European Union and the Governments of Japan and Norway for their financial support, and to UNEP for leading the activities of the PCB Elimination Network.

66. Most of the representatives who spoke underscored the importance of Parties implementing the full range of the Convention's provisions on PCB, including, inter alia, developing and updating inventories and national plans, reporting, eliminating the use of PCB in equipment by 2025 and ensuring the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with PCB by 2028. Many representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, also expressed concern for the relatively slow progress made to date, as shown in the progress report, including the low percentage of Parties that had met the reporting requirements.

67. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, outlined activities taken within their region or countries towards the elimination of PCB. A large number also expressed appreciation for financial and technical support provided for those efforts by GEF, UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UNEP and other bilateral and multilateral partners.

68. Many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries emphasized the significant difficulties faced by developing countries and countries with economies in transition in undertaking all the actions required to inventory, monitor, report on and eliminate the use of PCB in equipment, and ensure the environmentally sound management of wastes containing or contaminated with PCB, and urged the Conference of the Parties to develop new strategies and provide additional, significant and targeted financial, technical and capacity-building assistance so that developing countries could fully implement those provisions in the limited time remaining. One representative suggested that, in order to achieve an effective commitment from the private sector, innovative financial measures should be established within the framework of the Convention, such as promoting access of PCB owners to loans with preferential rates through development banks. One representative suggested that more realistic deadlines might be required. A number of representatives expressed concern that political issues unrelated to the Convention had prevented them from accessing financial and technical assistance available to most other Parties. Some underscored the importance of prioritizing how GEF funding was allocated. The representative of Japan noted that his Government stood ready to offer assistance by translating educational and guidance materials it had developed relevant to eliminating and managing PCB.

69. Many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed general support for the draft decision and the recommendations submitted by the small intersessional working group. The representative of the European Union and its member States, subsequently supported by two others, introduced a conference room paper to amend the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/6. Another representative proposed amending the decision to underscore actions mandated by the Convention.

70. Following the discussion, the Conference adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, on the understanding that the names of the experts to be designated by the Parties would be inserted in the annex to the decision.

71. Decision SC-9/3, on polychlorinated biphenyls, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

4. Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

72. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that by decision SC-6/4, the Conference of the Parties had adopted a process for evaluating perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) pursuant to the provisions of the Convention. The schedule had subsequently been amended by decision SC-7/5. In decision SC-8/5, Parties and others had been invited to submit additional information related to sulfluramid, for use by the Secretariat in the preparation of its report on the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, and by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee in its future updating of the guidance on alternatives to PFOS and its related chemicals.

73. Following its discussions on the matter, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee had recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider amending Annex B to the Convention. With regard to specific exemptions, the Committee had recommended that, in all instances, the specific exemption for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF no longer be available. For acceptable purposes, the Committee had made various recommendations ranging from some acceptable purposes no longer being available, to amendment of the entry from an acceptable purpose to a specific exemption. Only for use as insect bait for the control of leaf-cutting ants did the Committee recommend the maintenance of the acceptable purpose, with an amendment to clarify its scope relevant to sulfluramid. The Committee had also recommended that the Conference of the Parties encourage Parties using sulfluramid as insect bait for the control of leaf-cutting ants to register for an acceptable purpose by notifying the Secretariat in accordance with Annex B.

74. The process through which the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Secretariat had worked to prepare, respectively, the assessment of alternatives and the evaluation of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF was set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/7, which also contained a draft decision and, in its annex, the recommendations of the Committee. The activities related to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF had been made possible thanks to a generous financial contribution by the European Union. A report on the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF was contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/12.

75. Many representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed general support for amending Annex B as proposed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the associated draft decisions, with some noting that elements required further discussion. To that end, the representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper outlining potential changes. Another representative said that if countries were to use sulfluramid for an acceptable purpose, they should report the relevant information as required by the Convention. One representative expressed support for retaining firefighting foam as an acceptable purpose.

76. Many representatives described legal and other measures in their countries to ban or control the use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF. A number called for the provision of financial, technical and capacity-building assistance to developing-country Parties to support the environmentally sound management of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, and the identification and deployment of alternatives.

77. The Conference of the Parties agreed to refer the agenda item to the contact group on the listing of chemicals with a mandate to prepare a revised draft decision, using the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/7 as a starting point and taking into account the relevant conference room paper and the discussion in plenary.

78. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted two draft decisions on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF prepared by the contact group on the listing of chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to, respectively, amend the acceptable purposes and specific exemptions for PFOS, its salts and PFOSF in Annex B to the Stockholm Convention, and to prescribe several actions related to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF.

79. Decision SC-9/4, on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, and decision SC-9/5, on actions related to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are set out in the annex to the present report.

5. Evaluation of the continued need for the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3

80. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had adopted a revised template for the certification for exports to a non-Party pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3. Only two such certifications had been transmitted to the Secretariat since the entry into force of the Convention, one of which had been received since the introduction of the revised template. As requested by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, the Secretariat had prepared for the present meeting a report on the effectiveness of the procedure, which provided an overview of status of consents to be bound by the Convention and amendments to its Annexes A and B. The report was contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/8.

81. The information in the report, which was drawn from Parties' third and fourth national reports, showed that imports and exports of chemicals listed in Annexes A and B for which there were permitted uses took place among Parties and between Parties and States not Party to the Convention. The report therefore concluded that there might be a need to enhance the effectiveness of the procedure.

82. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the proposed action, expressing the view that continued awareness-raising by the Secretariat, in conjunction with the use of the revised template, was likely to result in proper implementation of the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3.

83. The Conference of the Parties agreed to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/8.

84. Decision SC-9/6, on the evaluation of the effectiveness of the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

B. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from unintentional production

85. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/9, concerning the Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants and guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and on best environmental practices, and drew attention to the draft decision also set out therein. She said that the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster had been updated, as detailed in the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/13. In 2017 and 2018, two expert meetings had been organized thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union and in collaboration with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central Europe and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria. Document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/14 contained the reports of those meetings, while document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/15 contained a progress report on the review and update of the Toolkit and of the guidelines on best available techniques and guidance on best environmental practices relevant to Article 5 and Annex C of the Stockholm Convention. Document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/16 contained new draft guidance developed by the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the production and use of pentachlorophenol listed with specific exemptions under the Convention. Finally, the conclusions and recommendation of the experts were set out, together with their workplan, in annexes I and II to document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/9.

86. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of the European Union and its member States, supported by another representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed agreement with the conclusions and recommendations of the experts, in particular those aimed at ensuring the sufficient involvement of experts in all further work. In that context, she said that she was pleased to announce that European Union experts from Austria, Czechia, Romania and Slovakia stood ready to engage actively in that work and she presented a conference room paper setting out proposed amendments to the draft decision, including the annexation thereto of a revised version of the workplan so as to incorporate revision of the guidance on certain substances to make it consistent with existing Basel Convention technical guidelines. One representative expressed support for the proposed amendments and revision of the workplan, which another representative welcomed but expressed a preference in one case for the original text.

87. One representative said that the expert roster should be further expanded and awareness-raising activities continued so as to enable national stakeholders in countries lacking expertise to use the Toolkit with the greatest effect towards reducing and ultimately eliminating persistent organic pollutants from the environment.

88. Following the discussion, the Parties agreed that the Secretariat, in consultation with those Parties that had commented on the matter, should prepare a revised version of the draft decision, taking into account the conference room paper, proposed amendments and the discussion in plenary.

89. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted the revised draft decision prepared by the Secretariat. Following the discussions of the contact group on budget matters, the Conference of the Parties agreed to amend the draft decision to specify the activities to be funded through core resources and those to be funded through voluntary contributions.

90. Decision SC-9/7, on guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

C. Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes¹

91. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the information provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/10, recalling that the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, with regard to the three new persistent organic pollutants listed at its eighth meeting, had invited the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention to establish the levels of destruction and irreversible transformation of the chemical necessary to ensure that no characteristics of persistent organic pollutants were exhibited, to determine the methods constituting the environmentally sound management of disposal, to establish the concentration levels of the chemical in order to define the low persistent-organic-pollutant content, to update, if needed, the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, and to develop or update specific technical guidelines under the Basel Convention. The small intersessional working group under the Basel Convention had worked on updating the general and specific technical guidelines for wastes.

92. The representative of the European Union introduced a conference room paper setting out proposed changes to the draft decision in the document.

93. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised draft decision based on the proposed action set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/10, the changes proposed in the conference room paper and the discussions in plenary, for its subsequent consideration.

94. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties adopted a revised version of the draft decision.

95. Decision SC-9/8, on measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

D. Implementation plans

96. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/11, containing information on the transmission of national implementation plans, the development of guidance documents and an electronic template for the reporting of quantitative information contained in national implementation plans, as well as a draft decision on the matter. Information on implementation plan transmission was set out in UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/17.

97. Parties had been assisted in developing and updating their national implementation plans through guidance documents, projects and capacity-building activities. The related technical assistance activities were included in the document on technical assistance (UNEP/CHW.14/INF/25/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/24/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/25/Rev.1), and new draft guidance prepared by the Secretariat on decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins was set out in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/18, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/19, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/19/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/20 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/21.

98. In the discussion that followed, many representatives reported on their countries' progress toward transmitting their updated national implementation plans.

99. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the provision of assistance for the preparation and updating of national

¹ The sub-item was taken up during a joint session of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions. The discussion relevant to the Basel Convention under this sub-item is contained in section IV B 1 (a) of the report of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (UNEP/CHW.14/28).

implementation plans by the Secretariat and such entities as GEF, UNEP and UNIDO. Noting the link between implementation and financial and technical assistance, many representatives also called for additional assistance for implementation, including one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, whose views were then echoed by many other representatives of countries from his region.

100. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed appreciation for the guidance documents developed by the Secretariat, although one, supported by a number of others, said that more detailed guidelines would be required to help Parties in addressing newly listed chemicals.

101. The representative of the European Union and its member States, noting that an electronic template was being developed to collect quantitative information, said that the collection of qualitative information was also important, and introduced a conference room paper proposing an amendment to the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/11 to request the Secretariat to develop a template for that purpose. Another representative, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, proposed oral amendments providing for the guidance and electronic template to be reviewed by the Parties prior to adoption.

102. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/11, as amended both in the conference room paper and orally, pending the decisions on the listing of chemicals.

103. Decision SC-9/9, on implementation plans, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

E. Listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention

104. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that it covered recommendations by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list two new chemicals in Annex A, B and/or C to the Convention, developments on the work of the Committee, and proposals to amend Article 8 and Annex D to the Convention submitted by the Russian Federation.

1. Recommendations by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list chemicals in the annexes to the Convention

(a) Dicofol

105. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/13, which contained a recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to list dicofol in Annex A to the Convention and a corresponding draft decision containing the draft text of the proposed amendment, and document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/23, setting out a compilation of comments received from Parties related to the listing of new chemicals in Annex A, B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention recommended by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee.

106. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives thanked the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee for its report on and thorough review of dicofol. Most of the representatives who spoke expressed support for listing dicofol in Annex A to the Convention without specific exemptions, as proposed by the Committee. One representative voiced reservations about the listing, noting that the registration process for alternatives took two to three years in his country, and said that more time was needed to enable countries to register alternatives to dicofol.

107. The representative of China drew attention to inaccuracies in paragraph 3 of the annex to document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/13, which reported that China had been the major global producer of DDT and dicofol "until recently". He said that China had banned the use of DDT in 2002 and had stopped the production of dicofol in 2014.

108. The representative of India announced that his country, which was currently the sole producer of dicofol, would cease the production of the chemical, possibly as quickly as within two months.

109. Following the discussion, the President clarified that following the adoption of the decision listing dicofol in Annex A to the Convention, there would be a transitional period of approximately one and half years before the listing would enter into force. The Conference of the Parties then agreed to list dicofol in Annex A to the Convention without specific exemptions and to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/13.

110. Decision SC-9/11, on the listing of dicofol, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

(b) Perfluorooctanoic acid, its salts and PFOA-related compounds

111. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that in 2018, at its fourteenth meeting, the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee had decided to strengthen its recommendation to the Conference of Parties to the Stockholm Convention that it consider listing perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds in Annex A to the Convention with various specific exemptions, as described in paragraph 2 of decision POPRC-14/2. Document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/14 contained a draft decision to that effect, including draft text for a proposed amendment to list PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds in Annex A.

112. Many representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for listing PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds in Annex A with specific exemptions, with some highlighting the extensive consideration given to that issue by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, favoured a listing in Annex A without specific exemptions.

113. A number of representatives underscored the importance of clearly defining or listing specific PFOA-related compounds to support effective domestic implementation and compliance. One said that agreement on clear definitions of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds was required before those substances could be listed in Annex A. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the difficulty of identifying the presence of PFOA in firefighting foams and advocated extending the timelines contained in the draft decision. Another representative noted that, in line with the provisions of the Convention, Parties could request exemptions if other applications of PFOA were discovered in the future. Several representatives reported on contamination from PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds or steps being taken to address the threats those chemicals posed to human health and the environment in their countries.

114. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the need to provide adequate technical and financial resources to developing countries and countries with economies in transition so that they could effectively identify products and stockpiles that contained PFOA, develop inventories, identify and use appropriate alternatives, and remediate contaminated sites.

115. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, asked the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to clarify for future reviews the scope of the term “testing purposes” as referred to in its recommendation. Such clarification would avoid misinterpretation by the Parties of the term during future reviews of chemical substances undertaken by the Committee. She said that the verification of the proper functioning of an installed system or the quality of firefighting foam should not fall under the category of “testing purposes” as it was a part of a normal use.

116. One representative recalled that during the consideration of the issue by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the representative of his Government had stated, as an observer, that not all the information under consideration had been scientifically substantiated and that the conclusions on the toxicity and bioaccumulation of PFOA had been arrived at prematurely and on the basis of incorrect data. In addition, no standardized definition existed for identifying PFOA in living creatures. While his delegation did not object to the proposed listing, in view of the need to be careful it was necessary for Parties to continue conducting studies at the national and international levels in order to reach a more substantiated determination of the harmful qualities of PFOA. A proposed amendment to the Convention, to be introduced by his Government, would address that issue by establishing clearer requirements regarding the information and standards used to identify and evaluate the threats posed by candidate persistent organic pollutants.

117. The Conference of the Parties agreed to establish a contact group on the listing of chemicals in Annex A, B and/or C to the Convention, to be chaired by Ms. Maria Delvin (Sweden) and Mr. Agus Haryono (Indonesia), to consider the listing of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds in Annex A, potential specific exemptions, and concerns regarding the need to define or list specific PFOA-related compounds, taking into account the draft decision contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/14 and comments made at the present meeting. The Conference of the Parties noted that the draft decision contained standardized text for amending Annex A, B and/or C and that if the contact group agreed, it could propose additional work related to the chemical and prepare a supplementary draft decision.

118. Subsequently, the President introduced a conference room paper containing a draft decision on the listing of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds in Annex A, which had been prepared by the contact group. The decision contained some text in square brackets pertaining to specific exemptions for the use of PFOA.

119. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran introduced a second conference room paper containing an alternative to that bracketed text. One representative commended the efforts to make the proposal narrower and more specific.

120. In response to the second conference room paper, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the importance of protecting the integrity of the review process by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, ensuring that requests for broad exemptions were not made at the last minute and that there was sufficient time for careful review by the Committee of any requests prior to their consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

121. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that the request for the specific exemption for polyfluoroethylene propylene had not been assessed by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and that the request for the specific exemption for fluoroelastomers had been, but it had not been recommended for exemption.

122. One representative said that he could accept the text proposal set out in the second conference room paper, but stressed that it should in no way constitute a precedent. Another representative, however, expressed support for the draft decision produced by the contact group, without the bracketed text, noting that she would need more time to consider the second proposal.

123. The President requested interested Parties to undertake informal consultations on the proposals with a view to reaching agreement.

124. Subsequently, the representative of the Secretariat presented a revised version of the alternative text proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran that was deemed acceptable to the other interested Parties as a replacement for the bracketed text in the draft decision prepared by the contact group.

125. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision, as orally amended.

126. The Conference of the Parties then adopted a second draft decision, also prepared by the contact group, on actions related to PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds.

127. Decisions SC-9/12, on the listing of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, and SC-9/13, on actions related to PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, are set out in the annex to the present report.

2. Developments in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutant Review Committee

128. Introducing the matter, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/12, which included a draft decision through which the Conference would, among other things, appoint designated experts to serve as members of the Committee from 5 May 2020 to 4 May 2024 and either elect a new Chair of the Committee or request the Committee to identify an interim Chair to preside over the Committee's sixteenth meeting and decide to consider the election of the Chair of the Committee at its tenth meeting. Speaking on behalf of Ms. Estefania Moreira, the current Chair, she provided a brief report on the technical work of the Committee.

129. In the ensuing discussion, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft decision, provided that, as reflected in alternative paragraph 5, the Conference requested the Committee to identify an interim Chair to preside over its sixteenth meeting and decided to consider the election of the Chair at its tenth meeting.

130. Following the discussion, the Conference adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, on the understanding that the names of the experts to be designated by the Parties would be inserted in the annex to the decision.

131. Decision SC-9/10, on the operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Committee, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

3. Proposals to amend Article 8 and Annex D to the Convention

132. The representative of the Secretariat said that, on 27 July 2018, the Secretariat had received from the Russian Federation proposals to amend Article 8 and Annex D to the Convention, which were set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/15. She also drew attention to information documents UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/24, which set out comments from Parties on the proposals, and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/9, which included an explanatory note from the Government of the Russian Federation on the proposals.

133. The representative of the Russian Federation, noting that almost all chlorinated and brominated compounds were persistent, but that that did not mean that they should be listed in the Convention, said that the two proposed amendments were intended to ensure that substances listed in the Stockholm Convention were based on sufficiently substantiated claims proven through scientific evidence. Given that there was no consensus on the proposed amendments, however, he proposed that, instead of adopting them, the Conference of the Parties request the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to develop guidelines on the use of the precautionary principle in order to ensure that such use was in line with the criteria set out in Annex E to the Convention.

134. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including two speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that they could not support the proposed amendments. They stressed that scientific uncertainty was inherent in assessing potential persistent organic pollutants and that lack of scientific certainty should not preclude the adoption of effective decisions to protect the environment or be used as a reason to delay taking effective measures to prevent potential adverse environmental effects. One of the representatives said that the proposed amendments would place a limit on the use of the precautionary principle, as reflected in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and that the current preventive approach, which she supported, did not stop countries from conducting research to reduce uncertainty and optimize decision-making.

135. One of the representatives speaking on behalf of a group of countries said that uncertainty was managed both by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, when it conducted robust scientific assessments in line with the Convention criteria on the basis of which it made listing recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, and by the Conference of the Parties itself, when it decided whether or not to list a chemical in the annexes to the Convention. She stressed that past decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties demonstrated that the Parties fully supported the objectives of the Convention, including the application of the precautionary principle.

136. One representative expressed support for the proposal by the Russian Federation to amend the Convention, which would increase scientific certainty, thereby furthering the implementation of the Convention. He stressed the importance of learning from past lessons and avoiding situations in which a listed chemical was replaced with an alternative that, decades later, proved to be equally harmful.

137. Subsequently, the representative of the Russian Federation thanked all those who had provided feedback with regarding to his country's proposal. As a result, he introduced a new proposal that included efforts to clarify the use of the precautionary principle. He proposed the development of guidelines that would stipulate which and how many of the four screening criteria in Annex D had to be proven scientifically before the precautionary principle could be applied in any given case.

138. The President requested the representative of the Russian Federation to submit the proposal in the form of a conference room paper to facilitate its consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

139. Subsequently, the representative of the Russian Federation presented a conference room paper, which requested the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee to continue, during the intersessional period, its consideration of ways to improve the mechanism for listing chemicals in the annexes to the Convention and enhancing the scientific justification of decisions taken in that regard, and to make recommendations that could form the basis of a draft decision. The paper also requested the Committee to develop, prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a draft guideline document reflecting the normative conditions for the application of the precautionary approach in the absence of scientifically sound evidence on a chemical in accordance with the screening criteria in Annex D, and to clarify what parameters instead of the half-life might be used when assessing the persistence of a chemical.

140. During the ensuing discussion most representatives who spoke opposed any change to the procedures and criteria outlined in Article 8 and Annex D. One representative said that the current practice under the Convention, whereby the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee undertook a thorough evaluation of all scientific evidence before proposing the listing of a new chemical, constituted a transparent process open to all Parties to the Convention. Another representative said that due consideration of scientific evidence was already embedded in Article 8 of the Convention, which stated that a proposal to list a chemical should only proceed if that chemical was likely as a result of its long-range environmental transport to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action was warranted. Another representative said that the procedures laid out in Articles 8 and 22 for the listing of chemicals in Annexes A, B and C were already adequate, although consideration of ways to enhance the scientific justification of decisions regarding the listing of chemicals could increase transparency in applying those procedures. Another representative encouraged Parties to continue to provide the Persistent Organic Pollutants

Review Committee with the best available scientific evidence in order to inform their decisions on the listing of new substances.

141. Many representatives stressed the importance of maintaining the precautionary approach, as reflected in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and embedded in the preambular text to the Stockholm Convention, in order to realize the primary objective of the Convention, namely to protect human health and the environment. One representative, said that the precautionary principle was well established in international law and multilateral environmental agreements, and was consistent with the intent, content and primary objective of the Stockholm Convention, as stated in Article 1. Accordingly, any language that changed the intent and principle of the precautionary approach was not acceptable.

142. On the matter of the screening criteria in Annex D, one representative said that any revision of those criteria could increase the difficulty of adding new substances to Annexes A, B or C, and could threaten the current listing of persistent organic pollutants. Another representative said that the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee was not the competent body to develop the proposed guideline document to assess additional indicators or alternatives to the criteria for listing new substances. Yet another said that there was merit in the proposal contained in the conference paper to seek clarification and guidance on matters that could contribute to the better implementation of the Convention.

143. The Conference of the Parties agreed to continue bilateral discussions on the matter.

144. Following the bilateral discussions, given the lack of consensus on the issue, the representative of the Russian Federation informed the Conference of the Parties of the withdrawal of his country's proposals to amend Article 8 and Annex D to the Convention.

F. Technical assistance

145. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 146 to 157 below are replicated in section IV D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and section V E of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

146. Introducing the item, the President said that there were three main topics to be considered: the technical assistance plan prepared by the Secretariat for the delivery of technical assistance under the conventions; regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions; and implementation of decision V/32 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention relating to the emergency trust fund.

1. Technical assistance

147. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information contained in document UNEP/CHW.14/16–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/16, on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which set out information on activities undertaken under the four-year technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021, and document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/25/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/24/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/25/Rev.1, which set out further information on the implementation of the plan. A draft monitoring and evaluation strategy prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the conferences of the Parties was set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/27–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/26.

148. A number of representatives expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Secretariat, donor countries, the regional centres and relevant partners in providing technical assistance and capacity-building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement their obligations under the three conventions, with several providing specific examples of the assistance they had received. One representative said that adequate provision of technical assistance was an essential element of any discussion regarding the establishment of a compliance mechanism. Another representative stressed the importance of training in laboratory and analytical techniques to increase the capacity of countries to deal with harmful chemicals, including the growing number of regulated persistent organic pollutants. One representative highlighted the need for further technical assistance for the management of hazardous wastes generated during ship dismantling.

149. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the projects undertaken in implementing the technical assistance plan, but expressed concern that some of the Secretariat's activities had not been discussed by the conferences of the Parties or agreed upon in decisions on technical assistance, and that a monitoring and evaluation strategy for the technical assistance plan had been prepared by the Secretariat without it having a mandate to perform that task. In addition, use should be made of the database developed by the Secretariat containing past and present information on technical assistance. Another representative said that the monitoring and evaluation strategy would be an effective tool for supporting the attainment of the goals of the technical assistance plan.

150. Several representatives said that there was still a need for increased mobilization of financial and technical assistance to strengthen national capabilities for the sound management of chemicals and waste. One representative said that such assistance should be rendered in accordance with the stipulations of the conventions, including paragraph 4 of Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention and Articles 14 and 16 of the Basel Convention. One representative highlighted the challenges faced in directing assistance to countries suffering from instability or conflict.

2. Regional centres

151. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that documents UNEP/CHW.14/17 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/17 set out information on the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions. Further information pertaining to the activities of the centres was set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/28 and its addendum, and a draft performance evaluation of all the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions was contained in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27/Rev.1.

152. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the important role of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in providing developing countries and those with economies in transition with technical assistance and capacity-building. Some representatives also referred to the role of regional centres in facilitating information exchange. Several representatives expressed their commitment to supporting the work of the regional centres they hosted in their own countries. The representative of Panama thanked the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for supporting their offer to host the regional centre for the Central America and Mexico region. A number of representatives said that greater efforts should be made to ensure that regional centres were provided with the necessary financial and technical support to enable them to fulfil their mandates.

153. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that some centres had not addressed their own work plans as expected, and encouraged them, as well as the host Parties and other Parties in the region, to address the existing shortcomings. A number of representatives pointed out that one centre had recently been unable to provide sufficient support to Parties and needed to be strengthened. One representative requested that regional and subregional centres consider the management of newly added persistent organic pollutants, particularly those in products and articles, when developing their business plans to support Parties in meeting their obligations under the Stockholm Convention.

154. Several representatives highlighted the valuable role that regional centres could play in helping countries to address the growing threat of plastic waste, marine plastic litter and microplastics, with particular merit being attached to the work of the Stockholm Convention regional centre in Barcelona, Spain, in promoting dialogue on the matter. Some representatives said that while there was a strong current focus on marine litter, due attention needed to be given to regulating the land-based sources of plastic waste and microplastics.

3. Implementation of Basel Convention decision V/32

155. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that information on the status of the Trust Fund to Assist Developing and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention was contained in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/56, while information on the implementation of technical assistance activities was provided in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/25/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/24/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/25/Rev.1. In addition, information on cooperation with the Joint United Nations Environment Programme/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit was provided in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/38.

156. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention took note of the information provided.

4. Establishment of a contact group

157. Following the discussions under the item, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources, co-chaired by Mr. Reginald Hernaus (the Netherlands) and Mr. David Kapindula (Zambia). The group was mandated to prepare for the consideration of the conferences of the Parties draft decisions on technical assistance using the draft decision in document UNEP/CHW.14/16–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/16 as a starting point, taking into account discussions in plenary; and on the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres using the draft decisions in documents UNEP/CHW.14/17 (with the exception of paragraph 9) and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/17 as starting points and taking into account discussions in plenary. The draft decision for the agenda item would be in omnibus form, with section I on technical assistance (for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) and section II on regional centres (for the Basel and Stockholm conventions).

5. Adoption of decision

158. Subsequently the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision submitted by the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources. Decision SC-9/14, section I of which relates to technical assistance and section II of which relates to Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

159. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on technical assistance that were substantially identical to section I of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-14/18 (section I) and RC-9/8, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

G. Financial resources and mechanisms

160. The discussion summarized in the present sub-section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 174 to 180 are replicated in section IV F of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and section V F of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

161. Under the item, the conferences of the Parties first considered issues relating to the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention and second the integrated approach to financing for chemicals and wastes and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

1. Financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention

162. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the matter, outlining the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/18 and noting that it related to five topics: first, guidance from the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention to the financial mechanism of that Convention; second, the report of the GEF Council to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its ninth meeting, including an executive summary thereof (annex I); third, monitoring and evaluation, including draft terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism (annex II); fourth, cooperation between the Secretariat and the GEF secretariat, reciprocal representation at relevant meetings and the transmission of information; and fifth, assessment of the funding needed by developing countries and countries with economies in transition to implement the Convention during the period 2022–2026, including terms of reference therefor (annex III). A number of other documents had been prepared to support the discussions.

163. The representative of the GEF secretariat provided an overview of the information set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/30, which contained the full report of GEF to the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention at its ninth meeting. She summarized the activities undertaken by GEF in support of the implementation of the Stockholm Convention during the two-year period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2018, with particular emphasis on the ways in which it

had responded to the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting. She also outlined the support provided during the entire period of the sixth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, from July 2014 to June 2018, which had totalled \$281.87 million in GEF grants for the expected reduction of 76,251 metric tons of persistent organic pollutants. She went on to describe the outcome of the seventh replenishment process, which had notionally allocated \$599 million to the GEF focal area of chemicals and wastes, \$359 million of which was specifically for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention.

164. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives of countries that had benefited from GEF support expressed their gratitude therefor and noted the difference that it had made, helping them in areas such as reviewing and updating national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention; managing obsolete stockpiles of persistent organic pollutants in an environmentally sound manner; and reducing the release of unintentional persistent organic pollutants.

165. Many of them stressed the need for ongoing and additional support from the Facility and highlighted particular areas in which that help would be required, including the management of newly listed persistent organic pollutants, the related updating of national implementation plans and the destruction of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

166. While a number of representatives made a point of thanking the Facility's donors, two other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored how the available resources were insufficient to meet the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in relation to their compliance obligations under the Stockholm Convention. One of them called upon developed countries to increase their support to such countries; a third representative called upon GEF itself to increase its allocation of funds for activities on persistent pollutants under the Stockholm Convention.

167. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed concern that there were often significant delays in countries receiving funding after projects had been approved by the Facility and was concerned that that would have a negative impact on countries, in particular their ability to meet the 2025 target to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls.

168. A number of representatives, with one saying that he spoke for many countries in the region, supported by another, stressed the importance of avoiding politicization of access to financial resources to ensure that countries had equal access to such funding.

169. Other representatives, one of whom spoke on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism and the terms of reference for assessment of funding needs contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/18.

170. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention decided that the contact group on technical assistance and financial resources established as described in section V above (para. 157) should prepare a draft decision based on the proposed action set out in paragraph 15 of document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/18, taking into account the discussions in plenary. With regard to the guidance to the financial mechanism, the contact group was also mandated to compile any such guidance being considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

171. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties considered a draft decision on the financial mechanism set out in a conference room paper prepared by the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources. Annexed to the draft decision were terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism and for the assessment of funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention over the period 2022–2026.

172. Decision SC-9/15, on the financial mechanism, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

173. Following the adoption of the decision, one representative reiterated the need to address as soon as possible the fact that not all countries were able to obtain funding from GEF. He requested that GEF make its decision-making processes independent of the political considerations of its donors.

2. Integrated approach and the Special Programme

174. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that, in accordance with decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22 on the implementation of the integrated approach to financing sound management of chemicals and waste, the Secretariat had continued to take the integrated approach as a reference in its mandated activities and its support for the Parties to the three

conventions. It had also continued to participate in the internal task team of the Special Programme and had attended as an observer all the meetings of the Programme's Executive Board. A report on the implementation of the above-mentioned decisions was contained in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/34–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/33.

175. The representative of UNEP reported on the activities of the Special Programme, outlining the information set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/35–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/34.

176. In the ensuing discussion, numerous representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, and many from countries benefiting from Special Programme projects, praised the work of the Special Programme and the efforts to mobilize resources for promoting implementation of the conventions.

177. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of continuing the integrated approach, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, one of whom also underscored the need to advance further in mainstreaming in national budgets, development plans and sector policies and in fostering the involvement of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain by way of, inter alia, clear legislative and regulatory frameworks that took into account extended producer responsibility and the polluter pays principle. Concerning dedicated external finance, the provision of assistance through multilateral, bilateral and regional mechanisms had achieved welcome progress and should be continued.

178. In supporting those views, other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, agreed that sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible long-term funding was crucial, together with technical assistance, to the sound management of chemicals and waste. One representative endorsed the position of another that such funding must furthermore be allocated on an equitable, non-discriminatory and non-political basis. Others said that industry should be more actively involved in project financing and one said that the allocation of funding should be subject to monitoring to ensure that it was meaningful and would achieve the intended objectives.

179. One representative suggested that some aspects of the Programme's project application guidelines should be reviewed in order to prevent the rejection of applications for administrative reasons alone. Another requested further capacity-building assistance that would promote successful project applications, with yet another agreeing that the application process was too complex and should be simplified.

180. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided.

H. Reporting pursuant to Article 15

181. The representative of the Secretariat introduced document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/19 on reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention. She said that since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with the Parties' requests at that meeting, the Secretariat had enhanced the electronic reporting system and updated the reporting format to include the newly listed chemicals. Together with the small intersessional working group on reporting, it had prepared a manual for Parties on how to complete the updated reporting format (UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/29). It had also conducted a survey on the difficulties faced by Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligation, the results of which were set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/22.

182. She reported that as at 9 April 2019, a total of 74 Parties had submitted their fourth national reports. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 20 of the Convention, the Secretariat had prepared a report on the information provided in those reports (UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/53).

183. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives spoke about their experiences in using the electronic reporting system to submit their fourth national reports. They said that the electronic reporting system made reporting obligations easier to meet despite the fact that the system could use further improvement.

184. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for additional technical and financial support to assist Parties in collecting and analysing the data required for national reporting.

185. All the representatives who spoke supported the draft decision in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/19. The representative of the European Union and its member States additionally introduced a conference room paper with proposed amendments highlighting the fact that the manual was still in draft form and indicating that it should be updated regularly to reflect changes in the reporting system and made available to Parties together with the revised reporting system.

186. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/19, as amended by the conference room paper, pending the decisions on listing of chemicals. Following the discussions of the contact group on budget matters, the Conference of the Parties agreed to amend the draft decision to specify the activities to be funded through core resources and those to be funded through voluntary contributions.

187. Decision SC-9/16, on reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

I. Effectiveness evaluation

188. Under the sub-item the Parties discussed the effectiveness evaluation overall and the global monitoring plan for the effectiveness evaluation.

1. Effectiveness evaluation

189. Introducing the matter, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had evaluated for the first time the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention and, in its decision SC-8/18, had requested the Secretariat to revise the framework for effectiveness evaluation in the light of the report of the effectiveness evaluation committee, for consideration at its ninth meeting. Accordingly, the Secretariat had prepared a revised framework, which was set out in document UNEP/POPS.COP.9/20/Add.1, while a corresponding draft decision was contained in document UNEP/POPS.COP.9/20.

190. In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked the Secretariat for the revised framework and expressed support both for the revised framework and for the draft decision contained in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/20.

191. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, drew attention to the difficulties being experienced by countries in his region in implementing the Convention. Together with several other representatives, he also called for the mobilization of resources to enable developing countries to effectively implement the Convention and to enhance their monitoring capacities.

192. One representative said that financial assistance was essential to support the effective implementation of the Convention by developing country parties and suggested that future evaluation reports should include information on the contributions made by developed country parties to support such implementation.

193. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS.COP.9/20.

194. Decision SC-9/17, on effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

2. Global monitoring plan

195. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/21, which included a draft decision on the global monitoring plan, stressing that the Secretariat's related activities had focused on supporting the work of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group for the global monitoring plan in the implementation of the third phase of the plan. Further information was provided in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/35, which included the report of a recent meeting of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/36, which contained updated guidance on the global monitoring plan, and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/37, which described four GEF-funded regional projects on the sustainable monitoring of persistent organic pollutants, which were being implemented by UNEP.

196. In the ensuing discussion, representatives expressed appreciation to the regional organization groups and the global coordination group for the global monitoring plan, as well as UNEP, for the work carried out to date.

197. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the revised guidance (UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/36), noting that it should continue to be revised as new substances were added to the Convention, and expressed support for the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/21.

198. One representative suggested that fish contamination from PFOS and other persistent organic pollutants found in microplastics was of serious concern to communities in small island developing States in the Pacific and that such monitoring would support decision-making in those countries.

199. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the work of the global monitoring plan was of extreme importance for the effective implementation of the Convention in developing countries and should be financed through core resources. He suggested therefore that a reference in paragraph 4 of the draft decision to such work being conducted subject to the availability of resources should be deleted from the text.

200. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/POPS.COP.9/21. Following the discussions of the contact group on budget matters, the Conference of the Parties agreed to amend the draft decision to specify the activities to be funded through core resources and those to be funded through voluntary contributions.

201. Decision SC-9/18, on the global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

J. Compliance

202. The discussion summarized in paragraphs 203 to 208 took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

203. The representative of the Secretariat recalled that the issue of compliance had been considered at all eight previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. At the eighth meeting, the Conference had considered draft texts on procedures and mechanisms on compliance, but, given the lack of consensus, it had decided to defer further consideration of the issue to its ninth meeting. She drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/22, which set out two draft texts on compliance from annexes to compliance-related decisions adopted at the sixth and seventh meetings.

204. In the general discussion that ensued, there was substantial support for the establishment of a compliance mechanism. Many representatives stressed that any such mechanism needed to be facilitative and non-punitive. In addition, several representatives underscored that the developing countries and countries with economies in transition needed adequate technical and financial assistance to be in a position to meet their compliance obligations; such support should therefore accompany any future mechanism. A number of representatives, one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, drew attention to the role that the mechanism could play in identifying systemic problems and priority issues that required specific action. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, questioned the sense of focusing on compliance when a lack of resources limited countries' ability to implement the provisions of the convention in the first place.

205. One representative expressed the view that submissions to any future compliance committee should be made by Parties only, not the Secretariat.

206. Individual representatives made various proposals for moving forward with the discussions. These included further consultations, formal or informal, or further discussions in a contact group or in a smaller group of friends of the President, which might facilitate resolution of some of the outstanding issues. One representative said that a completely different approach was required if progress were to be made.

207. One representative said that it was important not to reopen discussions on what had already been agreed at previous meetings and to concentrate only on outstanding issues. One representative was of the view that the outcome of the seventh meeting was a step backward in relation to that of the sixth, while another said that it would be a setback not to take into account the content of the rich discussions that had occurred at the eighth meeting.

208. Following the discussion, it was agreed that further consideration of the matter would be continued during the separate sessions of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

209. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention decided that, at its tenth meeting, it would consider for possible adoption the procedure and mechanism for compliance required under Article 17 of the Convention on the basis of the draft texts contained in the annex to decision SC-7/26.

210. A number of Parties expressed their preference for a procedure and mechanism for compliance to be adopted by consensus.

VI. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 6)

211. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. The present section VI is substantially identical to section V of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

A. International cooperation and coordination

212. The representative of the Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CHW.14/20–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/23, which described international cooperation and coordination activities undertaken by the Secretariat in response to decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10 and SC-8/20 and included a draft decision on the matter. She also drew attention to a number of related information documents.

213. In the ensuing discussion, representatives thanked the Secretariat and the other international organizations for the reports and for their efforts to enhance international cooperation and coordination, which were crucial for achieving sound chemicals and waste management and the objectives of the three conventions, and for avoiding duplication of effort and using resources efficiently.

214. The representative of the European Union and its member States introduced a conference room paper on cooperation between the joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention. Another representative expressed support for the conference room paper and lamented the fact that the operative proposal by the Executive Director of UNEP for a stable framework for sharing of relevant secretariat services, requested by decision MC-2/7, on cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention at its second meeting, had not yet been finalized and had therefore not been presented for consideration at the current meetings.

215. Several representatives expressed support for the invitation set out in the draft decision to the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) to consider inviting the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to become participating organizations of IOMC.

216. A number of representatives suggested that international cooperation should prioritize capacity-building, technical assistance and financial support to help developing-country Parties to implement the three conventions, with one emphasizing that such cooperation should adhere to the principles of non-politicization, non-discrimination and impartiality, and should include closer collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. Another said that efforts should be made to broaden cooperation with regional organizations to enhance the political visibility of, and support for, the sound management of chemicals and waste.

217. One representative drew attention to the work being carried out by the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, which had identified the need to achieve greater coherence, communication and coordination between the international organizations working on chemicals and waste issues. He called on the Secretariat, Parties and observers to promote synergies at the national level in order to achieve results at the international level.

218. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, urged UNEP and the World Health Organization to work closely together in the framework of the partnership on alternatives to DDT in order to help African countries to combat malaria while protecting the environment.

219. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, drew attention to some of the findings and conclusions of the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook report, including that the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach would not be met and that the global chemicals industry had almost doubled in size in the period 2000–2017. One representative

called for discussions on that issue, while another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called on the Parties to join other bodies in urging Governments and all relevant stakeholders to intensify and prioritize efforts to achieve the 2020 goal.

220. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested that at future meetings of the conferences of the Parties the issue of international cooperation and coordination be included as a stand-alone agenda item given that it went beyond enhancing cooperation and coordination between the three conventions.

221. The representative of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention outlined the information presented in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/38–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/31–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/40, noting that the secretariat of the Minamata Convention cooperated closely with the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on a number of programmatic and technical issues. She said that the two secretariats were working with UNEP on the operative proposal for a stable framework for the sharing of relevant secretariat services, which would be submitted for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention at its third meeting.

222. The representative of UNEP outlined the information provided in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/39, stressing that the United Nations Environment Assembly attached great importance to the issue of sound chemicals and waste management and had adopted numerous resolutions directly and indirectly related to that issue.

223. The representative of the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management outlined the information presented in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/54–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/44–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/57, noting that the secretariat of the Strategic Approach cooperated actively across the chemicals and waste cluster. He invited the Parties to engage in the Strategic Approach intersessional process to elaborate the future arrangements for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

224. The representative of WHO, speaking on behalf of IOMC, said that the Programme looked forward to further strengthening its collaboration with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. He explained the process for becoming a participating organization of IOMC and said that the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee of IOMC had discussed the issue at its fifty-first meeting, held in April 2019, and was working to ensure it was ready to process such a request, should it be made.

225. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes drew attention to the links between hazardous substances and wastes throughout their life cycles and human rights and urged the Parties to strengthen the ability of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to protect human beings, in particular children, from chemical pollution. He drew attention to a new General Comment on the right to life of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which clarified that everyone was entitled to freedom from acts or omissions that might cause premature death, and placed on all States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights a duty to protect the human right to a life free from pollution.

226. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on joint issues, co-chaired by Ms. Elizabeth Kay Williams (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and Ms. Angela Rivera (Colombia), to prepare a revised draft decision on international cooperation and coordination, based on document UNEP/CHW.14/20–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/23, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

227. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a revised version of the draft decision prepared by the joint contact group on joint issues.

228. Decision SC-9/19, on international cooperation and coordination, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

229. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on international cooperation and coordination that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-14/21 and RC-9/9, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and in the annex to the report

of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

230. The Conference of the Parties further agreed to adopt the draft decision set out in the conference room paper submitted by the European Union and its member States. Decision SC-9/20, on cooperation between the joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

231. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on cooperation between the joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-14/22 and RC-9/10, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

232. Subsequently, the representative of Burkina Faso introduced a conference room paper, initially submitted by the Congo, on the establishment of a strong organic and programmatic collaboration between the secretariat of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

233. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, from the African region in particular, expressed strong support for the establishment of such collaboration, saying that it would promote synergies among the four conventions and foster the achievement of their common objectives. Some representatives, however, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed the view that some elements of the proposal, among them its budgetary implications, required further consideration. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, and emphasizing that the Conference of the Parties at its present meeting must send a clear message concerning the illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes affecting the African region, said that his group stood ready to engage in informal consultations with the aim of resolving the concerns of any Party in respect of the proposal. The Conference of the Parties agreed to resume its consideration of the proposal following the conclusion of informal consultations on the matter.

234. Subsequently, the representative of Burkina Faso submitted a revised version of the conference room paper, noting that the informal consultations had not led to consensus on the text.

235. All the representatives who had taken part in the informal consultations said that they had been constructive and informative and had served to improve their understanding of the Bamako Convention. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted that cooperation and coordination with all relevant international and regional bodies and organizations dealing with the sound management of chemicals and waste was already included in the mandate of the Secretariat and that a capacity-building project which was already under way under the Basel and Rotterdam conventions would serve to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Bamako Convention. Another representative expressed her support for the further strengthening of cooperation and coordination with that secretariat. Yet another said that, although he was unable to support the relevant conference room paper, it was not his intention to undermine the work of the Bamako Convention and he would willingly engage in further discussions on the matter in the future.

236. Given the lack of agreement on adopting the decision set out in the conference paper, the conferences of the Parties agreed to conclude their consideration of the matter.

B. Clearing house mechanism for information exchange

237. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at their meetings in 2017, the conferences of the Parties had welcomed the proposed joint clearing house mechanism strategy and a draft workplan for the implementation of the mechanism for the biennium 2018–2019. The progress made by the Secretariat in that respect was outlined in document UNEP/CHW.14/21–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/24. New activities for the provision of access to thematic information had been made possible thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union and Norway. The Secretariat had also prepared a workplan for the mechanism for the biennium 2020–2021 (UNEP/CHW.14/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/41).

238. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, although supportive of the clearing house mechanism, highlighted the need to find the right balance between the resources devoted to it, the level of ambition for the mechanism and the scope of the activities envisaged for its implementation. She said that the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties at their 2017 meetings remained valid and, as such, any subsequent decision should refer only to new elements. She stressed the importance of proceeding to implementation of the strategy in a gradual and cost-effective manner.

239. Subsequently the conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decision contained in document UNEP/CHW.14/21–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/24. Following the discussions of the contact group on budget matters, the Conference of the Parties agreed to amend the draft decision to specify the activities to be funded through core resources and those to be funded through voluntary contributions.

240. Decision SC-9/21, on the clearing house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

241. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on the clearing house mechanism for information exchange that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-14/23 and RC-9/11, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

C. Mainstreaming gender

242. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that, as requested in decisions BC-13/20, RC-8/13 and SC-8/23, on gender mainstreaming, the Secretariat had continued its efforts to implement the Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and to mainstream gender in its activities, projects and programmes. Document UNEP/CHW.14/22–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/25 set out information concerning those efforts, which encompassed further activities made possible thanks to a generous financial contribution from the Government of Sweden. Documents UNEP/CHW.14/INF/55–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/45–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/58 also provided additional details on gender-related activities implemented by the Secretariat and included the Gender Action Plan, which had been updated to incorporate indicators for monitoring progress.

243. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives underscored the importance of gender mainstreaming in the work of the conventions, expressing strong support for the continuation of the Secretariat's gender-related activities and welcoming the updated Gender Action Plan. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, encouraged all Parties and other stakeholders to participate and engage in mainstreaming gender in the implementation of the conventions, noting that gender equality at all levels would spur progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Others stressed the importance of empowering women and girls as decision makers and agents of change.

244. Numerous representatives highlighted the disproportionate impact of hazardous chemicals and wastes on vulnerable groups, in particular women and children, with one emphasizing the need to focus also on persons with disabilities. Another said that the consideration of that impact in the development of business initiatives would enable countries to improve their ranking in the vulnerability index. One representative suggested that national and regional case studies should be conducted in order to identify the different impacts of hazardous chemicals and waste both on women and on men.

245. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries highlighted entrenched cultural norms as a barrier to gender equality in his region, where technical assistance for gender mainstreaming at the national level was therefore essential in connection with activities relating to the implementation of the conventions. Another representative likewise mentioned his country's need for such assistance to ensure that gender issues were taken into account in the management of hazardous chemicals and waste, while others commented on the usefulness of capacity-building assistance already received. Some representatives also shared information concerning gender-related activities, policies and programmes in their own countries.

246. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties took note of the updated Gender Action Plan and requested the Secretariat to report on its implementation to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2021.

D. Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

247. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to a note by the Secretariat on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes (including a draft decision) (UNEP/CHW.14/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/26). In addition, information collected from Parties and stakeholders on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes was set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/42, and a report on further areas in which legal clarity could be improved as a means of preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes was set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/34–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/43.

248. Many representatives expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Secretariat to promote synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes. The importance of a cooperative, collaborative approach was underscored, both between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and with other relevant bodies such as the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. One representative said that the diverse nature of illegal traffic and trade required the involvement of a wide variety of partners. Another, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was important to ensure that the work was cost-effective, building on previous decisions and work under each of the conventions, and complementing rather than repeating existing mandates.

249. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, spoke of the need to build the capacity of developing countries and those with economies in transition to combat illegal traffic and trade, including through financial assistance, technology transfer and technical support, and training and capacity-building of customs officers. Some representatives highlighted the role of the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres in harmonizing action at the regional and subregional levels, promoting regulatory measures, and building capacity in identifying hazardous materials.

250. A representative of a developing country, supported by others, said that significant quantities of plastic waste had been illegally shipped in containers to his country from certain developed countries, and he called on those countries to fulfil their international environmental commitments.

251. The conferences of the Parties agreed to refer further discussion of the matter to the joint contact group on joint issues, with a mandate that the group prepare a revised draft decision based on the proposed action set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/26, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

252. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a revised version of the draft decision prepared by the joint contact group on joint issues.

253. Decision SC-9/22, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

254. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-14/24 and RC-9/12, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

E. From science to action

255. The representative of the Secretariat introduced document UNEP/CHW.14/24–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/27, which presented background information on the preparation and revision of a road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in an informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation of the conventions, as well as a draft decision on the matter. The revised road map was set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/35–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/44.

256. Following the presentation, several representatives, including a number speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for the revised version of the draft road map and for its implementation as called for in the draft decision. A number of representatives underscored the need for continued cooperation and coordination between UNEP, the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other relevant bodies to strengthen the science-policy interface, and others, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, highlighted the importance of capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in taking science-based action to implement the conventions. One called for improved relations with the scientific community and academia at the national, regional and international levels to support decision-making, particularly within the framework of the chemicals conventions.

257. One representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, while generally supporting the draft decision, suggested several changes to the text. Another, also speaking on behalf of a group of countries, asked for time to consult on those changes.

258. The conferences of the Parties agreed to refer the matter to the joint contact group on joint issues to establish the final wording of the proposed changes to the text of the draft decision.

259. Subsequently, the President drew attention to a revised draft decision prepared by the contact group on joint issues. One representative proposed an additional paragraph to be included in the draft decision. The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted the revised draft decision, as orally amended.

260. Decision SC-9/23, entitled “From science to action”, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

261. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions entitled “From science to action” that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-14/25 and RC-9/13, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

VII. Programme of work and budget (agenda item 7)

262. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 263 to 269 below are replicated in section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28), and section VII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

263. Introducing the item, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions drew attention to voluntary contributions, which were on an increasing trend and had risen substantially during the biennium 2018–2019, as more fully described in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/46–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/39–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/48 on contributions to the technical cooperation and voluntary special trust funds of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. He also spoke about the success of measures taken to reduce arrears but indicated that more work needed to be done.

264. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat presented an overview of the proposed programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2020–2021, including the main budget proposal and draft decisions in document UNEP/CHW.14/25–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/28, the budget tables reflecting the executive secretaries’ scenario and the zero nominal growth scenario in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/43/Rev.1–

UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/36/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/45/Rev.1, and the budget activities fact sheets with detailed information on programmes of work activities, set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/37–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/46.

265. A second representative of the Secretariat then drew attention to documents UNEP/CHW.14/INF/45/Rev.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/38/Rev.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/47/Rev.1, containing information on income and expenditures for the general and special voluntary Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm trust funds for the bienniums 2016–2017 and 2018–2019, including details on voluntary contributions to the special and technical cooperation trust funds and on the FAO contribution to the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.

266. In the ensuing discussion, all those who spoke expressed a desire to pursue the discussion in a contact group, with some citing issues about which they intended to seek clarification or additional information, including with respect to the services and support provided to the secretariat of the Minamata Convention. Several representatives expressed support for the executive secretaries' scenario, but others said that they were not in a position to increase their financial contributions to the conventions and therefore preferred the zero nominal growth scenario. A number of representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries, while not expressing a preference for either scenario, recognized the link between the budget and implementation, with one voicing her desire to agree on a budget that was resource-efficient, well-targeted, balanced and affordable for all.

267. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, acknowledged the reduction achieved in arrears but noted that the level of arrears was still a concern, and one urged Parties to pay their assessed contributions as soon as possible.

268. The conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on budget matters for the three conventions, co-chaired by Mr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda) and Mr. Premysl Stepanek (Czechia). The group was asked to prepare for consideration and separate adoption by the conferences of the Parties draft programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2020–2021 and related draft decisions, based on the draft texts set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/25–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/28, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

269. The conferences of the Parties also agreed to discuss issues related to cooperation with the Minamata Convention under the item on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

270. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group on budget matters.

271. Decision SC-9/27, on the programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2020–2021, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

272. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on the programmes of work and budgets for those conventions for the biennium 2020–2021. Decisions BC-14/29 and RC-9/17, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

VIII. Memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (agenda item 8)

273. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 274 to 277 below are replicated in section VII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28), and section VIII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

274. The representative of the Secretariat introduced the documents relating to the item, which included draft decisions on the adoption of convention-specific memorandums of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and UNEP for the Basel Convention

(UNEP/CHW.14/26/Rev.1) and the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.9/29/Rev.1) and between the Conference of the Parties, UNEP and FAO for the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/22/Rev.1).

275. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Director of the Law Division of UNEP, explained the basic principles underlying the draft memorandums of understanding and some of the proposed modalities. Ms. Eve Fontaine Benedetti, Legal Officer, FAO, outlined the specific issues relating to the memorandum of understanding between UNEP, FAO and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

276. A number of representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries expressed support for the adoption of the proposed decisions and the signature of the memorandums of understanding.

277. The conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on draft memorandums of understanding with UNEP and, in the case of the Rotterdam Convention, also with FAO.

278. Decision SC-9/24, on the memorandum of understanding between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

279. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on memorandums of understanding between UNEP, those conventions and, in the case of the Rotterdam Convention, also with FAO. Decisions BC-14/26 and RC-9/14, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

IX. Venue and date of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 9)

280. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 281 to 284 below are replicated in section VIII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28), and section IX of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

281. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the rules of procedure of the three conferences of the Parties provided for their meetings to take place at the seat of the Secretariat unless other appropriate arrangements were made. In addition, the conferences of the Parties had decided in 2017 not to include a high-level segment in their 2019 meetings and that such segments would occur only at every second set of meetings of the conferences of the Parties, meaning that the next high-level segment would take place during the 2021 meetings. He outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/57–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/46–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/60 on the hosting of meetings of the conferences of the Parties outside the seat of the Secretariat. The information had been brought to the attention of Parties during the regional preparatory meetings, and the Secretariat had subsequently received an offer from the Government of Kenya to host the 2021 meetings at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi.

282. The representative of Kenya made a brief presentation on the offer made by the Government of Kenya, as set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/57/Add.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/46/Add.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/60/Add.1.

283. Following the presentation, several representatives welcomed the offer of the Government of Kenya. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that she looked forward to receiving the Secretariat's assessment of the costs involved and of the question of the use of United Nations venues for meetings before coming to a decision on the matter. She also called for any decision on the matter to include a clear invitation to Parties to submit offers to host future meetings of the conferences of the Parties that would increase the political and public visibility of the conventions and generate cost savings.

284. The conferences of the Parties agreed to request the Secretariat to prepare a draft decision in which they would accept the offer of the Government of Kenya to hold the meetings in Nairobi in 2021, subject to the conclusion of a host country agreement between the host Government and the Secretariat; decide that the meetings would be held back to back and include a high-level segment; request the Executive Secretary to organize regional preparatory meetings; and invite Parties to submit offers for hosting the meetings in 2023 by the end of March 2021 so that they could be considered by the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2021.

285. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the Secretariat.

286. Decision SC-9/25, on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

287. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-14/27 and RC-9/15, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and in the annex to the report of the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

X. Other matters (agenda item 10)

288. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 289 to 292 below are replicated in section IX and paragraphs 293 to 297 are replicated in section IV E 4 of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28); paragraphs 289 to 297 below are also replicated in section X of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23).

A. Admission of observers

289. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that information on bodies or agencies wishing to be represented as observers in the respective meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions was set out in documents UNEP/CHW.14/INF/58/Rev.1, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/47/Rev.1 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/50, respectively. She outlined the admission procedures described in those documents and established pursuant to the provisions of each of the respective conventions as well as the related rules of procedure. She said that, following the publication of the documents and in addition to the requests contained therein, the Secretariat had received further requests that it had verified met the relevant criteria in relation to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions.

290. The conferences of the Parties took note of the bodies or agencies making requests for admission as observers to each respective Convention.

B. Guidelines on preventing and addressing all forms of harassment at meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

291. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/48–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/51, containing guidelines on preventing and addressing all forms of harassment at meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. She explained that the Secretariat had developed the guidelines in line with the United Nations' zero tolerance policy on all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment, and approaches taken by other secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, with the goal of ensuring the smooth running of meetings.

292. The conferences of the Parties took note of the guidelines and agreed that the Secretariat should make them available on the websites of the conventions.

C. Further developing partnerships

293. The President, introducing the item, recalled that the programme of work of the Basel Convention envisioned two types of partnerships in support of promoting the objectives of the Convention: global partnerships established by the Conference of the Parties, such as the Household Waste Partnership and the Environmental Network for Optimizing Regulatory Compliance on Illegal Traffic (ENFORCE), for which the Secretariat had a facilitating role and provided expertise; and partnerships established or intended to be established by the Secretariat with non-State stakeholders to implement activities of its work programme, with an added potential to increase the reach and visibility of the Convention. Those types of partnerships could be of common interest to the three conventions.

294. Continuing the introduction, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to document UNEP/CHW.14/18, concerning the Basel Convention Partnership Programme and containing a draft decision on proposed actions that could be considered by the conferences of the Parties to all three conventions in the light of the recommendations on opportunities to further develop partnerships under the Basel Convention set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/33, which additionally contained a report on evaluating past and ongoing partnerships. The report had been prepared thanks to a generous financial contribution from the Government of Switzerland and circulated to Parties and observers for comment. It had then been revised to take into account comments received.

295. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives expressed support for partnership initiatives as an innovative means of promoting synergies, providing guidance and increasing collaboration with stakeholders on such issues as illegal trade. Joining another representative in highlighting the activities of regional centres on that and other issues, one representative expressed reservations concerning the recommendations on further developing partnerships and said that it would be preferable for a contact group to discuss the matter. Another, while noting the positive results achieved through partnerships under the Basel Convention in facilitating an inclusive work process, said that partnerships also carried the risk of creating competitiveness with respect to core activities. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that a joint discussion of an issue concerning which there was no joint document should be approached with caution, but expressed a willingness nonetheless to engage with others in the margins of the meeting in order to gain understanding of the issue and determine if and how it might be brought forward for consideration by the Parties at future meetings.

296. One representative suggested that a partnership for action on lead-acid batteries should be established, for which other representatives voiced support, with one of them adding that action was needed on used batteries in general.

297. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties agreed to mandate the joint contact group on joint issues to prepare draft decisions based on the proposed action in section IV of the draft decision set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/18 and the recommendations set out in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/33, taking into account the discussion in plenary.

298. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention adopted a draft decision submitted by the joint contact group on joint issues.

299. Decision SC-9/26, on existing United Nations guidelines on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

300. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions adopted decisions on existing United Nations guidelines on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Decisions BC-14/28 and RC-9/16, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Rotterdam conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its fourteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.14/28) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the work of its ninth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/23), respectively.

XI. Adoption of the report (agenda item 11)

301. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft report on the basis of the draft that had been circulated, as orally amended, on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, under the authority of the President of the Conference of the Parties.

XII. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 12)

302. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 10.15 p.m. on Friday, 10 May 2019.

Annex

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting

- SC-9/1: Exemptions
- SC-9/2: DDT
- SC-9/3: Polychlorinated biphenyls
- SC-9/4: Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride
- SC-9/5: Actions related to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride
- SC-9/6: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention
- SC-9/7: Guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices
- SC-9/8: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes
- SC-9/9: Implementation plans
- SC-9/10: Operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee
- SC-9/11: Listing of dicofol
- SC-9/12: Listing of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds
- SC-9/13: Actions related to perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds
- SC-9/14: Technical assistance
- SC-9/15: Financial mechanism
- SC-9/16: Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention
- SC-9/17: Effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention
- SC-9/18: Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation
- SC-9/19: International cooperation and coordination
- SC-9/20: Cooperation between the joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention
- SC-9/21: Clearing house mechanism for information exchange
- SC-9/22: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes
- SC-9/23: From science to action
- SC-9/24: Memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention
- SC-9/25: Dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- SC-9/26: Existing United Nations guidelines on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors
- SC-9/27: Programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2020–2021

SC-9/1: Exemptions

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes*, pursuant to paragraph 9 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, that, as there are no longer any Parties registered for specific exemptions for the use of the following chemicals, no new registrations may be made with respect to them:

(a) Lindane, for use as a human-health pharmaceutical for the control of head lice and scabies as a second-line treatment;

(b) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for: photo masks in the semiconductor and liquid crystal display industries; metal plating (hard-metal plating); metal plating (decorative plating); electric and electronic parts for some colour printers and colour copy machines; insecticides for the control of red imported fire ants and termites; and chemically driven oil production;

2. *Decides*, in the light of decision SC-9/11, by which it amended Annex A to the Stockholm Convention to list dicofol therein, and pursuant to note (iii) of Annex B, that any notifications for the production and use of dicofol as a closed-system site-limited intermediate will not be available after 15 December 2020;

3. *Reminds* Parties that may wish to register for specific exemptions or acceptable purposes that are currently available, or to provide notifications of chemicals occurring as constituents of articles or of the production and use of chemicals as closed-system site-limited intermediates, to so notify the Secretariat using the relevant forms;¹

4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to maintain, update and make available the forms, registers and related information, as appropriate;

5. *Recalls* decisions SC-8/13 and SC-8/14, invites Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 December 2019, information on decabromodiphenyl ether and short-chain chlorinated paraffins as specified in those decisions, and requests the Secretariat to continue to support the respective processes;

6. *Also recalls* decision SC-8/4, invites Parties to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 December 2019, information on hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether and tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, and requests the Secretariat to continue to support these processes.

¹ See <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/4646/Default.aspx> and <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/4647/Default.aspx>.

SC-9/2: DDT

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the DDT expert group on the assessment of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control, including the conclusions and recommendations set out therein,¹ the reports by the United Nations Environment Programme on the implementation of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT and on the implementation of the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control² and the report by the World Health Organization on the use of DDT and DDT alternatives in disease vector control;³
2. *Concludes* that countries that rely on indoor residual spraying for disease vector control may need DDT for that purpose in specific settings where locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are still lacking for a sustainable transition away from DDT;
3. *Reminds* Parties that require DDT for disease vector control of the need to notify the Secretariat once they start using DDT for the acceptable purpose in accordance with the provisions of part II of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
4. *Urges* Parties, in particular Parties that are listed in the DDT register, to respond to the DDT questionnaire in accordance with the provisions of part II of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention;
5. *Notes* the necessity of providing technical, financial and other assistance to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, with due priority accorded to:
 - (a) Reporting on DDT by Parties, including on production, use, import and export and stockpiles of DDT and the use of other chemicals for indoor residual spraying;
 - (b) Ensuring adequate national capacity for long-term sustainable vector surveillance and for research, resistance monitoring and implementation for the pilot testing and scaling up of existing alternatives to DDT;
 - (c) Sound disposal of obsolete DDT stockpiles, in particular where stockpiles pose immediate risks to human health and the environment;
6. *Encourages* Parties that use DDT to establish a system for monitoring exposure to DDT among spray workers and recipient households in order to validate whether proper implementation of protective measures limits such exposure;
7. *Decides* to evaluate at its tenth meeting the continued need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of the available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information, including that provided by the DDT expert group, with the objective of accelerating the identification and development of locally appropriate, cost-effective and safe alternatives;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to support the process set out in annex I to decision SC-3/2, and to assist Parties to report on DDT and to promote locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives for a sustainable transition away from DDT;
9. *Welcomes* the collaboration with the World Health Organization in the process for the reporting on and assessment and evaluation of the continued need for DDT for disease vector control and in promoting suitable alternatives to DDT for disease vector control, and invites the World Health Organization to continue that collaboration;
10. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to lead the implementation of the road map for the development of alternatives to DDT, in consultation with the World Health Organization, the DDT expert group and the Secretariat, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting on the implementation of activities related thereto;
11. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to participate in the activities of the road map;
12. *Invites* Parties and others in a position to do so to continue to provide technical and financial resources to support the implementation of the activities set out in the road map.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/6, annex I; UNEP/POPS/COP.9/5, annex.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/8, annex.

³ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/7, annex.

Annex to decision SC-9/2

List of Parties identified by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting to nominate DDT expert group members whose terms of office will commence on 1 September 2019

African States

Botswana

Uganda

Asia-Pacific States

Yemen

Bangladesh

Central and Eastern European States

Serbia

Romania

Latin American and Caribbean States

Panama

Peru

Western European and other States

Netherlands

[To be identified]

SC-9/3: Polychlorinated biphenyls

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the lead country, Colombia, and the small intersessional working group on polychlorinated biphenyls established in decision SC-8/3 for their work pertaining to the review of progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls and takes note of the report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls¹ and the recommendations of the small intersessional working group;²
2. *Urges Parties* to step up their efforts, inter alia, by urgently implementing actions to eliminate the use of polychlorinated biphenyls in equipment by 2025 and to achieve the environmentally sound management as waste of liquids containing polychlorinated biphenyls and equipment contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls having a content above 0.005 per cent by 2028;
3. *Takes note* of the consolidated guidance on polychlorinated biphenyls in open applications,³ and encourages Parties to endeavour to identify, as soon as possible, open applications such as cable sheaths, cured caulk and painted objects containing more than 0.005 per cent polychlorinated biphenyls and to manage them in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
4. *Decides* to undertake, at its eleventh meeting, a review of progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls in accordance with paragraph (h) of part II of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention;
5. *Urges Parties* to provide information on progress in eliminating polychlorinated biphenyls in their fifth national reports, to be submitted pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention by 31 August 2022, in accordance with paragraph (g) of part II of Annex A to the Convention, as decided in decision SC-9/16;
6. *Decides* to re-establish a small intersessional working group, working by electronic means and, subject to the availability of resources, through a face-to-face meeting, to assist the Secretariat in preparing, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting:
 - (a) A report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls;
 - (b) Guidance on a standardized approach to developing inventories of polychlorinated biphenyls and to analysis for the identification and quantification of polychlorinated biphenyls, as recommended by the small intersessional working group;
 - (c) A draft strategy for Parties to meet the 2025 and 2028 goals of the Stockholm Convention;
7. *Invites Parties* to consider serving as lead country in the preparation of the report referred to in paragraph 6 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat accordingly by 30 April 2020;
8. *Invites Parties* and observers to nominate experts, taking due consideration of regional and gender balance and of relevant expertise, to participate in the small intersessional working group established by paragraph 6 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 30 April 2020;
9. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting:
 - (a) A report on progress towards the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls on the basis of the fifth national reports to be submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention and any other pertinent information;
 - (b) Guidance on a standardized approach to developing inventories of polychlorinated biphenyls and to analysis for the identification and quantification of polychlorinated biphenyls, as recommended by the small intersessional working group;

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/10.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.9/6/Add.1.

³ <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/665/Default.aspx>.

10. *Takes note* of the report on the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network⁴ prepared by the Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme, and invites the Chemicals and Health Branch to provide information on the activities of the network to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to participate in the activities of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network and to assist Parties in their efforts in respect of the actions referred to in paragraph 2 of the present decision, including by developing guidance and a road map for the implementation of such actions;

12. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research institutions, industry bodies and other stakeholders to provide technical and financial support for the work of the Polychlorinated Biphenyls Elimination Network.

⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/11.

SC-9/4: Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the report on the assessment of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride submitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee¹ and the report on the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride submitted by the Secretariat,²

Taking note of the recommendations of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the continued need for the various acceptable purposes and specific exemptions of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride,³

Recalling its decision SC-7/1, in which it noted, pursuant to paragraph 9 of Article 4 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, that as there were no longer any Parties registered for specific exemptions for the production and use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for carpets, leather and apparel, textiles and upholstery, paper and packaging, coatings and coating additives and rubber and plastics, no new registrations may be made with respect to them,

1. *Decides to amend part I of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by replacing the current listing of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (CAS No. 1763-23-1), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (CAS No. 307-35-7) with the new listing as follows:*

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Acceptable purpose or specific exemption</i>
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (CAS No. 1763-23-1), its salts ^a and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (CAS No. 307-35-7) ^a For example: potassium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No. 2795-39-3); lithium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No. 29457-72-5); ammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No. 29081-56-9); diethanolammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No. 70225-14-8); tetraethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No. 56773-42-3); didecyldimethylammonium perfluorooctane sulfonate (CAS No. 251099-16-8)	Production	Acceptable purpose: In accordance with part III of this Annex, production of other chemicals to be used solely for the use below. Production for uses listed below. Specific exemption: None
	Use	Acceptable purpose: In accordance with part III of this Annex for the following acceptable purpose, or as an intermediate in the production of chemicals with the following acceptable purpose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insect baits with sulfluramid (CAS No. 4151-50-2) as an active ingredient for control of leaf-cutting ants from <i>Atta</i> spp. and <i>Acromyrmex</i> spp. for agricultural use only Specific exemption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metal plating (hard-metal plating) only in closed-loop systems Fire-fighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fires (Class B fires) in installed systems, including both mobile and fixed systems, in accordance with paragraph 10 of part III of this Annex

2. *Also decides to amend part III of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants by inserting a new paragraph 10 as follows:*

“10. Each Party that has registered for an exemption pursuant to Article 4 for the use of PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for fire-fighting foam shall:

¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/INF/13.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/12.

³ Decision POPRC-14/3, annex.

- (a) Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of Article 3, ensure that fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain PFOS, its salts and PFOSF shall not be exported or imported except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal as set forth in paragraph 1 (d) of Article 6;
- (b) Not use fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for training;
- (c) Not use fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain PFOS, its salts and PFOSF for testing unless all releases are contained;
- (d) By the end of 2022, if it has the capacity to do so, restrict uses of fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain PFOS, its salts and PFOSF to sites where all releases can be contained;
- (e) Make determined efforts designed to lead to the environmentally sound management of fire-fighting foam stockpiles and wastes that contain or may contain PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6, as soon as possible.”

SC-9/5: Actions related to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

The Conference of the Parties,

Having decided by decision SC-9/4 to amend the acceptable purposes and specific exemptions for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride in Annex B to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Mindful of decision SC-9/7 on guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices, whereby the Conference of the Parties adopted a workplan that also refers to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride,

1. *Reminds* Parties that are using insect baits with sulfluramid (CAS No. 4151-50-2) as an active ingredient for the control of leaf-cutting ants from *Atta* spp. and *Acromyrmex* spp. for agricultural use to register for the acceptable purpose by notifying the Secretariat;

2. *Encourages* Parties and others to undertake additional research on the development of alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride, including monitoring activities related to sulfluramid, perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and other relevant degradation products in the different environmental media (e.g., soil, groundwater, surface water) on application sites;

3. *Also encourages* Parties and others to use alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride where such alternatives are available, feasible and efficient, while considering that fluorine-based fire-fighting foams could have negative environmental, human health and socioeconomic impacts owing to their persistency and mobility;

4. *Decides* to undertake, at its eleventh meeting, the evaluation of the continued need for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride for the various specific exemptions and acceptable purposes, in accordance with the process set out in the annex to decision SC-6/4 and the revised schedule set out in the annex to decision SC-7/5;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to support the process referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision and to support Parties, subject to the availability of resources, in collecting the information required for the process;

(b) To further promote the exchange of information, including information provided by Parties and others, on alternatives to perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride and their related chemicals;

(c) To provide support to Parties, in particular developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, subject to the availability of resources, to build their capacity to identify and collect information on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride; to adopt and strengthen legislation and regulations concerning the management of those chemicals throughout their life cycles; and to introduce safer, effective and affordable alternatives to those chemicals.

SC-9/6: Evaluation of the effectiveness of the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report set out in the note by the Secretariat on the review of the effectiveness of the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and of the conclusions contained therein;¹
2. *Concludes* that there is a need to enhance the effectiveness of the procedure under paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention through the increased provision of information related to the procedure and on the status of those Parties that have consented to be bound by the Convention and by the amendments to its annexes;
3. *Recalls* that Parties wishing to export chemicals listed in Annex A or B to the Stockholm Convention to a State not party to the Convention, as defined in paragraph 2 (d) of Article 3 of the Convention, must transmit to the Secretariat the certification from the importing State as required by paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 of the Convention, using the revised certification template adopted for that purpose;²
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to undertake awareness-raising activities, subject to the availability of resources, concerning the procedure and the revised certification format for export to a State not party to the Stockholm Convention referred to in paragraph 3 of the present decision;
5. *Decides* to review the effectiveness of the procedure set out in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention at its eleventh meeting;
6. *Invites* Parties to continue to share through the Secretariat any information relevant to the implementation of paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention and the review of its effectiveness, including any challenges that they might be facing in this regard;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report on the effectiveness of the procedure set out in paragraph 2 (b) of Article 3 of the Stockholm Convention, based on Party reports submitted pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention, certifications from exporting Parties pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) (iii) of Article 3 of the Convention and other relevant information, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/8, annex.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.8/32, annex III.

SC-9/7: Guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the updated joint roster of experts on the Toolkit¹ and on best available techniques and best environmental practices² and the reports of the expert meetings on the Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices;³
2. *Welcomes*:
 - (a) The progress report on the review and updating of the Toolkit and of the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to Article 5 of and Annex C to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;⁴
 - (b) The draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the production and use of pentachlorophenol listed with specific exemptions under the Stockholm Convention;⁵
 - (c) The conclusions and recommendations of the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices;⁶
3. *Adopts* the workplan for the review and updating of the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices set out in the annex to the present decision;
4. *Requests* the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices to continue the work on the ongoing review and updating of the Toolkit and on the guidelines and guidance in accordance with the workplan referred to in paragraph 3 of the present decision;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to support the experts in the work referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision, and to continue to implement awareness-raising and technical assistance activities to promote the Toolkit and the guidelines and guidance;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to organize one meeting of the experts on the Toolkit and on best available techniques and best environmental practices;
7. *Invites* Parties and others with relevant expertise to nominate experts to the joint Toolkit and best available techniques and best environmental practices expert roster and to participate actively in the review and updating process;
8. *Encourages* Parties to develop source inventories and release estimates for dioxins and furans and update them every five years in order to evaluate the efficacy of the measures taken towards the minimization or ultimate elimination of releases in accordance with Article 5 of the Stockholm Convention, and to report the estimated releases under Article 15 of the Convention;
9. *Encourages* Parties and others to use the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices when applying measures to minimize and ultimately eliminate releases of the chemicals listed in Annex A or B and/or C to the Stockholm Convention, to provide feedback on their usefulness and to contribute to their finalization.

¹ Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Releases of Dioxins, Furans and Other Unintentional Persistent Organic Pollutants.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/13.

³ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/14.

⁴ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/15.

⁵ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/16.

⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/9, annex I.

Annex to decision SC-9/7

Workplan for the ongoing review and updating of the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices

A. Areas of work

1. Guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex C

1. The work to update the guidelines and guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to Article 5 and Annex C of the Stockholm Convention is ongoing. Priority areas of work include the following sections: V.A. Waste incinerators; V.C. Production of pulp using elemental chlorine or chemicals generating elemental chlorine; VI.A. Open burning of waste, including burning of landfill sites; VI.C. Residential combustion sources; VI.D. Fossil fuel-fired utility and industrial boilers; VI.E. Firing installations for wood and other biomass fuels; VI.F. Specific chemical production processes releasing chemicals listed in Annex C; VI.J. Textile and leather dyeing (with chloranil) and finishing (with alkaline extraction); VI.L. Smouldering of copper cables; and VI.M. Waste oil refineries.

2. Guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the persistent organic pollutants listed in Annex A or B

2. The work to update the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices relevant to the chemicals listed in Annex A or B of the Stockholm Convention is ongoing. Priority areas of work include:

(a) The revision and updating of the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the recycling and waste disposal of articles containing polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), listed under the Stockholm Convention, to address considerations for all PBDEs listed in the Convention, including for best available techniques and best environmental practices for the production and use of decabromodiphenyl ether, and to make the guidance consistent with the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with PBDEs;⁷

(b) The revision and updating of the guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the use of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF), listed under the Stockholm Convention, to make it consistent with the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with PFOS, its salts and PFOSF, including, inter alia, the description of the closed-loop system for hard-metal plating;⁸

(c) The revision and updating of the draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the production and use of hexabromocyclododecane, listed with specific exemptions under the Stockholm Convention, to make it consistent with the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with hexabromocyclododecane;⁹

(d) The revision and updating of the draft guidance on best available techniques and best environmental practices for the production and use of pentachlorophenol, listed with specific exemptions under the Stockholm Convention, to make it consistent with the Basel Convention technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with pentachlorophenol.¹⁰

3. Sites contaminated by persistent organic pollutants

3. The work to develop guidance for identification and management of sites contaminated by persistent organic pollutants is ongoing. Priority areas of work include collection of relevant information and case studies from Parties and others, in particular as they relate to management and

⁷ UNEP/CHW.14/7/Add.3/Rev.1.

⁸ UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.3/Rev.1.

⁹ UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.7/Rev.1.

¹⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/6/Add.3/Rev.1.

remediation, inventory development, financial mechanisms, information relevant for developing countries, countries with economies in transition and developed countries, information covering a large range of scenarios and types of contamination (e.g., pesticides, production facilities) and for managing multiple contaminant scenarios at single sites (e.g., covering simultaneously POPs, metals, hydrocarbons, etc.), and examples of problems that can occur as well as successes.

B. Timelines

<i>Deadline</i>	<i>Activity</i>
May 2019	Follow-up to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat invites information submissions from Parties and others on the work areas specified in the workplan • Secretariat invites expressions of interest to confirm and/or identify leads and contributors from the joint Toolkit and best available techniques (BAT) and best environmental practices (BEP) expert roster for the areas of work included in the workplan
Continue throughout the biennium	Collection and compilation of information from Parties and others for consideration and evaluation by the experts at their annual meeting(s)
September 2019	Secretariat compiles information submitted by Parties and others to that date and sends the compilation to the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts by 15 September 2019
September 2019	Joint meeting of the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts to evaluate information and develop the proposals for intersessional work, including identification of task teams, to update existing guidance and/or develop additional guidance for the areas of work included in the workplan
August 2020	Task teams prepare draft updated guidance and/or draft new guidance on the basis of the proposals developed by the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts at their 2019 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task team leads send the first drafts to the Secretariat by 31 May 2020 • Secretariat makes available the first drafts for review by the Toolkit experts by 30 June 2020 • Task team leads revise the first drafts according to comments and send the revised drafts to the Secretariat by 31 July 2020 • Secretariat posts the drafts on the Stockholm Convention website by 15 August 2020 for comments by the experts and by Parties and others prior to 15 October 2020
October 2020	Secretariat compiles additional information submitted by that date, along with comments from the experts and from Parties and others, and sends the compilation to the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts by 30 October 2020
November 2020	Joint meeting of the Toolkit and BAT and BEP experts to finalize drafts and develop conclusions, recommendations and a workplan for the next biennium for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting
January 2021	Task teams finalize the draft guidance and task team leads send the final and/or interim drafts to the Secretariat by 15 January 2021
May 2021	Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

SC-9/8: Measures to reduce or eliminate releases from wastes

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* with appreciation decision BC-14/4 on technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, by which the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, at its fourteenth meeting, adopted updated general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants¹ and other technical guidelines specific to persistent organic pollutants listed in that decision;
2. *Notes* that the updated general technical guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fourteenth meeting:
 - (a) Establish provisional definitions for low persistent organic pollutant content;²
 - (b) Establish a provisional definition for levels of destruction and irreversible transformation;³
 - (c) Determine methods considered to constitute environmentally sound disposal;⁴
3. *Reminds* Parties to take into account the above-mentioned technical guidelines when implementing their obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
4. *Encourages* the introduction and demonstration in developing countries and countries with economies in transition of cost-effective methods selected from those listed in section IV G of the general technical guidelines;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in meeting their obligations under paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the above-mentioned technical guidelines;
6. *Invites* the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention, with regard to the chemicals newly listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention by decisions SC-9/11 and SC-9/12:
 - (a) To establish for those chemicals the levels of destruction and irreversible transformation necessary to ensure that the characteristics of persistent organic pollutants, as specified in paragraph 1 of Annex D to the Stockholm Convention, are not exhibited;
 - (b) To determine what they consider to be the methods that constitute environmentally sound disposal under paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;
 - (c) To work to establish, as appropriate, the concentration levels in order to define for those chemicals the low persistent organic pollutant content referred to in paragraph 1 (d) (ii) of Article 6 of the Stockholm Convention;
 - (d) To further update, if necessary, the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, and to update or develop new specific technical guidelines under the Basel Convention;
7. *Also invites* the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention, with regard to the amendments of Annex B to the Stockholm Convention regarding perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to decision SC-9/4, to further update, if necessary, the general technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants, and to update the technical guidelines on perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride under the Basel Convention;
8. *Encourages* Parties to accelerate their efforts to ensure the sound management of persistent organic pollutant stockpiles and wastes, including their further identification, and to prepare plans of action that prioritize the environmentally sound disposal of such wastes.

¹ UNEP/CHW.14/7/Add.1/Rev.1.

² Ibid., sect. III.A.

³ Ibid., sect. III.B.

⁴ Ibid., sect. IV.G.

SC-9/9: Implementation plans

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the implementation plans transmitted by Parties pursuant to Article 7 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and urges those Parties that have not transmitted their implementation plans to transmit them as soon as possible;
2. *Takes note* of the information on progress in developing an electronic template for the reporting of quantitative information contained in national implementation plans in a harmonized manner with the reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention,¹ invites the United Nations Environment Programme to submit the electronic template to the Secretariat, and requests the Secretariat to make it available to Parties;
3. *Invites* Parties to submit to the Secretariat comments on the electronic template, and requests the Secretariat to compile those comments for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;
4. *Takes note* of the revised guidance on developing and updating national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention² and the preliminary draft guidance prepared by the Secretariat;³
5. *Invites* Parties and observers to provide comments to the Secretariat on the guidance referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision by 31 August 2020;
6. *Invites* the appropriate bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal to review the waste-related aspects of the guidance referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision and provide comments to the Secretariat by 31 August 2020;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To continue, in consultation with the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the experts on best available techniques and best environmental practices, as appropriate, to further revise the guidance referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision, taking into account the comments received in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of the present decision;
 - (b) To undertake capacity-building activities to support Parties in developing and updating their national implementation plans;
 - (c) To continue to support the development of an electronic template for the reporting of quantitative information contained in national implementation plans in a manner harmonized with the reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention and to develop a template for the reporting of qualitative information contained in the implementation plans that would be useful in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;
 - (d) To develop guidance on preparing inventories of the persistent organic pollutants listed in decisions SC-9/11 and SC-9/12;
 - (e) To develop guidance on alternatives to the persistent organic pollutants listed in decisions SC-9/11 and SC-9/12.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/11.

² <http://chm.pops.int/tabid/7730/Default.aspx>.

³ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/18, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/19, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/19/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/20, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/21.

SC-9/10: Operation of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties

1. Welcomes the reports of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings;¹
2. Confirms the appointment of Ms. Ingrid Hauzenberger (Luxembourg) to replace Ms. Katinka van der Jagt as member of the Committee to serve for the remainder of Ms. van de Jagt's term, until 4 May 2020;
3. Also confirms the appointments of Mr. Hammad Shamimi (Pakistan) to replace Mr. Zaigham Abbas and of Mr. Sylvain Bintein (Austria) to replace Ms. Ingrid Hauzenberger as members of the Committee to serve for the remainder of Mr. Abbas' and Ms. Hauzenberger's terms, until 4 May 2022;
4. Appoints the 14 designated experts listed in the annex to the present decision to serve as members of the Committee with terms of office from 5 May 2020 to 4 May 2024;²
5. Requests the Committee to identify an interim Chair to preside over the Committee's sixteenth meeting, and decides to consider the election of the Chair of the Committee at its tenth meeting;
6. Encourages Parties and observers to submit the information requested by the Committee, recognizing that increased participation will contribute to the comprehensiveness of the work undertaken, and to support the Committee in the preparation of its recommendations;
7. Requests the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to support Parties, incoming members and newly designated or appointed experts to participate effectively in the process for reviewing and listing new chemicals under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the work of the Committee and to report on the results of those activities to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

Annex to decision SC-9/10

Members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee appointed by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting for terms of office beginning on 5 May 2020

African States

Mr. Jean Paul Otamonga (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 Mr. Elham Refaat Abdel Azize Sayed Ahmed (Egypt)
 Mr. Mehari Wondmagegn Taye (Ethiopia)
 Mr. Gotfried Uiseb (Namibia)

Asia-Pacific States

Mr. Jianxin Hu (China)
 Mr. Kazuhide Kimbara (Japan)
 Mr. Hyo-Bang Moon (Republic of Korea)
 Ms. Chalangkwan Tangbanluekal (Thailand)

Central and Eastern European States

Ms. Magdalena Frydrych (Poland)

Latin American and Caribbean States

Mr. Agustín Harte (Argentina)
 Mr. Mario Rodas Talbott (Ecuador)

¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.13/7, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.13/7/Add.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.13/7/Add.2, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/6, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/6/Add.1 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/6/Add.2.

² The curricula vitae of these experts are set out in document UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/4/Rev.2.

Western European and other States

Ms. Valentina Bertato (Belgium)

Ms. Caren Rauert (Germany)

Ms. Christina Charlotte Tolfen (Norway)

SC-9/11: Listing of dicofol

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile and the risk management evaluation for dicofol as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,¹

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that dicofol be listed in Annex A to the Convention without specific exemptions,²

Decides to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list dicofol without specific exemptions by inserting the following row:

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Specific exemption</i>
Dicofol	Production	None
CAS No. 115-32-2	Use	None
CAS No. 10606-46-9		

¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/11/Add.1; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.13/7/Add.1.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.9/13.

SC-9/12: Listing of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the risk profile, the risk management evaluation and the addendum to the risk management evaluation for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds as transmitted by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee,¹

Taking note of the recommendation by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee that perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds be listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants with specific exemptions,²

1. *Decides* to amend part I of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to list therein perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, with specific exemptions for the production and use of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds, by inserting the following rows:

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Specific exemption</i>
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds “Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds” means the following:	Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-fighting foam: None • For other production, as allowed for the Parties listed in the Register in accordance with the provisions of part X of this Annex
<p>(i) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA; CAS No. 335-67-1), including any of its branched isomers;</p> <p>(ii) Its salts;</p> <p>(iii) PFOA-related compounds which, for the purposes of the Convention, are any substances that degrade to PFOA, including any substances (including salts and polymers) having a linear or branched perfluoroheptyl group with the moiety (C₇F₁₅)C as one of the structural elements;</p> <p>The following compounds are not included as PFOA-related compounds:</p> <p>(i) C₈F₁₇-X, where X= F, Cl, Br;</p> <p>(ii) Fluoropolymers that are covered by CF₃[CF₂]_n-R', where R'=any group, n>16;</p> <p>(iii) Perfluoroalkyl carboxylic and phosphonic acids (including their salts, esters, halides and anhydrides) with ≥8 perfluorinated carbons;</p> <p>(iv) Perfluoroalkane sulfonic acids (including their salts, esters, halides and anhydrides) with ≥9 perfluorinated carbons;</p> <p>(v) Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF), as listed in Annex B to the Convention.</p>	Use	<p>In accordance with the provisions of part X of this Annex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photolithography or etch processes in semiconductor manufacturing • Photographic coatings applied to films • Textiles for oil and water repellency for the protection of workers from dangerous liquids that comprise risks to their health and safety • Invasive and implantable medical devices • Fire-fighting foam for liquid fuel vapour suppression and liquid fuel fires (Class B fires) in installed systems, including both mobile and fixed systems, in accordance with paragraph 2 of part X of this Annex • Use of perfluorooctyl iodide for the production of perfluorooctyl bromide for the purpose of producing pharmaceutical products, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of part X of this Annex • Manufacture of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) for the production of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High-performance, corrosion-resistant gas filter membranes, water filter membranes and membranes for medical textiles ○ Industrial waste heat exchanger equipment ○ Industrial sealants capable of preventing leakage of volatile organic compounds and PM2.5 particulates • Manufacture of polyfluoroethylene propylene (FEP) for the production of high-voltage electrical wire and cables for power transmission • Manufacture of fluoroelastomers for the production of O-rings, v-belts and plastic accessories for car interiors

¹ UNEP/POPS/POPRC.12/11/Add.2; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.13/7/Add.2; UNEP/POPS/POPRC.14/6/Add.2.

² UNEP/POPS/COP.9/14.

2. *Also decides* to insert a new part X in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, as follows:

Part X

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds

1. The production and use of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds shall be eliminated except for Parties that have notified the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use them in accordance with Article 4 of the Convention.

2. Each Party that has registered for a specific exemption pursuant to Article 4 for the use of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds for fire-fighting foam shall:

(a) Notwithstanding paragraph 2 of Article 3, ensure that fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds shall not be exported or imported except for the purpose of environmentally sound disposal as set forth in paragraph 1 (d) of Article 6;

(b) Not use fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds for training;

(c) Not use fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds for testing unless all releases are contained;

(d) By the end of 2022, if it has the capacity to do so, but no later than 2025, restrict uses of fire-fighting foam that contains or may contain PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds to sites where all releases can be contained;

(e) Make determined efforts designed to lead to the environmentally sound management of fire-fighting foam stockpiles and wastes that contain or may contain PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 6, as soon as possible;

3. With regard to the specific exemption for the use of perfluorooctyl iodide for the production of perfluorooctyl bromide for the purpose of producing pharmaceutical products, at its thirteenth ordinary meeting and at every second ordinary meeting thereafter, the Conference of the Parties shall review the continued need for this specific exemption. This specific exemption shall in any case expire at the latest in 2036.

SC-9/13: Actions related to perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related compounds

The Conference of the Parties,

I

Review of the specific exemptions for the production and use of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds for the use of perfluorooctyl iodide for the production of perfluorooctyl bromide for the purpose of producing pharmaceutical products

1. *Invites* each Party in the register of specific exemptions for the production and use of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds for the use of perfluorooctyl iodide for the production of perfluorooctyl bromide for the purpose of producing pharmaceutical products, listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to report to the Secretariat, by 1 December 2025, justifying its need for the registration of that exemption;

2. *Invites* Parties and observers to provide to the Secretariat, by 1 December 2025, the following information on the specific exemptions referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision:

- (a) Production;
- (b) Uses;
- (c) Efficacy and efficiency of possible control measures;
- (d) Information on the availability, suitability and implementation of alternatives;
- (e) Status of control and monitoring capacity;
- (f) Any national or regional control actions taken;

3. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile the information provided in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the present decision and to make it available to the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee by 31 January 2026;

4. *Requests* the Committee, subject to the availability of resources, to analyse the information referred to in paragraph 3 of the present decision and any other pertinent and credible information available and to prepare a report, including any recommendations on the specific exemptions referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision, for consideration at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

5. *Decides* to consider, at its thirteenth meeting, the time frame for the subsequent reviews pursuant to paragraph 3 of part X of Annex A to the Stockholm Convention;

II

Alternatives to PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds for fire-fighting foams

6. *Encourages* Parties and others to use alternatives to PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, where available, feasible and efficient, while considering that fluorine-based fire-fighting foams could have negative environmental, human health and socioeconomic impacts due to their persistency and mobility;

III

Identification of substances covered by the listing of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds

7. *Notes* that in order to support Parties and facilitate the identification of substances and understanding of the listing, an initial indicative list of substances has been prepared as set out in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.13/INF/6/Add.1;

8. *Invites* Parties and others to take into account the information available in document UNEP/POPS/POPRC.13/INF/6/Add.1 and to provide further information regarding the identification of substances covered by the listing of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile, in consultation with the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the information submitted pursuant to paragraph 8 of the present decision and to establish an indicative list of PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related compounds, make it available on the Convention's website, and update it periodically.

SC-9/14: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties

I

Technical assistance

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 in the biennium 2018–2019¹ and the work carried out on monitoring and evaluation;
2. *Invites* developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2020, information on their needs for technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with the provisions of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
3. *Invites* developed-country Parties and others with the capacity to do so to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2020, information on the technical assistance and technology that they have available to be transferred, in accordance with the provisions of the Stockholm Convention, to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;
4. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to collect relevant information on technical assistance for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention, including information available online, submitted by Parties and other stakeholders or available through other means, such as information related to the Stockholm Convention financial mechanism, in the database referred to in decisions BC-12/9, RC-7/7 and SC-7/16;
5. *Notes* that the technical assistance plan for the implementation 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 for the period 2018–2021² provides Parties with opportunities for training and capacity-building;
6. *Encourages* Parties, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility and the 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, according to their mandates and the priorities that have been established, to continue to support the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2018–2021;
7. *Encourages* relevant Parties, in line with Article 10 of the Basel Convention, Article 16 of the Rotterdam Convention and Article 12 of the Stockholm Convention, and invites others in a position to do so to support the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2018–2021;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To continue to implement the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 in cooperation with relevant actors;
 - (b) To develop an online survey to collect the information from Parties in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the present decision, to make the information available on the websites of the conventions, and to prepare a report on the assessment of the information on the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance and technology transfer, based on the information submitted by Parties;
 - (c) To continue to include information on the monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken under the technical assistance plan for the period 2018–2021 in the report requested in paragraph 10 of the present decision;
 - (d) To develop a technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025, taking into account the reports referred to in subparagraphs 8 (b) and (c) of the present decision, and to present it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

¹ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/25/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/24/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/25/Rev.1.

² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/25.

9. *Emphasizes* the key role of the regional centres, as set out in the provisions of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, 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 technical assistance upon request, particularly at the regional level, for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the present decision, including in particular the continued and effective use of the database for the collection of relevant information.

II

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

11. *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 to implement the chemicals and waste conventions in accordance with their terms of reference;

12. *Also emphasizes* the role of the regional and subregional centres in the promotion of technology transfer relating to the implementation of the Stockholm Convention and invites them to cooperate and coordinate among themselves and with relevant partners on areas of expertise in which they are able to provide assistance;

13. *Takes note of:*

(a) The activity reports for the period January 2017–December 2018³ submitted by the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres;

(b) The report on the activities of the regional and subregional centres;⁴

(c) The full draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the 15 Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres prepared by the Secretariat⁵ and the summary of that report;⁶

14. *Welcomes* the extensive work that the regional and subregional centres have already done on the impact of plastic waste, including marine plastic litter and microplastics, and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management, and invites them to continue their activities;

15. *Also welcomes* the procurement capacity assessment⁷ conducted as an integral part of the evaluation of the performance and sustainability of the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres endorsed by the Conference of the Parties;⁸

16. *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;⁹

17. *Also notes* the performance of the regional centres, and calls for sustained efforts to enhance their performance and action to support developing-country Parties;

18. *Endorses* for another period of four years the Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology listed in the annex to the present decision;

19. *Also endorses* the Novosibirsk Institute of Organic Chemistry, located in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation, as a Stockholm Convention regional centre for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, in accordance with decision SC-3/12, for a period of four years;

³ Available at <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/ActivitiesReports/tabid/4112/Default.aspx>.

⁴ See UNEP/CHW.14/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/28.

⁵ See UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27/Rev.1.

⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/17, annex.

⁷ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/28/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/27/Rev.1, annex II.

⁸ Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21 and SC-6/16.

⁹ Decisions SC-4/23, SC-5/21 and SC-6/16.

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

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

(b) Their activity reports for the period 1 January 2019–31 December 2020 by 31 December 2020;

21. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) 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 tenth meeting;

(b) To prepare the draft evaluation reports on the performance and sustainability of the centres referred to in paragraph 8 of the present decision, based on the methodology adopted by decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, and to prepare such reports every four years thereafter;

(c) To undertake the following activities to facilitate the work of the regional centres, subject to the availability of resources:

(i) Organize annual meetings of the coordinators of the regional centres under the Stockholm Convention and the directors of the regional centres under the Basel Convention, with a view to enhancing the performance of the regional centres and fostering cooperation and collaboration among them, and attend meetings of the regional centre steering committees;

(ii) Facilitate the implementation of regional, subregional and national projects based on the business plans or workplans of regional centres through the Small Grants Programme of the conventions;

(iii) Foster the activities of the regional centres to increase their visibility;

22. *Decides* to evaluate, in accordance with the criteria set out in annex II to decision SC-2/9, the performance and sustainability of the Novosibirsk Institute of Organic Chemistry and of the centres listed in the annex to the present decision, and to reconsider their status as Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and the transfer of technology, at its eleventh meeting, and every four years thereafter;

23. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a draft evaluation report on the performance and sustainability of the regional centres mentioned in paragraph 12 of the present decision, based on the methodology adopted by decision SC-6/16, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;

24. *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.

Annex to decision SC-9/14

Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres evaluated by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting and endorsed until the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional centres</i>
Africa	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Algeria (SCRC Algeria)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kenya (SCRC Kenya)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Senegal (SCRC Senegal)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, South Africa (SCRC South Africa)
Asia and the Pacific	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, China (SCRC China)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, India (SCRC India)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Indonesia (SCRC Indonesia)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Islamic Republic of Iran (SCRC Iran)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Kuwait (SCRC Kuwait)
Central and Eastern Europe	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Czechia Republic (SCRC Czechia)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Brazil (SCRC Brazil)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Mexico (SCRC Mexico)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Panama (SCRC Panama)
	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and Transfer of Technology, Uruguay (SCRC Uruguay)
Western Europe and others	Stockholm Convention Regional Centre for Capacity-building and the Transfer of Technology, Spain (SCRC Spain)

SC-9/15: Financial mechanism

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund and the report of the Facility to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;¹
2. *Welcomes* the inclusion in the programming directions for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility trust fund² of measures with respect to marine plastic litter and microplastics and alignment between those matters in the strategies for the international waters and the chemicals and waste focal areas;
3. *Recalls* Articles 13 and 14 of the Stockholm Convention, and encourages the donors to the Global Environment Facility trust fund, at the time of negotiations of its eighth replenishment, to increase significantly the allocation for the Convention, to assist recipient countries;
4. *Reiterates* its request to the Global Environment Facility, as appropriate, to ensure that its policies and procedures related to the consideration and review of funding proposals be duly followed in an efficient and transparent manner;
5. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism set out in annex I to the present decision;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to compile information relevant to the fifth review of the financial mechanism and submit it to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting;
7. *Notes* the ongoing collaboration between the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the Stockholm Convention, and encourages them to further enhance effective inter-secretariat cooperation in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat, in consultation with the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare a report on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Conference of the Parties and the Council of the Global Environment Facility with regard to cooperation between the secretariats and reciprocal representation, including follow-up actions, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;
9. *Invites* developed-country Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including new and additional financial resources, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;
10. *Invites* other Parties to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can provide support, including financial resources, in accordance with their capabilities, for the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such support;
11. *Invites* other sources, including relevant funding institutions, such as development banks, and the private sector, to use, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, to provide the Secretariat, by 31 August 2020, with information on ways in which they can contribute to the implementation of the Convention, including information on access to such contributions;
12. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the assessment of the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022–2026, as set out in annex II to the present decision;

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/30, UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/52 and UNEP/POPS/COP.9/18, annex I.

² https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/publications/GEF-7%20Programming%20Directions%20-%20GEF_R.7_19.pdf.

13. *Invites* Parties and others to provide, by 31 August 2020, the relevant information required to undertake the assessment of funding needs referred to in paragraph 12 of the present decision;

14. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To prepare, on the basis of the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 9 to 11 of the present decision, a report on the availability of financial resources additional to those provided through the Global Environment Facility, and ways and means of mobilizing and channelling such additional financial resources in support of the objectives of the Stockholm Convention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;

(b) To compile information relevant to the funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022–2026 and submit the draft report to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting;

(c) To provide assistance to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, upon request, to facilitate their assessment of funding needed for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention over the period 2022–2026.

Annex I to decision SC-9/15

Terms of reference for the fifth review of the financial mechanism

I. Objective

1. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 13 of the Stockholm Convention, the Conference of the Parties is to review the effectiveness of the financial mechanism established under Article 13 in supporting the implementation of the Convention with a view to taking appropriate action, if necessary, to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, including by means of recommendations and guidance to ensure adequate and sustainable funding. For that purpose, the review will include an analysis of:

(a) The ability of the financial mechanism to meet the changing needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;

(b) The criteria and guidance referred to in paragraph 7 of Article 13 of the Convention, including the financial mechanism's ability to incorporate policy guidance from the Conference of the Parties;

(c) The level of funding;

(d) The effectiveness of the performance of the institutional entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, including, pursuant to Article 14 of the Convention, the effectiveness of the performance of the Global Environment Facility in its capacity as the principal entity entrusted, on an interim basis, with the operation of the financial mechanism.

A. Methodology

2. The review will cover the activities of the financial mechanism for the period from August 2016 to July 2020, with special emphasis on the activities concluded during that period.

3. The review will draw on, among others, the following sources of information:

(a) Information provided by Parties on their experiences gained in the context of activities funded by the financial mechanism;

(b) Periodic reviews by the Conference of the Parties of the conformity of the activities of the financial mechanism with the guidance provided to it;³

³ Pursuant to paragraph 7 of Article 13, the Conference of the Parties adopted guidance to the financial mechanism by its decision SC-1/9. In its subsequent decisions SC-2/11, SC-3/16, SC-4/27, SC-4/28, SC-5/23, SC-6/20, SC-7/21, and paragraphs 1 to 8 of decision SC-8/16, the Conference of the Parties provided additional guidance to the financial mechanism.

- (c) Reports submitted to the Conference of the Parties by the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism;⁴
 - (d) Other reports provided by the entity or entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, including, among other things, the reports of the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility;
 - (e) Reports and information provided by other relevant entities providing multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention;
 - (f) Reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention;
 - (g) Relevant information provided by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.
4. In keeping with these terms of reference, the Secretariat will:
- (a) Make adequate arrangements to ensure that the fifth review of the financial mechanism is undertaken in an independent and transparent manner;
 - (b) Hire a consultant to prepare a draft report on the review;
 - (c) Submit the draft report on the review to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its tenth meeting.
5. The entities entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism are requested to provide information relevant to this review in a timely manner.
6. Parties are encouraged to provide information pursuant to paragraph 3 (a) above as soon as possible and not later than 31 August 2020.
7. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are requested to provide relevant information pursuant to the objectives of the present review, as soon as possible and no later than 31 August 2020.

B. Report

8. The report on the fifth review will include the following elements:
- (a) Overview of elements set out in paragraph 1 (a)–(d) above;
 - (b) Analysis of lessons learned from the activities funded by the financial mechanism during the period covered by the review;
 - (c) Assessment of the Global Environment Facility principles of incremental cost and global environmental benefits as they pertain to activities involving persistent organic pollutants in order to facilitate the fulfilment of obligations under the Convention, along with lessons learned from the evaluation reports on the activities of the Facility;
 - (d) Assessment of the adequacy, sustainability and predictability of the funding provided by the financial mechanism for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention;
 - (e) Recommendations and guidance to improve the effectiveness of the financial mechanism in meeting the objectives of the Convention;
 - (f) Performance criteria set out in paragraph 10 below.
9. The Secretariat will present the above-mentioned report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting for its consideration and subsequent action, including for the purpose of informing the replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility. The report will be deemed to be an official document of the Conference of the Parties.

⁴ See paragraphs 7 to 13 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility (annex to decision SC-1/11).

C. Performance criteria

10. The effectiveness of the financial mechanism will be assessed, taking into account, among other things:

- (a) Responsiveness of the financial mechanism and the entities entrusted with its operation to guidance from the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) Responsiveness of the Global Environment Facility, in its capacity as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism on an interim basis, to the resolutions adopted on 22 May 2001 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries relating to interim financial arrangements;⁵
- (c) Transparency of the project approval process;
- (d) Simplicity, flexibility and expeditiousness of the procedures for accessing funds;
- (e) Adequacy and sustainability of the resources;
- (f) Country ownership of activities funded by the financial mechanism;
- (g) Level of stakeholder involvement;
- (h) Any other significant issues raised by the Parties.

Annex II to decision SC-9/15

Terms of reference for the assessment of funding needed by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for the implementation of the Convention over the period 2022–2026

A. Objectives

1. The objectives of the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference are:

- (a) To enable the Conference of the Parties to provide to the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism referred to in Article 13 of the Convention and to other entities, should they be so entrusted, at periodic intervals, assessments of the total funding, which consists of funding for baseline and agreed full incremental costs, needed by Parties eligible for assistance from the financial mechanism to facilitate their effective implementation of the Convention;
- (b) To provide the principal entity and any other entities with a framework and modalities for the determination in a predictable and identifiable manner of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention by Parties eligible for assistance from the financial mechanism.

B. Methodology

2. Pursuant to the objectives set out in paragraph 1 above, the work to be carried out under the present terms of reference will be facilitated and coordinated by the Secretariat with a view to enabling a team of up to three independent experts to undertake a full assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2022–2026, based on, among other things, the experience in using and lessons learned from the methodology and available data gained from the preliminary assessments of funding needs for the periods 2006–2010,⁶ 2010–2014,⁷ 2015–2019,⁸ and 2018–2022⁹ for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting.

⁵ UNEP/POPS/CONF/4, appendix I.

⁶ UNEP/POPS/COP.3/19, with terms of reference for the assessment set forth in the annex to decision SC-2/12.

⁷ UNEP/POPS/COP.4/27, with terms of reference for the assessment set forth in the annex to decision SC-3/15.

⁸ UNEP/POPS/COP.6/20 and UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/20, with terms of reference for the assessment set forth in annex II to decision SC-5/22.

⁹ UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18, annex III, with terms of reference for the assessment set forth in the annex to decision SC-7/18.

3. The assessment will include an estimation of baseline and agreed full incremental costs of activities described primarily in national implementation plans and required to implement Parties' obligations under the Convention.
4. The methodology for assessing the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention shall be transparent, reliable and replicable.

C. Execution and sources of information

5. In developing the assessment of funding needs, the work will draw primarily on information provided by Parties in the national implementation plans submitted pursuant to Article 7 and reports submitted by Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Convention.
6. The assessment methodology for the funding needed over the period 2022–2026 will be complemented by the following three-step approach:¹⁰
 - (a) Step one involves the consolidation of inventory data from multiple sources to estimate the quantities of persistent organic pollutants to be disposed of by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition from 2022 to 2026;
 - (b) Step two involves the estimation of average disposal costs for groups of chemicals;
 - (c) Step three, based on the findings of the first two steps, involves the estimation of disposal costs for groups of chemicals and the aggregation of such by United Nations region.
7. Relevant supplementary information, where available, will be obtained from the Secretariat and from:
 - (a) Parties, which are requested to provide information on funding needs associated with implementation of the Convention and inventory data using, as appropriate, online questionnaires and other formats and any other information regarding their experiences in implementing the Convention;
 - (b) The Global Environment Facility, which, as the principal entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism on an interim basis, is invited to provide information gathered through its operations relevant to the assistance needs of eligible Parties and to the calculation of disposal costs as set out in paragraph 6 above;
 - (c) Intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, which are invited to provide information relating to the needs assessment and, as appropriate, to the calculation of disposal costs as set out in paragraph 6 above;
 - (d) Other international financial institutions that provide bilateral or multilateral financial or technical assistance pursuant to paragraph 6 of Article 13 of the Convention, which are invited to provide information on such assistance, including the levels of such assistance;
 - (e) The secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements, which are invited to provide information relevant to modalities for conducting similar needs assessments in connection with their agreements.
8. The methodology for assessing the funding needs over the period 2022–2026 may also include, as appropriate and subject to the availability of funding, validation missions to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to verify existing inventory data and to collect additional data and other relevant information.

D. Scope

9. The assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention should be comprehensive and primarily directed towards assessing total funding needs, with a view to identifying funding needed for baseline and agreed full incremental costs to enable all Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention.

¹⁰ The details of the three-step approach are contained in the recommendations pertaining to the assessment of funding needs for the period 2018–2022 as set out in documents UNEP/POPS/COP.8/18, annex III, and UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/32.

E. Process

10. The information identified above should be provided to the Secretariat by 31 August 2020. Any future updating of the information will be decided upon by the Conference of the Parties.
11. Based on the information that it receives from the Secretariat, the team of experts referred to in paragraph 2 above will prepare a report on the assessment of the funding necessary and available for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2022–2026 by developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, and for all their continuing needs as identified in previous assessments of baselines, and transmit it to the Secretariat.
12. The Secretariat will present the above-mentioned report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting for its consideration and subsequent action, including for the purpose of informing the replenishment process of the Global Environment Facility. The report will be deemed to be an official document of the Conference of the Parties.

SC-9/16: Reporting pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes:*

- (a) The progress made by the Secretariat in further improving the electronic reporting system;
- (b) The actions taken by the Secretariat in accordance with the revised strategy to increase the rate of submission of national reports by Parties pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- (c) The information provided in the report prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 2 (d) of Article 20 of the Stockholm Convention, based on the reports submitted by Parties under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;

2. *Welcomes* with appreciation the work of the small intersessional working group pertaining to the manual for completing the updated format for national reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;

3. *Takes note* of the draft manual for completing the updated format for national reporting under Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention;

4. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to submit their fourth national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention as soon as possible;

5. *Decides* that, in accordance with Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, each Party shall submit its fifth national report to the Secretariat by 31 August 2022, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To update the electronic reporting system to include the chemicals listed in Annex A to the Stockholm Convention pursuant to decisions SC-9/11 and SC-9/12, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting;

(b) To further improve the electronic reporting system and make the revised template available by the end of 2021 at the latest for it to be used for the submission of the fifth reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, taking into account experiences and feedback provided by Parties, the results of the survey on the difficulties faced by Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations, the revised framework and indicators contained therein for the effectiveness evaluation pursuant to Article 16 of the Convention, as well as the results of other evaluations under the Convention, that is, the evaluations of polychlorinated biphenyls and of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To update, where appropriate, the user manual in order to reflect the changes made in the electronic reporting system and make it available together with the revised template;

(b) To provide feedback to Parties regarding the submission of their national reports, with a view to improving the quality and completeness of the reported data and information;

(c) To continue to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties, in particular developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in submitting their national reports pursuant to Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention, in cooperation with the Stockholm Convention regional centres or other partners.

SC-9/17: Effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Adopts* the revised framework for effectiveness evaluation;¹
2. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare a preliminary report to facilitate the evaluation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, using the information obtained from existing arrangements under the Stockholm Convention, along with any other relevant information, and to make it available to the effectiveness evaluation committee following the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, by 31 January 2022.

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/20/Add.1.

SC-9/18: Global monitoring plan for effectiveness evaluation

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report of the meeting of the global coordination group and the regional organization groups, including the regional strategies for implementation of the third phase of the global monitoring plan, setting out monitoring arrangements and timelines for the completion of the third regional monitoring reports,¹ and of the report by the United Nations Environment Programme on sustainable monitoring in the framework of the global monitoring plan;²
2. *Acknowledges* the need for the global monitoring plan to be sustained in the long term to enable it to continue providing valuable data for effectiveness evaluation;
3. *Takes note* of the draft updated guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants;³
4. *Requests* the regional organization groups and the global coordination group to continue to implement the global monitoring plan according to their terms of reference and mandate,⁴ taking into account the regional strategies referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision and subject to the availability of resources, and to present to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting the third regional monitoring reports and the updated guidance on the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To continue to support the work of the regional organization groups and the global coordination group in the implementation of the third phase of the global monitoring plan;
 - (b) To continue to support training and capacity-building activities to assist Parties, in particular developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, in implementing the global monitoring plan for subsequent effectiveness evaluations, and to work with partners and other relevant organizations to undertake implementation activities;
6. *Also requests* the Secretariat to organize two meetings of the global coordination group;
7. *Encourages* Parties to consider the regional strategies referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision and to engage actively in the implementation of the global monitoring plan and the effectiveness evaluation, in particular:
 - (a) To continue to monitor the core media of air and human breast milk or human blood and, for those Parties in a position to do so, to initiate monitoring of perfluorooctane sulfonate in surface water in support of future evaluations, and to share the resulting monitoring data through their respective regional organization groups;
 - (b) To support the further development and long-term implementation of the global monitoring plan if in a position to do so.

¹ See UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/35.

² See UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/37.

³ See UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/36.

⁴ Decision SC-8/19, annex.

SC-9/19: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the ministerial declarations and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third and fourth sessions, and joins in the expression of deep concern that our planet is increasingly polluted and in the encouragement to Governments and all other stakeholders to contribute to the effective implementation of the plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet”;¹

2. *Joins* the Environment Assembly in emphasizing the need for urgent and resolute action to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² on matters related to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through relevant improvements to the current international framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste;

3. *Calls upon* all Parties and other stakeholders to intensify and prioritize efforts on the sound management of chemicals and waste towards the achievement by 2020 of target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with Environment Assembly resolution 4/8 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through technical assistance and capacity-building, to enable Parties to meet the relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda as soon as possible;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions related to the sound management of chemicals and waste and of the plan “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet” in areas relevant 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;

5. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination during the period 1 January 2017–31 December 2018,³ 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 2020,⁴ and the information on activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme on programmatic matters pertaining to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;⁵

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to make available to the United Nations Environment Programme information relevant to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted to it by Parties;

(b) To continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) To continue, 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;

(d) To continue to work closely with other international organizations, within the scope of their mandates, on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics;

(e) To continue to participate as an observer, upon invitation, at relevant meetings of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, pending the outcome of the actions mentioned in paragraph 8 of the present decision;

7. *Notes* the intention to establish an e-waste coalition composed of the International Labour Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization,

¹ UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1.

² General Assembly resolution 70/1.

³ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/38.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/54–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/44–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/57.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/39.

the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations University, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the World Health Organization and the Secretariat that would provide a framework for coordination and collaboration on United Nations system-wide support for e-waste management, and requests the Secretariat, should the coalition be established, to cooperate, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, with those members of the coalition that belong to the United Nations system;

8. *Invites* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to consider inviting the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to become members of the Programme, and requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps for membership and participation in the Programme;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in programmatic areas such as mercury wastes and their environmentally sound management, capacity-building and the provision of technical assistance, including through regional centres and in other relevant areas of mutual interest to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

10. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and with other international organizations in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including with the organizations and activities listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2017–31 December 2018;

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

SC-9/20: Cooperation between the joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme performs secretariat functions for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as for the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

Emphasizing the successive decisions of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels, including the provision of any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;

Welcoming decision MC-2/7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention regarding cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the invitation contained therein for the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to consider adopting, at their next meeting, corresponding decisions on this matter;

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the capacity of performing secretariat services for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:

(a) Mindful of the legal autonomy of the respective secretariats, to maximize the effective and efficient use of resources of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including through the sharing of relevant secretariat services with the Minamata Convention, which are performed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, as appropriate, and to implement relevant arrangements as soon as feasible;

(b) To submit an operative proposal, prepared together with the Executive Secretary of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention and with the support of the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, on a stable framework for sharing of relevant services in areas such as conference services, knowledge and information management, administrative and information technology services, technical assistance, legal advice and budget preparation, including possible options, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their next meeting;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention to take into *consideration* paragraph 1 of the present decision in the implementation of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021, in line with the continued mandate on this matter contained in decisions BC-13/24, RC-8/17 and SC-8/27;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to inform the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention and the Conference of the Parties to that Convention, at its next meeting, of the present decision, and of any relevant secretariat arrangements already established or being developed or considered pursuant to the present decision.

SC-9/21: Clearing house mechanism for information exchange

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing house mechanism;
2. *Also welcomes* the work of the Secretariat in preparing a draft workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing house mechanism for the biennium 2020–2021;¹
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To continue the work to implement the strategy of the joint clearing house mechanism² in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
 - (b) To implement the maintenance activities of the clearing house mechanism workplan for the biennium 2020–2021 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for the biennium, while prioritizing recurring activities, in particular with respect to the maintenance of existing systems;
 - (c) To implement, subject to the availability of resources, the new activities of the clearing house mechanism workplan for the biennium 2020–2021 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To ensure that activities undertaken in the development of the clearing house mechanism are cost-effective, proportionate and balanced and in line with the capacity and resources of the Secretariat;
 - (b) To participate in meetings by electronic means where possible and to use translations that are already available in the six official languages of the United Nations;
 - (c) To utilize the clearing house mechanism to gather information about regional and national initiatives related to waste management, including those on plastic waste, taking into account and in cooperation with other initiatives;
 - (d) To continue to enhance cooperation and coordination activities with existing partners in the area of information exchange, to explore possible cooperative activities with new partners, as appropriate, and to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication with existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
 - (e) To expand its collaboration with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to exchange information and share experiences and best practices regarding the use of existing clearing house mechanism systems;
5. *Invites* Parties and observers to participate, as appropriate, in the development of the joint clearing house mechanism strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan in accordance with the present decision;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments with regard to matters such as the multisectoral and multi-stakeholder discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

¹ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/41.

² UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

SC-9/22: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions BC-13/21, RC-8/14 and SC-8/24, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes,

1. *Takes note* of the information provided by Parties about their experience with the establishment of coordinating mechanisms and lessons learned from such experience, and about cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;¹

2. *Encourages* Parties that have not yet done so to establish national-level coordination mechanisms with a view to facilitating the exchange of information among relevant authorities responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions 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, aimed at controlling the export and import of the chemicals and wastes covered under the conventions, and encourages Parties to provide information to the Secretariat about cases of illegal traffic and trade in the chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, where the provision of such information is appropriate under existing reporting procedures;

3. *Takes note* of the report, including recommendations, on further areas in which legal clarity could be improved, prepared by the Secretariat;²

4. *Also takes note* of the information provided by the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and relevant global and regional enforcement networks about their activities aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes as well as lessons learned from those activities;³

5. *Encourages* the organizations mentioned in paragraph 4 of the present decision to undertake activities aimed at assisting Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, and to inform the Secretariat thereof;

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To develop, taking into account lessons learned from experience with the Basel Convention, a draft form and explanatory document to enable Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to voluntarily provide information about cases of trade occurring in contravention of those conventions, for comments by Parties and subsequent consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;

(b) To prepare, taking into account existing information⁴ as well as the information received pursuant to paragraph 5 of the present decision, recommendations concerning opportunities for strengthened cooperation for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;

(c) To continue to provide advice and, subject to the availability of resources, undertake technical assistance activities to strengthen the capacity of Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in the chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

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

¹ UNEP/CHW.14/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/26 and UNEP/CHW.14/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/42, annex I.

² UNEP/CHW.14/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/34–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/43, annex.

³ UNEP/CHW.14/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/26 and UNEP/CHW.14/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/42, annex II.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/42, annex II.

SC-9/23: From science to action

The Conference of the Parties,

1. *Takes note* of the road map for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation 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;¹
2. *Encourages* Parties and others to initiate action that promotes the implementation of the road map;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in taking science-based action in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
4. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit to the Secretariat, by 30 November 2020, information on action being undertaken to promote the implementation of the road map;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme and, as appropriate, other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders with the aim of strengthening the science-policy interface;
6. *Also requests* the Secretariat to cooperate and coordinate, as appropriate, with the United Nations Environment Programme in the preparation of the assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste, which was requested of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 4/8, particularly with regard to possible synergies and opportunities between the existing mechanisms under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the science-policy interface for the wider sound management of chemicals and waste;
7. *Further requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

¹ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/35–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/44.

SC-9/24: Memorandum of understanding between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the United Nations Environment Programme November 2016 delegation of authority policy and framework for the management and administration of multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and other bodies for which the United Nations Environment Programme provides the secretariat or secretariat functions,¹

Taking note also of the United Nations Environment Programme March 2018 flexible template of options for the provision of secretariat services,²

1. *Adopts* the memorandum of understanding between the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as set out in the annex to the present decision;
2. *Requests* the President of the Conference of the Parties, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to sign the memorandum of understanding during or following the closing of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/50–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/43–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/55.

² UNEP/CHW.14/INF/49–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/42–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/54.

Annex to decision SC-9/24³

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 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SECRETARIAT
FUNCTIONS FOR THE STOCKHOLM CONVENTION

(hereinafter referred to as the “Memorandum of Understanding”)

The Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the “Conference of the Parties”) and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (the “Executive Director”), as hereinafter also referred to individually as “Party” and collectively as the “Parties”:

Recalling Article 20, paragraph 2 (e), of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the “Convention”), which provides that the functions of the Secretariat are to “enter, under the overall guidance of the Conference of the Parties, into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its functions”, and paragraph 3 of Article 20 of the Convention, which provides that the “secretariat functions for this Convention shall be performed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme” (“UNEP”),

Recalling also the decision of the United Nations General Assembly, contained in section II of its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, to establish the environment secretariat headed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, who is responsible to perform, *inter alia*, such functions as may be entrusted to him by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and recalling, in that context, decision 21/4 of 9 February 2001 authorizing the participation of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme in the Secretariat to the Convention,

Recognizing that the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties alone guide the implementation of the Convention and its programme of work and direct the management of its Secretariat on all substantive issues,

Recalling decision BC.Ex-1/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, decision RC.Ex-1/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure of Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and decision SC.Ex-1/1 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, whereby each Conference of the Parties decided to establish a joint head function of the Basel Convention Secretariat, the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the UNEP part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat,

Recalling also decisions SC-6/27, SC-7/32 and SC-8/26,

³ The present annex is reproduced as received, without formal editing.

HAVE REACHED THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDING:

I. Basic principles

1. The Executive Director performs the secretariat functions for the Convention as provided for in Article 20, paragraph 3, of the Convention, unless the Conference of the Parties decides, by a three-fourths majority of the Parties present and voting, to entrust the secretariat functions to one or more other international organizations. In doing so, the Executive Director recognises the legal autonomy of the Convention in relation to UNEP and the role and function of the Secretariat, as a body to the Convention, to serve the Convention and its Parties.
2. The Conference of the Parties acknowledges that the Executive Director is required to comply with the relevant rules, regulations and procedures of the United Nations and UNEP in the provision of the functions of the Convention Secretariat, which should be in conformity with the requirements of the Convention and its Parties and consistent with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
3. The Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director recognize that efficient and cost effective operation of the Convention Secretariat is of paramount importance for the effective operations of the Convention. The Executive Director will be guided by this principle in performing the secretariat functions listed in Article 20 of the Convention.
4. The Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director will take full account of each others' views on any significant action they intend within their respective mandates which may affect i) the interests of the Parties to the Convention, the Secretariat, or UNEP, or ii) the efficient and effective administration of the Convention or of the rules and regulations of the United Nations and UNEP.
5. The Conference of the Parties acknowledges that the Executive Director or his/her designated representative is likely to be present when the Conference of the Parties considers and decides on a course of action; however the Conference of the Parties is not necessarily present when the Executive Director does so. There may be actions or decisions to be taken by the Executive Director having policy or other implications for the operation of the Convention or its Secretariat in respect of which the Executive Secretary and the Conference of the Parties should be informed. In such cases, it is of particular importance for the Executive Director involve the Executive Secretary in the decision-making or action-taking process and, if appropriate, consult with the Conference of the Parties. In the event of differing opinions, the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director should seek to develop a course of action that is mutually acceptable in advance of taking action.
6. The Conference of the Parties acknowledges that its President is expected to keep all of the Parties to the Convention, apprised of his or her interaction with the Executive Director on behalf of the Conference of the Parties.

A. Executive Secretary and staff of the Secretariat

7. The Executive Director will arrange for the recruitment of the Executive Secretary in accordance with the structure of the Secretariat set out in the applicable decisions of the Conference of the Parties, who will be selected in accordance with the United Nations staff rules and regulations. It is noted that in accordance with the relevant staff regulations and rules of the United Nations governing staff selection applicable to UNEP, recommendations for selection for position of the Executive Secretary at the D-2 level will be made by the Executive Director to the Senior Review Group of the United Nations Secretariat for review. Upon review, the Senior Review Group will make its recommendation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who will make the selection decision.
8. The Executive Director, bearing in mind the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, will consult with the Conference of the Parties through its President, or a Vice-President designated by the President in his/her absence, on the recruitment, selection, and appointment of the Executive Secretary and will ensure that the United Nations staff rules and regulations applicable to UNEP will govern the recruitment, selection, and appointment of all UNEP secretariat staff, including the Executive Secretary.
9. Subject to paragraph 8 above, the Executive Director may respectively extend or discontinue the contract of the Executive Secretary in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations. To the extent possible within his/her powers, the Executive Director is encouraged to consult with the Conference of the Parties through its President as appropriate at all stages of this process.

10. The Executive Director will provide the necessary administrative and financial support within the approved and available financial resources of the Secretariat or Convention to ensure that the Secretariat operates with the necessary human resources. The Executive Director will ensure that any vacancy occurring among the staff of the Secretariat will be filled in accordance with the United Nations staff rules and regulations applicable to UNEP as soon as possible, noting the knowledge, experience and expertise required for such posts. The Executive Director, in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations as applicable to UNEP may delegate to the Executive Secretary the authority to take appointment decisions for the staff of the Secretariat.

11. The Executive Director will ensure that the needs of the Secretariat for Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) are, unless specified otherwise by donor governments, fully included without prioritization by UNEP, in the list that UNEP annually shares with donor governments supporting JPOs.

12. The Executive Director, including through the Executive Secretary, as appropriate, will advise the Conference of the Parties of any unforeseen delays in filling any posts, recruiting gratis personnel or JPOs or other human resources matters related to the Secretariat. The Executive Director understands the importance of, reporting to the Convention's governing bodies on the status of such recruitments.

B. Delegation of authority

13. The Executive Director delegates the necessary authority to the Executive Secretary on administrative and financial matters to enable the Executive Secretary to manage, take decisions and represent the Secretariat with the level of autonomy required for maintaining the efficient and cost-effective operations of the Secretariat. Such delegation covers, inter alia, programme management, financial and physical resources management, human resources management and any other related matters, where decisions by the Executive Secretary may be required for the effective operation of the Secretariat.

14. The Executive Secretary may, in turn, delegate this authority further down either along reporting lines and/or to a manager within the Secretariat with a clear understanding that he/she, however, retains full accountability and responsibility for any wrong doing by his/her subordinates.

15. UNEP has adopted a delegation of authority policy and framework (DAPF) for the management and administration of the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, which came into force on 1 November 2016. The Executive Director will ensure that the Executive Secretary exercises any such delegated authority in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the United Nations and UNEP and the Executive Director's commitments in this Memorandum of Understanding. In the event of intended actions or decisions by the Executive Director in relation to the DAPF having policy or other implications for the operation of the Convention or its Secretariat the Executive Director will involve the Executive Secretary in the decision-making or action-taking process and, if needed, consult with the Conference of the Parties.

C. Administrative and programme support costs

16. The Executive Director will work with the Executive Secretary to determine the Convention's administrative service requirements and to identify the most efficient means by which to ensure that the Convention receives the necessary administrative and financial support, within the available financial resources, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the UN and UNEP and consistent with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, in particular decision SC-1/3 of the Conference of the Parties on the "financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat", as amended by decision SC-5/2.

17. In particular, the Executive Director will allocate an appropriate share, which should initially not be less than 67% of the annual Programme Support Costs (PSC) income attributable to all of the trust funds of the Convention to the Secretariat. The allocation will be based upon receipt of an annual cost plan that demonstrates that these funds will be used efficiently and effectively in support of Convention activities.

18. The Executive Director will also allocate an appropriate share, which should initially not be more than 33%, of the PSC income attributable to all of the trust funds of the Convention to finance the part of UNEP's central administrative services that support the Stockholm Convention. The central administrative services are set out in English only in the annex to the present Memorandum of Understanding, including those performed by UNON and UNOG on behalf of UNEP, the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the Board of Auditors.

19. In accordance with the applicable UN administrative instructions,⁴ the statement of the Programme Support account will be included in the published financial statements of UNEP. The Executive Director will provide full transparency in respect of the allocation of PSC between the Secretariat and central administrative services.

20. Pursuant to decision SC-1/3 on the “financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat”, as amended by decision SC-5/2, the Conference of the Parties reimburses UNEP for the services provided to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat from the funds referred to in rule 4 (paragraphs 1, 3 and 4) of these financial rules and in paragraph 21 of the present Memorandum of Understanding, on such terms as may from time to time be agreed upon in writing between the Conference of the Parties and UNEP, or, in the absence of such agreement, in accordance with the general policy of the United Nations.

D. Financial matters and budgets

21. The financial operations of the Convention are recorded in trust funds established in accordance with Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, Article V of the General Procedures Governing the Operation of the Funds of UNEP and consistent with the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat, in particular set out in decision SC-1/3 of the Conference of the Parties as amended by decision SC-5/2. In respect of matters not specifically provided for by the rules as contained in these decisions, the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations shall apply, and in the event of any conflict between the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations shall prevail.

22. Pursuant to decision SC-1/3 on the “financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Convention Secretariat”, as amended by decision SC-5/2, the accounts and financial management of all funds governed by these rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations. An interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties during the second year of the period, and a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties as soon as possible after the accounts for the financial period are closed. The Conference of the Parties shall be informed of any relevant remarks in the reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors on financial statements of UNEP.

23. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, including through its President, oversee the development and execution of the budget managed by the Secretariat as derived from the trust funds of the Convention.

24. The Executive Director will ensure that the Executive Secretary will comply with the specific decisions adopted at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including with respect to matters related to the financing and budgeting of the Secretariat, taking into account the availability of resources and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, UNEP.

25. The Conference of the Parties understands that a copy of the draft Secretariat budget will be shared with the Executive Director for review and comments before the final proposed budget is submitted by the Executive Secretary for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

E. Performance evaluation and management review

26. Evaluation of the performance of the staff and other relevant personnel of the Secretariat is conducted in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of the United Nations as applied to UNEP.

27. Through the delegation of authority referred to in section B above, the Executive Secretary will manage the performance of all staff of the Secretariat other than himself/herself. The Executive Director or his/her Deputy will appraise the performances of the Executive Secretary. Performance appraisal will be conducted through the United Nations performance management and evaluation system currently in use.

28. The Executive Director will ensure the Conference of the Parties has access to information regarding the applicable criteria for performance appraisal under the United Nations performance management and evaluation system.

⁴ ST/AI/286.

29. In case of appraising the programmatic performance of the Executive Secretary, and his/her subordinate staff, the Executive Director acknowledges that the substantive work programme of the Secretariat is determined by the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies alone.
30. The Executive Director will ensure that the Executive Secretary acts in conformity with the provisions of the Convention, in particular with its Articles 19 and 20, as well as with the rules and regulations of the United Nations on these and other substantive functions as may be entrusted to the Secretariat by the Parties to the Convention.
31. The Executive Director will ensure that the Executive Secretary implements the decisions and conclusions of the Conference of the Parties, during and between the meetings of the Conference of the Parties.
32. The Executive Director will consult with the Conference of the Parties on any matter with respect to the performance of the Executive Secretary. The Executive Director will invite the Conference of the Parties, through its President, to provide comments regarding the performance of the Executive Secretary prior to commencing that person's performance appraisal.
33. At the request of the Executive Director or by his/her own initiative, the Executive Secretary may, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties or at its request, commission an independent management review of the Secretariat and its functions, with a view to promoting cost efficiency, transparency and furthering the goals and implementation of the Convention. Such reviews are not audits or investigations and will not therefore impinge upon the prerogatives of the Board of Auditors, OIOS and the UN's information disclosure policies. The Executive Secretary will keep the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director fully informed of any such reviews that are undertaken.

II. Report

34. The Executive Director will submit, 90 (ninety) days in advance of each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a report on the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.
35. The report will provide the Parties to the Convention with detailed information on administration services provided to the Convention by UNEP and include a financial statement on the allocation of PSC between the Secretariat and central administrative services with the understanding that the level of details will be consistent with the needs of the Parties to the Convention and within the procedures applicable to UNEP.

III. Programmatic relationship

36. The Conference of the Parties understands that the Convention may provide a context for implementation of certain aspects of the Medium-term Strategy and the programme of work of UNEP, through its Costed Programme of Work, Revised Strategic Framework, and vice versa, subject to the approval of the Conference of the Parties and to the extent consistent with the Convention.
37. The Executive Director will consult with the Executive Secretary on activities which UNEP might undertake in providing programmatic support to the Convention. The Executive Secretary will consult with the Executive Director on activities which might be undertaken within the framework and mandate of the Convention for implementation of certain aspects of the Medium-term Strategy and programme of work of UNEP.
38. The Executive Director and the Executive Secretary will consult with each other in the planning, development and implementation of any projects and programmes that relate to the provision of support for the implementation of the Convention and in any joint funding arrangements for implementing the Convention which are, or are proposed to be, arranged with donors.
39. The Executive Director may call meetings of secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, as well as joint meetings of all senior staff employed through UNEP, and invite the Executive Secretary to participate in those meetings. The Executive Director may meet the costs of travel and other expenses related to the Executive Secretary's participation in any such meetings.
40. The Conference of the Parties will be informed by the Executive Secretary regarding all proposals relating to programmatic support referred to in paragraph 37 and about the outcome of meetings referred to in paragraph 39.

IV. Implementation of the Agreement

41. The Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director, keeping the Executive Secretary informed, will hold consultations on a regular basis, and as needed, on all issues related to the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding. These consultations will be conducted through the President of the Conference of the Parties, who will seek the views of the Parties to the Convention and reflect these during the consultations, or may be conducted as otherwise mutually determined by the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director.

42. On specific issues, the President may designate the Vice-Presidents of the Conference of the Parties to conduct such consultations. The Executive Director, in his/her absence, may be represented by designated senior representatives, or consultations may take place as otherwise mutually determined by the Conference of the Parties and the Executive Director.

43. In case of any difference of opinion regarding the implementation or interpretation of the present Memorandum of Understanding, the Executive Director and the Conference of the Parties through its President will hold consultations and make every effort to reach a mutually acceptable outcome.

V. Final provisions

44. The present Memorandum of Understanding does not impose, nor is it intended to impose, any legally binding commitments.

45. The present Memorandum of Understanding is entered into without prejudice to any administrative arrangements which might be agreed upon between UNEP and the Stockholm Convention or any other relevant multilateral environmental agreements in the future.

46. This Memorandum of Understanding becomes operative on the date on which both the Conference of the Parties, represented by its President, and the Executive Director have signed.

47. Upon signature by both Parties, this Memorandum of Understanding will supersede any previous agreements between the Parties to it.

48. The present Memorandum of Understanding may, at the request of the Parties to it, be reviewed at any time, including with a view to amending or terminating it. Without prejudice to the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, such a request, to be made by the Bureau on behalf of the Conference of the Parties or by the Executive Director will be made at least 4 (four) months in advance and will then be addressed at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Any modifications to, including termination of, the present Memorandum of Understanding will be mutually agreed in writing between the Parties to it.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties to the present Memorandum of Understanding affix their signatures below.

**For the United Nations
Environment Programme:**

**For the Conference of the Parties
to the Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants:**

Ms. Joyce Msuya
Acting Executive Director

Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh
President

Date: _____

Date: _____

Annex to the Memorandum of Understanding

[English only]

UNEP's core services in support of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The table below provides the list of core administrative and support services provided by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in support of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) conventions. Core administrative and support services are those services provided by UNEP against the 33% share of the programme support costs income attributable to all of the trust funds of the BRS conventions. The list of core services is not exhaustive and may include additional core services, as mutually agreed from time to time between UNEP and the Secretariat of the BRS conventions. The table below is without prejudice to the delegation of authority from the Executive Director of UNEP to the Executive Secretary of the BRS conventions.

Service Category	Description
Policy, guidelines and procedures	<p>All policies concerning administrative arrangements are governed by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions and those of United Nations Environment Programme's governing body. United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules supplemented by Multilateral Environmental Agreements' and entities' financial procedures or rules ensure effective and efficient use of resources in accordance with the purposes for which funds are provided, within authorized limits and available income. The United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules also regulate the organization's procurement activities.</p> <p>United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules set the framework within which United Nations Environment Programme's personnel, including different categories of staff members, consultants and independent contractors, are recruited and administered.</p> <p>United Nations Secretariat policies supplement and provide details on the implementation of the resolutions and regulations. They are embodied in United Nations administrative issuances i.e. Secretary-General's Bulletins, Administrative Instructions and Information Circulars which may be further interpreted and translated into guidelines and procedures for day to day operations.</p>
Human Resources	Recruitment, staff administration, training, performance management and medical and counselling services.
<i>Talent Acquisition and Management</i>	Developing staffing plans and implementing related recruitment activities namely classification, vacancy announcement, assessments, evaluation, review and selection.
<i>Staff Administration</i>	On-boarding staff, administering contracts, processing entitlements and benefits, review and update of dependency status, leave records, lateral move, separation from service etc. Administering end-of-service and post-retirement benefits including pension fund deductions and After Service Health Insurance scheme.
<i>Staff development and training</i>	<p>Mandatory training of personnel on issues such as security, ethics and integrity, competency based interviewing skills, management development programme etc.</p> <p>Identify capacity building needs and provide opportunities for continuous learning with a view to build a multi-skilled workforce promoting career development for staff. These include in-house developed training modules on Results Based Management and Gender Mainstreaming, among others. Including the arrangement of training opportunities for UNEP Geneva colleagues.</p>
<i>Performance Management</i>	Implementing and monitoring compliance with performance management policies, process and tools (INSPIRA) to reward/recognize/retain staff and address underperformance. Supporting rebuttal process guidance and conducting training on writing workplans and performance assessments. Managing the Financial Disclosure programme.
<i>Medical and Counselling Services</i>	<p>Providing occupational health services with emphasis on preventive health care and emergency response. Also includes professional counselling service to address issues such as stress, burnout, depression etc.</p> <p>UN Cares, the UN system-wide program on HIV, is designed to reduce the impact of HIV in the UN workplace.</p>

Service Category	Description
Budget and Finance	Preparation, management, oversight and reporting of budgets and financial resources of the governing bodies and donors.
<i>Budgeting / Fund Management</i>	Preparation, presentation and justification of budgets to the governing bodies. Processing budgetary authorizations and financial transactions. Advising staff, management and governing bodies on the use of financial resources. Creating, maintaining and closing Trust Funds.
<i>General Accounting / Financial Statements</i>	Authority to sign the consolidated financial statements rests with the Executive Director. Extracts from the consolidated statements are signed by UNON. Maintenance of accounts and preparation of Financial Statements including the Programme Support account. Processing accounting entries/adjustments including donor refunds; year-end accruals; statutory reporting and support to the annual external audit.
<i>Payments / Expenditure</i>	Processing payments to Implementing Partners, consultants, vendors and meeting participants. Monitoring advances and recording expenditures from financial reports received from Implementing Partners.
<i>Payroll</i>	Processing payment of salaries, entitlements and related advances and maintenance of payroll accounts.
<i>Contributions /Cash Management</i>	Authority to accept contributions from the Parties rests with the United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director. Issuing invoices to Parties, recording and monitoring contribution receivables, processing contributions upon receipt of payments; reconciling applied deposit accounts.
<i>Treasury/Banking/ Investment</i>	Receipt and disbursement of funds, House Bank management, bank reconciliations. Maintenance of banking details for staff, vendors, implementing partners and consultants. Investment of United Nations Environment Programme funds in the right products is managed by UNHQ Treasury.
<i>Oversight</i>	Coordinate internal audit, investigation, inspection and external audit.
Legal	Legal advice, opinions and representation in the Internal Justice System.
<i>Advisory and Representation</i>	Provision of corporate legal advice and institutional support. Representing the organisation before the Management Evaluation Unit with regards to requests filed by staff members. Representing the organisation at the United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) and provision of support to the Office of Legal Affairs with regards to appeals filed at the United Nations Appeals Tribunal. Negotiating settlements of claims; provision of legal support and advice in mediation, conciliation and arbitration. Legal and institutional support in disciplinary procedures; provision of legal advice in cases of alleged misconduct and relevant investigations. Reviewing and clearing Host Country Agreements and legal instruments in accordance with the Delegation of Authority Policy and Framework for the Management and Administration of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Provision of legal advice on human resources issues e.g., interpretation of the Staff Regulations and Rules, advise on outside activities, separation from employment, settlements. Coordinating audits, inspections and evaluations undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Providing advice on engaging with implementing partners, provision of templates for this purpose.

Service Category	Description
Support Services	Services to support operations including office space, premises, host country arrangements and protocols.
<i>Contracts and Procurement</i>	Supervising procurement related functions and providing advice on procurement proposals of significant financial or operational impact; reviewing the proposed strategy/approach to best serve office's interests. Providing oversight over the service providers. Representation at the High Level Committee on Management Procurement Network on development of policies and procedures of interest to the office. Liaising with the contracts committee for the preparation and presentation of cases for approval and addressing to follow-up queries. Provision of general contract administration services including amendment, extension or closure.
<i>Inventory / Asset Management</i>	Provision of services to manage inventory of equipment items and assets including bar coding, maintain records and track movement of items; conduct physical inventories; process the disposal of obsolete and unserviceable items.
<i>Travel, Shipping and Visa</i>	Providing advice on developments in Secretariat travel policies and procedures. Processing travel for staff members, consultants and meeting participants for official purposes and staff entitlement related travel; management of travel agent contract and airline negotiations. Shipping services, handled through external vendors under contracts include all aspects of incoming and outgoing official shipments of organizational goods and property as well as staff members' personal effects during recruitment, transfer and separation.
<i>Host Country Relations</i>	In addition to administering the hosting agreement with the country of duty station, the services include re-entry passes of staff and dependents, consultants and interns; duty free import of goods and fuel; tax exemptions; registration of vehicles, issuance/renewal of driving licenses and transfer of ownership; processing special visa request in emergency situations and for VIPs.
<i>Facilities Management</i>	Provision of comfortable and efficient working environment for the staff well as for the visitors by maintaining office premises including gardening and parking areas; utilities' supply and maintenance of security systems.
<i>Mail Pouch</i>	Providing mail, diplomatic pouch and international courier services; dispatching outbound mail; sorting and delivering all incoming mail; advising on different mail services i.e postal, international express courier and diplomatic pouch, including but not limited to cost, transit days, document preparation, etc.
<i>Archives/Document Management</i>	Advising on and overseeing the implementation of policies for the management of archives in accordance with established archival standards and practices. Maintaining and managing archives.
<i>Security and Safety</i>	Protection of UN personnel and property by providing a safe and secure work environment and regular security advisories; issuance of IDs for staff and visitors to the UN offices.
<i>Enterprise Resource Programme (ERP) – Umoja***</i>	Advising on all aspects of workflow analysis, business process reengineering and organizational transformation. Managing core transformational activities connected to the Umoja implementation and system life cycle. Providing training and guidance on Umoja functionality, access and modality for the execution of administrative processes.
<i>Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and Internal Controls</i>	Implementation of the United Nations Secretariat ERM policy and framework, its monitoring and development. Advise on developments and activities related to the life cycle of ERM. Liaison directly with the UN Secretariat's Department of Management for all issues relating to ERM and IC implementation and update of the ERM treatment plan.

Service Category	Description
Information and Communications Technology	Computing, telecommunications, office automation, infrastructure support including electronic mail as well as consulting, advisory and help desk services.
<i>ICT Infrastructure and services</i>	Provision of secure infrastructure services such as internet connectivity and WiFi access; local area network and systems directory services; office computer, standard software productivity tools and security software; email, file storage and sharing, print, IP telephony; computer and video conference services. Provision of cloud and on-premise hosting services for websites, software applications, and databases. Access to corporate internet/intranet and mail systems.
<i>Software development and maintenance</i>	Providing advice from tactical, operational and strategic aspects with consideration to the specific needs of the office. Making recommendations on cost effective options e.g. outsourcing or in-house IT services. Provision of customised / off the shelf software applications to support the specific needs of office.
<i>Help desk services</i>	Provision of local and global services to staff in resolving various IT related issues for the UN enterprise applications.

*** Umoja project and maintenance costs are apportioned based on expenditure incurred and met by respective divisions and MEAs as common costs. These include service fees and costs associated with Umoja (such as license fees), requests raised through iNeed and any administrative costs associated with services provided by UNON and UNOG especially those that were delivered through OSC (travel, payment of invoices, HR/consultant services)

SC-9/25: Dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to accept with thanks the offer by the Government of Kenya to host the next meetings of 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 in 2021 at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, and, accordingly, agrees to convene these meetings back to back, from 17 to 28 May 2021 in Nairobi, subject to the conclusion of a host country agreement between the host Government and the Secretariat;
2. *Also decides* that the meetings will include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues;
3. *Further decides* that the meetings will include a high-level segment of no more than one day's duration;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in order to assist Parties in preparing for the back-to-back meetings, to support, subject to the availability of resources, regional meetings to assist regional preparatory processes, coordinated with other regional meetings;
5. *Invites* Parties to submit offers to host the 2023 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, if possible by 31 March 2021, for consideration during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2021.

SC-9/26: Existing United Nations guidelines on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors

The Conference of the Parties

Requests the Secretariat to assess the relevance for 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 of existing guidelines developed by the United Nations system on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors, such as private-sector entities, non-governmental organizations and development banks, to inform possible future arrangements relating to this matter, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

SC-9/27: Programme of work and budget for the Stockholm Convention for the biennium 2020–2021

The Conference of the Parties,

Taking note of the financial reports on the Stockholm Convention trust funds for 2018 and estimated expenditures for 2019 from the trust fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention general trust fund),¹

I

Stockholm Convention general trust fund

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for the biennium 2020–2021 of 5,969,981 United States dollars for 2020 and 5,969,981 United States dollars for 2021 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 maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for the biennium 2020–2021;
4. *Welcomes* the continued annual contribution of 2 million Swiss francs by Switzerland to the Secretariat to offset planned expenditures, and notes that 1 million Swiss francs will be allocated annually as a contribution to the Stockholm Convention general trust fund and will include Switzerland's assessed contribution and that 1 million Swiss francs will be allocated annually to the special trust fund for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Stockholm Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions);
5. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2020–2021 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 Stockholm Convention enters into force before 1 January 2020 for 2020 and before 1 January 2021 for 2021;
6. *Recalls* that contributions to the Stockholm Convention general trust fund are expected by 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, urges Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by 16 October 2019 for the calendar year 2020 and by 16 October 2020 for the calendar year 2021, 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. *Reiterates the ongoing concern* that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Stockholm Convention general trust fund for 2018 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules, and urges Parties to pay their outstanding contributions in full as soon as possible;
8. *Requests* the Secretariat to work directly with the permanent missions, ministries of foreign affairs and focal points of the Parties in this situation so that they fully pay their arrears and assessed contributions as soon as possible, and to present at regional meetings information on the current situation² regarding arrears and their consequences;
9. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to work closely with the Executive Secretary 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 to improve the timely communication of information on the payment of contributions, including arrears;

¹ UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/47.

² For the present decision, "current situation" 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.

10. *Recalls* the provisions of paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5 of the financial rules on outstanding contributions and paragraph 9 of decision SC-8/27, 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 developing States or to any Party that has agreed on and is respecting a schedule of payments in accordance with the financial rules;

11. *Also recalls* paragraph 10 of decision SC-8/27, 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;

12. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers for 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;

13. *Adopts* the staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2020–2021 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

14. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that positions remain at the same level or become lower, the Executive Secretary remains within the overall cost of the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2020–2021, in line with the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,³ and that it leads to no additional budget obligations being incurred beyond that biennium;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting on the level of positions filled against the approved staffing table;

16. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary, on an exceptional basis, to draw down from the available surplus of the Stockholm Convention general trust fund the amount of 210,578 United States dollars in 2020–2021, for specified activities listed in table 4 of the present decision;

II

Stockholm Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions

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 special trust fund for voluntary contributions in the amount of 2,769,358 United States dollars for 2020 and 2,769,357 United States dollars for 2021;

18. *Notes* that the Stockholm Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions 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 Stockholm Convention Special Trust Fund so as to encourage contributions from donors;

19. *Invites* Switzerland to include in its contribution to the Stockholm Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions, referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision, 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 Stockholm Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and

³ Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.

small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

21. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in line with decision 3/3 on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the relevant Parties and/or donors, as appropriate and in accordance with the terms of the respective agreements/funds, to reassign the balances in inactive trust funds when the activities for which they were established have ended, with a view to supporting the implementation of appropriate activities of the programme of work funded by voluntary funds;

III

Preparations for the next biennium

22. *Decides* that the two trust funds for the Stockholm Convention shall be continued until 31 December 2021, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend them for the biennium 2020–2021, subject to the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme;

23. *Notes* the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the Secretariat, and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

24. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2022–2023, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the biennium 2020–2021 in a programmatic format;

25. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a staffing table and reflect the total actual costs in the budgets of the conventions for the biennium 2022–2023;

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 Secretary to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2022–2023 two alternative funding scenarios that take account of any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 23 of the present decision 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 2020–2021 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 2020–2021 level in nominal terms;

27. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, at the tenth 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;

28. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the Stockholm Convention special trust fund requirement for 2022–2023 presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors.

Table 1
Programme budget, reserves and financing for the 2020–2021 biennium⁴

(United States dollars)

Activity	General Trust Funds			Voluntary Trust Funds		
	Basel (BCL)	Rotterdam (ROL)	Stockholm (SCL)	Basel (BDL)	Rotterdam (RVL)	Stockholm (SVL)
1 Basel COP	566,286			1,132,379		
2 Rotterdam COP		566,286			1,132,379	
3 Stockholm COP			566,286			1,132,379
4 Basel OEWG	344,146			594,160		
5 Rotterdam CRC		474,370			102,200	
6 Stockholm POPRC			912,722			100,560
7 Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Bureaux	42,865	26,491	37,390			
10 Basel ICC	38,346			141,402		
12 Support for Scientific Bodies				40,000	40,000	40,000
13 Technical Assistance and Capacity Development	10,000	10,000	10,000	622,979	522,960	682,959
14 Basel Training and Capacity Development				1,460,000		
15 Rotterdam Training and Capacity Development					1,100,000	
16 Stockholm Training and Capacity Development			50,000			1,100,000
18 Partnerships				1,250,000	300,000	45,000
19 Basel and Stockholm Support for Regional Centres				344,150		344,150
20 Basel Scientific Support	336,250		20,000	355,000		
21 Rotterdam Scientific Support		60,000			105,700	
22 Stockholm Scientific Support			145,000			292,000
23 Stockholm Effectiveness Evaluation and GMP			60,000			420,000
24 Basel and Stockholm National Reporting	40,000		70,000	90,000		10,000
25 Clearing House Mechanism (*joint activities)	42,705	92,792	42,705	83,334	83,332	83,334
26 Publications	23,782	23,732	23,782	54,618	54,518	54,618
27 Communication, Outreach and Public Awareness	8,834	8,833	8,833	54,000	54,000	54,000
28 Executive Direction, Management and Administration	200,774	213,844	217,181			
29 International Cooperation	3,333	3,333	3,334			
30 Resource Mobilization and Financial Mechanisms (*)			165,000	12,000	12,000	97,000
32 Basel Legal and Policy Activities				763,914		
33 Legal and Policy Activities				50,000		
34 Basel Country Led Initiative (ESM and Further Legal Clarity)				529,840		
35 Office Maintenance	359,340	209,670	359,340			
36 ICT Services	100,000	80,000	100,000			
Staffing	6,478,278	5,600,047	7,774,766	445,518	445,518	445,518
Total approved Programme of Work (excl. PSC)	8,594,940	7,369,398	10,566,338	8,023,294	3,952,607	4,901,518
Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%	1,117,342	958,022	1,373,624	1,043,028	513,839	637,197
Total approved Programme of Work (incl. PSC)	9,712,282	8,327,420	11,939,962	9,066,322	4,466,446	5,538,715

(*) Specific activities earmarked to be funded from General Trust Fund
provisional cash balance/surpluses (excluding PSC).
See table 4 for details.

For reference only:

Total modified (*) to reflect utilisation of cash balance/surpluses (excl. PSC)	8,573,588	7,359,002	10,379,987	8,023,294	3,952,607	4,901,518
Programme Support Costs 13%	1,114,566	956,670	1,349,398	1,043,028	513,839	637,197
Total modified (*) to reflect utilisation of cash balance/surpluses (incl. PSC)	9,688,154	8,315,672	11,729,385	9,066,322	4,466,446	5,538,715

Note:

The figures in the table above are based on detailed budget which contains breakdowns at component/sub-activity levels and decimals have been rounded up.

⁴ Table 1 is presented in English only and without formal editing.

	<i>Basel^c</i>	<i>Rotterdam^c</i>	<i>Stockholm^c</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>2020–2021</i>	<i>2020–2021¹</i>	<i>2020–2021</i>	<i>2020–2021¹</i>
Approved budgets for 2020–2021				
Proposed Budget Direct Costs 2020-2021	8,594,940	7,369,398	10,566,338	26,530,676
Programme Support Costs (13%)	1,117,342	958,022	1,373,624	3,448,988
Total Operational Budget 2020-2021	9,712,282	8,327,420	11,939,962	29,979,664
Current Level of the Working Capital Reserve (15%)	722,615	617,933	868,667	2,209,215
Required Level of the Working Capital Reserve (15%)	728,421	624,557	895,497	2,248,475
Change in the Working Capital Reserve	5,806	6,624	26,830	39,260
Current Level of the Rotterdam Special Contingency Reserve	–	292,540	–	292,540
Required level of the Rotterdam Special Contingency Reserve	–	330,318	–	330,318
Change in the Rotterdam Special Contingency Reserve (adjustment of account for fluctuations in salary scales)	–¹	37,778	–	37,778
Total Resources Required for 2020-2021	9,718,088	8,371,822	11,966,792	30,056,702
Proposed funding of the 2020-2021 Budget				
Draw down from the provisional cash balance 31.12.2019 (Act 25 and Act 30.2)	24,129	11,747	210,578	246,454
Funded from the Host Country Contributions of Switzerland (excluding Swiss assessed contribution) ^{2,4,5,6}	–	668,896	1,808,075	2,476,971
Funded from the Host Country Contribution of Italy ^{3,5}	–	1,337,793	–	1,337,793
<u>Funded from the Assessed Contributions of Parties</u>	<u>9,963,959</u>	<u>6,353,385</u>	<u>9,948,139</u>	<u>25,995,484</u>

¹ The amount of the special contingency reserve has been modified to reflect the increase in staff costs between 2018–2019 and 2020–2021 for Rome-based staff who are provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as an in-kind contribution to the Rotterdam Convention.

² Switzerland's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention is €1,200,000 for the biennium, of which 50 per cent, or €600,000, is allocated to the general trust fund and 50 per cent, or €600,000, is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions and converted into United States dollars.

³ Italy's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention General Trust Fund is €1,200,000 for the biennium.

⁴ Switzerland's host country contribution to the Stockholm Convention is CHF 4,000,000 for the biennium, of which 50 per cent, or CHF 2,000,000, is allocated to the general trust fund, and 50 per cent, or CHF 2,000,000, is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions. The contribution of CHF 2,000,000 for the biennium to the general trust fund is equal to \$1,808,075 and includes Switzerland's assessed contribution to the Stockholm Convention of \$150,788 (\$75,394 per annum).

⁵ Host country contributions for the Rotterdam Convention are pledged in euros and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.897 euros for May 2019.

⁶ Host country contributions for the Stockholm Convention are pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 1.021 Swiss francs for May 2019.

Table 2
Assessed contributions apportioned to Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the 2020–2021 biennium⁵

(United States dollars)

Party	United Nations Secretariat scale		Basel Convention (BCL)		Rotterdam Convention (ROL)		Stockholm Convention (SCL)			
	United Nations scale per cent	No.	Basel Convention adjusted scale per cent	Average <i>annual</i> contribution for biennium	Rotterdam Convention adjusted scale per cent	Average <i>annual</i> contribution for biennium	Stockholm Convention adjusted scale per cent	No.	Average <i>annual</i> contribution for biennium	
	(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	0.007	1	0.009	424	1	0.010	318	1	0.010	497
2 Albania	0.008	2	0.010	485	2	0.010	318	2	0.010	497
3 Algeria	0.138	3	0.173	8 364	–	n.a.	n.a.	3	0.182	9 039
4 Andorra	0.005	4	0.006	303	–	n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.
5 Angola	0.010	5	0.010	485	–	n.a.	n.a.	4	0.010	497
6 Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	6	0.003	121	3	0.010	318	5	0.010	497
7 Argentina	0.915	7	1.144	55 459	4	1.150	36 521	6	1.205	59 935
8 Armenia	0.007	8	0.009	424	5	0.010	318	7	0.010	497
9 Australia	2.210	9	2.764	133 951	6	2.777	88 208	8	2.910	144 762
10 Austria	0.677	10	0.847	41 034	7	0.851	27 021	9	0.892	44 346
11 Azerbaijan	0.049	11	0.061	2 970	–	n.a.	n.a.	10	0.065	3 210
12 Bahamas	0.018	12	0.023	1 091	–	n.a.	n.a.	11	0.024	1 179
13 Bahrain	0.050	13	0.063	3 031	8	0.063	1 996	12	0.066	3 275
14 Bangladesh	0.010	14	0.010	485	–	n.a.	n.a.	13	0.010	497
15 Barbados	0.007	15	0.009	424	–	n.a.	n.a.	14	0.010	497
16 Belarus	0.049	16	0.061	2 970	–	n.a.	n.a.	15	0.065	3 210
17 Belgium	0.821	17	1.027	49 762	9	1.032	32 769	16	1.081	53 778
18 Belize	0.001	18	0.001	61	10	0.010	318	17	0.010	497
19 Benin	0.003	19	0.004	182	11	0.010	318	18	0.010	497
20 Bhutan	0.001	20	0.001	61	–	n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.
21 Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.016	21	0.020	970	12	0.020	639	19	0.021	1 048
22 Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	22	0.015	727	13	0.015	479	20	0.016	786
23 Botswana	0.014	23	0.018	849	14	0.018	559	21	0.018	917
24 Brazil	2.948	24	3.686	178 682	15	3.704	117 664	22	3.882	193 103

⁵ Table 2 is presented in English only and without formal editing.

<i>United Nations Secretariat scale</i>		<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>			<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>			<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>			
<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale per cent</i>	<i>Basel Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>				
	(1)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)		
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
25	Brunei Darussalam	0.025	25	0.031	1 515	–	n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.
26	Bulgaria	0.046	26	0.058	2 788	16	0.058	1 836	23	0.061	3 013
27	Burkina Faso	0.003	27	0.004	182	17	0.010	318	24	0.010	497
28	Burundi	0.001	28	0.001	61	18	0.010	318	25	0.010	497
29	Cabo Verde	0.001	29	0.001	61	19	0.010	318	26	0.010	497
30	Cambodia	0.006	30	0.008	364	20	0.010	318	27	0.010	497
31	Cameroon	0.013	31	0.016	788	21	0.016	519	28	0.017	852
32	Canada	2.734	32	3.419	165 711	22	3.435	109 123	29	3.600	179 086
33	Central African Republic	0.001	33	0.001	61	–	n.a.	n.a.	30	0.010	497
34	Chad	0.004	34	0.005	242	23	0.010	318	31	0.010	497
35	Chile	0.407	35	0.509	24 669	24	0.511	16 245	32	0.536	26 660
36	China	12.005	36	15.012	727 639	25	15.084	479 158	33	15.809	786 366
37	Colombia	0.288	37	0.360	17 456	26	0.362	11 495	34	0.379	18 865
38	Comoros	0.001	38	0.001	61	–	n.a.	n.a.	35	0.010	497
39	Congo	0.006	39	0.008	364	27	0.010	318	36	0.010	497
40	Cook Islands	0.001	40	0.001	61	28	0.010	318	37	0.010	497
41	Costa Rica	0.062	41	0.078	3 758	29	0.078	2 475	38	0.082	4 061
42	Côte d'Ivoire	0.013	42	0.016	788	30	0.016	519	39	0.017	852
43	Croatia	0.077	43	0.096	4 667	31	0.097	3 073	40	0.101	5 044
44	Cuba	0.080	44	0.100	4 849	32	0.101	3 193	41	0.105	5 240
45	Cyprus	0.036	45	0.045	2 182	33	0.045	1 437	42	0.047	2 358
46	Czechia	0.311	46	0.389	18 850	34	0.391	12 413	43	0.410	20 371
47	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.006	47	0.008	364	35	0.010	318	44	0.010	497
48	Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	48	0.013	606	36	0.010	318	45	0.010	497
49	Denmark	0.554	49	0.693	33 579	37	0.696	22 112	46	0.730	36 289
50	Djibouti	0.001	50	0.001	61	38	0.010	318	47	0.010	497
51	Dominica	0.001	51	0.001	61	39	0.010	318	48	0.010	497
52	Dominican Republic	0.053	52	0.066	3 212	40	0.067	2 115	49	0.070	3 472
53	Ecuador	0.080	53	0.100	4 849	41	0.101	3 193	50	0.105	5 240

<i>United Nations Secretariat scale</i>		<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>			<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>			<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>			
<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale per cent</i>	<i>Basel Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>				
	(1)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)		
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
54	Egypt	0.186	54	0.233	11 274	–	n.a.	n.a.	51	0.245	12 184
55	El Salvador	0.012	55	0.015	727	42	0.015	479	52	0.016	786
56	Equatorial Guinea	0.016	56	0.020	970	43	0.020	639	–	n.a.	n.a.
57	Eritrea	0.001	57	0.001	61	44	0.010	318	53	0.010	497
58	Estonia	0.039	58	0.049	2 364	45	0.049	1 557	54	0.051	2 555
59	Eswatini	0.002	59	0.003	121	46	0.010	318	55	0.010	497
60	Ethiopia	0.010	60	0.010	485	47	0.010	318	56	0.010	497
61	European Union	2.500	61	2.500	121 174	48	2.500	79 417	57	2.500	124 352
62	Fiji	0.003		n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.	58	0.010	497
63	Finland	0.421	62	0.526	25 517	49	0.529	16 803	59	0.554	27 577
64	France	4.427	63	5.536	268 326	50	5.562	176 696	60	5.830	289 983
65	Gabon	0.015	64	0.019	909	51	0.019	599	61	0.020	983
66	Gambia	0.001	65	0.001	61	52	0.010	318	62	0.010	497
67	Georgia	0.008	66	0.010	485	53	0.010	318	63	0.010	497
68	Germany	6.090	67	7.616	369 123	54	7.652	243 071	64	8.020	398 915
69	Ghana	0.015	68	0.019	909	55	0.019	599	65	0.020	983
70	Greece	0.366	69	0.458	22 184	56	0.460	14 608	66	0.482	23 974
71	Guatemala	0.036	70	0.045	2 182	57	0.045	1 437	67	0.047	2 358
72	Guinea	0.003	71	0.004	182	58	0.010	318	68	0.010	497
73	Guinea-Bissau	0.001	72	0.001	61	59	0.010	318	69	0.010	497
74	Guyana	0.002	73	0.003	121	60	0.010	318	70	0.010	497
75	Honduras	0.009	74	0.011	546	61	0.010	318	71	0.010	497
76	Hungary	0.206	75	0.258	12 486	62	0.259	8 222	72	0.271	13 494
77	Iceland	0.028	76	0.035	1 697	–	n.a.	n.a.	73	0.037	1 834
78	India	0.834	77	1.043	50 550	63	1.048	33 288	74	1.098	54 630
79	Indonesia	0.543	78	0.679	32 912	64	0.682	21 673	75	0.715	35 568
80	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.398	79	0.498	24 123	65	0.500	15 885	76	0.524	26 070
81	Iraq	0.129	80	0.161	7 819	66	0.162	5 149	77	0.170	8 450
82	Ireland	0.371	81	0.464	22 487	67	0.466	14 808	78	0.489	24 302
83	Israel	0.490	82	0.613	29 700	68	0.616	19 557	–	n.a.	n.a.

<i>United Nations Secretariat scale</i>		<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>			<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>			<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>			
<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale per cent</i>	<i>Basel Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>				
	(1)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)		
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
84	Italy	3.307	83	4.135	200 442	69	4.155	131 993	–	n.a.	n.a.
85	Jamaica	0.008	84	0.010	485	70	0.010	318	79	0.010	497
86	Japan	8.564	85	10.709	519 076	71	10.760	341 817	80	11.278	560 969
87	Jordan	0.021	86	0.026	1 273	72	0.026	838	81	0.028	1 376
88	Kazakhstan	0.178	87	0.223	10 789	73	0.224	7 105	82	0.234	11 660
89	Kenya	0.024	88	0.030	1 455	74	0.030	958	83	0.032	1 572
90	Kiribati	0.001	89	0.001	61	–	n.a.	n.a.	84	0.010	497
91	Kuwait	0.252	90	0.315	15 274	75	0.317	10 058	85	0.332	16 507
92	Kyrgyzstan	0.002	91	0.003	121	76	0.010	318	86	0.010	497
93	Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.005	92	0.006	303	77	0.010	318	87	0.010	497
94	Latvia	0.047	93	0.059	2 849	78	0.059	1 876	88	0.062	3 079
95	Lebanon	0.047	94	0.059	2 849	79	0.059	1 876	89	0.062	3 079
96	Lesotho	0.001	95	0.001	61	80	0.010	318	90	0.010	497
97	Liberia	0.001	96	0.001	61	81	0.010	318	91	0.010	497
98	Libya	0.030	97	0.038	1 818	82	0.038	1 197	92	0.040	1 965
99	Liechtenstein	0.009	98	0.011	546	83	0.010	318	93	0.010	497
100	Lithuania	0.071	99	0.089	4 303	84	0.089	2 834	94	0.093	4 651
101	Luxembourg	0.067	100	0.084	4 061	85	0.084	2 674	95	0.088	4 389
102	Madagascar	0.004	101	0.005	242	86	0.010	318	96	0.010	497
103	Malawi	0.002	102	0.003	121	87	0.010	318	97	0.010	497
104	Malaysia	0.341	103	0.426	20 668	88	0.428	13 610	–	n.a.	n.a.
105	Maldives	0.004	104	0.005	242	89	0.010	318	98	0.010	497
106	Mali	0.004	105	0.005	242	90	0.010	318	99	0.010	497
107	Malta	0.017	106	0.021	1 030	91	0.020	639	100	0.021	1 048
108	Marshall Islands	0.001	107	0.001	61	92	0.010	318	101	0.010	497
109	Mauritania	0.002	108	0.003	121	93	0.010	318	102	0.010	497
110	Mauritius	0.011	109	0.014	667	94	0.014	439	103	0.014	721
111	Mexico	1.292	110	1.616	78 310	95	1.623	51 568	104	1.701	84 630
112	Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	111	0.001	61	–	n.a.	n.a.	105	0.010	497

<i>United Nations Secretariat scale</i>		<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>			<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>			<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>			
<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale per cent</i>	<i>Basel Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>				
	(1)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)		
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
113	Monaco	0.011	112	0.014	667	–	n.a.	n.a.	106	0.014	721
114	Mongolia	0.005	113	0.006	303	96	0.010	318	107	0.010	497
115	Montenegro	0.004	114	0.005	242	97	0.010	318	108	0.010	497
116	Morocco	0.055	115	0.069	3 334	98	0.069	2 195	109	0.072	3 603
117	Mozambique	0.004	116	0.005	242	99	0.010	318	110	0.010	497
118	Myanmar	0.010	117	0.010	485	–	n.a.	n.a.	111	0.010	497
119	Namibia	0.009	118	0.011	546	100	0.010	318	112	0.010	497
120	Nauru	0.001	119	0.001	61	–	n.a.	n.a.	113	0.010	497
121	Nepal	0.007	120	0.009	424	101	0.010	318	114	0.010	497
122	Netherlands	1.356	121	1.696	82 189	102	1.704	54 122	115	1.786	88 822
123	New Zealand	0.291	122	0.364	17 638	103	0.366	11 615	116	0.383	19 061
124	Nicaragua	0.005	123	0.006	303	104	0.010	318	117	0.010	497
125	Niger	0.002	124	0.003	121	105	0.010	318	118	0.010	497
126	Nigeria	0.250	125	0.313	15 153	106	0.314	9 978	119	0.329	16 376
127	Niue	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.	120	0.010	497
128	North Macedonia	0.007	140	0.009	424	119	0.010	318	135	0.010	497
129	Norway	0.754	126	0.943	45 701	107	0.947	30 095	121	0.993	49 389
130	Oman	0.115	127	0.144	6 970	108	0.144	4 590	122	0.151	7 533
131	Pakistan	0.115	128	0.144	6 970	109	0.144	4 590	123	0.151	7 533
132	Palau	0.001	129	0.001	61	–	n.a.	n.a.	124	0.010	497
133	Panama	0.045	130	0.056	2 728	110	0.057	1 796	125	0.059	2 948
134	Papua New Guinea	0.010	131	0.013	606	–	n.a.	n.a.	126	0.010	497
135	Paraguay	0.016	132	0.020	970	111	0.020	639	127	0.021	1 048
136	Peru	0.152	133	0.190	9 213	112	0.191	6 067	128	0.200	9 956
137	Philippines	0.205	134	0.256	12 425	113	0.258	8 182	129	0.270	13 428
138	Poland	0.802	135	1.003	48 610	114	1.008	32 010	130	1.056	52 534
139	Portugal	0.350	136	0.438	21 214	115	0.440	13 970	131	0.461	22 926
140	Qatar	0.282	137	0.353	17 092	116	0.354	11 256	132	0.371	18 472
141	Republic of Korea	2.267	138	2.835	137 406	117	2.848	90 483	133	2.985	148 496
142	Republic of Moldova	0.003	139	0.004	182	118	0.010	318	134	0.010	497

<i>United Nations Secretariat scale</i>		<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>			<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>			<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>			
<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale per cent</i>	<i>Basel Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average annual contribution for biennium</i>				
	(1)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)		
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
144	Romania	0.198	141	0.248	12 001	120	0.249	7 903	136	0.261	12 970
145	Russian Federation	2.405	142	3.007	145 770	121	3.022	95 991	137	3.167	157 535
146	Rwanda	0.003	143	0.004	182	122	0.010	318	138	0.010	497
147	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	144	0.001	61	123	0.010	318	139	0.010	497
148	Saint Lucia	0.001	145	0.001	61	–	n.a.	n.a.	140	0.010	497
149	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	146	0.001	61	124	0.010	318	141	0.010	497
150	Samoa	0.001	147	0.001	61	125	0.010	318	142	0.010	497
151	Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	148	0.001	61	126	0.010	318	143	0.010	497
152	Saudi Arabia	1.172	149	1.466	71 037	127	1.473	46 778	144	1.543	76 770
153	Senegal	0.007	150	0.009	424	128	0.010	318	145	0.010	497
154	Serbia	0.028	151	0.035	1 697	129	0.035	1 118	146	0.037	1 834
155	Seychelles	0.002	152	0.003	121	–	n.a.	n.a.	147	0.010	497
156	Sierra Leone	0.001	153	0.001	61	130	0.010	318	148	0.010	497
157	Singapore	0.485	154	0.606	29 397	131	0.609	19 358	149	0.639	31 769
158	Slovakia	0.153	155	0.191	9 274	132	0.192	6 107	150	0.201	10 022
159	Slovenia	0.076	156	0.095	4 606	133	0.095	3 033	151	0.100	4 978
160	Solomon Islands	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.	152	0.010	497
161	Somalia	0.001	157	0.001	61	134	0.010	318	153	0.010	497
162	South Africa	0.272	158	0.340	16 486	135	0.342	10 856	154	0.358	17 817
163	Spain	2.146	159	2.684	130 072	136	2.696	85 654	155	2.826	140 570
164	Sri Lanka	0.044	160	0.055	2 667	137	0.055	1 756	156	0.058	2 882
165	State of Palestine	0.001	161	0.001	61	138	0.010	318	157	0.010	497
166	Sudan	0.010	162	0.010	485	139	0.010	318	158	0.010	497
167	Suriname	0.005	163	0.006	303	140	0.010	318	159	0.010	497
168	Sweden	0.906	164	1.133	54 914	141	1.138	36 161	160	1.193	59 346
169	Switzerland	1.151	165	1.439	69 764	142	1.446	45 940	161	1.516	75 394
170	Syrian Arab Republic	0.011	166	0.014	667	143	0.014	439	162	0.014	721
171	Tajikistan	0.004	167	0.005	242	–	n.a.	n.a.	163	0.010	497
172	Thailand	0.307	168	0.384	18 608	144	0.386	12 253	164	0.404	20 109
173	Togo	0.002	169	0.003	121	145	0.010	318	165	0.010	497

<i>United Nations Secretariat scale</i>		<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>			<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>			<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>			
<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale per cent</i>	<i>Basel Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium</i>				
	(1)	(2)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)		
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	
174	Tonga	0.001	170	0.001	61	146	0.010	318	166	0.010	497
175	Trinidad and Tobago	0.040	171	0.050	2 424	147	0.050	1 597	167	0.053	2 620
176	Tunisia	0.025	172	0.031	1 515	148	0.031	998	168	0.033	1 638
177	Turkey	1.371	173	1.714	83 098	149	1.723	54 721	169	1.805	89 805
178	Turkmenistan	0.033	174	0.041	2 000	–	n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.
179	Tuvalu	0.001		n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.	170	0.010	497
180	Uganda	0.008	175	0.010	485	150	0.010	318	171	0.010	497
181	Ukraine	0.057	176	0.071	3 455	151	0.072	2 275	172	0.075	3 734
182	United Arab Emirates	0.616	177	0.770	37 337	152	0.774	24 587	173	0.811	40 350
183	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.567	178	5.711	276 812	153	5.738	182 284	174	6.014	299 153
184	United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	179	0.010	485	154	0.010	318	175	0.010	497
185	Uruguay	0.087	180	0.109	5 273	155	0.109	3 472	176	0.115	5 699
186	Uzbekistan	0.032	181	0.040	1 940	–	n.a.	n.a.	–	n.a.	n.a.
187	Vanuatu	0.001	182	0.001	61	156	0.010	318	177	0.010	497
188	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.728	183	0.910	44 125	157	0.915	29 057	178	0.959	47 686
189	Viet Nam	0.077	184	0.096	4 667	158	0.097	3 073	179	0.101	5 044
190	Yemen	0.010	185	0.010	485	159	0.010	318	180	0.010	497
191	Zambia	0.009	186	0.011	546	160	0.010	318	181	0.010	497
192	Zimbabwe	0.005	187	0.006	303	161	0.010	318	182	0.010	497

<i>United Nations Secretariat scale</i>		<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>			<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>			<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>		
<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale per cent</i>	<i>Basel Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention adjusted scale per cent</i>	<i>Average <u>annual</u> contribution for biennium</i>			
	<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>		<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>United States dollars</i>
Total per year	80.489		100.000	4 846 980		100.000	3 176 692		100.000	4 974 070
Total per biennium				9 693 959			6 353 385			9 948 139

Notes:

- (1) United Nations scale of assessment as per resolution 73/271 of 22 December 2018 adopted by the General Assembly at its seventieth session for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021.
- (2) As 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 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; (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.
- (3) As 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 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; (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 2020 and 2021. 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 Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2020–2021⁶

Posts funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Approved 2018–2019 BRS				Total proposed 2020–2021 BRS			
	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP PSC	Total	Core funded	In-kind by FAO	UNEP PSC	Total
A. Professional categories								
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	7.00	–	–	7.00	7.00	–	–	7.00
P-4 level	7.00	–	2.00	9.00	7.00	–	2.00	9.00
P-3 level	16.00	1.00	–	17.00	16.00	1.00	–	17.00
P-2 level	2.00	–	–	2.00	2.00	–	–	2.00
<i>Subtotal A</i>	<i>34.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>37.25</i>	<i>34.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>2.00</i>	<i>37.25</i>
B. General Service category								
GS	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25	12.00	1.25	6.00	19.25
<i>Subtotal B</i>	<i>12.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>19.25</i>	<i>12.00</i>	<i>1.25</i>	<i>6.00</i>	<i>19.25</i>
Total (A+B)	46.00	2.50	8.00	56.50	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 an in-kind contribution in its capacity as part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.
- (3) Funded by the programme support cost (PSC) of 13 per cent accrued from both assessed (core) and voluntary contributions, includes finance, administration and logistics staff.

⁶ Table 3 is presented in English only and without formal editing.

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

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>Approved 2018–2019 BRS</i>	<i>Total proposed 2020–2021 BRS</i>
A. Professional categories		
D-2 level	–	–
D-1 level	–	–
P-5 level	–	–
P-4 level	–	–
P-3 level	1.00	1.00
P-2 level	–	–
<i>Subtotal A</i>	<i>1.00</i>	<i>1.00</i>
B. General Service category		
GS	1.00	3.00
<i>Subtotal B</i>	<i>1.00</i>	<i>3.00</i>
Total (A+B)	2.00	4.00
Remarks		(1)

Notes

- (1) Voluntary funded staff in above table will be recruited subject to the availability of voluntary funds. Additional voluntary funded positions in Geneva could be added to support the implementation of voluntary funded projects, throughout the duration of the project, subject to availability of funds and project needs.

Provisional projected salary costs for Geneva for the biennium 2020–2021

(United States dollars)

Duty station: Geneva

Staff category and level	2018	2019	2020	2021	2020–2021
A. Professional category					
D-2	297,246	306,163	315,348	324,809	640,157
D-1	297,246	306,163	315,348	324,809	640,157
P-5	259,526	267,312	275,331	283,591	558,922
P-4	224,010	230,730	237,652	244,781	482,433
P-3	189,780	195,474	201,338	207,378	408,716
P-2	161,259	166,096	171,079	176,212	347,291
B. General Service category					
GS	143,673	147,984	152,423	156,996	309,419
C. Other direct personnel costs					
Retirement/Separation and replacement recruitment costs	–	–	–	–	262,775
ICSC review of entitlements (revised)	–	–	–	–	130,000
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(3) (4)

(1) Average actual salary costs including UN staff entitlement of BRS Geneva staff for June-July 2018 was used as basis to project future salary costs. These actual costs take into account the decrease in salaries in Geneva duty station due to the ICSC salary review undertaken in 2017 and resulting in a reduction in the post adjustment affecting the staff costs.

(2) Staff costs for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2018 with an increase of a standard 3 per cent per annum to cover for salary step increase, inflation, exchange rate fluctuations and unexpected changes in salary costs.

(3) The projected actual salary costs for the biennium exclude the estimated retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs. These costs are an integral part of the staffing costs and have been added separately for transparency. In the biennium 2020-2021 BRS has 5 staff members that have the right to retire during the biennium as they are between 62-65 years, however, they have the right to decide to stay until 65 years. In addition there may be other staff that leaves to another job. In these calculations we have only taken into account 3 retirements or separations or mobility (when a person changes jobs or resigns) and their replacements. These costs include both Geneva and Rome staff movements.

(4) The International Civil Servants Commission (ICSC) has proposed to the General Assembly in the Annual Report of the ICSC for the year 2018 (A/73/30) that the General Assembly approves changes in staff entitlements. If approved by the UN General Assembly, the following proposed changes would affect the BRS Secretariat staff costs: 4.4% increase in P-staff pensionable remuneration, 25% increase of annual dependency allowance, 1.83% increase in base/floor salary scale of P-staff (proposed zero net effect). In addition ICSC will undertake a new review of post-adjustment calculations and review other entitlements that may increase the salary costs further. The cost of these changes if approved, have been estimated to be higher than the amount presented in the current proposal. At 2019 COP this amount was adjusted to take into account the actual outcome of the GA resolution, and the pensionable remuneration amount was revised with USD 30,000 from USD 100,000 to USD 130,000.

Provisional projected salary costs for Rome for the biennium 2020-2021*(United States dollars)***Duty station: Rome**

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020–2021</i>
A. Professional category					
D-2	273,432	273,432	281,635	290,084	571,719
P-5	245,911	253,288	260,887	268,713	529,600
P-4	239,383	246,565	253,962	261,580	515,542
P-3	195,324	201,184	207,220	213,436	420,656
P-2	154,396	159,028	163,799	168,713	332,512
B. General Service category					
GS	111,430	114,773	118,216	121,763	239,979
C. Other direct personnel costs					
Retirement/Separation and replacement recruitment costs	–	–	–	–	–
ICSC review of entitlements	–	–	–	–	–
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3) (4)

Notes

- (1) Average actual salary costs for 2018 including staff entitlements and improved cost recovery uplift (ICRU) in respect to Rome staff was used as a basis to project future salary costs for staff salaries in GS and P1-P5 levels. For the in-kind post at the D-2 level, we have used the FAO standard salary cost for 2018–2019 as the post incumbency has changed during 2018.
- (2) Staff costs for 2019, 2020 and 2021 were estimated by using the actual costs of 2018 increased by a standard 3 per cent per annum.
- (3) No retirements are foreseen in Rome office for the 2020–2021 biennium. Other possible mobility related staff movements have been accounted for under Geneva staff budget.
- (4) Rome staff costs in terms of the proposed ICSC changes in entitlements have been included under Geneva staff costs “ICSC review of entitlements”.

Table 4
Specified activities to be funded from the available surpluses in the conventions' general trust funds in 2020–2021⁷

<i>Draw down from the provisional cash balance 31 December 2019 of the general trust funds</i>	<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>2020–2021</i>	<i>2020–2021</i>	<i>2020–2021</i>	<i>2020–2021</i>
Activity 25 Clearing house mechanism	21 353	10 396	21 352	53 101
Activity 30.2 Financial mechanism assessment report			165 000	165 000
Total direct costs	21 353	10 396	186 352	218 101
Programme support costs (13 per cent)	2 776	1 351	24 226	28 353
Total specific activities to be drawn down from the provisional projected cash balance 31 December 2019 of the general trust funds	24 129	11 747	210 578	246 454

⁷ Table 4 is presented in English only and without formal editing.