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Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Other matters

**Recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies
provided by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention****

Note by the Secretariat

With decision OEWG-V/6 of its fifth session, the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal requested the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to transmit the annex to its note entitled "Recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies" (UNEP/OEWG/5/2/Add.8) to the Secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, and to invite them to make the annex available as an information paper for their respective Conferences of Parties. Accordingly, the annex to document UNEP/OEWG/5/2/Add.8 is attached in the annex to the present note. It is presented as received from the Secretariat to the Basel Convention and has not been formally edited by the Secretariat to the Stockholm Convention.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.2/1.

** Report of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention on the work of its first meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.1/31), annex I, decision SC-1/18.

Annex

Recommendations on improving cooperation and synergies

I. Continuing processes in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions concerning the enhancement of cooperation and synergies and comments

A. Background

1. By paragraph 3 of decision SC-1/18 on enhancing synergies within the chemicals and waste cluster adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention was requested:

“to prepare, in consultation with other relevant Secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme, a study on how cooperation and synergies between the Secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention and other relevant programmes could be improved, taking into account the special nature of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat, which is jointly provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes, including consideration of the role common structures might play”.

2. The decision provided that the results of the study would be considered at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (to be held from 1 to 5 May 2006) and, furthermore, invited the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention at its third meeting (to be held from 9 to 13 October 2006) and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its eighth meeting (to be held from 27 November to 1 December 2006) to consider the results of the study, and invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-fourth session (to be held from 5 to 9 February 2007) to consider the results of the study and also the considerations and decisions from the aforementioned bodies.

3. The results of the study prepared by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention will be circulated to the fifth session of the Open-ended Working Group as document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/17. The Secretariat of the Basel Convention was not consulted in respect of document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/17 nor on the study itself and, accordingly, limited its comments to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on the draft text of the results of the study to clarifying factual information of direct relevance to the Basel Convention

4. In paragraph 5 of decision RC-2/6 on enhancing synergies between the secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions, adopted at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, the Conference of the Parties considered that:

“to enable the Conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions to take any decisions which they may deem appropriate at their next meetings, they will require in addition to the above-mentioned study a supplementary analysis of financial and administrative arrangements that would be needed to implement any changes that the three convention secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme may propose. In addition, such supplementary analysis should identify any financial savings that might accrue, as well as any implications for adjustments to secretariat expenditures on United Nations administrative fees”

5. Accordingly, in paragraph 6 of the same decision the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention invited:

“the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the conventions, to prepare the supplementary analysis referred to in paragraph 5 above and to make it available for consideration at the next meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm and Basel Conventions.”

6. The supplementary analysis prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be circulated to the Open-ended Working Group at its fifth session as document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/INF/18. As of 11 March 2005, when the present note was prepared, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention had not been consulted by the United Nations Environment Programme on the supplementary analysis and had not seen a draft of that analysis.

7. By its decision OEWG-IV/10 on financial matters, at its fourth session the Open-ended Working Group requested the Secretariat to cooperate with the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention secretariats, taking into account decision SC-1/18 of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, in exploring cooperation and synergies and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

8. At its meeting held in February 2006, the Expanded Bureau of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties considered an agenda item on the study to be conducted by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the supplementary analysis to be prepared by UNEP. Although neither document was before the Expanded Bureau because they were not available, a representative of the Stockholm Convention Secretariat made an oral presentation, providing some background information on the study, as reflected in the final report of the meeting of the Expanded Bureau contained in document UNEP/SBC/BUREAU/7/2/10.

B. Comments on the documents prepared pursuant to decisions adopted by the Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions

9. Neither the study to be prepared by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat nor the supplementary analysis to be prepared by UNEP was available to the Secretariat of the Basel Convention at the time of preparation of the present note. Accordingly, the Secretariat is unable to make any comments and recommendations at this time on those documents. The Secretariat will make such comments and recommendations in an addendum to the present note upon receipt of those documents.

10. Nevertheless, the Secretariat wishes to highlight certain factors which the Parties may wish to bear in mind when they consider the study, the supplementary analysis, and also the comments and recommendations which the Secretariat will make on those documents.

11. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines “synergy” as “increased effectiveness, achievement, produced as a result of combined action or cooperation”. It is frequently taken to refer to the combined power of a group of things when they are working together which is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately. In the light of such definitions, the modalities which are intended to promote synergies between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions should be shown to actually produce benefits for all three conventions greater than those that each could achieve individually.

12. Similarly, “cooperation” is defined in the *Oxford English Dictionary* as the action “of working together towards the same end, purpose, or effect; joint operation”. Thus, cooperation between the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions should be focused on those areas where there is a common purpose or objective amongst the three entities.

13. Finally, it is noted that the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention:

(a) Is *not* limited to synergies, but also requests that the study consider how cooperation could be improved;

(b) Is *not* limited to the secretariats of the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel conventions, but also requests that the study consider “other relevant programmes”;

(c) Underlines that the objectives of such cooperation and synergies is “to ensure maximum coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the field of chemicals and wastes”.

II. Mandates under the Basel Convention for cooperation and synergies

A. Background

14. Mandates already exist for the promotion of cooperation between Parties, the secretariat and relevant organizations under the Basel Convention itself, and under decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

15. Article 4, subparagraph 2 (h), of the Convention requires Parties to take appropriate measures to:

“Cooperate in activities with other Parties and interested organizations, directly and through the Secretariat, including the dissemination of information on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in order to improve the environmentally sound management of such wastes and to achieve the prevention of illegal traffic.”

16. Article 10, paragraph 4, of the Convention declares that:

“Taking into account the needs of developing countries, cooperation between Parties and the competent international organizations is encouraged to promote, inter alia, public awareness, the development of sound management of hazardous wastes and other wastes and the adoption of new low-waste technologies.”

17. Under Article 16, subparagraph 1 (d), of the Convention, the Secretariat is required:

“To ensure the necessary coordination with relevant international bodies, and in particular to enter into such administrative and contractual arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its function”.

18. In its decision VII/38, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties identified organizations, including other multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP offices, with which the Secretariat should strengthen cooperation and synergies in the following areas:

- (a) Persistent organic pollutants;
- (b) Toxic chemicals;
- (c) Strategic approach to international chemicals management;
- (d) Enforcement;
- (e) Transport and classification;
- (f) Identification of wastes in the World Customs Organization Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System;
- (g) Dismantling of ships.

19. In addition, the decision requested the Secretariat to continue its cooperation on critical areas for the effective implementation of the Basel Convention, its protocol and amendments with relevant organizations, including the following:

- (a) The World Bank;
- (b) The Global Environment Facility;
- (c) The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development;
- (d) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;
- (e) The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs;
- (f) The United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
- (g) The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- (h) United Nations regional economic commissions;

- (i) The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea;
- (j) The World Trade Organization;
- (k) The International Lead and Zinc Study Group, and also other study groups on copper and nickel;
- (l) The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;
- (m) The regional seas conventions and action plans;
- (n) The African Union, as 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 of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;
- (o) The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN);
- (p) The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, as secretariat of the Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention);
- (q) The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development;
- (r) The International Energy Agency.

B. Comments

20. The Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties already provide wide scope for cooperation and synergies with other organizations in areas of common relevance. Accordingly, there does not appear to be a need for new mandates for cooperation and synergies within the context of functional cooperation intended to enhance the effective implementation of the Basel Convention.

21. Article 16, subparagraph 1 (d), of the Convention permits the Secretariat to enter into such administrative arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of its function. There appears, therefore, to be no bar under the Convention to modifying administrative arrangements to the extent that these serve to promote the effective discharge by the Secretariat of its functions.

III. Existing cooperation, collaboration and synergistic activities with other organizations, including other multilateral environmental agreements

22. Pursuant to decision VII/38 and earlier similar decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has undertaken many collaborative activities with relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations. At the present time, cooperation with other institutions has been undertaken either on an informal, ad hoc basis, or based upon an agreement concluded between the Secretariat and the other relevant institution. The decision as to how to proceed is normally driven by the nature of cooperation and activities involved. Examples of relevant cooperation with the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and with UNEP Chemicals are listed in appendix I below. A further example lies in the recent agreement between UNEP and the three convention secretariats to establish a project team consisting of staff from UNEP and the secretariats to develop and facilitate a joint outreach campaign.

23. Also, the Secretariat draws the attention of the Parties to the issues paper jointly prepared by the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions on clustering of chemicals and wastes multilateral environmental agreements. That issues paper,¹ which is reproduced in appendix II below, was presented to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers and Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance at its fourth meeting, held from 30 November to 1 December 2001, and was submitted for consideration to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Rotterdam Convention, at its ninth session, held from 30 September to 4 October 2002, and to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Stockholm Convention, meeting from 17 to 21 June 2002. In the issues paper, the observation is made that:

¹ Available in English only.

“Should it be determined that programmatic clustering of the chemicals and wastes MEAs should proceed, it is envisaged that this would essentially involve building upon existing collaboration between UNEP Chemicals and the FAO Plant Protection Service, as Interim Secretariats for the Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions, and the Basel Convention Secretariat in a more deliberate and intensive fashion. In the short to medium term, clustering would most likely focus on enhanced programmatic and functional cooperation. Measures such as integration of programme support services might be a more distant objective, taking into account, for example, the potential for developing common services not just within the chemicals/wastes cluster but also with other co-located Convention secretariats or UNEP units.

To the extent that individual measures require the endorsement of respective Governing Bodies, the implementation of clustering of the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions would necessarily be an incremental process...”

24. The issues paper further identifies, in the areas of capacity-building, science and technology, legal, institutional, reporting and monitoring, information, outreach and awareness-raising, and programme support services, potential for future collaboration.

IV. Recommendations: options for further action

A. Issues to be addressed through increased cooperation and synergy

25. Before proposing a solution to a problem, it is prudent to clearly identify the problem that the solution is meant to address. The Secretariat recommends, therefore, that the Parties first identify the issue(s) or problem(s) that further cooperation and synergy are meant to address. These may include:

- (a) A concern as to the cost of financing the operations of the Basel Convention;
- (b) A concern that there is a lack of coordinated implementation where there are cross-cutting obligations, aims and objectives under a number of international instruments and regimes;
- (c) A belief that implementation of the Basel Convention would be enhanced by cooperation and collaboration on programmes relating to cross-cutting issues already identified by the Parties in decision VII/38;
- (d) A belief that greater benefits could be derived for the Basel Convention from existing financial, technical and other resources if there was further cooperation and collaboration with other institutions on cross-cutting issues.

26. Also, the Secretariat recommends that Parties consider whether the issue(s) that further cooperation and synergy are meant to address, require action:

- (a) At the level of the operations and activities of the Secretariat only; or
- (b) At the level of collaboration between Parties on a bilateral or multilateral basis.

27. The Parties may wish to consider the matters set out in paragraphs 25 and 26 above in the light of the need to ensure that any actions would result in genuine improvements for the Basel Convention and that they would serve to optimize coherence, efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the Convention. Also, the autonomous decision-making power to shape policy of the Conference of the Parties, and also of the governing bodies of other institutions, must be recognized.

28. The Secretariat observes that the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention until 2010, which was adopted in 2002, established a strategy the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in the context of the Basel Convention. The Strategic Plan focus areas identified by Parties include electronic wastes, used lead-acid batteries, used oils, obsolete stocks of pesticides, PCBs, dioxins and furans, by-products from the dismantling of ships, biomedical and healthcare wastes and also cooperation with municipalities. The Secretariat recommends that, as those are areas already determined to be priorities for the Convention, the Parties should consider mechanisms for synergies and cooperation that would enhance the effective implementation of the provisions and goals of the Basel Convention in respect of those areas.

B. Possible mechanisms to address the issues identified

29. The mechanisms and options set forth in the following paragraphs are grouped on the basis of whether their primary result is a reduction or maintenance of the status quo regarding resources, including financial resources, or whether they may enhance coordination on programmatic and policy matters but could also give rise to additional costs.

30. It is also noted that any particular option may provide a suitable basis for collaborative work with one type of institution but may not be appropriate for collaboration with another type of body.

1. Possible cost-saving measures

31. In this context, "cost saving" is used to include not only those mechanisms which may result in a reduction in costs but also those mechanisms which could result in greater benefits to all participating entities from the same level of resources.

(a) Organization of meetings back-to-back

32. In general the common United Nations rules and regulations and procedures are followed by the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and, consequently, cooperation is possible in principle with respect to the organization of meetings of the Convention bodies. Thus, meetings of two conventions, if not three, could be organized back-to-back at the same venue.

33. *Advantages of the above approach:*

- (a) Reduced conference servicing costs, for example, savings on travel costs of interpreters;
- (b) Possible reduction in participation costs, for example, savings on travel costs of participants attending more than one meeting;
- (c) Potential for enhancing coherence in policy approaches adopted by the Parties in respect of any two (or three) conventions.

34. *Relevant considerations:*

- (a) The timing of the respective Conferences of the Parties and subsidiary body meetings, workshops and other events would have to be well coordinated to avoid overlapping peak periods. This would require decisions and coordination not only from the secretariats but also from the Conferences of the Parties;
- (b) Conference services for the meetings under all three conventions, including interpretation, translation and report-writing, are outsourced to UNON. Noting the volume of documentation prepared for each meeting of the Convention bodies and, in particular, the Conferences of the Parties, back-to-back meetings of two or more conventions would place an enormous burden on UNON resources to ensure timely issuance of all conference documents;
- (c) The workload resulting from the organization of meetings back-to-back is heavy and the existing administrative staff resources are tight at that time. Thus, given that each secretariat would be undertaking administrative arrangements for the meeting of its own convention body, the sharing of administrative services may not be possible during the peak periods;
- (d) The Parties and representatives of the Parties are not necessarily the same for each Convention;
- (e) Representatives, particularly ministers and high officials, may not be able to be away from their capitals for an extended period of time;
- (f) Lengthy meetings may not result in added benefits given the pressures that they place on representatives, secretariats and conference services;
- (g) The sharing of costs between each convention's budget may be difficult to determine, particularly as the Parties to each multilateral environmental agreement are not identical.

(b) Shared secretariat services or common structures

35. The Parties may wish to consider modifying existing institutional structures to allow for the sharing of resources between relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other bodies. Thus, for example, the Parties may wish to consider “pooling” certain functions or the services provided by certain officers.

36. In that regard, the Secretariat notes that, in November 2004, the Executive Director of UNEP communicated to the Executive Secretary that UNEP was to modify the administrative arrangements relating to the service relationship between UNEP and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, through the establishment of a UNEP Administrative Services Centre in Geneva. Pending clarifications from the Executive Director as to whether the new arrangements could result in additional costs, or cost savings, to the Basel Convention, and how efficiency might be enhanced by the proposed new arrangements for the Basel Convention as compared to the efficiency of existing arrangements, the first meeting of the Expanded Bureau, held in June 2005, agreed that the matter should be discussed on the basis of additional information to be provided by UNEP and that any proposal concerning the Administrative Services Centre would be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for its decision. The clarifications requested by the Expanded Bureau were not available at the time of preparation of the present note. Also, the Secretariat has not received any information as to the relationship between the Administrative Services Centre in Geneva and any other proposals for restructuring that may be brought forward in the study prepared by the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the supplementary analysis prepared by UNEP. The Secretariat will provide further comments on this particular issue in an addendum to the present note upon receipt of the aforementioned documents.

37. It is noted that the question of the United Nations system-wide coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment will be the subject of an in-depth review by the Secretary General’s Panel as a follow up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome.² In the Outcome, adopted by the General Assembly, the Member States declared their support for stronger system-wide coherence by implementing the following measures, in the context of environmental activities:

“Recognizing the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation, better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties, and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building, we agree to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework to address this need, including a more integrated structure, building on existing institutions and internationally agreed instruments, as well as the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies”.

38. Also, the reform of the international environmental structure will be considered by an informal working group established by the President of the General Assembly under the chairmanship of Mexico and Switzerland. Consolidation of international environmental agreements or enhancement of synergies and cooperation between them will be addressed in those discussions as an important component of actions to strengthen the international institutional framework in the area of environment. Thus, the issue of enhancing cooperation and synergies between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions may ultimately need to be explored within the broader context of the system-wide reform of the United Nations.

39. *Advantages of the above approach:*

(a) There may be opportunities for increasing efficiency of services, effectiveness of operations or resources for activities provided without the need for additional resources from the Parties;

(b) There may be enhanced coherence and coordination in the implementation of activities and in programme planning;

² General Assembly resolution 60/1.

(c) Pooling of certain functions may be possible where the specific services provided are similar between the multilateral environmental agreements and programmes concerned. Thus, for example, it may be possible to pool or merge into one unit the administrative and financial services for multilateral environmental agreements and UNEP offices co-located in Geneva if all the entities concerned apply similar financial and administrative arrangements.

40. *Relevant considerations:*

(a) It is necessary to consider, firstly, whether the merging or pooling of secretariat personnel resources is intended primarily to reduce costs or also to promote coordinated approaches to enhance implementation of the legal instruments concerned. If the primary purpose is to reduce costs, careful consideration and analysis should be made as to whether costs savings would in fact be realized, given the possible need for additional coordination and management;

(b) Parties should assess whether any proposed new arrangement would in fact be more cost-effective, and more beneficial, for the Basel Convention. For example, there is one Information Technology officer in the Basel Convention Secretariat, who is back-stopped by the United Nations Office at Geneva and who provides the all IT services to the Secretariat except for e-mail administration.³ Other multilateral environmental agreements may currently assign a considerably higher number of staff, or incur higher costs, than the Basel Convention, to receive the same level of IT support;

(c) Implementation of substantive institutional restructuring at the present time, in the context of specific multilateral environmental agreements, may be impacted by developments regarding system-wide reform of the United Nations. If institutional restructuring occurred without reference to global developments, they might need to be readjusted, resulting in an inefficient use of resources in respect of the time and costs that such restructuring might require;

(d) There should be substantive consideration as to the modalities of effecting any modification of institutional structures, taking into account the differing financing mechanisms for each legal instrument and the reporting lines for each secretariat, each of which is under obligations to act in the best interests of their respective conventions and to report to their governing bodies on activities carried out for the Parties;

(e) It is unlikely that it would be possible to merge or pool all the units discharging functions required from the various secretariats. The specificity of each multilateral environmental agreement and programme would require, to varying degrees, specialised expertise. Thus, for example, technical expertise on the subject matter regulated by a particular multilateral environmental agreement might mean that a technical officer working for one multilateral environmental agreement would not have the requisite expertise to provide services for another multilateral environmental agreement or programme;

(f) The volume of work for certain units might also militate against pooling or merging resources unless sufficient personnel were assigned to that unit to serve three or more multilateral environmental agreements. For example, the Basel Convention Secretariat currently has only one legal officer, who discharges in-house counsel functions and carries out capacity-building activities, including legal supervision of the establishment and operation of 14 Basel Convention regional centres, and also provides advice on constitutional matters. A single legal officer could not effectively discharge such functions for more than one multilateral environmental agreement, nor could a combined team of two or three legal officers realize additional capacity as many of the legal functions require specialized knowledge and experience relating to the specific conventions.

³ The single IT officer provides the following services to the Secretariat: management, policies and coordination of IT services, including licences; server monitoring and maintenance; assessment and determination of IT equipment needs, and installation and maintenance of IT equipment, including workstations, printers and other peripherals; design, maintenance and management of the Basel Convention website; design operation and maintenance of databases on (a) national reporting, (b) contacts and mailing list of national focal points, competent authorities and permanent missions, (c) participation in Basel Convention meetings, including information regarding financial support for participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and (d) the project tracking system; network monitoring, maintenance and administration, including security and virus issues; user support, training and troubleshooting (helpdesk); back-up and disaster recovery.

2. Mechanisms to enhance coordination and synergies

(a) Joint planning and joint implementation of activities

41. The Basel Convention Secretariat could work with the secretariats of relevant bodies to develop programmes for collaborative activities relating to specific waste streams or implementation issues, as identified in decision VII/38. Participating secretariats could meet on a regular basis to present and discuss activities planned for the short, medium and long term, taking into account the priorities identified, and work plans and budgets adopted, by the governing bodies.

42. Procedures could be developed for such meetings to ensure that they provide an effective mechanism for collaboration. During such discussions, the secretariats could identify areas in which joint activities, on issues of common relevance, could be undertaken. Also, in respect of the joint activities identified, the secretariats could undertake joint resource mobilization efforts. Joint activities identified or developed could thereafter be implemented according to the jointly developed programme, by joint secretariat coordinating teams.

43. Joint strategic planning need not necessarily be limited to the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Convention secretariats. Joint strategic planning could be undertaken with other intergovernmental institutions, as identified in decision VII/38, depending upon the subject matter in question. Thus, for example, in the area of dismantling of ships, joint strategic planning and implementation could be undertaken by the Secretariat with the secretariats of the International Maritime Organization and with the International Labour Organization.⁴

44. Furthermore, joint planning and joint implementation of activities need not be limited to secretariats. Thus, for example, joint planning and implementation could be undertaken by the Basel Convention regional centres with other regional institutions, and activities could be implemented by the regional centres for other organizations, programmes and agreements, as is reflected in some of the examples described in appendix I below.

45. Issues in respect of which such joint planning and implementation could be considered in the context of the secretariats and the Basel Convention regional centres could include future activities to promote integrated waste management, the promotion of a life-cycle approach, destruction of ozone-depleting substances, illegal traffic, and development of national legislation. Similarly, coherence with respect to convention obligations could be enhanced by collaboration between the Basel Convention and other relevant entities, such as the Stockholm Convention, on matters such as the development of joint guidelines or standards, for example with respect to the definition of low persistent organic pollutant content, level of destruction and irreversible transformation.

46. *Advantages of the above approach:*

- (a) Joint planning and implementation could provide an opportunity to maximize use of resources;
- (b) Enhanced coherence and coordination on cross-cutting issues;
- (c) Given the mandates already provided by the Convention and the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat would not require any further mandate to embark on joint planning and joint implementation;
- (d) Joint resource mobilization efforts may attract additional resources.

47. *Relevant considerations:*

- (a) Joint planning and implementation should be limited to the priorities identified by the Conferences of the Parties and other relevant governing bodies, or in the relevant legal instruments;
- (b) Joint planning and joint implementation should be undertaken only in respect of areas where there is specific overlap and where such collaborative activity would bring added value to the Basel Convention. For example, joint activities could be planned and implemented between the Basel and Stockholm Conventions on persistent organic pollutant wastes;

⁴ This would not only be consistent with decision VII/38, but also with the recommendations of the Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group on Ship Scrapping which, at its second session, recommended that the secretariats of the three organizations make efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation in the organization of joint technical cooperation activities (see the report of the second session of Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group reproduced in the annex to document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/5/2/Add.1).

(c) Whereas the Basel Convention Secretariat may already have a mandate, it might be necessary for the other secretariats to secure appropriate mandates.

(b) Memorandums of understanding

48. A more formal mechanism by which activities could be planned and implemented jointly would be through the negotiation and conclusion of memorandums of understanding between relevant institutions.

49. *Advantages of the above approach:* Memorandums of understanding serve to clarify the roles of each party involved, particularly where commitments of financial or human resources are involved.

50. *Relevant considerations:*

(a) It would be necessary to assess whether the additional formality would give rise to benefits additional to those that would be derived under option (a) above or, indeed, under current ad hoc arrangements for joint implementation of activities;

(b) Whereas the Basel Convention Secretariat already has a mandate under Article 16, subparagraph 1 (d), of the Convention to enter into contractual arrangements, this may not be the case for other institutions.

(c) Inter-secretariat groups for exchange of information on common issues

51. Groups comprising staff members from the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant programmes could be created to exchange information on issues of common relevance or application. For example, a coordinating group of legal officers comprising the legal officers of all the multilateral environmental agreements located in Geneva might provide a valuable forum to exchange information and experience. Similarly, groups of administrative officers, or programme officers responsible for facilitating capacity-building activities, technical activities and so on, could also provide some benefits. The groups could be established on an informal basis by the heads of the various secretariats.

52. *Advantages of the above approach:*

(a) Maximizes the benefits derived from existing resources;

(b) Enhances coherence, consistency and coordination.

53. *Relevant considerations:* The added value of such groups should be considered in light of the current practice, whereby views and experiences are exchanged on an ad hoc basis between secretariat staff co-located in Geneva.

(d) Liaison or coordinating groups

54. Similar to the option under (a) above, liaison or coordinating groups comprising representatives of relevant secretariats could be established to identify those areas where significant synergies exist and to put forward proposals on how such synergies could be developed. Such groups could meet on a regular basis to exchange information and experience and to coordinate, with a view to promoting complementarities in activities conducted by the various organizations.

55. Such groups could promote collaboration with mechanisms already established under political intergovernmental institutions, such as AMCEN and the European Union, and could also perform the function of coordinating inputs to the meetings of the governing bodies of each organization, so as to facilitate complementary or, at the minimum, non-conflicting policy determinations.

56. Liaison or coordinating groups could also be established at the regional or the national level. For example, they could be established to improve cooperation between Basel Convention regional centres and other regional institutions such as the UNEP regional offices and cleaner production centres.

57. Similarly, Parties, with or without the facilitation of the Secretariat, could establish coordinating groups. Groups could include country representatives or, as in the case of the Joint ILO/IMO/Working Group on Ship Scrapping, they could include State representatives nominated by each participating organization. Such groups could promote issues-based cooperation between countries in a specific region and could even support the provision of multilateral or bilateral assistance between Parties, for example, in the form of training or secondment of staff.

58. Finally, the Secretariat notes that, to be effective, mechanisms for promoting cooperation and synergy at the international and regional levels must be mirrored by effective cooperation and synergy at the national level. Accordingly, Parties may wish to consider the establishment of inter-agency or inter-ministerial liaison or coordinating groups at the national level to promote coordination in the implementation of the Basel Convention and related regimes, for example, on enforcement of illegal traffic.

59. *Advantages of the above approach:*

- (a) Increased coherence and coordination on areas where significant synergies exist;
- (b) In groups where Parties are involved, they can ensure that their priorities are properly recognized in any programmes developed;
- (c) For regional or international groups comprising Parties, this approach could promote the development of mutually supportive mechanisms for the sound management of chemicals and wastes, promote benefit-sharing, for example through technology transfer and joint research and development, and could address difficulties that are specifically regional in nature;
- (d) For national groups, coordination of country positions could be promoted so that consistent position is taken in differing international forums, e.g., through coordination between foreign affairs, environment, health, finance and other ministries;
- (e) For national coordinating groups, such groups could promote the development of national (integrated) strategies or plans for the sound management of chemicals and wastes.

60. *Relevant considerations:*

- (a) Whereas the Basel Convention appears to provide a mandate for such cooperation, other institutions may require new mandates;
- (b) It would be necessary to determine whether such groups meeting internationally or regionally would require separate meetings, adding to an already busy meeting calendar;
- (c) If separate meetings are required, it would be necessary to consider how the costs of such meetings should be met;
- (d) With respect to liaison or coordinating groups comprising secretariat representatives, the added value of such groups should be considered in the light of other initiatives with similar objectives, such as the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and the secretariat to be established for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

(e) Joint meetings of subsidiary bodies, working groups or chairpersons

61. The Parties may wish to consider the organization of joint meetings of subsidiary bodies or their chairs with their counterparts in other organizations on issues of common importance and relevance. Issues which joint meetings could consider are the development and implementation of policies or activities to promote integrated waste management, the promotion of a life-cycle approach, illegal traffic, and the development of national legislation.

62. *Advantages of the above approach:*

- (a) Increased coherence and coordination in areas where significant synergies exist;
- (b) Effective exchange of views at the policy-making level;
- (c) Increased exchange of information and experience;
- (d) Parties would participate, ensuring that their priorities can be properly recognized in any programmes developed, thereby enhancing coherence in decision-making in meetings of the various conventions.

63. *Relevant considerations:*

- (a) Joint meetings of subsidiary bodies would be feasible only in the context of smaller bodies, such as the Bureau or the Compliance Committee. A joint meeting of the Open-ended Working Group with the equivalent body of another multilateral environmental organization would probably not be feasible, whereas meetings of the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group and their counterparts might be feasible;

- (b) It would be necessary to determine whether such groups would require separate meetings, adding to an already busy meeting calendar;
- (c) If separate meetings are required, the issue arises of how the costs of such meetings should be met and shared.

V. Conclusions

64. The following conclusions are submitted for consideration of the Parties on the basis of information currently available to the Secretariat. The study prepared by the Stockholm Convention Secretariat and the supplementary analysis prepared by UNEP were not available at the time of preparation of the present note. As indicated above, the Secretariat will make additional comments, as necessary, in an addendum to the present note, upon receipt of these documents.
65. The Secretariat observes that a wide mandate exists under the Basel Convention and the decisions of the Parties for the promotion of cooperation and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements, including the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and relevant programmes. Also, the Secretariat notes that the Parties have in their decisions on international cooperation, and in the Strategic Plan, identified those areas where synergies could and should be promoted for the benefit of the Basel Convention.
66. The Secretariat concludes that functional cooperation and synergies could be further developed, in the areas already identified by the Parties, by the application of some or all of the mechanisms described above. It should be emphasized that adequate and balanced funding may, in some cases, be an essential prerequisite for implementing activities intended to enhance cooperation and synergy.
67. With regard to institutional restructuring, the Secretariat recommends that restructuring should be considered with proper regard to the wider consideration of the institutional reform which is currently taking place within the United Nations system. Although the General Assembly, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, respected the legal autonomy of treaties, it also recognized the need for enhanced coordination of environmental activities.
68. Also, noting the complexity of legal and financial issues to be considered if institutional restructuring, through “pooling” or “merging” of secretariats or units providing certain services, is to take place, noting the independence of each legal instrument and their separate financing mechanisms, the Parties may wish to seek further guidance on such issues before adopting definitive decisions in that regard.
69. Finally, the Secretariat emphasizes the need to consider how cooperation and synergies should be promoted in the context of the needs of the Basel Convention. Different partners may be required for different issues, as may different mechanisms. Also, effective cooperation and synergies are unlikely to be achieved without parallel cooperation and synergies at the international, regional and national levels, encompassing intergovernmental organizations and States.

Appendix I: Specific examples of existing collaboration between the Basel Convention secretariat and UNEP-Chemicals and the secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention

A. Institutional collaboration for the development of documentation

1. Stockholm Convention INC-6/5, participation of UNEP-Chemicals in the relevant subsidiary body of the Basel Convention

- (2004) Basel Convention General technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
- (2004) Basel Convention technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs) or polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs).
- Under preparation: Draft Basel Convention technical guidelines for ESM of HCB. Draft Basel Convention technical guidelines for ESM of DDT. Draft Basel Convention technical guidelines for ESM of Pesticides Wastes arising from the production of Aldrin, Chlordane, Dieldrin, Endrin, Heptachlor, Hexachlorobenzene (HCB), Mirex and Toxaphene.
Stockholm Convention INC-6/9, the document was prepared by UNEP-Chemicals. SBC was consulted.
- Feasibility study on Stockholm Convention regional and subregional centres for capacity-building and technology transfer).

B. Joint training activities

1. Coordinated implementation of the Basel Convention, Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention

- Sub-regional awareness raising workshop on POPs/PIC/Basel/Waigani Conventions, Cairns, Australia, 2-6 April 2001;
- Seminar on Cleaner Production and the International Conventions, Basel, 20-22 August 2001. Attended also by directors of NCPCs, UNIDO, UNEP/DTIE, UNEP-Chemicals;
- Subregional workshop on the coordinated implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) on chemicals and wastes in West Africa, Cotonou, Benin, 18-20 November 2002. Organized by BCRC-Dakar.
- Pacific regional workshop on the national implementation plan for the Stockholm Convention held in parallel with the Basel and Waigani conventions workshop for competent authorities on the use of the control system and the awareness-raising workshop on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) for non-governmental organizations, 26-30 May 2003, Nadi, Fiji;
- Third joint meeting of senior officials and legal experts on multilateral environmental agreements, 19-21 June 2003, Tulcea, Romania;
- Subregional workshop on the coordinated implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) on chemicals and wastes in English-speaking African countries, Pretoria, South Africa, 17-19 September 2003. The workshop was organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in South Africa and the UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network;
- Regional workshop on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean, Montevideo, Uruguay, 28-30 January 2004.

The workshop was organized by the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Uruguay and the UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network;

- Regional workshop on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in central and eastern Europe, Riga, Latvia, 6–8 April 2004. The workshop is being organized by the UNEP-Geneva Environmental Network and the embassy of Switzerland in Latvia.
- Regional workshop on the coordinated implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in countries of the Middle East and North Africa, in Damascus from 19 to 21 July 2004. The workshop was the last of a series of regional workshops on the theme, organized by GEN with financial support from Switzerland;

2. Regional workshops on pesticides

- Regional workshop on the reduction/elimination and management of pesticides in the context of the Stockholm Convention on POPs and the Basel Convention, Trinidad, 22-25 April 2002. Organized by BCRC-Trinidad.
- Regional workshop for South America on the reduction/elimination and management of pesticides in the context of the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention, Santiago de Chile, 07-11 October 2002.
- Regional workshop for several English speaking countries in Africa on the reduction/elimination and management of pesticides in the context of the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention, Pretoria, 04-08 November 2002. Organized by BCRC-Pretoria.

3. Regional workshops on PCBs

- The first regional workshop under the umbrella of “Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB containing equipment in Central America”, from 7 to 9 July 2004, in San Salvador. The workshop was organized by the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas on behalf of the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Central America and Mexico in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The workshop constituted the kick-off meeting for the PCB project in Central America, which is financed by the Government of the United States of America, the Government of Finland and the Basel Convention Trust Fund. The project has a duration of 15 months.
- The second regional workshop of the project took place 30 May 2005 to 1 June 2005 in San Salvador, El Salvador. A workshop on national plans for the reduction of releases of unintentionally generated POPs was organized and carried out by UNEP Chemicals from 2-3 June 2005.
- The third regional workshop under the umbrella of/ of the above-mentioned project is planned in November 2005 in San Salvador.

4. Regional workshops on POPs destruction technologies in the context of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions

- Regional workshop for South America on the environmentally sound destruction of persistent organic pollutants (POP) and decontamination of POP containing waste, in the context of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention, 06-10 December 2004, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Organized by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, UNEP-Chemicals, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for South America based in Buenos Aires and the Government of Brazil.
- Regional workshop for Arab states on the environmentally sound destruction of persistent organic pollutants (POP) and decontamination of POP containing waste, in the context of the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention, 28 to 31 August 2005, Amman, Jordan. Organized by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, UNEP-Chemicals, WHO, FAO, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Arab States based in Cairo and the Government of Jordan.

5. Regional workshops on BAT/BEP

- Regional Workshop for South America on Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) in the context of the Stockholm Convention and the Basel Convention, Buenos Aires, 21-25 October 2002. Organized by BCRC-Buenos Aires.

6. Regional workshops on dioxins and furans

- A subregional workshop on action Plans for PCBs and PCDD/F in the context of national implementation plans for the Stockholm Convention, from 19 to 23 July 2004 in Santiago de Chile. The workshop was organized by the National Commission for the Environment, Government of Chile (CONAMA) in close cooperation with UNEP Chemicals. The meeting was financed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH and the Canadian POPs Fund. All Basel Convention focal points from the subregion were invited to the meeting.

C. Joint field activities**1. Joint projects on PCBs**

- Pilot Project for the preparation of PCB national plans, Côte d'Ivoire (2000 - 2002). Joint UNEP Chemicals/SBC project. Collaboration of BCRC-Dakar. Description: national inventory, preparation of draft regulation and national action plan, preparation of decision supportive tool for ESM of PCBs. Preparation of a Training Manual for the preparation of PCB Management plans in the context of the Basel Convention.
- "Preparation of National Inventories and National Plans for the Environmentally Sound Management of PCBs and PCB containing equipment in Central America" (2004-2006). Co-funding by SBC and UNEP/Chemicals of US\$ 650'000. Coordination by BCRC-El Salvador. Description: national inventories, preparation of draft national and regional action plans.
- Regional project for the preparation of national inventories, action plans and strategies for the environmentally sound management of PCBs and PCB-containing equipment in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) subregion, funded by UNEP Chemicals and with the participation of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Pretoria;

2. Joint projects on pesticides

- African Stockpile Project. SBC is a member of the African Stockpile Project which objective is to eliminate obsolete stocks of pesticides in Africa and to put in place preventive measures. Partners: UNEP Chemicals, FAO, UNIDO, World Bank, GEF, OAU, UNECA, African Development Bank, Pesticide Action Network, World Wide Fund for Nature, Crop Life International. Estimated budget for a 15 year duration: approx. US\$ 250 million

3. Joint Project on Dioxins and Furans

- Establishment of a polychlorinated dibenzodioxin (PCDD) and polychlorinated dibenzofuran (PCDF) release inventory in a sub-Saharan context, with a particular focus on specific local practices. This is a demonstration project mounted jointly by UNEP Chemicals and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, fully funded by UNEP Chemicals, with the participation of the Basel Convention Regional Centre in Senegal.

Appendix II

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OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL
GROUP OF MINISTERS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
ON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Fourth meeting

Montreal, 30 November - 1 December 2001

Clustering of chemicals/wastes multilateral environmental agreements

Issues paper

Background

The possibility of clustering certain Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to enhance coherence and effectiveness in their implementation has been discussed at each meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group on International Environmental Governance since the Group was established pursuant to Governing Council Decision 21/21 in February 2001. At the Group's third meeting, in Algiers in September 2001, the idea of a pilot programmatic (issue) clustering of MEAs in the area of hazardous chemicals and wastes was raised. It was suggested that this pilot phase should be ready for review at the WSSD, at which time other possibilities to further the clustering approach, such as functional clustering should be considered. The present paper explores the practicalities and ramifications of such an approach for the further consideration of the Group at its fourth meeting, in Montreal in December 2001.

The chemicals/wastes MEAs

The paper focuses on collaboration between the Stockholm⁵ and Rotterdam⁶ Conventions dealing with hazardous chemicals and the Basel Convention on hazardous and other wastes.⁷ Together, the three Conventions provide a coherent legal framework to support environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes through their whole life-cycle, including production, use, trade and disposal. The possible inclusion of the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances in a chemicals/wastes cluster is set aside for the time being, as are potential links to regional conventions and other relevant programmes. UNEP's Chemicals Unit provides the Interim Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention and part of the Joint UNEP/FAO Interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention, as well as undertaking a number of other chemicals activities in areas such as assessment and capacity building. The FAO component of the Rotterdam Interim Secretariat is provided by the FAO's Plant Protection Service, which undertakes activities related to pest and pesticide management, including technical assistance on all aspects of pesticide management and the promotion of Integrated Pest Management. The Basel Secretariat is also provided by UNEP.⁸ UNEP Chemicals and the Basel Convention Secretariat are located in Geneva, Switzerland, while the FAO Plant Protection Service is based in Rome.

Clustering issues

The attached table outlines current cooperation and the potential for closer cooperation in future in the areas of capacity-building, science and technology, legal affairs, institutional matters, monitoring and reporting, information and awareness-raising, and programme support services. Where relevant, it notes instances where endorsement by the respective governing bodies of the Conventions⁹ may be required, and other possible considerations. It also suggests benefits that could derive from clustering. Before proceeding, these would need to be weighed against potential disadvantages such as some reduction in responsiveness to the priorities of individual Conventions and delays resulting from a requirement for some activities to be endorsed by multiple governing bodies.

Discussion of a possible clustering arrangement is supported by the fact that both the Basel Secretariat and the Chemicals Unit are currently engaged in nascent strategic planning activities. The Basel Secretariat has been asked by the Convention's Extended Bureau to prepare a draft 10-year Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention for consideration by the Conference of Parties in December 2002. For its part, the Chemicals Unit is facilitating consideration of a possible "strategic approach to international chemicals management", which UNEP Governing Council has decided will be discussed at the Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2002 (Decision 21/7).

Implementation of clustering

Should it be determined that programmatic clustering of the chemicals and wastes MEAs should proceed, it is envisaged that this would essentially involve building upon existing collaboration between UNEP Chemicals and the FAO Plant Protection Service, as Interim Secretariats for the Rotterdam and the Stockholm Conventions, and the Basel Convention Secretariat in a more deliberate and intensive fashion. In the short to medium term, clustering would most likely focus on enhanced programmatic and functional cooperation. Measures such as integration of programme support services might be a more distant objective, taking into account, for example, the potential for developing common services

⁵ The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants was adopted in 2001 and will enter into force after the submission of 50 instruments of ratification. As of 26 October 2001 there had been 2 ratifications.

⁶ The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade was adopted in 1998 and will enter into force after the submission of 50 instruments of ratification. As of 26 October 2001 there had been 16 ratifications.

⁷ The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted in 1989 and entered into force in 1992. As of 26 October 2001, 147 countries and the European Community are Parties to the Convention.

⁸ While there is no broader UNEP "Wastes Unit" linked with the Basel Convention Secretariat, waste-related issues are also dealt with by UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Environment (the parent Division of the Chemicals Unit).

⁹ The Basel Convention is governed by a Conference of the Parties. Pending entry into force, the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions are overseen by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committees that were responsible for developing them.

not just within the chemicals/wastes cluster but also with other co-located Convention secretariats or UNEP units.

To the extent that individual measures require the endorsement of respective Governing Bodies, the implementation of clustering of the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions would necessarily be an incremental process. For certain issues, in the cases of Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, it would be necessary to wait until Conferences of the Parties come into being following entry into force of the Conventions. The question of different memberships and meeting cycles of the respective Conventions should also be addressed in this context. Some of the programme coordination and collaboration that is already taking place and could be enhanced on the initiative of the secretariats under the direction of their Governing Bodies. A meeting of the Stockholm Convention Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee will be held in June 2002 and its Rotterdam counterpart will meet again in late 2002, as will the Basel Convention's Conference of Parties.

Conclusion

The International Environmental Governance Group may wish to note the extent of current and potential future programmatic collaboration among the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, and to consider the aspects of clustering that would require formal endorsement by respective governing bodies, bearing in mind the incremental process that would be needed to secure such endorsements

Chemicals/wastes mea clustering concept

[Interim Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention (UNEP Chemicals and FAO Plant Protection Service), Interim Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention (UNEP Chemicals), and Secretariat of the Basel Convention]

Cooperation area	Existing activities	Further potential	COP/INC approval requirements and other considerations	Possible net benefits
<u>Capacity-building</u>	<p>Some mutual participation in each other's workshops</p> <p>UNEP Chemicals-Basel joint PCB projects in Central America and Southern Africa currently under development (will meet Stockholm and Basel objectives)</p> <p>UNEP Chemicals and Basel participation, along with FAO and the World Bank, in the Africa Stockpile Project for the disposal of obsolete pesticides and other unwanted chemicals</p> <p>Utilization of regional and national offices of UNEP and FAO</p> <p>UNEP Chemicals and FAO cooperation on pesticide disposal</p> <p>FAO support to workshops on POPs alternatives</p>	<p>Increased focus on joint workshops that cover all aspects of chemicals and wastes</p> <p>Stockholm National Implementation Plans to take account of any co-related Basel and Rotterdam objectives</p> <p>Utilization of Basel Regional Centres by Rotterdam and Stockholm on an interim basis (pending COP guidance)</p> <p>Basel & Rotterdam to cooperate in training related to Prior Informed Consent procedure (but note limited commonality)</p> <p>Coordinated support for emergency response efforts</p> <p>Strengthening of joint approach in channelling requests and technical and financial assistance in POPs related issues</p> <p>Joint fund-raising for projects serving the objectives of more than one Convention</p> <p>Integration of Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel in FAO capacity-building for pesticides</p>	<p>Participation in each other's activities may impact on priorities agreed by respective COPs/INCs/Governing Bodies – prior approval may be required</p> <p>Joint projects may require more flexibility in rules for use of each Convention's Trust Fund (Rotterdam & Stockholm rules still to be developed by COPs). The differing memberships of the Conventions will also be an issue.</p> <p>Regional centres a matter for guidance by individual COPs, which would need to endorse a joint approach</p> <p>Rotterdam has a rather different "customer base" at the national level than Basel and Stockholm</p> <p>Donors may prefer contributions be utilized for one Convention/by one secretariat only</p>	<p>Integrated projects that further the objectives of and assist implementation of all three Conventions would avoid duplication and may be easier for participating countries to "digest"</p> <p>Rotterdam/Stockholm involvement in Basel Regional Centres could strengthen their viability and avoid duplication</p> <p>Integrated approach to pesticide management</p>

Cooperation area	Existing activities	Further potential	COP/INC approval requirements and other considerations	Possible net benefits
		management		
<u>Science & technology</u>	Stockholm Article 6 and Diplomatic Conference Resolution request the interim secretariat to cooperate with the Basel secretariat on environmentally sound management of waste POPs, e.g. Basel Technical Working Group now working on technical guidelines. Similarly, Basel COP Decision 5/8 requested the secretariat to continue cooperation with UNEP Chemicals.	<p>Destruction technologies & alternatives</p> <p>Pooling of information on health & environmental impacts</p> <p>Cooperation in promoting environmentally sound management of hazardous substances through their whole life-cycles</p>	<p>Subsidiary technical bodies closely tied to overall governance structure and procedures of each convention</p> <p>Joint assessment of substances difficult due to differing remits, membership structures and procedures of technical bodies under each Convention</p> <p>No assessment or standard-setting roles for Rotterdam. Its actions are triggered by national assessments.</p>	Pooling of scientific expertise and avoidance of duplication
<u>Legal</u>	Participation in enforcement workshops	<p>National legislative & regulatory frameworks</p> <p>Compliance & enforcement (incl. on illegal traffic)</p> <p>Liability and redress/compensation</p> <p>Intellectual property rights</p> <p>Commercial confidentiality</p> <p>Trade & environment</p> <p>Dispute settlement</p> <p>Harmonized customs codes</p> <p>Inclusion of Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel legal issues in FAO technical assistance on pesticide legislation</p>	<p>Rotterdam and Stockholm have no equivalent to Basel's Legal Working Group</p> <p>Limitations flowing from fact that legal issues relate closely to specific texts of each Convention</p> <p>Potential may be for sharing of experiences rather than for joint action (cf capacity-building)</p>	<p>Avoid some duplication by drawing on the prior experience of others (eg if Stockholm pursues liability issue, could draw on Basel)</p> <p>Better national legislation/knowledge</p>
<u>Institutional</u>	<p>Secretariats have regular coordination meetings</p> <p>Some Basel Regional Centres are being utilized for workshops on issues relating to the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Convention</p>	<p>Policy development, e.g. Basel involvement in possible "strategic approach to international chemicals management"</p> <p>Joint participation in external forums (e.g. IFCS, IOMC)</p> <p>Joint meetings of Bureaux</p>	<p>All Conventions already mandate their secretariats to ensure "necessary coordination" with other relevant international bodies</p> <p>But each Convention is autonomous and secretariats are responsible to each COP/INC</p> <p>Limited mandates of bureaux and separate COP/INC cycles and different memberships</p>	<p>Integrated policy development</p> <p>Improved understanding amongst Conventions of each other's mandates</p> <p>Better coordination at national levels would benefit all Conventions</p>

Cooperation area	Existing activities	Further potential	COP/INC approval requirements and other considerations	Possible net benefits
		<p>Jointly promote coordination at national levels among focal points and authorities for each Convention</p> <p>Utilization of Basel Regional Centres by Stockholm and Rotterdam (during interim periods, pending eventual decisions by COPs) and establishment of a coordination mechanism for Centre activities in support of the three Conventions</p>	<p>The division of the Rotterdam secretariat between UNEP and FAO is a potential complication for integrated support activities</p>	
<u>Reporting/ monitoring</u>		<p>Organization of data at national level so that it can be drawn upon for reporting requirements of each Convention</p> <p>Joint assistance re fulfilment of reporting obligations</p> <p>Assessment, e.g. global POPs monitoring network, Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances, inventories of waste sites</p> <p>Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers</p>	<p>Reporting requirements are COP/INC generated – coordinated facilitation of reporting may require formal endorsement</p> <p>Unevenness in compliance with reporting obligations among the Conventions may undermine effectiveness of a joint approach</p> <p>Varying degrees of specificity of the data and information to be reported under each Convention</p>	<p>Improved performance in fulfilment of reporting obligations by Parties</p> <p>Avoidance of duplication in assessment activities</p>
<u>Information/outreach & awareness-raising</u>	<p>Some joint awareness-raising activities</p> <p>Joint publication of Inventory of Worldwide PCB Destruction Capacity</p> <p>Mutual participation in editorial committees for newsletters and other publications</p>	<p>Linked websites and further joint publications</p> <p>Improved information management at national level, e.g. through “Internet in Africa”</p> <p>Joint outreach and public awareness activities</p> <p>Consultant/expert databases</p>		<p>Integrated “messaging” more effective?</p> <p>Pooling of secretariat resources</p> <p>Improved developing country internet access a plus for all Conventions</p>

Cooperation area	Existing activities	Further potential	COP/INC approval requirements and other considerations	Possible net benefits
		Industry and NGO liaison Joint exhibitions at environmental and agricultural fairs		
<u>Programme support services</u>	Financial administration	Other programme support functions	Because many programme support functions are reflected in the individual budgets approved by the Governing Bodies for the respective secretariats, careful analysis would be required before clustering was attempted in this area	Potential for enhanced efficiency and coordination in programme support services, and possible cost savings should be carefully studied