

Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2013

Briefing to Permanent Missions

Jim Willis, Executive Secretary

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Outline

- Background and mandate
- Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the COPs from 28 April to 10 May 2013 in Geneva
- Bureaux meetings
- Benefits
- Initial planning
- Organization of work
- Possible schedule of the meeting
- Effective participation by delegates
- Preparations for Permanent Missions

Background

- First ExCOPs were held from 22 to 24 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia
 - Omnibus decisions were adopted

Mandate

- BC-10/29, RC-5/12 and SC-5/27 asked for:
 - Holding 2013 COPs in a coordinated manner
 - Holding ExCOPs in 2013, back-to-back and at the same venue as the last ordinary meeting of the COPs
 - Provided main focus of ExCOPs agenda

Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the COPs from 28 April to 10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland

- Proposal developed by the Executive Secretary
 - Discussed by the Presidents of the 3 COPs
 - Reviewed and approved by the three bureaux, in consultation with parties in their regions
- Thought starter developed on a possible approach for the organization of work during the two-week period
- Both documents available on *Synergies* website (<http://synergies.pops.int>)

Bureaux meetings

- Presidents' Joint Meeting: 9 May 2012 (Geneva)
- Stockholm Convention COP Bureau:
 - Meeting from 10-11 May 2012 (Geneva)
- Rotterdam Convention COP Bureau:
 - Teleconference on 23 May 2012
 - Meeting from 13-14 September 2012 (Rome)
- Basel Convention COP Expanded Bureau:
 - Teleconference on 28 June 2012
 - Meeting from 12-13 November 2012 (Geneva)
- Joint Bureaux meeting: 13-14 December 2012 (Geneva)

Benefits

- Consider whole of the work ongoing under the conventions
- Ensure effective and coherent decision-making on policy, technical and budget matters
- Cross-fertilization of ideas
- COPs to identify best practices for implementing the conventions that could benefit all three conventions
- Collectively consider approaches for financing implementation and technical assistance
- Collectively decide on reallocation of administrative savings from 2012-2013 biennium (total estimated to be USD \$2.7-3.0 million)

Benefits (cont.)

- Collective stock-taking for the review of the synergies process
- Help identify new areas where synergies can be achieved
- Increased visibility and awareness of conventions
- Administrative cost savings (USD \$1.2 – 1.5 million) resulting from reduction in conference service costs and staff time

Initial planning

- COPs and ExCOPs to meet from 28 April-10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland
- ExCOPs to convene morning of first day and on the last day and cover topics agreed on the ExCOPs agenda (as per 2011 synergies decisions) – next slide
- Ordinary COPs could meet sequentially (or as otherwise decided) and cover specific items within the mandate of that COP
- ExCOPs can decide to establish contact group(s) (e.g. budget, synergies) that could meet during full 2-weeks
- Bureaux meets each morning during the ExCOPs/COPs to agree on the order of business for the day

Main focus of agenda of the ExCOPs

- As per paragraph 18 of decisions BC-10/29, RC-5/12 and SC-5/27
 - Review of arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions
 - Proposal for the organization of the secretariats
 - Draft proposals for joint activities for 2014–2015
 - Budget for joint activities and possible necessary amendments to the budget of the three conventions for the biennium 2014–2015
 - Outcome of the UNEP Executive Director's consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes
 - Other matters related to cooperation and coordination between the conventions that the ordinary COPs may wish to place on the ExCOPs agenda

Organization of work

- Regional, bureaux and other preparatory meetings on 27 April
- Possibility of high-level segment if decided by the bureaux at joint bureaux meeting
- The precise organization of work of the meetings will be determined by the bureaux
- A detailed meeting schedule will be made available after the joint bureaux meeting to be held on 12-14 December 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland

Possible schedule of the meeting (as per thought starter)

Week 1		Sun 28 April	Mon 29 April	Tue 30 April	Wed 1 May	Thu 2 May	Fri 3 May	Sat 4 May
	<i>Morning session 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</i>	ExCOPs	BC	BC	BC	RC	RC	RC
<i>Afternoon session 3–6 p.m.</i>	BC	BC	BC	BC	RC	RC	RC	

Week 2		Sun 5 May	Mon 6 May	Tue 7 May	Wed 8 May	Thu 9 May	Fri 10 May
	<i>Morning session 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</i>	No meetings	RC	SC	SC	SC	ExCOPs
<i>Afternoon session 3–6 p.m.</i>	No meetings	SC	SC	SC	SC	ExCOPs	

Effective participation by delegates

- Funding for one participant per Convention for which an eligible country is party (i.e., up to 3 participants)
 - Some donors have already provided funding for participants travel
- Scheduling of all meetings must be clear, logical and easy to plan and cover for delegations
 - Daily order of business posted every morning on the intranet site and communicated in regional groups meetings

Effective participation by delegates (cont.)

- Limited number of contact groups running in parallel
- Reduced number and length of meeting documents
- IT infrastructure (paperless meeting) and social media to facilitate communication among delegates
- Credentials for all meetings can be presented in one document

Preparations for Permanent Missions

- Communicate with constituencies about 2013 COPs
- Support high level participation, if agreed by bureaux
- Support regional and interministerial coordination
- Invitation letters will be sent end of December 2012
- Documents will be available in December – February (target is 90+ days in advance for substantive documents)

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