

Cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and UNEP's Chemicals Branch

Overall goal

A task force was established in early 2014 to assess possible areas of cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (BRS) and UNEP's Chemicals Branch. The overall aim of such collaborative efforts is to improve the services provided to parties, observers and other stakeholders to the three conventions, as well as to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), the Minamata Convention and other programmatic work of the Chemicals Branch, and to enhance efficiencies in the delivery of those services. The task force is composed of staff members from each entity and its work is on-going.

Mandates

Numerous decisions of the Conferences of the Parties to the BRS conventions, the International Conference on Chemicals Management of SAICM and the International Negotiating Committee of the Minamata Convention, as well as the UNEP Governing Council and the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), called for cooperation and coordination on general and specific issues associated with chemicals and waste management. Cooperation between the BRS Secretariat and the Chemicals Branch of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is currently on-going in some cross-cutting programmatic areas, mainly on a case-by-case basis. Realizing that greater cooperation and efficiencies could be achieved through increased coordination, the task force developed a table listing the cross-cutting mandates of these concerned entities and identifying areas where there is on-going cooperation and coordination or where there is potential for joint efforts and shared responsibilities.

Scope and process

The task force has focused its work on cross-cutting mandated activities and on other possible areas of organizational cooperation. In so doing, the task force has adopted a practical approach to identifying possible areas of cooperation, focusing on commonly agreed priority areas as well as those for which concrete and realistic outcomes could be achieved, such as cooperation in the delivery of the upcoming regional workshops to support ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention, the alignment of calendars of meetings, activities and workshops and coordination on preparations for upcoming events of common interest.

Areas for which additional resources are required in order for successful collaboration to be carried out have been highlighted. Possibilities for achieving and maintaining the sustainability of cooperative arrangements in the medium and long-term have also been assessed as part of the deliberations of the task force. As a result, emphasis has been placed on establishing long-term cooperative arrangements which would support the functionality of processes over time and foster good coordination and cooperation.

The task force has also focused its attention on maximizing outcomes as a result of good cooperation; this has included improving timeframes and the quality and value of outputs. It has also agreed on the need to develop and highlight success stories, such as the recent excellent cooperation between the BRS

Secretariat and UNEP Chemicals in the planning and execution of a side event, on the sound management of chemicals and hazardous wastes, in light of the forthcoming sustainable development goals, during the UNEA meeting in Nairobi in 2014.

The task force does not attempt to take on functions beyond its mandate. It works instead with and through staff members of the two entities responsible for specific programmatic areas to seek their inputs and views on improving existing and developing new areas of cooperation.

In addition to cross-cutting mandated activities, various other operational areas which could benefit from additional cooperation have also been identified, such as: clearing house mechanisms, technical assistance, legal services, public awareness and outreach, regional delivery, support to national coordination, technical and scientific matters and cooperation with partners.

Various ongoing or potential activities which could foster cooperation have been identified as reflected in the table below.

Areas of ongoing or potential cooperation and coordination in the work of the Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and UNEP Chemicals	
Areas of cooperation	Ongoing/potential activities
Enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemical and wastes cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The encouragement, acknowledgement and reporting of cooperation between the two group in relevant meeting documents. • The consideration of cooperation early in planning stages of the respective programmes of work. • Cooperation between the BRS Secretariat and UNEP Chemicals on the development of targets and indicators to mainstream chemicals and wastes into the SDGs, under IMG group on chemicals and wastes. • Participation of the BRS Secretariat in follow-up activities (Benefits of action) that may be initiated on Costs of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals (not yet started). • Participation of the BRS Secretariat in follow-up to the Global Chemicals Outlook, coordinated by UNEP Chemicals.
Minamata Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation in the organization of the sub-regional workshops on early ratification of the Minamata Convention (March-December 2014). • Organization of the regional workshops on the Minamata Convention back-to-back with the BRS regional preparatory meetings (March-April 2015). • Organization of online meetings/webinars to prepare for the regional workshops on the Minamata Convention. • Preparation of INC-6 documents in consultation with the BRS Secretariat. • Reporting of the BRS Secretariat to Mercury INCs on the updating of the Technical Guidelines on mercury wastes. • Cooperation between the Minamata and Basel Convention Secretariat on mercury waste issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of the BRS Secretariat as resource persons in meetings of the Experts Group to develop guidance on BAT/BEP for controlling emissions, as called for in Article 8 of the Minamata Convention.
UNEP Global Mercury Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of the BRS Secretariat in the Global Mercury Partnership administered by UNEP Chemicals. • Cooperation of the BRS Secretariat with UNEP Chemicals to develop a practical source book on mercury storage and disposal.
SAICM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of BRS Secretariat inputs, as appropriate, to relevant emerging issues, such as hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products, chemicals in products, perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) and the transition to safer alternatives (through the Global PFC Group). • Sharing of information on ongoing/approved projects which are relevant to the implementation of the conventions, for which funding was received under SAICMQSP. • Support from the BRS Secretariat to SAICM to assist with the delivery of OEWG2, to be held from 14-17 December 2014 in Geneva, in particular, for the management of meeting documents at the meeting. • Development of the SAICM orientation and guidance document on the 2020 goal, would provide an opportunity to highlight collaborative 'best practices' for SAICM stakeholders. • Enhance joint programming with respect to hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products. The Basel Convention has a relevant mandate and SAICM brings the opportunity for the full life-cycle approach. • There is an opportunity for increased collaboration in the area of reporting and information gathering from parties.
DDT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of the BRS Secretariat in the development of the roadmap, and the DDT Global Alliance administered by UNEP Chemicals. • Administration by the BRS Secretariat of some DDT-related funds from voluntary contributions for the Chemicals Branch.
PCBs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration of the BRS Secretariat with UNEP Chemicals in the PCB Elimination Network (PEN), administered by UNEP Chemicals. • Coordination of BRS Secretariat activities to develop the overview report on the status of PCBs elimination on the basis of the national reports under Article 15 and other relevant information, in collaboration with UNEP Chemicals and PEN. • Joint organization of a meeting of the PEN Advisory Committee back-to-back with the BAT&BEP on Persistent Organic Pollutants expert group in November 2014. • Review of the draft report by the PEN Advisory Committee and develop joint conclusions and recommendations for COP-7. • Administration of some funds by the BRS Secretariat for the PEN received from voluntary contributions.
Technical and scientific matters	Exchange of relevant technical and scientific information between UNEP Chemicals, the BRS Secretariat, as well as with the Secretariat of SAICM and other relevant intergovernmental bodies, concerning the procedures developed and the chemicals being discussed under the

	three conventions.
Lead and cadmium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of the BRS Secretariat in the Global Lead in paint Partnership administered by UNEP Chemicals and future similar initiatives on Lead and Cadmium
Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Dioxin and Furan Releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint BRS Secretariat and UNEP Chemicals implementation of the process of reviewing and updating the Toolkit. • Joint consideration of Toolkit and BAT/BEP issues under a single expert group (during Stockholm INC and early SC-COPs, these two were separate groups). • Development of an Inter-cooperation Agreement that defines the collaboration on the toolkit, between UNEP Chemicals and BRS. • Updating of the guidance document for the Toolkit as a living document which is updated as new information becomes available.
BAT and BEP of the Stockholm Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of UNEP Chemicals in the Stockholm Convention process on BAT & BEP for the review and updating of the BAT & BEP guidelines.
Global Monitoring Plan for Effectiveness Evaluation of the Stockholm Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of the Global Coordination Group and the regional groups for the Global Monitoring Plan on POPs (GMP) by the BRS Secretariat with the participation of UNEP Chemicals as an expert observer, in addition to the regionally appointed members. The GMP is implemented by UNEP Chemicals. • Provision of substantial co-financing and in-kind contributions to GEF projects by the BRS Secretariat, which are implemented and executed by the Chemicals Branch. • Participation of the BRS Secretariat in steering committees of regional GEF projects undertaken by UNEP Chemicals to assist countries to implement the GMP. • Collaboration between the BRS Secretariat, UNEP Chemicals and WHO, under a letter of agreement, to implement the Human Milk Survey.
Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with UNEP DTIE IETC and the BRS Secretariat on the development of the Global Wastes Outlook and the Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM). • Updating of the Technical Guidelines on unintentional POPs by UNEP Chemicals. UNEP Chemicals are also contributing to the updating of the POPs technology fact sheets, undertaken by the BRS Secretariat (as contained in the Training Manual for the Destruction and Decontamination Technologies for PCBs and other POPs Wastes under the Basel Convention).
Technical assistance and financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interaction of the BRS Secretariat with UNEP Chemicals, as a GEF executing agency, within the framework of the development/ implementation of its GEF projects. • Interaction of the BRS Secretariat with UNEP Chemicals, as a participating organization of the IOMC, to ensure that provisions relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are taken into account in its TA activities. • Joint/coordinated participation between BRS, the Interim Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, and UNEP Chemicals in GEF-related events. • Cooperation / coordination on matters related to resource mobilization and financing under the conventions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional proposed collaborative actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ technical assistance focal points to establish regular contact ○ inform relevant colleagues/relevant partners of upcoming events/activities and seek their comments on the agenda of the event ○ invite relevant colleagues to attend an event and provide expertise as appropriate ○ invite relevant colleagues to actively participate in an event (i.e. deliver a presentation) ○ invite relevant colleagues to brainstorm about the planning of a possible collaborative activity ○ develop and implement an activity together: manage it together, deliver it together, etc. (send joint letters of invitation, use logos of all partners, share the workload, etc.) ○ give credit to the work of others verbally and/or in products developed with the inputs of others ○ mobilize resources together ○ joint approaches to contact partners ○ invite relevant regional national authorities to participate in national activities on crosscutting issues ○ share information on the respective calendars of TA activities (a subgroup of the task force is looking at listing UNEP Chemicals activities under the BRS calendar)
<p>Regional delivery (*)</p>	<p>Cooperation by UNEP Chemicals and BRS Secretariat with the BRS network of regional centers and with UNEP and FAO regional offices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed collaborative actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ invitation of regional centers to relevant meetings organized in their respective regions ○ enhance and develop technical capacities in regional centers and offices, i.e. use technical expertise of centers (regional experts) to provide regional support. ○ cooperation on the organization of TA delivery activities: regional centers and offices can provide possible meeting venues ○ increase the availability of relevant information/outreach materials available for display/ distribution (when possible in relevant languages), at regional centers and offices ○ provide coordinated inputs to regional ministerial meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Share information on country profiles - Develop projects which encourage the coordinated use of regional centers, such projects to be undertaken by the regional centers and build on lessons learned ○ increase access to information on capacities and activities of regional centers and offices ○ coordinate approach towards collaboration with the MEA focal points in UNEP regional offices

<p>Support national coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation of relevant national authorities of the two groups to relevant meetings. • Collaboration on the dissemination of good practices and, if necessary, the elaboration of guidance and training in key areas. • When relevant, national implementation plans (NIPs, NAPs, etc.) should include references to the work and provisions under the BRS Conventions and UNEP Chemicals.
<p>Consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRS represented in the internal Task team to support the implementation of UNEA Resolution I/5 on the Special Programme established as an outcome of the UNEP DELC/UNEP Chemicals consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes.
<p>Information resources (*)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic list of upcoming events and communication opportunities The list provides opportunities for internal coordination before an event of mutual interest takes place, on issues such as participation, on the delivery of statements, the presentation of documents or the delivery of side events. • Joint calendar of meetings and workshops An external/internal tool to provide a one-stop shopping for all chemicals and wastes-related meetings within BRS and the Chemicals Branch, i.e. parties and other users will be able to find information on the BRS Secretariat, UNEP Chemicals, Minamata Convention and SAICM meetings by using one tool which will be available to BRS and to UNEP Chemicals. • Coordination on the implementation of relevant UNEA decisions Identification of relevant UNEA decision components which are common to the two groups and develop a mutually supportive implementation strategy. • Table listing mandates for coordination The table serves as a map to identify cross-cutting mandates, as well as focal points in the BRSSecretariat and in UNEP Chemicals. • Clearing houses and knowledge management CHMs could link/point to each other's relevant activities. The BRS Secretariat is already hosting the Minamata Convention Website. Possible cooperation at the regional/national level to connect regional/national networks to the BRS Secretariat clearing house mechanism as well as between BRS clearing house mechanism and SAICM's.
<p>Organization of meetings (e.g. COPs, INCs, ICCM/ OEWG, subsidiary bodies, regional preparatory meetings)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation is ongoing on the logistical organization of meetings. • Cooperation regarding the delivery of side events, messages, etc. • Drafting of documents; and submission of documents by respective governing bodies in each other meetings. • In-session staff support. • Organization of regional preparatory meetings, as relevant. • BRS Secretariat invited UNEP Chemicals to cooperate in the Science Fair during 2015 COPs.

Legal services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange information on respective mandates and practices with respect to legal (corporate, legal advice to meetings, implementation) and compliance matters and possibly develop joint approaches and/or activities.
Public awareness and outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of opportunities to increase coordination and cooperation on public awareness and outreach-related activities. • Production of joint publications, giving credit to each other and highlighting cooperation. • Exploration of collaboration on the production of BRS and UNEP Chemicals newsletters. • Link to each other's relevant websites for newly -posted information products • When relevant, focus on crosscutting issues: Links to life-cycle approach, delivering as one and benefits to parties.
Cooperation with Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For cross-cutting areas, opportunities for cooperation with partners need to be identified, especially when developing projects and when participating in meetings.
Participation in HR matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration between the BRS and UNEP Chemicals regarding participation in recruitment panels.

(*) May have resource implications (financial/ staffing implications).