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**Basel Convention on the Control of
Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

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**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade**



**Stockholm Convention on Persistent
Organic Pollutants**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Basel Convention on the Control
of Transboundary Movements
of Hazardous Wastes and
Their Disposal
Fifteenth meeting**
Geneva, 26–30 July 2021 and 6–17
June 2022*

**Conference of the Parties to the
Rotterdam Convention on the
Prior Informed Consent Procedure
for Certain Hazardous Chemicals
and Pesticides in International Trade
Tenth meeting**
Geneva, 26–30 July 2021 and 6–17
June 2022*

**Conference of the Parties to the
Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants
Tenth meeting**
Geneva, 26–30 July 2021 and 6–17
June 2022*

Organization of the high-level segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Note by the Secretariat

1. By decisions BC-14/27, RC-9/15 and SC-9/25, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants decided, among other things, that the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties would include a high-level segment of no more than one day's duration.
2. The bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, during their joint meeting on 1 and 2 February 2022, agreed to task the Secretariat to explore the possibility of organizing the high-level segment in the margins of the Stockholm+50 international meeting, scheduled to be held on 2 and 3 June 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden.
3. Following consultations, on 24 March 2022 the Government of Sweden informed the Secretariat that it had assessed the proposal for organizing the high-level segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in connection to the

* In accordance with decisions BC-15/1, RC-10/2 and SC-10/2 of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the 2021/2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties are being held in two segments: an online segment held from 26 to 30 July 2021 and a face-to-face segment to be held from 6 to 17 June 2022 in Geneva.

Stockholm+50 international meeting and that the high-level segment of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties could be held on 1 June 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden.

4. Information on the organization of the high-level segment is set out in the annex to the present note. The present note, including its annex, has not been formally edited.

Annex

Organization of the high-level segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

I. Organization

1. The high-level segment will take place on Wednesday, 1 June 2022 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 p.m in connection with the Stockholm+50 international meeting in the Victoria Hall at the Stockholm exhibition and convention centre “Stockholmsmässn” at Älvsjö, in Stockholm, Sweden.
2. Attendance will be open to high-level representatives from Parties and observers to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, however participation in the ministerial interactive discussions will be limited to ministers (or their equivalent).
3. Ministers and other high-level representatives wishing to participate in the high-level segment of the conferences of the Parties need to be registered as part of their delegation attending the Stockholm+50 international meeting in order to get a badge to access the premises.
4. Simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations will be provided during the meeting.
5. To assist ministers in engaging in the high-level segment, a programme, and a thought starter, comprising information aimed at guiding ministers in the discussion, is available on the conventions’ website: <http://www.brsmeas.org/20212022COPs>.

II. Objective

6. The objective of the high-level segment is to provide an interactive, dynamic and inclusive platform for ministers to exchange experiences and to provide political leadership for renewed commitment towards the implementation of the conventions. In doing so, the high-level segment aims to raise political awareness of and support for the conventions, as well as promote a dialogue among ministers, and between ministers and other high-level representatives.

III. Schedule

7. The high-level segment will take place on Wednesday, 1 June 2022 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. A light lunch will be served between 12:00 and 12:45 prior to the start of the high-level segment to encourage further interactive exchanges among all high-level participants.
8. All participants are requested to be in the Victoria Hall before the start of the meeting. Ministers (or their equivalent) will be ushered to their seats, at 12:45 p.m. All participants are requested to be seated by 12:55 p.m. The opening ceremony of the high-level segment will commence at 1:00 p.m.
9. The high-level segment will consist of the following elements: an opening ceremony, three sequential ministerial interactive discussions, a summary of the discussions and emerging key messages, and a closing ceremony.

A. Opening of the High-level Segment (1:00–1:30 p.m.)

10. The Presidents of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will resume the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
11. Opening remarks will be made by Ms. Annika Strandhall, Minister of Environment of Sweden, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Deputy Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

B. Ministerial interactive discussions (1:30–3:30 p.m.)

12. Three ministerial interactive discussions will run sequentially with simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations. Each ministerial interactive

discussion will be moderated, to promote an interactive, engaging discussion among ministers on key issues related to the conventions.

C. Closing (3:30–4:00 p.m.)

13. A summary of key messages emerging from the ministerial interactive discussions will be presented by the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, Mr. Rolph Payet. Ministers and other high-level representatives will have the opportunity to exchange further views on their political insights on the key messages.

14. The Presidents of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions will then adjourn the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which will resume on Monday, 6 June 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland. The high-level segment will close at 4:00 p.m.

15. A group photo of the ministers will be taken after the closure of the high-level segment.

IV. Themes and sub-themes

16. Under the theme “Global Agreements for a Healthy Planet: Sound management of chemicals and waste” the high-level segment will address how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions contribute to tackle the triple planetary environmental crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

17. For the purposes of the ministerial interactive discussions the theme is sub-divided into following sub-themes:

(a) Opportunities for addressing pollution as one of the three planetary crises through the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(b) Opportunities for moving towards the life-cycle management of chemicals and waste through the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) Opportunities for enhancing implementation of the conventions and ensure overall coherence through innovative approaches to financing.

A. Opportunities for addressing the three planetary crises of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss through the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

18. Under this sub-theme, discussion participants may wish to discuss the following questions:

(a) How can the full implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions effectively address many of the underlying causes of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss, including high-profile issues like plastic pollution, among others?

(b) What are the key benefits presented by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in addressing pollution in order to achieve climate change and biodiversity conservation related goals and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

(c) How can it be ensured that the sound management of chemicals and wastes, and the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are included in national implementation plans and integrated into national development strategies?

(d) Which further actions can be undertaken at the national level to achieve specific targets and goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relating to the sound management of chemicals and wastes?

B. Opportunities offered by the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for moving towards a life-cycle management of chemicals and waste

19. Under this sub-theme, ministers may wish to discuss the following questions:

(a) How can the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions be of use for countries to move towards a life-cycle approach at the national level?

(b) What are the challenges and opportunities in national efforts to establish and secure mechanisms and institutions to ensure the implementation of a life-cycle approach in connection with the sound management of chemicals and wastes?

(c) How could national legislation for implementing the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and thereby the promotion of the life-cycle management be built up, strengthened and/or enforced?

(d) How can key stakeholders such as academia, civil society and the private sector contribute to shifting to a circular economy?

(e) How can the adoption of best practices on the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout the value chain (e.g. extended producer responsibility; making publicly available information about chemical hazards and risks; adopting green design and best available techniques and best environmental practices; monitoring of contamination of air, water and land by hazardous chemicals and wastes) be further promoted?

C. Opportunities for enhancing implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions through the promotion of new and clean technologies and innovative approaches to financing

20. Under this sub-theme, ministers may wish to discuss the following questions:

(a) What innovative approaches to financing could be harnessed to bridge the gap between the funds needed and the available funds to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions?

(b) What mechanisms could be put in place to ensure that the priority needs identified by Parties for the implementation of their obligations under the conventions are addressed consequently through the development and implementation of targeted projects and activities funded through existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms?

(c) How can the visibility of the impact of the conventions (e.g., the mechanism for promoting implementation and compliance with the Basel Convention; the effectiveness of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention; and the effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention) be increased, thus enhancing their contribution to addressing the three planetary environmental crises and the objectives of the conventions?

(d) What are the main challenges for enhancing the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at the national level and how can they be overcome?

(e) How can the objectives of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions be coherently integrated into international development assistance?

(f) How can the role of the Basel and Stockholm conventions regional centres in capacity building and technology transfer for the sound management of chemicals and wastes be promoted and strengthened?
