

Convention: BC

Provide support to parties in follow up to the country-led initiative on addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment

LEGAL BASIS/MANDATE:

- Programme of Work Activity 34
- Decision BC-11/1: Follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative to improve the effectiveness of the Basel Convention – Addressing entry into force of the Ban Amendment

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Ban Amendment provides for the prohibition of all transboundary movements from each Party included in Annex VII of the Basel Convention (Parties and other States which are members of the OECD, EC, Liechtenstein) to States not included in Annex VII of hazardous wastes covered by the Convention that are intended for final disposal, and of all transboundary movements to States not included in Annex VII of hazardous wastes covered by paragraph 1 (a) of Article 1 of the Convention that are destined for reuse, recycling or recovery operations.

Decision BC-11/1 on the Follow-up to the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative (CLI), adopted by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, takes a cross-cutting approach aimed at supporting and ensuring effective implementation and enforcement of the Basel Convention. Through this decision, benefits for parties are sought on multiple fronts, including through (i) addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment; (ii) developing guidelines for environmentally sound management and (iii) providing further legal clarity on certain terms. This concept note focuses on addressing the entry into force of the Ban Amendment.

Section I of decision BC-11/1 invites Parties to continue to take concrete actions towards encouraging and assisting Parties to ratify the Ban Amendment. The Secretariat is also requested, within available resources, to continue to assist Parties, upon request, which are having difficulties with the Ban Amendment.

This proposal is developed in response to the abovementioned mandate and specific requests from Parties for the Secretariat to support implementation of section I of decision BC-11/1. The proposal also addresses a similar request by the Expanded Bureau of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

The proposed activities build on previous actions undertaken by the Secretariat in response to decision BC-10/3 on the Indonesian-Swiss country-led initiative, adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Previous actions included two global workshops on facilitation of entry into force of the Ban Amendment, organised in 2012 and 2013 with support from Basel Convention regional centres. These workshops provided relevant information to decision makers, focal points and civil society from Parties within all the United Nations regions. Information exchange was facilitated between Parties that have not ratified, accepted, acceded to or approved the Ban Amendment, as well as between these Parties and Parties that have ratified the Amendment. Previous actions also included activities organised prior to and following up from the workshops, in order to identify and address common challenges faced by Parties in relation to the Ban Amendment. The feedback received indicated that the exercises undertaken assisted Parties in addressing difficulties they may have previously been facing. Parties requested replication of the activities and provided feedback on specific difficulties for which assistance was sought.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED:

Different Parties require and have requested different types of assistance in relation to the ratification of the Ban Amendment. Previous webinars and workshops identified that certain Parties require little support; some require awareness raising and provision of information to decision-makers; whereas others require more substantive support in relation to ratification such as assistance in drafting instruments. Funding of this proposal would make available to Parties a range of activities, tailored to the requesting Party, its needs, level of awareness, previous actions and political commitment to the Ban Amendment. The activities for which funding is sought in the area of addressing entry into force of the Ban Amendment are:

1. Global/regional workshops to Support Parties in the ratification of the Ban Amendment (2 workshops)

- Two workshops would be planned to encourage information exchange and exchanges of experiences on the effects of the entry into force and implementation of the Ban Amendment. The workshops would also inform on Parties' rights to prohibit the import of hazardous wastes or other wastes and to define additional wastes as hazardous, and include practical exercises. This will raise awareness of the Amendment and the Basel Convention, as well as how Parties may decide to use the relevant provisions in conjunction with the Ban Amendment.
- The workshop programme would build on the model used in the previous two global workshops and include sessions on presentation of information on common challenges, case studies from Parties that have ratified the Ban Amendment, experience-sharing, practical exercises on implementation of the Basel Convention and the Ban Amendment, discussion on challenges and barriers leading to ratification and possible solutions, including concrete examples; identification of elements for a 'National Roadmap' towards ratification of the Ban Amendment and other issues.
- The workshop could also include some additional activities to specifically build on the needs and issues identified at the previous global workshops and webinars. Collaboration with BCRCs would be sought for administrative and logistical arrangements for the workshop, as well as support in information collection and exchange prior to and after the workshop.

2. Facilitation, upon request from parties, in cooperation with the Regional Centres and key partners, of the follow-up activities to support the ratification and implementation of the Ban Amendment at national level:

- Upon request and/or following requests and recommendations transmitted during workshops, webinars, online activities and other means, the Secretariat would support the BCRCs, within available funds and capacity, to respond to Parties' needs and requests on the Ban Amendment.
- Secretariat assistance as a resource person during face-to-face national consultations and activities would be available, in addition to the online activities, to address Parties' needs, in particular as relates to awareness raising among decision-makers. Assistance and advice could be provided through:
- Liaison with the Permanent Missions in Geneva of concerned Parties, on request, for information sharing and awareness raising;
- Participation in national dialogues and consultations by an appropriate representative of the Secretariat, as a resource person;
- Liaison and cooperation with activities undertaken by other relevant initiatives as appropriate e.g. the Nordic Initiative, demarches by the Indonesian and Swiss governments.

3. Webinars, online consultations and teleconferences

- A series of online activities would be organized, in support of the workshops and aiming to address a broader than the audience of the workshops as these would include law and policy makers, including legislative and administrative authorities from Basel Convention Parties as well as civil society and industry.

RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED:

- Parties have understanding on the steps and procedures necessary for the ratification of the Ban Amendment;
- Number of parties ratified the Ban Amendment;
- Parties are aware of their rights to prohibit the import of hazardous wastes or other wastes and to define additional wastes;
- Parties received hand-on training on the implementation on transboundary movement procedures; and
- Parties, which are having difficulties in ratifying the Ban Amendment received technical assistance support.

VOLUNTARY BUDGET [USD] FOR 2014-2015		
10	PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT	
1100	<i>Professional Staff</i>	48,330
1200	<i>Consultants (one consultant at 20,000 USD and one consultant at 7,000 USD)</i>	27,000
1600	<i>Travel on Official Business (two staff travel at 5,000 to workshops and one staff travel to the national consultation at 5,000)</i>	15,000
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT	
2200	<i>Sub-contracts (two workshops)</i>	180,000
30	TRAINING COMPONENT	
3300	<i>Meetings and Conferences (one national consultation)</i>	5,000
52	MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENT	
5200	<i>Reporting costs</i>	15,000
DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET		290,330
Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%		37,742
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET		328,072