

Meeting of the Presidents of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, Geneva, Switzerland, 4 April 2013

1. Opening of the meeting

1. The Presidents of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, H. E. Mr. Franz Perrez (Switzerland, Basel Convention), Ms. Magdalena Balicka (Poland, Rotterdam Convention), Mr. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez Pérez (Chile, Stockholm Convention) met on Thursday, 4 April 2013, afternoon at the International Environment House in Geneva. The meeting opened at 2:30 p.m. on 4 April 2013.

2. Adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda of the meeting was adopted without amendments and is included in annex I to the present report.

3. Overview of organization of work for the 2013 COPs

3. The Secretariat reminded the Presidents of the schedule of work that had been approved by the bureaux of the three conventions and made available as document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/2.

4. The Presidents took note of the information provided. They felt that the adoption of the report of the simultaneous ordinary sessions of the conferences of the parties on Sunday, 28 April and Monday, 29 April should rather take place on Thursday, 2 May, at the end of the afternoon session, instead of at the beginning of the morning session. They also agreed to switch the order of consideration of issues during the simultaneous sessions of the ordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties so that reporting and POPs wastes issues would be covered in the morning of Monday, 29 April and compliance issues in the afternoon of the same day.

4. Presidents' notes: ExCOPs-2

5. The Presidents discussed the draft President's notes prepared by the Secretariat for the second simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties. The Secretariat was requested to revise the President's Notes, taking into account the comments received at the meeting, and send updated notes to the Presidents by 12 April 2013.

6. The Presidents decided that they would rotate the chairing of the extraordinary meetings, as well as the simultaneous sessions of the ordinary meetings of the three conferences of the parties. A schedule for presiding over the various sessions of the extraordinary meetings was developed.

7. The Presidents furthermore concurred that short regional statements of a maximum of five minutes could be delivered during the opening session of the meetings on Sunday, 28 April. For longer statements, the regional groups could make the text available through the intranet website of the meetings.

5. Presidents' notes: simultaneous ordinary meetings of the COPs

8. The Presidents also discussed the draft President's notes prepared by the Secretariat for the simultaneous sessions of the ordinary meetings of the three conferences of the parties. The Secretariat was requested to revise the President's notes and send updated notes to the Presidents by 12 April 2013.

9. The Presidents agreed on how to rotate the chairing of the simultaneous sessions of the ordinary meetings of the three conferences of the parties.

6. Possible contact group chairs

10. The Presidents discussed potential (co-)chairs for contact groups. They concluded that having co-chairs representing developed and developing country parties, as well as countries with economies in transition, would be desirable, but not necessary for all groups.

11. The Secretariat would contact the individuals that were identified in advance of the meetings to see if they would be available to serve as (co-)chairs of contact groups in the event that they are requested to do so by the conferences of the parties.

7. High-level segment

12. The Secretariat provided an update on the preparations of the high-level segment scheduled to take place in the afternoon and evening of Thursday, 9 May and in the morning of Friday, 10 May. About 80 ministers and vice-ministers had registered for the high-level segment so far. The relevant document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/3 would be sent to all registered ministers and vice-ministers shortly and had been made available on the synergies website.

13. The Secretariat informed the Presidents that it had worked with the small group of bureaux members established at the joint bureaux meeting in December 2012 to develop the arrangements of the high-level segment. The group had decided that there would not be speeches by ministers, but that if possible, a Chief Executive Officer from a relevant international company would be invited to deliver a keynote speech.

14. In the ensuing discussion, the Presidents considered the arrangements for the high-level segment and decided that the aim of the sessions was to stimulate an open and interactive discussion, involving all ministers. Mr. Perrez offered that students could support the logistical organization of the high-level segment.

15. On a possible ministerial declaration, the Presidents concurred that consultations on the declaration should be held in advance of the meetings among the representatives of the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva. A facilitator would be appointed to incorporate comments and continue the consultations on the draft. The draft declaration could be presented during the meetings and possibly be adopted by acclamation on Friday, 10 May, morning.

8. Agenda of the joint meeting of the bureaux on 27 April 2013

16. The Presidents agreed on the provisional agenda of the joint meeting of the bureaux of the conference of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to take place prior to the meetings on Saturday, 27 April 2013. The provisional agenda is set out in annex II to the present report.

9. Schedule/organization of bureaux meetings during the two weeks

17. The first joint bureaux meeting would take place on Saturday, 27 April 2013, from 1-3 p.m. in the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG). Subsequently, bureaux meetings would be held every morning from 8-9 a.m. starting on Monday, 29 April 2013. The Presidents agreed on the arrangements for presiding over the joint bureaux meetings.

10. Other matters

18. No other matters were discussed.

11. Closure of the meeting

19. The meeting was declared closed at 7.30 p.m.

Annex I

Meeting of the Presidents of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

4 April 2013

Geneva, Switzerland

14.30h – 18h

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Presidents' notes: ExCOPs-2.
4. Presidents' notes: simultaneous ordinary meetings of the COPs.
5. High-level segment.
6. Possible contact group chairs.
7. Agenda of the joint meeting of the bureaux on 27 April 2013.
8. Other matters.
9. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

Joint meeting of the bureaux of the Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

27 April 2013, 1- 3 p.m.

Geneva, Switzerland

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Organization of work of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions:
 - (a) Overall organization of work for the two weeks
 - (b) Contact groups, including (co-)chairs
 - (c) Issues for consideration by the bureaux
 4. Election of officers:
 - (a) COPs Presidents and Vice-Presidents
 - (b) Subsidiary body members and officers
 5. Other matters.
 6. Closure of the meeting.
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