

## **Report of the meeting of the Presidents of the conference of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, Geneva, Switzerland, 3 November 2016**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

1. The Presidents of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan, Basel Convention), Mr. Franz Perrez (Switzerland, Rotterdam Convention), Mr. Sam Adu-Kumi (Ghana, Stockholm Convention) met on Thursday, 3 November 2016, morning at the International Environment House I in Geneva. The meeting opened at 9:15 a.m.

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

2. The agenda was adopted on the basis of a provisional agenda circulated in advance of the meeting and is included in the annex to the present report.

### **3. Chairing of the joint meeting of the bureaux on 3-4 November 2016**

3. The Presidents discussed the running of the joint meeting of the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, taking place on the afternoon of 3 November and 4 November 2016. At their first joint meeting in March 2011, the bureaux had decided to rotate the chairmanship of joint bureaux meetings among the Presidents in alphabetical order of the names of the conventions, starting with the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. The President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Mr. Mohammed Khashashneh, would thus chair the fourth joint bureaux meeting.

### **4. Walk-through of the provisional agenda of the joint meeting of the bureaux on 3-4 November 2016, including the identification of any issues and options for addressing them**

4. The objective of the meeting of the Presidents was to prepare for the upcoming joint meeting of the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as the upcoming meetings of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions. The Presidents discussed the items on the agenda of the joint bureaux meeting.

5. Due to time constraints, the Presidents were unable to cover all items of the provisional agenda of the joint meeting of the bureaux. They thus focused on item 3(a) on organization of work of the back to back meetings, item 3(b) on organization of the high-level segment, and item 4 on compliance under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

#### Matters related to the organization of the 2017 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

##### *Organization of work of the back to back meetings*

6. The Secretariat introduced the document on a draft tentative schedule of work of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2017<sup>1</sup> prepared for the joint meeting of the bureaux, outlining the items to be covered during each convention-specific session and those proposed to be dealt with in joint sessions. As suggested by the bureaux at their individual meetings in June and July 2016, the revised version was based on a similar model as the meetings of the conferences of the parties in 2015, with the addition of a high-level segment. In line with the request from the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, it was proposed that a Rotterdam Convention-specific plenary session be scheduled earlier in the two-week period. The Secretariat also provided an overview of the different contact and other groups that could be set up. The bureaux, during their joint meeting, would need to reach an agreement on the schedule of work.

7. The Presidents discussed the possibility that the early Rotterdam Convention-specific plenary session could include the intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention, as well as chemicals for inclusion in Annex III to the Convention. As the time available during that afternoon plenary might not be sufficient to consider both items, the Presidents considered the possibility that the session might extend beyond 6 p.m. that evening.

8. The Presidents reflected on possible contact and other groups that might be established during the meetings of the conferences of the parties, the number of contact groups that could run in parallel, and

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<sup>1</sup> Document 2 of the joint bureaux meeting: Revised draft tentative schedule of work of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2017.

potential co-chairs for these groups. The Presidents furthermore discussed a related proposal by Mr. Adu-Kumi on ways to improve effective participation of delegates in the meetings of the conferences of the parties. The Presidents agreed to discuss these matters during the joint bureaux meeting, and to invite bureaux members to make proposals on possible co-chairs for these groups. Regional and gender balance would need to be considered in such proposals.

9. With respect to the approach on credentials, the Secretariat reported that for the meetings in 2015, the bureaux had agreed that when examining credentials received, they would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies of credentials in good order with the understanding that the original would be submitted as soon as possible. The Presidents agreed to suggest to the joint bureaux meeting to follow the same approach as during the 2015 meetings.

#### *Organization of the high-level segment*

10. The Secretariat introduced the document on a proposal for the organisation of the high-level segment<sup>2</sup> prepared for the joint meeting of the bureaux. While support had been expressed for the main features of the high-level segment, including the ministerial round tables and the high-level discussion in plenary, agreement still needed to be reached on the timing of the high-level segment; the level of representation by Parties; and its possible outcomes. The Secretariat underlined the importance of solving all outstanding issues during the joint bureaux meeting as invitation letters for the conferences of the parties and for the high-level segment needed to be sent out soon after the meeting and would need to contain the final decision on this matter.

11. The Presidents reflected on the different views and concerns expressed by bureaux members on the outstanding issues referred to above of the organization of the high-level segment and discussed how to reach agreement on them during the joint bureaux meeting. They concluded that bureaux members would need to agree on those outstanding elements at their joint meeting, and that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Presidents, would work on the details of the organisation of the high-level segment based on the agreement reached.

12. The Executive Secretary highlighted that during the opening of the high-level segment, keynote speakers would introduce the theme as well as sub-themes to stimulate discussions at the round tables. The sub-themes currently envisaged related to the link between sound management of chemicals and waste and the Sustainable Development Goals; the implementation of the conventions through partnerships; and reducing waste and pollution.

13. The Presidents agreed that the sub-themes would be presented by the Secretariat to bureaux members at their joint meeting, and that they would be invited to share their views on them and on possible keynote speakers.

#### Compliance under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

14. The Secretariat introduced the document on compliance<sup>3</sup> prepared for the joint meeting of the bureaux which sets out additional views on outstanding issues received from three Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Both bureaux would be invited to consider possible additional steps to be taken during the intersessional period as well as how to address the matter at the meetings.

15. The Executive Secretary mentioned that, as requested by the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions bureaux at their meetings in June 2016, he had continued bilateral consultations with interested Parties, and that he was available for further discussions during the regional preparatory meetings scheduled in March 2017.

16. The Presidents reflected on the views received from Parties and agreed to discuss the matter further during the joint bureaux meeting.

## **6. Closure of the meeting.**

17. The meeting was declared closed at 12.45 p.m.

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<sup>2</sup> Document 3 of the joint bureaux meeting: Revised draft proposal for the organization of the high-level segment of the meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Document 5 of the joint bureaux meeting: Compliance.

## **Annex**

### **Meeting of the Presidents of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

**3 November 2016  
Geneva, Switzerland  
International Environment House I  
Room A-314, 9:00 am-12:00 pm**

#### **Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting.
  2. Adoption of the agenda.
  3. Chairing of the joint meeting of the bureaux on 3-4 November 2016.
  4. Walk-through of the provisional agenda of the joint meeting of the bureaux on 3-4 November 2016, including the identification of any issues and options for addressing them.
  5. Other matters.
  6. Closure of the meeting.
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