



# BASEL, ROTTERDAM AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

## PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

<b>CONVENTIONS :</b>		<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> BC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RC <input type="checkbox"/> SC <input type="checkbox"/> SYN		Facilitating the work of the intersessional working group on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention	
<b>FUNDING OPTIONS:</b>		<b>TYPE / LOCATION</b>	<b>TARGETED COUNTRIES:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Funding in full <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partial funding possible		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Global <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National	Global
Project start date: 01/01/2016		Project completion date: 01/05/2017	Total duration: 17 months
<b>LEGAL BASIS AND MANDATE</b>			
Decision RC-7/5: Intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention Activity 21 (RC): Scientific support to parties of the Rotterdam Convention			
<b>BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PROJECT JUSTIFICATION</b>			
<p>At the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Rotterdam Convention in May 2015, decision RC-7/5 on intersessional work on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention was adopted.</p> <p>The decision calls for the establishment of an intersessional working group composed of interested parties and observers to review the cases in which the COP was unable to reach consensus on the listing of a chemical by identifying the reasons for and against listing and, based on that and other information, to develop options for improving the effectiveness of the process; and to develop proposals for enabling improved information flows that support the prior informed consent procedure for those chemicals.</p> <p>Decision RC-7/5 was adopted in response to the continued concerns expressed by parties about the inability for the COP to reach consensus on the listing of certain chemicals. Such concerns date back to COP-3 when, during the discussion on listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III, consensus was unable to be reached despite the fact that the Chemical Review Committee had found that it satisfied the criteria for doing so. Many parties at that time suggested that a failure to reach consensus within a COP setting set an unfortunate precedent with implications for the Convention's continued effectiveness.</p> <p>This project component will support the lead country (Australia) and the intersessional working group in undertaking its work during the 2016-17 biennium through hosting of a workshop and retention of a consultant to undertake work as decided by the group.</p>			
<b>PROPOSED ACTIVITIES</b>			
<p><b>Workshop to support the work of the Group</b> Funding for one workshop to support the work of the intersessional working group. The funding would support the organization of the workshop and the participation of 25 members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition (travel). The location of the workshop would be decided by the intersessional working group.</p> <p><b>Travel on official business for staff</b> Travel of two BRS staff members and a report writer to support the workshop of the intersessional working group. Travel of a consultant to support the workshop of the intersessional working group.</p> <p><b>Consultants</b> Funding for the engagement of a consultant to undertake work to support the intersessional working group.</p>			
<b>RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED</b>			
<p><b>Expected results:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Facilitation of the work of the intersessional working group to review the cases in which the COP was unable to reach consensus on the listing of a chemical by identifying the reasons for and against listing and, based on that and other information, to develop options for improving the effectiveness of the process; and to</li> </ol>			

develop proposals for enabling improved information flows that support the prior informed consent procedure for those chemicals;

2. Options for improving the effectiveness of the process of listing of chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention and proposals for enabling improved information flows that support the prior informed consent procedure for those chemicals will be presented to COP-8 for its consideration.

**Indicator of success:**

COP-8 decision adopted, including approach(es) for improving the effectiveness of the process of listing of chemicals and for enabling improved information flows that support the prior informed consent procedure.

**Means of verification:**

COP-8 meeting report and its accompanying decisions.

**PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICABILITY**

The basis of this project is sustainable as the intersessional working group is composed of Rotterdam Convention party members who will work in collaboration with observers from industry and civil society to develop proposals that have a sound basis and support for their implementation. The expected outcome will provide options to address the bottleneck in the current decision-making process and improve the information flow and the effectiveness of the Convention.

This activity will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

**GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

In line with the BRS Gender Action Plan, the Secretariat will, where appropriate, encourage parties and observers to take into account gender-related aspects in their nomination of participants to the intersessional working group. The Secretariat will also advise the intersessional working group of any potential gender impacts of the proposals developed for consideration by COP-8.

**OUTREACH AND INFORMATION SHARING**

Information about the work of the intersessional working group on the process of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention will be disseminated through: briefings with the Permanent Missions in Geneva and Rome, posting on the website of the Convention, communications between the intersessional working group members and observers, communications and requests for information sent by the Group to parties and others, press releases when relevant, various presentations/speeches by the Secretariat on the work of the intersessional working group, webinars and reports back to the COP.

**BUDGET [USD] FOR 2016-2017**

STAFF PERSONNEL	47,200
CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	420
TRAVEL	92,000
EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, FURNITURE	-
OTHER OPERATIONAL COSTS	-
GRANTS OUT	-
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>139,620</b>
<i>Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%</i>	<i>18,151</i>
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>	<b>157,771</b>