

**Convention: BC, RC, SC**

**Regional meetings to prepare for the 2015 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**

**LEGAL BASIS/MANDATE:**

- Programme of Work Activity 1 (BC): Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention; 2 (RC): Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; 3 (SC): Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention
- Decisions BC-11/20, RC-6/12 and SC-6/25: Venue and date of the next meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In 2013, the ordinary and simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties (COPs) to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were held back-to-back to strengthen the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels; to promote coherent policy guidance; and to enhance efficiency in the provision of support to parties. A number of simultaneous sessions were held during these ordinary and extraordinary meetings on matters related to two or three of the conventions.

By decisions BC-11/20, RC-6/12 and SC-6/25, each of the three conferences of the parties decided to convene in 2015 back-to-back ordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in Geneva that would include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues. The conferences of the parties also requested the Executive Secretary, in order to assist parties with the challenges and opportunities that such back-to-back meetings present, to support, within available resources, regional meetings to assist regional preparatory processes, coordinated with other regional meetings.

It is proposed that four 2-day regional meetings be held, one for each of the following regions; Africa, Asia and Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, to provide briefings on the organization of the 2015 meetings of the COPs and allow for regional consultations in advance of the triple COPs. More specifically, these regional meetings will aim at providing an overview of the schedule planned for the 2015 COPs and of the issues on the agendas of the three meetings. They will in particular support parties to consult among themselves in preparation for convention specific as well as joint issues to be addressed during the triple COPs and will give opportunities to parties to prepare their regional positions. The meetings will be held in conjunction with workshops to support the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and participants receiving financial support will be sponsored to attend also the Minamata workshop. The regional centres will be involved in the regional meetings, in some cases as hosting institutions for the meetings as well as participants to the meetings. The regional meetings will be complemented by a series of webinars on briefings for the 2015 COPs. These webinars will be held prior to the regional meetings.

**PROPOSED ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED:**

1. Four 2-day regional meetings to be funded, one for each of the following regions: Africa, Asia and Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean; sponsored participants will be funded two extra days to attend the workshops to support the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Parties will be encouraged to nominate participants to the regional meetings with expertise on the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as the Minamata convention.
2. The funding will include support for travel costs and daily subsistence allowance for participants from parties eligible for funding and representatives of regional centres in the region, staff travel and costs for venue, equipment and interpretation (as needed in the region).

<b>RESULTS TO BE ACHIEVED:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parties to the three conventions, regional centres and other observers are informed of the schedule of the 2015 COPs and are comfortable with the organization of the joint sessions;</li> <li>Parties to the three conventions, regional centres and other observers are informed about the issues on the agendas of the meetings and prepared for the negotiations;</li> <li>Parties to the three conventions, regional centres and other observers have a good understanding of the opportunities offered by joint sessions with a view to enhancing synergies and cross-fertilization among the conventions;</li> <li>Regional positions are discussed and consolidated.</li> </ul>		
<b>VOLUNTARY BUDGET [USD] FOR 2014-2015</b>		
<b>10</b>	<b>PROJECT PERSONNEL COMPONENT</b>	
1300	<i>Conference services (USD 11,672 for the African region, USD 6,356 for the Asian and Pacific region, USD 9,080 for the Central and Eastern European region, and USD 10,600 for the Latin American and Caribbean region)</i>	37,708
1600	<i>Travel on Official Business (USD 6,424 for the African region, USD 13,014 for the Asian and Pacific region, USD 4,294 for the Central and Eastern European region, and USD 13,584 for the Latin American and Caribbean region)</i>	37,316
<b>30</b>	<b>TRAINING COMPONENT</b>	
3300	<i>Meetings and Conferences (USD 178,465 for the African region, USD 153,449 for the Asian and Pacific region, USD 55,623 for the Central and Eastern European region, and USD 100,096 for the Latin American and Caribbean region)</i>	487,633
<b>DIRECT PROJECT COST OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>		<b>562,657</b>
<b>Programme Support Costs (PSC) 13%</b>		<b>73,145</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET</b>		<b>635,802</b>
<b>Funding received</b>		<b>557,600</b>
<b>Remaining funds required</b>		<b>78,202</b>