



Distr.: General
25 September 2019

English only



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Conference of the Parties to the
Minamata Convention on Mercury
Third meeting**

Geneva, 25–29 November 2019
Item 5 (j) of the provisional agenda*

**Matters for consideration or action by the
Conference of the Parties: secretariat**

**Report by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and
Stockholm Conventions on cooperative activities with the
secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual
interest**

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a report by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on cooperative activities with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest. The report is reproduced as received, without formal editing.

* UNEP/MC/COP.3/1.

Annex

Report by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on cooperative activities with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest

I. Introduction

1. The present report summarizes the main cooperation and coordination activities undertaken by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS secretariat) with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest, as well as other activities conducted jointly by Parties to the BRS conventions and to the Minamata Convention. This report is an updated version of the report submitted to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-2).¹

2. The cooperative activities described in the present report are undertaken by the BRS secretariat in response to successive decisions of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention.

3. Cooperation between the two entities also takes place more broadly in the chemicals and waste cluster with Chemicals and Health Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), other parts of UNEP and other relevant organizations. A task force was established to enhance programmatic cooperation between the Chemicals and Health Branch, the secretariats of the BRS Conventions, of the Minamata Convention and of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

4. In fulfilment of the mandates given by the respective conferences of the Parties, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention participate in meetings of the respective conventions' governing bodies. In particular, the BRS secretariat will participate in the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention (COP-3). Likewise, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention participated in the 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the associated regional preparatory meetings.

5. Further details on the cooperative activities carried out in relevant programmatic areas are provided under part III of this report.

II. Outcomes of the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in April-May 2019

6. At their meetings in April-May 2019, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted a number of decisions with specific references to the Minamata Convention as follows and annexed to the present note:

(a) Decision BC-14/8: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of elemental mercury and wastes containing or contaminated with mercury. At the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention,² the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention decided that the technical guidelines that were adopted in 2015 by decision BC-12/4³ should be updated. For that purpose, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to serve as lead country and established a small intersessional working group to assist with the updating. In that decision, the Conference of the Parties called upon the members of the small intersessional working group to cooperate with the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds established by decision MC-2/2, if invited to do so by the group of technical experts;

(b) Decisions BC-14/21, RC-9/9 and SC-9/19: International cooperation and coordination. In those decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested the BRS secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat

¹ Document UNEP/MC/COP.2/INF/11.

² Decision MC-2/2 on mercury waste thresholds.

³ UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1.

of the Minamata Convention in programmatic areas such as mercury wastes and their environmentally sound management, capacity-building and the provision of technical assistance, including through regional centres and in other relevant areas of mutual interest to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) Decisions BC-14/22, RC-9/10 and SC-9/20: Cooperation between the joint secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention. Those are corresponding decisions to decision MC-2/7. In those decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in the capacity of performing secretariat services for the three conventions, mindful of the legal autonomy of the respective secretariats, to maximize the effective and efficient use of resources of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including through the sharing of relevant secretariat services with the Minamata Convention, which are performed by the Executive Director of UNEP, as appropriate, and to implement relevant arrangements as soon as feasible. The conferences of the Parties also requested the Executive Director to submit an operative proposal, prepared together with the Executive Secretary of the BRS conventions and with the support of the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, on a stable framework for sharing of relevant services in areas such as conference services, knowledge and information management, administrative and information technology services, technical assistance, legal advice and budget preparation, including possible options, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their next meeting. The Executive Director of UNEP was further requested to inform the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention and the Conference of the Parties to that Convention, at its next meeting, of those decisions, and of any relevant secretariat arrangements already established or being developed or considered pursuant to the decisions. Information provided by the Executive Director of UNEP on the implementation of decision MC-2/7, taking into consideration corresponding decisions BC-14/22, RC-9/10 and SC-9/20, is contained in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/16;

(d) Decisions BC-14/23, RC-9/11 and SC-9/21: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange. In those decisions, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested the BRS secretariat to expand its collaboration with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to exchange information and share experiences and best practices regarding the use of existing clearing-house mechanism systems.

III. Programmatic cooperation

A. Activities pertaining to mercury wastes

7. In Article 11 of the Minamata Convention, the resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries on the Minamata Convention, and decision BC-11/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, Governments recognize the close relationship between the Minamata Convention and the Basel Convention on issues related to the management of mercury wastes, including with respect to the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.

8. By its decision BC-12/4, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the technical guidelines on mercury wastes and requested them to be disseminated to Parties and others, including the secretariat of the Minamata Convention. The technical guidelines on mercury wastes which are available in the six official languages of the United Nations are set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1.⁴ In response to the invitation by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention, set out in decision MC-2/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, in its decision BC-14/8, established a process to update the technical guidelines on mercury wastes.

9. The BRS secretariat takes part in the processes established by decisions MC-2/2 on mercury waste thresholds, MC-2/3 on releases and MC-2/8 on guidance on the management of sites contaminated by mercury and mercury compounds. The BRS secretariat participated in the meeting of the group of technical experts on waste thresholds, held in Osaka, Japan, from 27 to 29 May 2019. In addition, the BRS secretariat, as a member of the partnership advisory group of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership, participated in its ninth meeting held in November 2018.

10. The expert working group on environmentally sound management (ESM), a group mandated by the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention to elaborate and implement actions for the implementation of ESM, has developed fact sheets on specific waste

⁴ Available at: <http://www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Meetings/COP12/tabid/4248/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/8051/EventID/542/xmid/13027/Default.aspx>

streams, including mercury wastes.⁵ Among the latest manuals developed, the group prepared two practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for environmentally sound management,⁶ which were adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fourteenth meeting. Practical manuals and other tools developed by the working group that are relevant to the management of mercury wastes can be found on the Convention's website.⁷

B. Activities pertaining to the arrangements in regard to effectiveness evaluation as referred to in paragraph 2 of article 22 of the Minamata Convention

11. Based on the extensive experience on the global monitoring plan for POPs and the effectiveness evaluation pursuant to Article 16 of the Stockholm Convention, the BRS secretariat takes part in the process for establishing arrangements for comparable monitoring data and elements of an effectiveness evaluation framework under article 22 of the Minamata Convention. The secretariat participated in the meeting of the ad-hoc technical expert group on effectiveness evaluation, held from 8 to 12 April 2019 in Geneva to share the relevant experience of the Stockholm Convention on the effectiveness evaluation framework and on monitoring arrangements. The information exchange supported the group of experts' work on the development of monitoring arrangements and elements of an effectiveness evaluation framework.

C. Activities pertaining to financial resources

12. The BRS secretariat cooperates and coordinates with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on relevant experience with procedures and approaches established under the financial mechanism of the Stockholm Convention. As part of the cooperative activities undertaken, joint discussions between the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the BRS secretariat, the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of SAICM are being organized on a regular basis.

13. Both secretariats cooperate under the implementation of the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and SAICM. Cooperation on issues pertaining to the special programme takes place as part of an internal task team consisting of representatives from the secretariats of the BRS conventions, the Minamata Convention, SAICM and the GEF to assist the special programme secretariat to undertake an appraisal of the applications received.

D. Activities pertaining to compliance

14. The BRS secretariat participated as an observer during the second meeting of the implementation and compliance committee of the Minamata Convention held in Geneva, on 3 and 4 June 2019, more specifically during the open sessions dealing with the development of the terms of reference of the Committee.

15. The fourteenth meeting of the implementation and compliance committee of the Basel Convention is tentatively scheduled to be held in Geneva, from 27 to 30 June 2020.

E. Activities pertaining to technical assistance including regional centres

16. Another area of common interest among the four conventions pertains to technical assistance, including regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions. These centers are referred to as the Basel Convention Regional Centers (BCRCs), Basel Convention Coordinating Centers (BCCCs), and Stockholm Convention Regional Centers (SCRCs).

17. During the annual joint meeting of the regional centres held on 15 and 16 November 2018 in Geneva, the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention provided an update on the matters relating to technical assistance and the regional centres for consideration at the COP-2 of the Minamata Convention in November 2018. During that meeting, BCRC-SCRC Iran made a presentation with respect to project development on mercury management in the chlor-alkali plants in Iran (Islamic Republic of). Regarding the annual joint meeting scheduled to be held on 24 and 25 September 2019, the agenda of the meeting includes a session with representatives of the secretariat of the Minamata Convention to discuss opportunities to further enhanced cooperation in implementing chemicals and wastes related multilateral environmental agreements (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions) through regional centres. This session will include an update on a possible discussion at COP-3 on regional centres. During these meetings, the regional centres exchange

⁵ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/ESMToolkit/Factsheets/tabid/5843/Default.aspx>

⁶ UNEP/CHW.14/5/Add.1.

⁷ <http://www.basel.int/Implementation/CountryLedInitiative/EnvironmentallySoundManagement/Overview/tabid/3615/Default.aspx>

information on their current activities involving the Minamata Convention as well as possible future activities.

18. Apart from this, a number of regional centres have listed in their business plans/workplans for the period of 2016-2019 several activities relating to management of mercury wastes and awareness-raising activities on the Minamata Convention. These centres are: BCRC Argentina, SCRC Brazil, BCRC-SCRC China, BCRC Caribbean, BCRC Egypt, SCRC India, BCRC-SCRC Indonesia, SCRC Mexico, BCCC Nigeria, BCRC Russian Federation, BCRC-SCRC South Africa, BCRC Slovakia, SPREP, SCRC Spain and BCRC-SCRC Uruguay.

19. The regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions submitted their activity reports for the period of 2017-2018 for consideration by the respective COPs held in 2019 among which, the following centres reported to have implemented various projects/ activities relating to the implementation of Minamata Convention on mercury: BCRC Argentina, SCRC Brazil, BCRC-SCRC China, BCRC Caribbean, SCRC Czech Republic, BCRC Egypt, SCRC India, BCRC-SCRC Indonesia, BCRC-SCRC Iran, SCRC Mexico, BCCC Nigeria, SCRC Panama, SCRC Russian Federation, BCRC-SCRC South Africa, BCRC Slovakia, SCRC Spain and BCCC-SCRC Uruguay,

20. These business plans/workplans and activity reports have been published on the regional centres' webpages of the Basel and Stockholm conventions.⁸

21. As a follow-up to a technical assistance project for the development of inventories and management plans for hazardous wastes containing or contaminated with mercury in Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay, the BRS secretariat is disseminating the experience and results of the project in cooperation with the BCCC/SCRC Uruguay.

F. Activities pertaining to knowledge and information management and clearing-house mechanism

22. The BRS secretariat continues to host the website of the Minamata Convention.

G. Activities pertaining to regional meetings and awareness-raising

23. The BRS secretariat participated in the regional meetings organized by the secretariat of the Minamata Convention in preparation for COP-2 and held back to back information sessions on the activities of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions of relevance to the Minamata Convention. Following a similar approach, the regional meetings organized by the BRS secretariat in March 2019 in preparation for the 2019 meetings of the conferences of the Parties were held jointly with information sessions on the Minamata Convention.

24. Several awareness-raising events have been jointly organized between the two secretariats, such as the briefings to permanent missions in Geneva that are facilitated by the Geneva Environment Network.

IV. Other cooperative activities: Sharing of relevant secretariat services with the Minamata Convention secretariat

A. Secretariat services already provided, including to support the organization of meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention

25. In accordance with the mandates received from their respective COPs,^{9,10} the BRS secretariat and the Minamata secretariat had several exchanges in the course of 2018 on the issue of secretariat services to be provided by the BRS secretariat to the Minamata Convention secretariat. Further information on secretariat support offered to the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention by the BRS secretariat since the meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the BRS conventions in 2017 is

⁸ Basel Convention's webpage: <http://www.basel.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Overview/tabid/2334/Default.aspx> and Stockholm Convention's webpage: <http://chm.pops.int/Partners/RegionalCentres/Overview/tabid/425/Default.aspx>.

⁹ In their decisions BC-13/24, RC-8/17 and SC-8/27 on programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2018–2019, the BRS COPs, among other things, invited the Executive Secretary to provide any secretariat support that may be requested and fully funded by the COP to the Minamata Convention.

¹⁰ In its decision MC-1/11 on Secretariat, the Minamata COP decided, among other things, to request the Executive Director of UNEP to perform the secretariat functions initially through a secretariat of the Minamata Convention located in Geneva. It also requested that, in the interim, the secretariat continue to cooperate and coordinate, as appropriate, with other relevant actors, including the BRS secretariat and with relevant units of UNEP in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise.

contained in document UNEP/CHW.14/INF/51–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/16–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/59.¹¹

26. As described in the abovementioned document, on the basis of an initial offer made by the BRS secretariat in March 2018, and agreed by the Minamata Convention in June 2018, the BRS secretariat provides secretariat support to the Minamata Convention secretariat with respect to the hosting of the Convention's website.

27. On the basis of that offer and further exchanges between the two secretariats, the BRS secretariat provided secretariat services to the Minamata Convention secretariat for the Minamata COP-2 held from 19 to 23 November 2018, at the International Conference Centre in Geneva. Support was provided on a fee for service basis to support arrangements for participants' travel for one United Nations region (it was later extended to three regions) for a period of three months and to support the registration desk during the COP-2. Additionally, four staff members from the BRS secretariat were made available during the full week of the COP-2, on a reciprocal basis, to support contact groups and other tasks. ICT equipment was provided to the Minamata Convention secretariat for the COP-2 free of charge.

28. At its second meeting, the COP to the Minamata Convention, in its decision MC-2/7, among other things, requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in the capacity of performing secretariat services for the Minamata Convention, mindful of the legal autonomy of the respective secretariats, to maximize the effective and efficient use of resources of the Minamata Convention, including through the sharing of relevant secretariat services with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions which are performed by the Executive Director, as appropriate, and to implement relevant arrangements as soon as feasible. In decision MC-2/7, the COP to the Minamata Convention furthermore invited the COPs to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to consider adopting, at their next meetings, corresponding decisions on this matter.

29. Subsequently, at their 2019 meetings, the COPs to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions BC-14/22, RC-9/10 and SC-9/20 on cooperation between the joint secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, which are corresponding decisions to decision MC-2/7.

30. In accordance with those latest decisions, the Minamata Convention secretariat requested secretariat support from the BRS Secretariat for the Minamata COP-3, to be held from 25 to 29 November 2019 at the International Conference Centre in Geneva, on 11 June 2019. On 30 July 2019, both secretariats agreed that services would be provided in the following areas on a fee for service basis:

- (a) Registration of participants prior and during the meeting, including badging, preparation of list of participants; confirmation letter send-out;
- (b) Arrangement for participants' travel prior and during the meeting, including distribution of DSA;
- (c) Logistics of the entire meeting;
- (d) Information technology and knowledge management of the meeting (intranet, mobile application, screens, helpdesk).
- (e) Processing of in-session documents, including meeting report;
- (f) Legal clearance of in-session documents where needed.

31. In addition to the services provided on a fee for services basis, two BRS staff members will be made available to support the work of contact groups at the meeting, on a reciprocal basis.

32. The funds transferred to the BRS secretariat by the Minamata secretariat to cover services provided on a fee for service basis will be used to obtain temporary support or to put in place other arrangements to ensure that the work ordinarily undertaken by the mobilized BRS staff is completed on schedule.

¹¹ Available at: <http://www.brsmeas.org/2019COPs/MeetingDocuments/tabid/7832/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

B. Contributions to the operative proposal on a stable framework for sharing of relevant services between Minamata and BRS conventions

33. In line with relevant decisions,¹² the Executive Secretary of the BRS conventions contributed to the development of the operative proposal on a stable framework for sharing of relevant services by submitting initial suggestions on a possible operative proposal in January 2019, and providing written comments on a first draft proposal prepared by the Executive Director in August 2019.

34. Further information on the draft operative proposal submitted by the Executive Director of UNEP on a stable framework for sharing of relevant services between Minamata and BRS conventions is provided in document UNEP/MC/COP.3/16.

¹² MC-2/7 on cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and corresponding decisions BC-14/22, RC-9/10 and SC-9/20.

Annex

Relevant decisions of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions adopted at their 2019 meetings with specific relevance to the Minamata Convention

BC-14/8: Technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds

The Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in its decision MC-2/2 on mercury waste thresholds, to consider reviewing, as appropriate, the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds¹³ to include additional guidance for certain mercury wastes,

Recalling decision BC-12/4, by which it adopted the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds,

1. *Decides* that the technical guidelines on the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with mercury or mercury compounds should be updated;
2. *Invites* Parties to consider serving as lead countries in the updating of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision and to inform the Secretariat of their willingness to do so by 31 August 2019;
3. *Decides* to establish a small intersessional working group, operating by electronic means, to assist in the updating referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision;
4. *Invites* Parties and others to nominate experts to participate in the small intersessional working group and to inform the Secretariat of their nominations by 31 August 2019;
5. *Requests* the lead country or countries or, if there is no lead country, the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with the small intersessional working group, to prepare an updated draft of the technical guidelines referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting;
6. *Calls upon* the members of the small intersessional working group to cooperate with the group of technical experts on mercury waste thresholds established by decision MC-2/2, if invited to do so by the group of technical experts;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Open-ended Working Group at its twelfth meeting and to the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting.

¹³ UNEP/CHW.12/5/Add.8/Rev.1.

Decisions 14/21, RC-9/9 and SC-9/19: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the ministerial declarations and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third and fourth sessions, and joins in the expression of deep concern that our planet is increasingly polluted and in the encouragement to Governments and all other stakeholders to contribute to the effective implementation of the plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet";¹⁴

2. *Joins* the Environment Assembly in emphasizing the need for urgent and resolute action to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁵ on matters related to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through relevant improvements to the current international framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste;

3. *Calls upon* all Parties and other stakeholders to intensify and prioritize efforts on the sound management of chemicals and waste towards the achievement by 2020 of target 12.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with Environment Assembly resolution 4/8 on the sound management of chemicals and waste, including through technical assistance and capacity-building, to enable Parties to meet the relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda as soon as possible;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of Environment Assembly resolutions related to the sound management of chemicals and waste and of the plan "Towards a Pollution-Free Planet" in areas relevant to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;

5. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination during the period 1 January 2017–31 December 2018,¹⁶ the information provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020,¹⁷ and the information on activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme on programmatic matters pertaining to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;¹⁸

6. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to make available to the United Nations Environment Programme information relevant to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted to it by Parties;

(b) To continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) To continue, subject to the availability of resources, to assist Parties, upon request, in their efforts to integrate relevant elements of the conventions into their national plans and strategies for sustainable development and, as appropriate, legislation;

(d) To continue to work closely with other international organizations, within the scope of their mandates, on activities related to marine plastic litter and microplastics;

(e) To continue to participate as an observer, upon invitation, at relevant meetings of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, pending the outcome of the actions mentioned in paragraph 8 of the present decision;

¹⁴ UNEP/EA.3/HLS.1.

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁶ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/38.

¹⁷ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/54–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/44–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/57.

¹⁸ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/39.

7. *Notes* the intention to establish an e-waste coalition composed of the International Labour Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations University, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the World Health Organization and the Secretariat that would provide a framework for coordination and collaboration on United Nations system-wide support for e-waste management, and requests the Secretariat, should the coalition be established, to cooperate, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, with those members of the coalition that belong to the United Nations system;

8. *Invites* the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to consider inviting the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to become members of the Programme, and requests the Executive Secretary to take the necessary steps for membership and participation in the Programme;

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury in programmatic areas such as mercury wastes and their environmentally sound management, capacity-building and the provision of technical assistance, including through regional centres and in other relevant areas of mutual interest to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

10. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and with other international organizations in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including with the organizations and activities listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January 2017–31 December 2018;

11. *Further requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

Decisions BC-14/22, RC-9/10, SC-9/20: Cooperation between the joint Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariat of the Minamata Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme performs secretariat functions for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as well as for the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

Emphasizing the successive decisions of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention, maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels, including the provision of any secretariat support that may be requested and is fully funded by the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention;

Welcoming decision MC-2/7 of the Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention regarding cooperation between the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the invitation contained therein for the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to consider adopting, at their next meeting, corresponding decisions on this matter;

1. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, in the capacity of performing secretariat services for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:

(a) Mindful of the legal autonomy of the respective secretariats, to maximize the effective and efficient use of resources of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including through the sharing of relevant secretariat services with the Minamata Convention, which are performed by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, as appropriate, and to implement relevant arrangements as soon as feasible;

(b) To submit an operative proposal, prepared together with the Executive Secretary of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention and with the support of the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, on a stable framework for sharing of relevant services in areas such as conference services, knowledge and information management, administrative and information technology services, technical assistance, legal advice and budget preparation, including possible options, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties at their next meeting;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Basel and Stockholm conventions and the United Nations Environment Programme part of the Rotterdam Convention to take into consideration paragraph 1 of the present decision in the implementation of the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021, in line with the continued mandate on this matter contained in decisions BC-13/24, RC-8/17 and SC-8/27;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to inform the Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention and the Conference of the Parties to that Convention, at its next meeting, of the present decision, and of any relevant secretariat arrangements already established or being developed or considered pursuant to the present decision

Decisions BC-14/23, RC-9/11 and SC-9/21: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the joint clearing house mechanism;
2. *Also welcomes* the work of the Secretariat in preparing a draft workplan for the implementation of the joint clearing house mechanism for the biennium 2020–2021;¹⁹
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To continue the work to implement the strategy of the joint clearing house mechanism²⁰ in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
 - (b) To implement the maintenance activities of the clearing house mechanism workplan for the biennium 2020–2021 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade for the biennium, while prioritizing recurring activities, in particular with respect to the maintenance of existing systems;
 - (c) To implement, subject to the availability of resources, the new activities of the clearing house mechanism workplan for the biennium 2020–2021 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To ensure that activities undertaken in the development of the clearing house mechanism are cost-effective, proportionate and balanced and in line with the capacity and resources of the Secretariat;
 - (b) To participate in meetings by electronic means where possible and to use translations that are already available in the six official languages of the United Nations;
 - (c) To utilize the clearing house mechanism to gather information about regional and national initiatives related to waste management, including those on plastic waste, taking into account and in cooperation with other initiatives;
 - (d) To continue to enhance cooperation and coordination activities with existing partners in the area of information exchange, to explore possible cooperative activities with new partners, as appropriate, and to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication with existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
 - (e) To expand its collaboration with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to exchange information and share experiences and best practices regarding the use of existing clearing house mechanism systems;
5. *Invites* Parties and observers to participate, as appropriate, in the development of the joint clearing house mechanism strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan in accordance with the present decision;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments with regard to matters such as the multisectoral and multi-stakeholder discussions on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

¹⁹ UNEP/CHW.14/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.9/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.9/INF/41.

²⁰ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.