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Report on international cooperation over the 2007–2008 biennium

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
UNEP	
UNEP-Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat is undertaking its activities in compliance with Decision VIII/33 on mercury in close cooperation with UNEP/Chemicals/mercury. These activities include the development of guidelines on environmentally sound management of mercury wastes with emphasis on the development of sound disposal and remediation practices; and the development of capacity building and technical assistance programs to reduce and prevent pollution from mercury. • The secretariat contributed to the overarching framework of UNEP Global Mercury Partnership and participated in related international meetings. • The secretariat and UNEP-Chemicals are consulting each other on a regular basis and exchange views and information on all topics of common interest, including the preparation of UNEP documentation on chemicals and waste management, the participation and collaboration of respective staff in meetings, the development of joint cooperation activities, such as on mercury and POPs.
UNEP-GEF Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC and the UNEP-GEF Unit work closely on the development of project proposals on POPs for submission to the GEF for co-funding and for the implementation of the funded activities. Collaboration has focused until now on POPs (PCBs) and more proposals are under preparation in this field. • SBC, as part of the UNEP delegation, participates regularly in the conference calls of the GEF POPs task force. • Discussions are being held between the two units for the development of joint activities in other areas of work that are eligible for GEF funding.
UNEP-DTIE and Regional Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat is a partner in the Green Customs Initiative, for which the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics undertakes the secretariat and coordinating functions. As a partner, the Secretariat has drafted sections of the Green Customs training manuals pertaining to the Basel Convention, provided inputs for the development of training tools, provided information for the Green Customs website and for other documentation. The Secretariat participates in the Green Customs partners' meetings and contributes to the development of the work plan for the Green Customs Initiative. • The Secretariat participated in the UNEP African Regional Workshop on Chemicals and Wastes Law and Conventions in September 2007, Nairobi. • The Secretariat has also cooperated with UNEP Regional Office for the Asia Pacific in the development of the second phase of the Project Sky-Hole Patching

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
UNEP-Regional Seas Programme (UNEP-RSP)	<p>The Secretariat cooperates in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a review and assessment of the relationship and interface between the Basel Convention, the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its Hazardous Wastes Protocol; • With UNEP/MAP, on projects and capacity building activities with BCRC-Egypt and BCRC-Slovakia; • The Secretariat has established communication with the Regional Activity Centre (UNEP/RAC) for Cleaner Production of the Mediterranean Action Plan located in Barcelona, Spain with a view to strengthening collaboration between UNEP/RAC and BCRCs in the region. Discussions are underway between BCRC-Egypt and UNEP/RAC for the signing of a cooperation agreement.
UNEP Post-Conflict & Disaster Management Branch (UNEP-PC & DMB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat and the UNEP-PC&DMB have collaborated closely for the development of the UNEP-SBC project on waste management in Côte d'Ivoire, which is due to be funded under the UNEP Trust Fund for Côte d'Ivoire which was established by the UNEP Executive Director further to decision VIII/1 of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
SAICM secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat regularly consults and exchanges information with the SAICM secretariat to ensure coordination of activities relating to illegal traffic, and cooperates to facilitate mutual participation in activities of common and shared relevance. • The Secretariat is also a member of the UNEP Interdivisional Working Group for SAICM Implementation ;
UNEP and the Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Environment Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit have entered into an agreement to provide mutual assistance related to notification and reporting, mobilization of resources and response to international environmental emergencies involving the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal. The Secretariat and OCHA have exchanged information when relevant incidents have occurred. • The Secretariat has worked closely with the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit to respond to a number of emergency situations related to hazardous wastes, in particular that relating to Côte d'Ivoire in August 2006, and Kenya in March 2008.
MEAs	
Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat has participated in several meetings of the Stockholm Convention, including the second and third meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and the Open-ended Working Group on Non-Compliance. • The Secretariats have cooperated in developing a set of technical guidelines on persistent organic pollutants as waste (general, PCBs, pesticide POPs, DDT and PCDD/PCDF). • The Secretariats have cooperated in the preparation of training curricula and materials (Training Manual on Destruction and Decontamination Technologies for PCBs and Other POPs Wastes, Part III).

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The secretariats are consulting each other for the implementation of a World Bank funded project on the coordinated implementation of the Basel Convention Technical Guidelines on the ESM of POPs as waste and the Stockholm Convention BAT/BEP Guidelines.
Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides and International Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat has participated in meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; Both secretariats have been in contact for the organization, by BCRCs and BCCCs, of several regional and training workshops for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention; Both secretariats are cooperating on the programme of asbestos waste in compliance with Decision VIII/33 (B9).
Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The secretariat and the MLF have been collaborating on the preparation of a technical study on the treatment of ozone depleting substances that is commissioned by the Multilateral Fund, in particular on the section of the report that relates to the relationship with the Basel Convention and relevant instruments. A copy of this report would be shared with parties to the Basel Convention once it is reviewed by the appropriate bodies of the Multilateral Fund. Under the Resource Mobilization programme, the SBC is exploring with the MLF for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol how Parties and BCRCs can access funding of the MLF to fund projects aimed at the ESM disposal of ozone depleting substance containing equipment such as refrigerators or air conditioners (electronic and electrical wastes).
UN Agencies and organizations	
United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat actively participates in the work and meetings of the Committee of Experts. A correspondence group of experts of the Basel Convention and the Committee of Experts was established in April 2005 with a view to elaborating, and ensuring consistency and coherence of the classification and labeling of chemicals and wastes, including their hazard categorization.
World Customs Organization (WCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat cooperates with the WCO through the Green Customs Initiative. The Secretariat has participated, as an observer, in sessions of the WCO Enforcement Committee in February 2008. The Secretariat has participated in the work of the WCO Harmonized System Committee (HSC) with respect to the identification of wastes in the WCO Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System. The Secretariat has participated in the meetings of the WCO Harmonized System Committee in March and November 2007 and March 2008. At present, the Secretariat has submitted three waste streams for consideration by HSC for inclusion in the Harmonized System, i.e. waste personal computers, electronic equipment and mobile phones; power-plant ashes and residues; and waste from inks, dyes, pigments, paints, lacquers and varnishes. To assist HSC in its consideration, the Secretariat has made presentations during

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
	relevant meetings of the WCO on the Basel Convention notification procedure and the requirement for prior informed consent.
United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC participated in the Seminar entitled 'The United Nations and Security Sector Reform: a year on from the Security Council open debate', Geneva, Tuesday, 4 March 2008. The meeting organized by the United Nations Organization in Geneva and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations aimed at assisting in the preparation of the <u>comprehensive report of the Secretary General on United Nations approaches to security sector reform. The meeting</u> was the first opportunity given to UN stakeholders to exchange views and information in this critical matter for the UN.
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat is presently in discussions with the Food and Agricultural Organization in order to foster closer collaborative ties in respect of their programme on Obsolete Pesticides. • The Secretariat is also exploring the possibility of concluding a cooperation agreement with the Food and Agricultural Organization addressing closer cooperation in respect of the exchange of information and expertise, collaboration on training activities, developing tools and guidelines, capacity building and in resource mobilization.
Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat participates in meetings and conference calls of the IOMC Coordinating Group on Stocks of Obsolete Pesticides and Industrial Chemicals.
International Labour Organization (ILO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Basel Convention is represented in the Joint ILO/International Maritime Organization (IMO)/Basel Convention Working Group on ship scrapping. The Joint Working Group has not met in the past biennium, however at the time of preparation of this note, it had been agreed that the ILO would host the third session of the Joint Working Group. The 301st session of the Governing Body, which would be convened in March 2008, would be requested to set the dates of the third session for 29 to 31 October 2008. • The Secretariat has also been in close consultation with the ILO and the IMO to develop a "Global programme for sustainable ship recycling: Improving working practices for the betterment of OHS and environmental standards in ship recycling yards in Asia". The ILO thus actively participated in the preparatory discussions on the Global Programme, hosted by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention with support provided by the Bangladesh Ministry of Environment and Forests, with the participation of the Bangladesh Department of Environment, Ministry of Labour and Employment, and Department of Shipping, were held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 12 and 13 January 2008.
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint ILO/IMO/Basel Convention Working Group, as stated above, is one means by which the Basel Convention cooperates with the IMO. • The Secretariat has also developed the "Global programme for sustainable ship recycling: Improving working practices for the betterment of OHS and environmental standards in ship recycling yards in Asia" in close consultation with the IMO. In this regard,

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
	<p>the IMO also participated in the preparatory discussions on the Global Programme held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 12 and 13 January 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat participated in the meetings convened by the IMO to develop the Ship recycling Convention. The meetings included: the second inter-sessional working group on ship recycling, 7-11 May 2007; MEPC 56, 9-13 July 2007; IMO National Workshop, India, 8-10 January 2008; the third inter-sessional working group on ship recycling, 21-25 January 2008; and MEPC 57, 31 March – 4 April 2008. • The Secretariat of the IMO has also provided information to Parties in respect of the abandonment of ships, further to decision VIII/13 of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations have been held between the secretariats of the International Maritime Organization and the Basel Convention, and the United Nations Environment Programme's Disaster Management Branch (UNEP-DMB), to foster closer cooperation between these entities in respect of the activities being developed to address waste management and enforcement in Côte d'Ivoire and the sub-region. A technical meeting attended by SBC and the UNEP-DMB was organized at the IMO on 28 February 2008 to discuss concrete cooperation in this matter. • Cooperation is thus envisaged in respect of the implementation of two projects presently being developed to improve the capacity for Côte d'Ivoire to manage wastes, and to control the imports of hazardous waste and chemicals. The first of these projects is a UNEP-SBC project on waste management in Côte d'Ivoire, which is due to be funded under the UNEP Trust Fund for Côte d'Ivoire which was established by the UNEP Executive Director further to decision VIII/1 of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The second of which is a proposal for a project seeking to develop the capacity of Côte d'Ivoire to enforce obligations concerning the control of imports of hazardous wastes and chemicals. Funding for the second of these projects is presently being sought. These projects are being developed in response to the incident involving the dumping of toxic substances in Côte d'Ivoire in August 2006.
World Health Organization (WHO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The secretariat and the WHO Department of Public Health and Environment (PHE) have met on a regular basis to discuss topics of common interest, including collaboration in the development and implementation of technical assistance activities in Côte d'Ivoire and the sub-region in the context of Decision VIII/1 on Côte d'Ivoire, the preparation of joint cooperation activities such as on mercury waste and health aspects of hazardous waste management and joint submission of project proposals to donors (including SAICM QSP). • The secretariat participated in the Health Care Waste Stakeholders meeting organized by WHO, 20-22 June 2007, Geneva; • The Secretariat is collaborating with WHO on biomedical and health-care wastes. • The Secretariat is cooperating with the WHO and UNEP-Chemicals in the preparation of the First Interministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa Ministers meeting to be held in Gabon in 26-29 August 2008, Gabon,

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat has provided information on the decisions and declarations adopted by the bodies of the Basel Convention to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights. This is consistent with the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting, and resolution 1997/9, in which the Commission on Human Rights requested the Special Rapporteur, among other things, to continue to consult all relevant bodies, in particular the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, and urged all Governments, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, UNEP, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention and non-governmental organizations to continue to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur by providing information on the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes. • The Secretariat has also provided information to the Special Rapporteur on emergency situations related to the dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes. • The Secretariat is also exploring possible future cooperation in the context of the partnership activities.
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariats are invited to participate, as observers, in the meetings of the governing bodies of the organizations, the Secretariat and the OPCW secretariat also exchange experiences and information relating to matters such as integrated model legislation, training activities, and so on. • The Secretariat also cooperates with OPCW on illegal traffic, through the Green Customs Initiative, to which OPCW has recently become a partner.
United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat participates in meetings of the Commission as an observer. • Together with the UNEP Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Secretariat supports the intergovernmental task force on integrated waste management. • The Secretariat participates in and provides information to their Partnership programme.
United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat has exchanged information with the Division concerning ship dismantling and the abandonment of ships, and on the work undertaken by the Basel Convention bodies on this issue; the information is transmitted to ensure that the Division is apprised of developments, and for inclusion in its biannual report on oceans and the law of the sea.
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat has been collaborating SBC is partnering with UNESCO on e-wastes, in particular in the development of their guide for small business to develop a computer recycling plan. UNESCO plans to participate as an observer on the Basel Convention Partnership on used and end of life computing equipment (PACE) if established.
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNIDO plans to participate as an observer on the Basel Convention Partnership on used and end of life computing equipment (PACE) if established.

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
United Nations Regional Economic Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on transport and classification matters, the Secretariat is a member of the Expert Group on Public Participation in International Forums under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention). In this context, the Secretariat has worked on the preparation of draft guidelines on access to information, public participation and access to justice in international forums.
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a recommendation from the Compliance Committee, the Secretariat has been exploring potential areas of cooperation in respect of training on illegal traffic. To this end, the Secretariat has been cooperating with UNITAR with a view to developing an e-learning platform on enforcement of the Basel Convention. The Secretariat is also a member of the UNITAR Coordination Task Force for the pilot project for coordinated implementation of SAICM
Other international and regional organizations	
World Trade Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat participated in meetings of the Committee on Trade and Environment meeting in Special Session (CTESS) as an observer on an ad hoc basis, pending a decision on its request for observer status for the Secretariat in CTES dated 28 January 2003, and the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) dated 18 January 2007.
3R Initiative established by the G-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat has contributed to the 3R Initiative, a G-8 initiative to promote the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) globally. The Secretariat participated in the 3R meetings held in Tokyo, February 2007; Bonn, October 2007; and Kobe, March 2008.
Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat collaborated with the OECD Working Group on Waste Management and Recycling. The Working Group discusses, among other things, issues relating to transboundary movements of hazardous wastes, economic aspects of waste management, sustainable material management and waste lists. The Secretariat coordinated with the OECD regarding the changes to the hazardous waste lists under the Basel Convention to ensure coherence between both systems. Further cooperation with OECD has extended to the Directorate for Development Assistance on development issues, MDGs and bilateral funding, the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry concerning their programme and Ministerial Meeting on ICT and the potential impact on developing countries as the digital divide narrows, and with the Programme on Sustainable Development on integrating environmental aspects to the development plans and PRSPs, and on gender.
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat has exchanged information with the OSCE for its project on capacity building for combating illegal waste transportation to Eastern Europe, in particular the OSCE's workshop on "Assessment of legislation and enforcement procedures in Ukraine".

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
African Union (Secretariat of the Convention on the Ban and Import Into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes Within Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat has been in consultations with the African Union with a view to determining areas for closer collaboration.
New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the proposal for the establishment and/or capacity-building of the regional centres for the management of hazardous wastes in the context of building synergies with the Stockholm Convention and the Rotterdam Convention at the Basel Convention regional centres in Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, as incorporated in the work plans of the respective centres, NEPAD identified the African Basel Convention regional centres as centres of excellence and specialist networks. NEPAD called for the development and implementation of a strategic plan for the strengthening of networks and centres
African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat is due to participate in the 12th session of AMCEN, to be convened in South Africa on 7-12 June 2008.
Interpol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat cooperates with Interpol through the Green Customs Initiative.
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat participates as part of the UNEP observer delegation to GEF. Accordingly, the Secretariat attended the GEF Council meetings in June and November 2007. Two projects proposals which involve BCRCs and the secretariat of the Basel Convention have been submitted by UNEP for co-funding to the GEF Council.
European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cooperation agreement was concluded between the Secretariat and IMPEL in February 2008 so as to foster closer cooperation in areas of mutual interests. Cooperation envisaged includes (i) exchange of information, practices, experiences and materials on the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes; (ii) sharing experiences about methodologies for managing transboundary movements of hazardous wastes; (iii) cooperating, within available resources, in the control of illegal traffic of hazardous wastes and other wastes subject to the Basel Convention; (iv) cooperating, within available resources, in the provision of training and capacity building activities for Parties to the Basel Convention that are developing countries and countries with economies in transition on legislation, regulation and best practices at the national and regional levels, in particular in relation to inspection, permitting, monitoring, reporting and enforcement of the provisions of the Basel Convention; (v) coordinating activities in areas of mutual interest, including international cooperation; and (vi) promotion of mutual understanding of the common characteristics and differences of national legislative and regulatory systems. The Secretariat frequently exchanges information and experience with the IMPEL Secretariat and is kept informed about on-going activities undertaken by the IMPEL-TFS network, especially with regard to the current seaport project.

International and regional organizations and multilateral environmental agreements	Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat and IMPEL both participated in the activities of the Asian Network on the Control of Illegal Traffic in Hazardous Wastes in Beijing on March 2007 and in Tokyo on February 2008.
Non-governmental organizations	
International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first phase of a project with the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement to enhance public outreach of the Basel Convention has been completed with the provision of a project document by INECE on public outreach strategies to pursue, especially as related to civil society. Preparatory activities are now underway for a second phase to widen the strategies to other target audiences as mentioned below. Specifically, collaboration will focus on: (a) a promotional campaign that engages existing and prospective partners of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention; (b) a strategy to develop and market stories of success through multiple media platforms; (c) a Web strategy for the Basel Convention regional centres and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention (consistent branding while maintaining individuality) to improve reach and impact; (d) a strategy for Web-based technical assistance, and other mechanisms, to foster national implementation of the Basel Convention; and (e) a donor education campaign that includes the use of film and other media.