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**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Thirteenth meeting**
Geneva, 24 April –5 May 2017
Item 4 (b) (iv) of the provisional agenda*
**Matters related to the implementation of the
Convention: scientific and technical matters:
national reporting**

National reporting

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. By its decision BC-12/6, on national reporting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal adopted the revised format for national reporting (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/16/Rev.1, annex) and mandated the small intersessional working group on national reporting to develop an electronic user manual for the electronic reporting system and the revised format for national reporting in the six official languages of the United Nations. The Secretariat was requested to make the required adaptations to the electronic reporting system to support the new reporting format.
2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to develop, following the tenth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and within available resources, practical guidance on the development of inventories for the waste streams agreed upon by the Open-ended Working Group at its tenth meeting.
3. Also in the same decision, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties that had not yet done so to transmit to the Secretariat their completed questionnaires on the transmission of information for 2013 and for previous years, as soon as possible, using the electronic reporting system. Lastly, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to undertake a number of additional activities, which are reflected in section II below.

* UNEP/CHW.13/1.

II. Implementation

A. Manuals and guidance documents pertaining to national reporting

4. The small intersessional working group on national reporting consisted of representatives of 20 Parties.¹ The lead country, Germany, in consultation with the small intersessional working group, developed a draft manual for completing the format for national reporting under the Basel Convention. The draft manual, which includes the revised format for national reporting adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision BC-12/6, has been made available in the six official languages of the United Nations (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/20). The Secretariat developed a draft user manual for the electronic reporting system in consultation with the small intersessional working group (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/21).

5. In its decision OEWG-10/6 on national reporting, the Open-ended Working Group requested the Secretariat to develop, within available resources, practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries, electrical and electronic waste and waste oils for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting. The Secretariat, thanks to generous financial support provided by the European Union, has developed draft practical guidance on the development of inventories for each of these three waste streams (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/22). Owing to budgetary constraints, the draft guidance documents are available in English only.

B. Electronic reporting system

6. The Secretariat has continued to develop the electronic reporting system of the Basel Convention, including by adding functionalities for downloading reports and tables in Microsoft Office formats in order to facilitate their verification by Parties and for focal points to recover their details for logging into the system, as well as adapting the system to support the revised format for national reporting. Work is also under way to improve the functionalities of the system for generating reports on transboundary movements and the generation of hazardous wastes and other wastes based on the information submitted by Parties pursuant to paragraph 8 (f) of decision BC-12/6. The work on improving the electronic reporting system was possible in part thanks to generous financial support provided by the Governments of Japan and Norway. The updated system will be launched in November 2017, in time for Parties to use it for reporting for the year 2016 pursuant to decision BC-12/6.

7. As at 30 October 2016, a total of 84 Parties (47 per cent) had reported for the year 2013 and 86 Parties (48 per cent) had reported for the year 2014 through the electronic reporting system. Details on the reporting and non-reporting Parties for each of those years are provided in document UNEP/CHW.13/INF/23.

8. The Secretariat organized several webinars to enhance understanding of the reporting obligations under the Basel Convention and the use of the electronic reporting system, as described in the note by the Secretariat on capacity-building and training activities in the current biennium 2016–2017 undertaken and planned by the Secretariat (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/34–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/22).

C. Revisions proposed by the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance

9. As referred to in the note by the Secretariat on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance (UNEP/CHW.13/9), at its twelfth meeting the Committee agreed to propose to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting, for consideration and possible adoption, the following amendments to the revised format for national reporting:

(a) Revisions to question 3 pertaining to conditions for transit transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2, annex I);

(b) Revisions to question 1 (a) that would enable Parties to clarify the respective jurisdictions of multiple competent authorities (UNEP/CHW.13/9/Add.2, annex IV).

¹ Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Cuba, Congo, Germany, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Norway, Peru, Togo and Yemen.

10. Should the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting adopt the amendments to the revised format for national reporting referred to in paragraph 9 above, the Secretariat, following that meeting, will modify accordingly the electronic reporting system and the manual for completing the format for national reporting under the Basel Convention.

D. Linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

11. As referred to in the note by the Secretariat on integrating chemicals and wastes management into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/39-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/28-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/45), some of the data submitted by Parties in their national reports can be used in applying several of the indicators for measuring progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns), in particular for targets 12.4² and 12.5.³ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) are responsible for the reporting of data and the further methodological development of these indicators, of which they are the custodians. The Secretariat collaborates with UNEP and UNSD to support the development of methodologies for these indicators and to ensure that information provided by Parties in their national reports is taken into account as appropriate.

III. Proposed action

12. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to Germany for its work as the lead country of the small intersessional working group on national reporting and welcomes the work undertaken by the group;
2. *Takes note of:*
 - (a) The manual for completing the format for national reporting under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal⁴ and the user manual for the electronic reporting system under the Basel Convention⁵ and encourages Parties to use them in preparing their national reports;
 - (b) The practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries, of electrical and electronic waste and of waste oils⁶ and invites Parties and others to make use of it and inform the Secretariat of their experience in doing so by 31 August 2018;
3. *Invites* Parties that have not yet done so to transmit to the Secretariat their completed questionnaires on the transmission of information for the year 2015 and for previous years as soon as possible, using the electronic reporting system of the Basel Convention;
4. *Decides* to mandate the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting to consider and agree on a list of waste streams for which additional practical guidance on the development of inventories should be developed;
5. *Recognizes* the importance of the information to be submitted by Parties in their national reports on the generation, import, export and disposal of hazardous wastes for the calculation of indicators 12.4.2⁷ and 12.5.1⁸ for measuring progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 12⁹ and urges Parties to strengthen their efforts to include such information in their national reports;

² By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

³ By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/20.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/21.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/22.

⁷ Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment.

⁸ National recycling rate, tons of material recycled.

⁹ Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

6. *Requests the Secretariat:*

- (a) To continue to develop the electronic reporting system, taking into account necessary modifications consistent with the revised format for national reporting as adopted in decision BC-13/[...], on the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance, and to support Parties in using it;
 - (b) To include necessary modifications to the manual for completing the format for national reporting consistent with the revised format as adopted in the decision referred to in paragraph 6 (a) above;
 - (c) To translate into English, subject to the availability of resources, any information submitted by Parties in their national reports in the official languages of the United Nations other than English and to incorporate such information into the electronic reporting system;
 - (d) To make available in the six official languages of the United Nations, subject to the availability of resources, the practical guidance on the development of inventories of used lead-acid batteries, of electrical and electronic waste and of waste oils referred to in paragraph 2 (b) above to enhance its use by Parties;
 - (e) To undertake, subject to the availability of resources, pilot projects to test the practical guidance on the development of an inventory of used lead-acid batteries, of electrical and electronic waste and of waste oils, referred to in paragraph 2 (b) above, and to prepare, on the basis of the outcomes of those projects and comments received pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) above, revised practical guidance;
 - (f) To prepare, for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting, a proposal for a list of hazardous waste streams for which additional practical guidance on developing inventories could be developed;
 - (g) To develop, within available resources and taking into account existing guidance on the development of inventories, practical guidance on the development of inventories for the waste streams agreed upon by the Open-ended Working Group at its eleventh meeting;
 - (h) To continue to provide, subject to the availability of resources, training to developing countries and other countries that are in need of assistance to meet their reporting obligations by organizing training activities in cooperation with the Basel Convention regional and coordinating centres or by other appropriate means;
 - (i) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting on the progress of work on national reporting.
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