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**Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference
on Chemicals Management**

Third meeting

Montevideo, 2–4 April 2019

Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Progress towards the achievement of the 2020 overall
objective of the sound management of chemicals: progress
report for the period 2014-2106**

**Cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the
Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Strategic
Approach**

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, a document on the involvement of the secretariat of 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 in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The report is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

* SAICM/OEWG.3/1.

Annex

Report on the involvement of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

1. The present note is submitted to the third session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat), to inform the OEWG of the activities carried out by the BRS Secretariat in support of SAICM and/or the cooperative activities undertaken between the SAICM and the BRS secretariats since the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

Mandates

2. Through various decisions¹, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions requested the BRS Secretariat to enhance cooperation and coordination with SAICM. At their meetings in May 2017, by their decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10 and SC-8/20, on international cooperation and coordination, the conferences of the Parties to the three Conventions, among other things:

(a) Welcomed the resolutions adopted at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including in particular the endorsement of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, and the resolution to launch an intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

(b) Requested the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in this respect and to participate in and provide relevant input to the Strategic Approach intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

(c) Requested the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

3. The text of decision BC-13/16, substantively similar to decisions RC-8/10 and SC-8/20, is set out in the appendix to this note.

Collaborative activities undertaken

4. Pursuant to the above-mentioned mandates, the BRS Secretariat has continued to cooperate closely with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in the following areas of work:

(a) The emerging policy issues and other issues of concern as identified by the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), in particular on chemicals in products; hazardous substances within the life cycle of electrical and electronic products; endocrine-disrupting chemicals; perfluorinated chemicals and highly hazardous pesticides;

(b) Policy and strategic issues, through the provision of inputs to the intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, in accordance with resolution IV/4;²

(c) Clearing-house mechanisms and information systems, in particular regarding the hosting of the new SAICM website

(d) Outreach and communication.

5. Furthermore, the BRS Secretariat submitted an information note on the contributions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to the sound management of chemicals and wastes³, to the second meeting of the intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

¹ See the 2013 synergies omnibus decisions (BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1); the 2015 COPs decisions on international cooperation and coordination (BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27).

² See SAICM/ICCM.4/15.

³ See SAICM/IP.2/INF.4

Appendix: Decisions BC-13/16, RC-8/10 and SC-8/20: International cooperation and coordination

BC-13/16: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;⁴ the note by the Secretariat on integrating chemicals and waste management into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;⁵ and 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;⁶
2. *Welcomes* the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the sound management of chemicals and wastes as an essential and integral cross-cutting element of sustainable development;
3. *Emphasizes* the important contributions of 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 to supporting the Parties to those conventions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets;
4. *Takes note* of the methodology for the collection of data relevant to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme and the secretariats of other chemicals and wastes-related multilateral environmental agreements to ensure a coordinated approach to the implementation of the methodology;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to make available to the United Nations Environment Programme information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development submitted to it by Parties, as a contribution to the overall follow-up and review by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development;
6. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Statistics Division and other relevant organizations in the development of methodologies for indicators relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;⁷
7. *Further requests* the Secretariat, 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;
8. *Welcomes* the adoption of relevant resolutions by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session, invites the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to take into account the work of the conventions in the implementation of those resolutions, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of those resolutions;
9. *Welcomes* the resolutions adopted at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, including in particular the endorsement of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, and the resolution to launch an intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and requests the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in this respect and to participate in and provide relevant input to the Strategic Approach intersessional process on the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020;

⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/39-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/28-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/45.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/54-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/42-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/58.

⁷ In accordance with the decisions of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

10. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue to enhance cooperation and coordination with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the secretariat of the Strategic Approach in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as with the international organizations and the activities listed in the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;⁸

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

⁸ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/27-UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/44.