



International Conference on Chemicals Management

Fourth session

Geneva, 28 September–2 October 2015

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

**Progress and challenges towards the achievement of the
2020 goal of sound chemicals management**

**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, for the information of participants, a report 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 (see annex). The report provides a description of the role and mandate of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in the implementation of the Strategic Approach in the light of decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27, adopted by the conferences of the parties to those conventions at their meetings in May 2015; the cooperative activities undertaken since the adoption of decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1 at the meetings of the conferences of the parties in April and May 2013; and possible areas for enhanced cooperation and coordination. The report is presented as received by the secretariat, without formal editing.

* SAICM/ICCM.4/1.

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 fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Secretariat), to inform the Conference 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.

Mandates

2. Through various decisions, such as the omnibus decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions adopted during their May 2013 meetings¹, the conferences of the parties to the three conventions requested the BRS Secretariat to enhance cooperation and coordination with SAICM.

3. At their meetings in May 2015, the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions re-emphasized the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination with SAICM. By decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27, the conferences of the parties, among other things:

(a) Joined the United Nations Environment Assembly in emphasizing the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement;

(b) Requested the Executive Secretary to participate in the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, and

(c) Requested the Executive Secretary to ensure, within available resources, the effective involvement of the Secretariat in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

4. The advance version of decision SC-7/27, substantively similar to decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9, is set out in the appendix to this note.

Collaborative activities undertaken

5. Pursuant to the above-mentioned mandates, the BRS Secretariat has undertaken a number of cooperative activities with the SAICM Secretariat since the May 2013 meetings of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions.

6. In order to foster this objective, an internal task-force was established in early 2014 to assess possible areas of cooperation and coordination between the BRS Secretariat and the Chemicals Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP Chemicals), including the SAICM Secretariat. The overall aim of these collaborative efforts is to improve the services provided to parties, observers and other stakeholders to the three conventions, SAICM, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and other programmatic work of UNEP Chemicals. Information on the task-force was made available to the Open-ended Working Group of the Conference, at its second meeting, on 15-17 December 2014.²

7. Subsequently, an overview of the cooperative activities undertaken with the SAICM Secretariat was provided by the BRS Secretariat to the conferences of the parties of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their meetings in 2015, in documents pertaining to international cooperation and coordination.³

8. The following paragraphs provide an overview of the collaborative efforts between SAICM and the BRS secretariats. For ease of reference and when relevant, the paragraphs mention the ICCM resolution inviting specific input from the BRS Secretariat.

¹ See decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1, part V on wider cooperation.

² See SAICM/OEWG.2/INF/8.

³ See documents on international cooperation and coordination (UNEP/CHW.12/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/15-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/31) and on a report on activities pertaining to international cooperation and coordination (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/31-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/41).

9. The BRS Secretariat provides input, as appropriate, on relevant emerging policy issues and other issues of concern under SAICM, such as hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products, chemicals in products, and perfluorinated chemicals.
10. In accordance with ICCM3 Resolution III/2 D regarding hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products, the BRS Secretariat provides inputs relevant to the Basel and Stockholm conventions to the work led by UNIDO in this area, as described in document SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/18.
11. In accordance with ICCM3 Resolution III/3 on managing perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) and the transition to safer alternatives, the BRS Secretariat participated in meetings of the Global PFC Group and exchanged relevant information about the perfluorinated chemicals listed in the annexes to the Stockholm Convention.
12. During the 2015 meetings of the conferences of the parties, UNEP Chemicals, WHO and the BRS Secretariat, with support from Norway, organised a joint side event on the links between persistent organic pollutants and endocrine disrupting chemicals. The event aimed at increasing awareness on endocrine disrupting chemicals among policymakers and other stakeholders, in response to ICCM3 Resolution III/2 F.
13. With regard to policy and strategic issues, the BRS Secretariat has provided inputs to the development of the overall orientation and guidance during the different rounds of consultations initiated by the SAICM Secretariat. The inputs provided emphasise the relevance and the contribution of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to the achievement of the 2020 goal.
14. The BRS Secretariat, in close cooperation with the SAICM Secretariat, UNEP Chemicals, the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and others, has made efforts to ensure that issues related to chemicals and waste management are integrated into the 2015-post development agenda and sustainable development goals.
15. With regard to technical assistance and capacity-building activities, the BRS Secretariat and the SAICM Secretariat regularly share information on ongoing and/or approved projects which are relevant to the implementation of the conventions, for which funding was received under the Small Grants Programme and the Quick Start Programme, respectively.
16. In accordance with its general mandate to cooperate with SAICM, and in light of ICCM3 Resolution III/5 regarding the indicative budget, and more specifically on further increasing synergies in the implementation of information clearing houses, the BRS Secretariat and the SAICM Secretariat are exploring ways to strengthen their collaboration in this area. Cooperation is also ongoing concerning the harmonization of the calendar of events and activities in order to reflect SAICM meetings on the website of the conventions.
17. In addition to the above-mentioned cross-cutting mandated activities, various other operational or administrative areas of cooperation are being explored, such as on organizing and servicing meetings, on outreach and communication, as well as on other joint initiatives. For instance, the BRS Secretariat has provided assistance to the SAICM Secretariat in organizing online meetings of the Bureau, for regional and sectoral consultations in preparation of OEWG2 and ICCM4 and webinar briefings on the OEWG2 of SAICM. The BRS Secretariat will also arrange for an exhibit at ICCM4, raising awareness on the science/policy linkage, as a follow-up to successful cooperation during the Science Fair which accompanied the 2015 meetings of the conferences of the parties.

Possible areas for enhanced cooperation and coordination

18. As requested by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in their decisions BC-12/17, RC-7/9 and SC-7/27, the Executive Secretary of the conventions is to ensure, within available resources, the effective involvement of the SAICM Secretariat. The BRS Secretariat is therefore planning to continue to cooperate and coordinate with SAICM on cross-cutting mandated activities and other possible areas of organizational cooperation, as follows:

- (a) Scientific and technical work, in particular provision of provide inputs to the following four emerging policy issues that are relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm: hazardous substances within the life-cycle of electrical and electronic products, chemicals in products, perfluorinated chemicals and highly hazardous pesticides; and provide input on any other scientific issue of relevance to the conventions;

(b) Technical assistance and capacity-building, through regular information exchange on ongoing and future activities undertaken at international/regional/national levels; invitation to the SAICM Secretariat to take part in BRS activities and participation in SAICM activities, as appropriate; development/implementation of joint activities; and regional delivery, through a collaborative actions aiming at enhancing cooperation by the SAICM Secretariat and BRS Secretariat and the BRS network of regional centres and with UNEP and FAO regional offices;

(c) Policy and strategic issues, through the provision of coordinated inputs to relevant international processes, such as on the post-2015 development agenda, implementation of relevant UNEA decisions that have cross-cutting mandated components, financing issues;

(d) Outreach and clearing-house mechanisms: maintaining a list of opportunities for internal coordination before an event of mutual interest such as issues of participation, delivery of joint statements, presentation of documents or delivery of side-events; maintenance of a joint calendar of meetings and workshops; ensuring that respective clearing-house mechanisms link/point to each other's relevant activities;

(e) Notifications and reporting: provide information, as necessary, on the notifications of legal information, reporting, and data collection and exchange mechanisms under the BRS conventions;

(f) Organization and servicing of meetings: cooperation in logistical arrangements of meetings, in-session support staff, preparation of documents, and submission of documents to respective governing bodies, delivery of joint side-events and messages, and organization of regional/sectoral preparatory meetings, as relevant.

Appendix: Advance version of decision SC-7/27: International cooperation and coordination

SC-7/27: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination;⁴
2. *Joins* with the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme in emphasizing that the sound management of chemicals and wastes is an essential and cross-cutting element of sustainable development and is of great relevance to the sustainable development agenda;
3. *Highlights* the contribution of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement 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 to the protection of human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and wastes through the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to inform the co-facilitators for the consultations on the post-2015 development agenda under the United Nations General Assembly about the relevance of the conventions and the contribution that they can make to the implementation of that agenda and to provide input (for example information transmitted to the Secretariat in the national reports under the Basel and Stockholm conventions and scientific data prepared by the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, the Chemical Review Committee and the Global Monitoring Plan under the Stockholm Convention) to the United Nations Statistical Commission and other relevant forums for the development of indicators relevant to the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
5. *Emphasizes* the importance of enhancing cooperation and coordination with other international bodies to facilitate the fulfilment of the objectives of the conventions, in particular within the chemicals and wastes cluster;
6. *Invites* the Environment Management Group to look at how the United Nations system can deliver in meeting the 2020 goal for the sound management of chemicals and wastes;
7. *Welcomes* United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste and requests the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of that resolution and, more generally, on the continued and coordinated strengthening of the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term;
8. *Joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly in emphasizing the need for continued and strengthened multisectoral and multi-stakeholder involvement and requests the Executive Secretary to participate in the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and to ensure, within available resources, the effective involvement of the Secretariat in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management;
9. *Also joins* the United Nations Environment Assembly in recognizing the continued relevance of the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020 and joins with the International Conference on Chemicals Management and others in stressing the importance of considering long-term policies, building on United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 1/5 and its annex, on strengthening the sound management of chemicals and wastes in the long term;
10. *Encourages* the organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to present for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session specific policies and actions planned by each organization, within their own mandates, to meet the 2020 goal;
11. *Welcomes* cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention and requests the Secretariat to continue and enhance such cooperation and coordination in areas of mutual interest with a view to fostering policy coherence, where appropriate, and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels;

⁴ UNEP/CHW.12/INF/31-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/20-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/41.

12. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To enhance cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster, in particular to facilitate activities at the regional and country levels that would support the implementation of the agreements in the cluster in areas of mutual interest, and to consider which activities of the programmes of work may be effectively implemented in cooperation with other entities within the cluster;

(b) To enhance cooperation and coordination with other international bodies in areas of relevance to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including in the areas and with the organizations listed in the aforementioned report;

(c) To report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.
