

**Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention  
on the Control of Transboundary Movements  
of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal  
Seventeenth meeting**  
Geneva, 28 April–9 May 2025  
Agenda item 7

**Programme of work and budget**

## **Draft decision BC-17/[--]: Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027 of the Basel Convention**

### **Submission by the joint contact group on programmes of work and budgets**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decision BC-16/28 on the programme of work and budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2024–2025,

*Taking note* of the financial reports for 2022 and 2023 from the trust fund for the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel Convention general trust fund),<sup>1</sup>

*Taking note also* of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the respective conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the implementation of the memorandums of understanding,<sup>2</sup>

#### **I**

#### **Basel Convention general trust fund**

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Basel Convention for the biennium 2026–2027 of [--] United States dollars for 2026 and [--] United States dollars for 2027, for the purposes set out in table [--] of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention to make commitments up to the amount of the approved operational budget, drawing on available cash resources;
3. *Decides* to maintain the working capital reserve at the level of 15 per cent of the annual average of the biennial operational budgets for the biennium 2026–2027;
4. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2026–2027 set out in table [--] of the present decision and authorizes the Executive Secretary, consistent with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, to adjust the scale to include all Parties for which the Convention enters into force before 1 January 2026 for 2026 and before 1 January 2027 for 2027;
5. *Recalls* that contributions to the Basel Convention general trust fund are expected by 1 January of the year for which those contributions have been budgeted, urges Parties to pay their contributions promptly, encourages Parties in a position to do so to pay their contributions by

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP/CHW.17/INF/71.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/CHW.17/INF/73/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.12/INF/43/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.12/INF/62/Rev.1.

15 October 2025 for the calendar year 2026 and by 15 October 2026 for the calendar year 2027, and requests the Secretariat to notify Parties of the amounts of their contributions as early as possible in the year preceding the year in which they are due;

6. *Reiterates* its ongoing concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Basel Convention general trust fund for 2024 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules of the Basel Convention, and urges Parties to pay their outstanding contributions in full as soon as possible;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to work directly with the permanent missions, ministries of foreign affairs and focal points of the Parties in that situation so that they fully pay their arrears and assessed contributions as soon as possible, and to present at regional meetings information on the current situation regarding arrears and their consequences;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to work closely with the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, 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 improve the timely communication of information on the payment of contributions, including arrears;

9. *Recalls* the provisions of paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5 of the financial rules on outstanding contributions, pursuant to which, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2001 onwards, no Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall be eligible to become a member of any bureau of the Conference of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies, provided, however, that this shall not apply to Parties that are least developed countries or small island developing States or to any Party that has agreed on and is respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with the financial rules;

10. *Also recalls* the provisions of paragraph 10 of decision BC-16/28, and decides that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for four or more years and that has not agreed on or is not respecting a schedule of payments implemented in accordance with paragraph 3 (d) of rule 5 of the financial rules shall be eligible to receive financial support for attendance at intersessional workshops or other informal meetings, as arrears that have been outstanding for more than four years must be treated as 100 per cent doubtful debts under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

11. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Secretary and the President of the Conference of the Parties, who through a jointly signed letter invited the ministers for foreign affairs of Parties with contributions in arrears to take timely action to rectify those arrears, requests that this practice continue, and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner by paying their outstanding contributions;

12. *Adopts* the staffing table of the Secretariat for the biennium 2026–2027 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table [–] of the present decision;

13. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to continue to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner, provided that positions remain at the same level or become lower, that the Executive Secretary remains within the overall cost for the staff numbers set out in table [–] of the present decision for the biennium 2026–2027, and that the staffing does not cause any additional budget obligations to be incurred beyond that biennium;

14. *Also authorizes*, on an exceptional basis, the Executive Secretary, as a last resort, to draw additional funds, not exceeding [–] United States dollars, from the net balance of the general trust funds of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cover any shortfall in the approved staffing envelope for the biennium 2026–2027, should the annual increase applied to real staff costs and used to determine the staffing envelope not be adequate, provided that the overall balance of the trust funds is not reduced below the working capital reserve, and requests the Executive Secretary to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting, as appropriate;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting on the level of positions filled against the approved staffing table;

## II

**Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions**

16. *Takes note* of the funding estimates of [--] United States dollars for 2026 and [--] United States dollars for 2027, in table [--] of the present decision, for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Trust Fund to Assist Developing Countries and Other Countries in Need of Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Basel Convention (Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions);

17. *Notes* that the requirements for the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions presented in the budget represent the Secretariat's best efforts to be realistic and reflect priorities agreed on by all Parties, and urges Parties, and invites non-Parties and others, to make voluntary contributions to the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions;

18. *Notes* the importance of having funding available in the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions for the participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and of Parties with economies in transition in meetings under the Convention;

19. *Reiterates* that it looks forward to the outcomes of the work of the United Nations Environment Programme task force established to conduct an overall review of the current methodology for calculating and allocating programme support costs, which, once available, may be considered by the Conference of the Parties;

20. *Urges* Parties, and invites others in a position to do so, to contribute, as a matter of urgency and as early as feasible, to the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions with a view to ensuring the full and effective participation of developing-country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and of Parties with economies in transition in the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies;

## III

**Preparations for the next biennium**

21. *Notes* the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the Secretariat, and encourages the Executive Secretary to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

22. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a budget for the biennium 2028–2029 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the biennium 2026–2027 in a programmatic format;

23. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a staffing table and reflect the total actual costs in the budget of the Convention for the biennium 2028–2029;

24. *Notes* the need to facilitate priority-setting by providing Parties with timely information on the financial consequences of various options and, to that end, requests the Executive Secretary to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2028–2029 two funding scenarios that take into account any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 21 above and are based on:

(a) The Executive Secretary's assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2026–2027 level in nominal terms, to finance all proposals before the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary implications;

(b) Maintaining the operational budget at the 2026–2027 level in nominal terms;

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to provide, where relevant, cost estimates for actions with budgetary implications that are not foreseen in the draft programme of work but are included in proposed draft decisions, before the adoption of those decisions by the Conference of the Parties;

26. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to allocate resources to fund the travel of participants from developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition on the basis of the country classification lists developed by the United Nations Secretariat,<sup>3</sup> in observance of paragraph 3 (c) of rule 4 of the financial rules;

27. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the requirement for the Basel Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions for the biennium 2028–2029 presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors.

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<sup>3</sup> See, for example, the *World Economic Situation and Prospects* annual report.