

**Rotterdam Convention on the Prior
Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and
Pesticides in International Trade**

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Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention
on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain
Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
Eleventh meeting
Geneva, 1–12 May 2023

**Report of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam
Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for
Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International
Trade on the work of its eleventh meeting****Introduction**

1. The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the eleventh meeting of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (hereinafter, “the 2023 meetings”) were held in Geneva from 1 to 12 May 2023. In decisions BC-15/29, RC-10/18 and SC-10/25, on the dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the conferences of the Parties decided that the meetings would include joint sessions on joint issues and would not feature a high-level segment.

2. Accordingly, and as described in greater detail below under “Organization of work”, the 2023 meetings featured joint sessions to address cross-cutting issues of concern to at least two of the three conventions and separate sessions of the meetings of each of the three conferences of the Parties, as well as the opening and organization of the meetings.

I. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)

3. Abiola Olanipekun, Chief, Science and Technical Assistance Branch, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, acting as master of ceremonies, welcomed participants to the 2023 meetings.

4. The meetings began with a Swiss cultural musical performance.

A. Opening remarks

5. Opening remarks were delivered by Katrin Schneeberger, State Secretary, Federal Office for the Environment, Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications of Switzerland; Elizabeth Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; Christine Fuell, Executive Secretary ad interim of the Rotterdam Convention; and

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Reginald Hernaus, President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, speaking on behalf of the three presidents of the conferences of the Parties.

6. In her remarks, Ms. Schneeberger welcomed participants to Geneva and, highlighting that the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were a crucial part of the global framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste, said that participants at the present meetings would have several opportunities to take significant steps in strengthening that sound management. One such opportunity was by listing new chemicals in the annexes to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, following the recommendations of the respective scientific committees, to pave the way for the elimination of, or improved management of, hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment. Other opportunities included updating the electronic and electrical waste (e-waste) technical guidelines under the Basel Convention to reflect the e-waste amendment, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fifteenth meeting, thereby supporting national authorities in addressing the global e-waste challenge and directing e-waste to state-of-the-art recovery; launching work to improve the functioning of the prior informed consent procedure under the Basel Convention in order to benefit both companies and authorities; and adopting plastic waste guidelines, in order to improve the management of plastic waste. A further opportunity was by adopting the proposed amendments and additional annex to the Rotterdam Convention to create a tool to support countries in managing shipments of hazardous chemicals, thereby retaining the aim of sharing responsibility for the sound management of chemicals. It was important to recall that the Rotterdam Convention did not ban the manufacture, trade or use of chemicals but rather provided information about the hazards of listed chemicals to assist countries in deciding whether they could manage the risks associated with international trade in those chemicals. In conclusion, she highlighted the fact that multilateral efforts, based on collective expertise, were vital in addressing the global challenges faced in protecting human health and the environment.

7. Ms. Mrema, in her remarks, noted that the triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste was rapidly worsening and that, although the climate and nature elements of the crisis were firmly in the public eye, the pollution and waste element currently lacked the same level of attention and action. UNEP had highlighted in *Global Chemicals Outlook II: From Legacies to Innovative Solutions – Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* that the size of the global chemical industry was projected to double between 2017 and 2030. Furthermore, over 2,000 new chemicals were currently being released every year, most of which had not been assessed for their effect on human health. In addition, over 2 billion tonnes of waste were currently being produced globally every year, mainly in major cities, and that waste led to significant damage to the natural environment, including through the production of greenhouse gases and, subsequently, climate change. The improper production of chemicals and management of waste, as well as pollution, contributed to major threats to human health, so it was important to adopt a One Health approach. More action was therefore also needed to ensure the environmentally sound management of hazardous chemicals and waste, in particular through strengthened regulations for international trade and the elimination of the most hazardous chemicals, and it was vital to minimize waste generation and promote a life cycle approach to waste management. Participants at the present meetings had the opportunity to take decisions that would further develop and strengthen the three conventions. Actions to promote the effective implementation of the conventions included the adoption of technical guidelines on plastic waste under the Basel Convention and meeting the deadlines under the Stockholm Convention for the elimination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). In closing, she noted that 2023 would be a crucial year for the chemicals agenda, as the global community awaited the outcomes of the negotiations on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, with a new framework due to be adopted by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session, thereby enhancing engagement with key economic sectors to strengthen circular approaches and life cycle thinking, and facilitating cooperation with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other thematic areas. UNEP would continue to support and work closely with the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their Secretariat.

8. Mr. Payet, in his remarks, welcomed participants to the 2023 meetings held under the theme “Accelerating action: targets for the sound management of chemicals and wastes”. He noted that much had been achieved in the most recent intersessional period and that the decisions taken at the present meetings would both directly and indirectly address the triple planetary crisis and should be aimed at providing solutions that would contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals for a healthier, cleaner and better planet for all. At the high-level segment of the 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, which had been held in connection with the international meeting entitled “Stockholm +50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, ministers had highlighted the fact that international cooperation was a precondition as well as a means

for achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste and had called on all the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to set more ambitious targets and goals for tackling pollution. As the three conventions worked in an integrated manner, their cooperation and coordination with other international processes within the chemicals and waste cluster remained important. Recalling that the PCB deadlines under the Stockholm Convention were fast approaching and that Parties would require funding, technical support and government cooperation to meet the related targets, he thanked partners, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union and the Governments of France, Germany and Norway, for the support that they had already provided, and encouraged others to provide support in the form of much-needed resources to rid the planet of PCB once and for all. Thanking Parties for their contributions to the general trust funds, in particular those Parties that had paid their outstanding contributions, he invited Parties still in arrears to explore possible solutions with the Secretariat. He also thanked donors to the voluntary trust funds of the conventions, namely Belgium, China, Denmark, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as the French Global Environment Facility and the Norwegian Retailers' Environment Fund, for their generous contributions during the biennium 2022–2023. In particular, he expressed his thanks to Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their generous support in funding participants from eligible Parties to attend the present meetings.

9. Ms. Fuell also expressed thanks to all the donors to the voluntary trust fund and the Government of Switzerland for its warm welcome and support for the present meetings. She noted that the sound management of chemicals and waste was a major cornerstone of the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that significant efforts were still required to reach the deadline for the Goals that was now only seven years away. The Goals were intrinsic to the overall mission and strategic framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which acted as the custodian for 21 of the indicators of those Goals, as well as contributing significantly to Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production. In addition to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework listed its own 4 goals for 2050 and 23 global targets for urgent action to be completed by 2030. Actions to reach those targets needed to be implemented consistently and in harmony with other relevant international obligations. Target 7 called, among other things, for the reduction by at least half of the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals. FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNEP were currently drafting an action plan on highly hazardous pesticides to be submitted to the International Conference for Chemicals Management at its fifth session for its consideration. At the present meetings, the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention were due to consider the inclusion of 7 chemicals and pesticides in Annex III to the Convention. The listing of the chemicals would not jeopardize food security, as listed chemicals and pesticides could still be used but in an environmentally sound manner based on informed decision-making in order to reduce their risk to human health and the environment. In that regard, the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention had continued and accelerated its technical assistance programme with a focus on less hazardous alternatives, the collection of evidence for pesticide poisoning, and the implementation of major obligations under the Convention. FAO, as one of the hosting organizations, continued to provide significant support for such activities, not least by its continuous financial support of the Convention. In closing, she said that FAO and UNEP remained firmly committed to serving their members and the Parties to achieve the objectives of the conventions related to chemicals and waste.

10. Mr. Hernaus, in his remarks, also highlighted the fact that only seven years remained before the deadline for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that the urgent need to address the triple planetary crisis had been highlighted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session, in 2022. Given that the three elements of the planetary crisis were interconnected, it was vital to adopt a holistic and integrated approach to addressing them and, at all costs, to avoid any solutions to one element that could have a detrimental effect on one or both of the other elements. The theme of the 2023 meetings was pertinent to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it was now necessary to accelerate action in order to meet the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 12 on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, which was key to sustaining the livelihoods of current and future generations of humankind. The Parties to the three conventions should therefore work together to improve resource efficiency, reduce waste and pollution, and shape a new, circular economy. The three conventions also needed to work closely with other conventions and programmes with which they shared common objectives, for example, in relation to target 7 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and to address both the triple planetary crisis and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through cooperation and coordination among themselves and also in conjunction with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that

Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

B. Formal opening

11. The sixteenth ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were formally opened at 11 a.m. on 1 May 2023 by Reginald Hernaus (the Kingdom of the Netherlands), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention; Ana Berejiani (Georgia), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention; and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), President of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, respectively.

C. Regional statements

12. Representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries made general statements on issues to be discussed during the meetings and two Parties exercised their right of reply.

II. Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 2)

13. The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted the following agenda for its eleventh meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/1:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Organization of work;
 - (c) Report on the credentials of representatives to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
4. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties.
5. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention:
 - (a) Status of implementation;
 - (b) Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention;
 - (c) Enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention;
 - (d) Compliance;
 - (e) Technical assistance;
 - (f) Financial resources.
6. International cooperation and coordination:
 - (a) Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
 - (b) Cooperation and coordination with other organizations.
7. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions:
 - (a) Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange;
 - (b) Mainstreaming gender;
 - (c) Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes;
 - (d) From science to action.
8. Programme of work and budget.

9. Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.
10. Venue and dates of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report of the meeting.
13. Closure of the meeting.
14. In adopting its agenda, the Conference of the Parties agreed to consider under item 11, other matters, the admission of observers.

III. Organizational matters (agenda item 3)

A. Attendance

15. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following 152 Parties: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cook Islands, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (Republic of the), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
16. In addition, the meeting was attended by representatives of six Parties that did not submit valid credentials: Chad, Iraq, Libya, Rwanda, Sudan, Ukraine.
17. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following non-Party State: Holy See, United States of America.
18. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented as observers: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNEP/Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Health Organization.
19. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented as observers: African Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Scientific and Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility, World Customs Organization, World Trade Organization.
20. Non-governmental organizations were represented as observers. The names of those organizations are included in the list of participants (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/66–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/45–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/62).

B. Election of officers

21. The representative of the Secretariat introduced document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/2 on the election of officers and drew attention to documents UNEP/CHW.16/INF/4–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/4–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/4, containing the overview table of elections, and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/5, containing the curricula vitae of candidates nominated for appointment during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties as members of the Chemical Review Committee. She recalled that the Conference of the Parties would need to elect, from among the Parties, a president and four vice-presidents, including one vice-president to act as rapporteur, to serve from the closure of its eleventh meeting to the closure of its twelfth meeting, including for any intervening extraordinary meeting. Given the past practice of regional rotation for the election of officers, the next president would be expected to be elected from among the Asia-Pacific States and the rapporteur from among the Western European and other States.

22. The Conference of the Parties was also expected to appoint 14 new members of the Chemical Review Committee with terms of office from 1 May 2024 for a term of four years (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/5) and 8 members of the Compliance Committee with terms of office from the closure of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties until the closure of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14).

23. To facilitate the election of officers and members of subsidiary bodies, on 19 December 2022, the Secretariat had sent a letter to all the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention regarding the elections to take place during the present meetings. In the letter, the Secretariat had invited Parties to communicate the nomination of candidates by 1 March 2023 and reminded them of decision RC-8/13 on mainstreaming gender and of the supporting documentation to be put forward for the candidates for election to the Chemical Review Committee. The Parties had also been reminded of the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties with respect to the restrictions on eligibility for representatives of Parties, other than least developed countries or small island developing States or Parties that had agreed on and were respecting a schedule of payments, whose contributions had been in arrears for two or more years. A list of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention whose contributions were in arrears as at 28 April 2023 was available on the intranet.

24. In line with the mandates entrusted to them by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting, the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, had facilitated the process for nominating candidates for the elections to take place during the current meeting, including by identifying regional election focal points and facilitating consultations during the regional preparatory meetings. Each region was expected to transmit to the Secretariat through its regional focal point the candidates for election no later than 1 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 May 2023.

25. In accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the following members of the Bureau elected at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention served during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President: Ana Berejiani (Georgia)
Vice-Presidents: Joswa Aoudou (Cameroon)
Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez (Chile)
Tuulia Toikka (Finland)
Mohammed Oglah Hussein Khashashneh (Jordan)

26. Mr. Aoudou served as Rapporteur.

27. Also in accordance with rule 22 of the rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties elected the following members of the Bureau of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, whose terms would commence upon the closure of the current meeting and terminate upon the closure of the next ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

President: Syed Mujtaba Hussain (Pakistan)
Vice-Presidents: Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez (Chile)
Joseph Cantamanto Edmund (Ghana)
Andrejs Sisulins (Latvia)
Mariska Wouters (New Zealand)

28. Ms. Wouters was also elected to serve as Rapporteur.

29. The Conference of the Parties agreed to entrust the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, with facilitating during the intersessional period preceding the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the process for nominating candidates for election. The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions also agreed to the same arrangement with a view to ensuring consistency in approaches and, ultimately, to facilitating decision-making on elections during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2025.

C. Organization of work

30. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 31 to 34 below are replicated in section III.C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section III.C of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

31. The three conferences of the Parties agreed to organize their work during the meetings in accordance with the scenario note set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/1–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/1 and the schedule of work for that segment set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/2–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/2–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/2. The schedule and conduct of the meetings would be adjusted by the bureaux each day, as necessary, in the light of the progress of the meetings.

32. In accordance with the agreed arrangements, and as described in the scenario note, the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions would meet for 11 days of joint and Convention specific plenary sessions from 1 to 12 May 2023, conducted in the six official languages of the United Nations. During the joint sessions, the conferences of the Parties would discuss the agreed crosscutting issues affecting at least two of the three conventions. The conferences of the Parties also agreed that the presidents of the three conferences would take it in turn to preside over joint sessions and that each, when so presiding, would act on behalf of all three. All decisions would be adopted pending confirmation from the contact group on budget matters that any activities contemplated by the decisions had been taken into account in the proposed programmes of work and budgets for the biennium 2024–2025 or that they would have no budgetary implications.

33. In carrying out their work at the current meetings, the conferences of the Parties had before them working and information documents pertaining to the items on the respective agendas for the meetings. Lists of those documents for each meeting, arranged according to the agenda items to which the documents pertain, are set out in documents UNEP/CHW.16/INF/61, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/43 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/5.

34. The conferences of the Parties agreed to work in plenary session and to establish joint or convention-specific contact or other groups as they considered necessary. The Parties agreed that the current meetings would be paperless; documents would accordingly be distributed in electronic form only.

D. Report on the credentials of representatives to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties

35. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 36 to 40 below are replicated in section III.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section III.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

36. Introducing the item, the President recalled that, in advance of the current meetings, the bureaux of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had agreed to take the same common approach to their consideration of credentials for the current meetings as had been taken during the 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021–2022 meetings of the conferences of the Parties. Pursuant to that approach each Bureau would accept original credentials in good order as well as copies thereof, on the understanding that, in the case of the latter, originals would be submitted as soon as possible. This had been conveyed to all the Parties in advance of the meetings.

37. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the documents relevant to the item and noted that rule 18 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, rule 19 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and rule 19 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention provided that the credentials of representatives of Parties and the names of alternate representatives and advisers must be submitted to the Secretariat (and in the case of the Basel Convention, the Executive Secretary of the meeting) if possible no later than 24 hours after the opening of the meeting. Credentials must be issued either by a Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs or, in the case of a regional economic integration organization, by the competent authority of that organization. Representatives of Parties could participate provisionally in the meeting pending a decision by the Conference of the Parties on their credentials. Each Conference of the Parties was expected to adopt the report on the credentials of representatives to its meeting prior to the closure of that meeting.

38. As at the beginning of the meetings, there were 190 Parties to the Basel Convention, 165 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and 186 Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

39. The President stressed the importance of following correct procedures. To that end, she invited Parties to make their best effort to submit their credentials in accordance with the rules of procedure. The Secretariat would collect and verify the credentials and report to the bureaux. Each Bureau would monitor progress on the submission of credentials on a daily basis, prepare its report based on the credentials submitted to the Secretariat at the latest by 1 p.m. on Thursday, 4 May, and present its report to the conferences of the Parties on Friday, 5 May, for their consideration and possible adoption. She added that the conferences of the Parties would consider the possible adoption of updated reports on credentials on Thursday, 11 May.

40. She reminded Parties to the Basel Convention that, under rule 5.3 (e) (ii) of the financial rules, any Party whose contributions had been in arrears for four or more years was not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Conference of the Parties unless the Conference decided otherwise. Updated information on arrears was available on the intranet website for the 2023 meetings.

41. Concerning the Rotterdam Convention, on 5 May 2023, the representative of the Secretariat presented the report of the Bureau on the credentials of representatives as at 1 p.m. on 4 May 2023, indicating that the Bureau had further examined the credentials of the representatives of the 157 Parties to the Rotterdam Convention that had registered for the meeting to date and had found that the credentials of 144 representatives had been issued by a Head of State or Government or a minister for foreign affairs and were therefore in good order. The credentials of 129 of those 144 representatives were originals, while 15 were copies that were accepted on the understanding that originals would be submitted as soon as possible.

42. It was also reported that the following 13 Parties had not yet submitted credentials for their representatives: Chad, Eswatini, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia.

43. Subsequent to the deadline of 1 p.m. on 4 May 2023, three Parties had submitted credentials that were found to be in good order by the Bureau, namely Kenya, Sierra Leone and Zambia. The Bureau invited the Conference of the Parties to also accept the credentials of the representatives of those Parties, which the Conference of the Parties duly did.

44. The Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted the report of the Bureau on credentials.

45. On 11 May 2023, the report on credentials was updated based on additional credentials received and considered to be in good order by the Bureau. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the report on credentials adopted on 5 May 2023 would be updated to reflect the fact that four Parties, namely Eswatini, Sao Tome and Principe, Vanuatu and Yemen, had submitted credentials that had been found to be in good order by the Bureau.

IV. Rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 4)

46. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/3. She recalled that, at its first meeting, by decision RC-1/1, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had adopted its rules of procedure, as contained in the annex to that decision, in their entirety, with the exception of the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45. That sentence had been enclosed in square brackets to indicate that it had not been agreed on

and was of no effect. The Conference of the Parties had continued its consideration of the matter at all of its subsequent meetings and had agreed to defer adopting a formal decision on the matter.

47. In the ensuing discussion, one representative proposed that informal discussions be held on the matter. Several others, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the proposal, at the same time indicating that they were in favour of removing the brackets and allowing voting when all efforts to reach consensus had been exhausted.

48. A number of representatives opposed the creation of an informal group, however, with several indicating that their reason for doing so was their preference for maintaining the practice of decision-making by consensus, which some described as the cornerstone of the Convention, ensuring comprehensive consideration of the issues and guaranteeing that all views were taken into account. One representative said that consensus was standard practice under multilateral agreements and gave the decisions adopted the highest level of legitimacy.

49. The Conference of the Parties agreed that it would defer further consideration of the matter to its twelfth meeting, that the square brackets around the second sentence of paragraph 1 of rule 45 would remain in place and that, until it decided otherwise, it would continue to decide on substantive matters by consensus.

V. Matters related to the implementation of the Convention (agenda item 5)

A. Status of implementation

50. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/4, which described the activities undertaken by the Secretariat to implement decision RC-10/4, provided links and references to other relevant information and set out a draft decision.

51. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, commended the work of the Secretariat in providing technical assistance to support Parties in the implementation of the Convention. Several, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that more capacity-building was nevertheless needed. Several, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, called for more workshops and online training on the use of the Final Regulatory Action Evaluation Toolkit and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management, in order to strengthen the rate of submission of notifications of final regulatory action as well as proposals for severely hazardous pesticide formulations. Another requested assistance on the use of the prior informed consent procedure in importing.

52. A representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries urged all the Parties to keep contact information for designated national authorities up to date to ease communication between Parties. She also encouraged all Parties to submit their missing import responses and called for more effort from Parties and the Secretariat to increase the number and quality of notifications of final regulatory action. She highlighted the fact that the rate of response to explicit consent requests sent by her constituency was a disappointing 60 per cent, reflecting missed opportunities for countries to benefit from an exchange of information that offered protection from unwanted imports.

53. One representative drew attention to the use of the general term “asbestos” in table 1 of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/7/Add.1, which showed exports of chemicals listed in Annex III, and asked that in future that it be made clear that the chrysotile form of asbestos was not listed in Annex III.

54. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, indicated their support for the draft decision, although the representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries proposed the deletion of a portion of the text, as it already appeared in another decision.

55. The Conference of the Parties agreed to adopt the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/4, as orally amended.

56. Decision RC-11/1, on status of implementation, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

B. Listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention

1. Chemical Review Committee

57. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/5, including on the work of the Chemical Review Committee at its eighteenth meeting (UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.18/15) and on the support provided for the effective participation of members and Parties in the work of the Committee and cooperation with other bodies, and a draft decision on the matter. He recalled that the terms of office of 14 members of the Committee would expire on 30 April 2024 and that the Conference of the Parties was expected to appoint their replacements. One development since the issuance of the meeting documents on that matter was the replacement of a member, which would need to be confirmed in a new paragraph to be added to the draft decision in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/5.

58. The Chair of the Chemical Review Committee, Noluzuko Gwayi, delivered a statement on the work of the Committee. She explained that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Committee had decided to recommend that two new chemicals, iprodione and terbufos, be listed in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention. The listing of those chemicals was before the Conference of the Parties for consideration at the present meeting. At its eighteenth meeting, the Committee had reviewed notifications of final regulatory action for amitrole, carbaryl, carbon tetrachloride, chlorfenvinphos, methidathion, methyl bromide, methyl parathion, mirex, paraquat and thiodicarb. At its nineteenth meeting, the Committee would pursue its review of notifications on carbaryl, chlorfenvinphos, methidathion and thiodicarb and look at 16 new notifications on six chemicals. There were, however, another 38 notifications on 12 chemicals and 4 severely hazardous pesticide formulations awaiting the Committee's review, and nearly 300 notifications that met the information requirements of Annex I were awaiting a matching notification of final regulatory action so that they could be forwarded to the Committee.

59. Ms. Gwayi explained that half of the current Committee members had started their term in June 2022 and had requested training in person, as online training had its limitations. The Secretariat had held an orientation workshop in March 2023, which was pivotal to enhancing the effective participation of the new members in the work of the Committee.

60. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Chair and members of the Chemical Review Committee for their work, with one mentioning the Committee's fortitude in the face of the constraints caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Secretariat for its efforts to train the new Committee members and supported the Committee's recommendation that the Secretariat continue doing so. One representative requested additional capacity-building for Parties to enable them to submit notifications of final regulatory action based on risk evaluations.

61. The representative speaking on behalf of the group of countries thanked the Secretariat for all the activities carried out to improve participation, openness and transparency in the work of the Chemical Review Committee, with another representative encouraging the Secretariat to share the outcome of Committee meetings, through workshops, webinars or social media, as the information was important for policymakers. The same representative encouraged the Committee to cooperate closely with other scientific committees or organizations.

62. One representative stressed the need for Parties to have information about alternatives to the chemicals recommended for listing to avoid negative health and environmental effects and economic consequences, as the prices of chemicals could increase substantially once they were listed.

63. Another representative expressed his concern in relation to the process that led to the decision to recommend the inclusion of new substances in Annex III to the Convention. He said that some of the final regulatory measures adopted recently had been taken without the conduct of a specific evaluation and available exposure data of the chemical products concerned. Instead, there had been a general survey of the products registered in certain countries and the agricultural practices in a certain region. He did not consider such an evaluation process to be an appropriate reference for a risk assessment. As it had happened on several occasions, he called for there to be more rigorous analysis of the notifications by the Committee.

64. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their support for the draft decision in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/5.

65. The representative of FAO explained that, in order to assist countries in finding alternatives to highly hazardous pesticides, FAO had recently developed a tool on the assessment of alternatives,

which had been included in the FAO Pesticide Registration Toolkit. It provided guidance on the key principles, a consultative and multi-stakeholder process for identifying viable alternatives and facilitating their introduction into farming systems. It followed a holistic approach by taking into account the effectiveness and potential risks of alternatives, socioeconomic factors and the technical capacity available in the country concerned. FAO had conducted a series of training sessions on the Toolkit in various regions and had invited designated national authorities to participate.

66. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/5, as orally amended.

67. Decision RC-11/2, on the operation of the Chemical Review Committee, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

2. Terbufos

68. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/12, which contained a draft decision including draft text of an amendment to list terbufos in Annex III, and in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/12/Add.1, which contained the draft decision guidance document adopted by the Chemical Review Committee.

69. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, took the floor in support of the listing of terbufos in Annex III to the Convention. None opposed the listing.

70. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/12, amending Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to list terbufos under the pesticide category and approving the decision guidance document.

71. Decision RC-11/3, on the listing of terbufos in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

3. Iprodione

72. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/10, which contained a draft decision including draft text of an amendment to list iprodione in Annex III, and in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/10/Add.1, which contained the draft decision guidance document adopted by the Chemical Review Committee.

73. Many of those who took the floor during the ensuing discussion, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, voiced support for the listing of iprodione in Annex III to the Convention, as recommended by the Chemical Review Committee.

74. However, a number of representatives opposed the listing. Most of them raised concerns regarding the impact the listing would have on the accessibility of iprodione and the lack of viable alternatives, which several said would lead to higher food prices and greater food insecurity. Some also cited doubts regarding the sufficiency of the rationale and draft decision guidance document and the underlying notifications, toxicological data and risk assessments. One nevertheless expressed willingness to cooperate with the Secretariat and other Parties to explore effective implementation of the Convention through, for instance, identification of alternative products and strengthening of technical cooperation, financial assistance, technological transfer and capacity-building.

75. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties established a contact group on the listing of chemicals, to be co-chaired by Caroline Theka (Malawi) and Marit Randall (Norway). The group was mandated to discuss the draft decision on listing iprodione set out in paragraph 4 of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/10.

76. Subsequently, given the lack of consensus on the matter, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of iprodione to its twelfth meeting.

4. Acetochlor

77. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/6, which contained a draft decision including draft text of an amendment to list acetochlor in Annex III to the Convention, and in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/6/Add.1, which contained a draft decision guidance document on acetochlor.

78. He recalled that, at its ninth meeting, in decision RC-9/5, the Conference of the Parties had agreed that all the requirements set out in articles 5 and 7 for listing in Annex III to the Convention had been met for acetochlor. The Conference of the Parties had not been able, however, to reach

consensus at its ninth or tenth meetings regarding the listing of the chemical in Annex III and had decided, at its tenth meeting, to defer further consideration to the present meeting.

79. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their support for the listing of acetochlor in Annex III to the Convention. Some representatives, noting that the Conference of the Parties had previously been close to deciding to list acetochlor, expressed the hope that the listing would be achieved at the present meeting. Several representatives also underlined that the listing would be beneficial for human health and the environment. One representative of a Party where acetochlor was still registered nevertheless supported the listing of the substance, as less toxic alternatives were available.

80. A number of representatives did not, however, support the listing of acetochlor in Annex III to the Convention. One representative noted the lack of a direct substitute for acetochlor, so farmers would instead need to use a combination of products, which was especially challenging for small-scale producers. Another representative said that the listing would narrow the range of chemicals available for weed control and, as rotation in the chemicals used in weed control was vital, would therefore threaten food security. Some representatives acknowledged that the inclusion of a chemical in Annex III did not constitute a formal ban on its use but stressed that certain countries and certain private-sector actors applying private voluntary certification scheme standards chose not to use Annex III-listed chemicals, which would limit access to agricultural products treated with acetochlor in certain markets. Another representative said that his country was currently using new technologies to reduce the concentration of acetochlor-based formulated products used but noted that it was still used over extensive areas of land in the country.

81. Some representatives, including one representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recalled that the inclusion of a chemical in Annex III to the Convention meant that the chemical would be subject to certain rules when traded internationally but that did not in any way constitute an international ban or an invitation for Parties to restrict the use of the chemical concerned. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries noted that the bilateral explicit consent procedure used by those countries for exports of acetochlor to all countries worked well. Furthermore, she drew attention to a study available on the Convention website that had found no conclusive evidence of a negative impact of listing on the price and the international trade in certain pesticides. She also noted that information on alternatives could be obtained either on the Convention website or through local FAO offices.

82. The Conference of the Parties agreed to mandate the contact group on the listing of chemicals referred to in paragraph 75 of the present report to discuss the draft decision on listing acetochlor set out in paragraph 5 of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/6.

83. Subsequently, given the lack of consensus on the matter, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of acetochlor to its twelfth meeting.

5. Carbosulfan

84. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/7, which contained a draft decision including draft text of an amendment to list carbosulfan in Annex III, and in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/7/Add.1, which contained a draft decision guidance document on carbosulfan. He recalled that, at its eighth meeting, in decision RC-8/6, the Conference of the Parties had agreed that all the requirements set out in articles 5 and 7 for listing in Annex III to the Convention had been met for carbosulfan. The Conference of the Parties had been unable, however, to reach consensus with regard to the listing of the chemical in Annex III at its eighth, ninth or tenth meetings, and had decided, at its tenth meeting, to defer further consideration to the present meeting.

85. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their support for the listing of carbosulfan in Annex III to the Convention. Several representatives underlined that the listing would be beneficial for human health, animal health and the environment, owing to the high toxicity of carbosulfan, and a number of representatives noted existing bans of the chemical in their own country or region. One representative noted that the majority of cases of hospitalization for pesticide poisoning in her country were linked to exposure to carbosulfan and it had proved fatal in some cases. Furthermore, she noted that there was little awareness of the dangers of the chemical in her country, so training and improved medical monitoring and knowledge were required.

86. A number of representatives did not, however, support the listing of carbosulfan in Annex III to the Convention, as the use of the insecticide ensured food security and contributed considerably to the national economy.

87. The Conference of the Parties agreed to mandate the contact group on the listing of chemicals referred to in paragraph 75 of the present report to discuss the draft decision on listing carbosulfan set out in paragraph 5 of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/7.

88. Subsequently, given the lack of consensus on the matter, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of carbosulfan to its twelfth meeting.

6. Liquid formulations (emulsifiable concentrate and soluble concentrate) containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L

89. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/11, which contained a draft decision including draft text of an amendment to list liquid formulations (emulsifiable concentrate and soluble concentrate) containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L, in Annex III; and in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/11/Add.1, containing the draft decision guidance document on that chemical. He recalled that, at its sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth meetings, the Conference of the Parties had considered the inclusion of paraquat dichloride formulations in Annex III but had been unable to reach consensus on the matter. In its decision RC-6/8, the Conference of the Parties had decided that all the requirements set out in articles 6 and 7 for listing in Annex III had been met for the paraquat dichloride formulations. At its tenth meeting, given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties had decided to defer further consideration of paraquat dichloride formulations to the present meeting.

90. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the listing of liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L, in Annex III to the Convention. Some representatives noted that the chemical was contained in registered products in their countries, with one representative stating that his country would continue to use the chemical until an economically viable alternative could be identified. Another supported the listing of the chemical in view of the significant danger posed to human health by accidental poisoning in particular. Several representatives noted that the chemical was banned, or that a ban was currently being considered, in their countries.

91. One representative noted that, although her country was not against the listing of the chemical, she questioned the value of the practice of reviewing chemicals several times at meetings of the Conference of the Parties and proposed that additional reviews of such chemicals be carried out at the expert level, for example by the Chemical Review Committee, and take into account all current available data and possible issues, to support further consideration of the listing.

92. Several representatives did not support the listing of the chemical, as it was widely used in their countries and there was a lack of economically viable alternatives. The listing would therefore have a severely negative impact on food security, the livelihood of subsistence farmers and on the national economies of those countries. While noting that the inclusion of a chemical in Annex III to the Convention did not constitute a ban on the chemical, he said that in practice listing led to substantial social and economic barriers to the chemical and was therefore tantamount to a ban.

93. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recalled that the inclusion of a chemical in Annex III to the Convention meant that the chemical would be subject to certain rules when traded internationally but that did not in any way constitute an international ban or an invitation for Parties to restrict the use of the chemical concerned. Furthermore, she noted that the bilateral explicit consent procedure used by those countries for exports of paraquat to all countries worked well. She also drew attention to a study available on the Convention website that had found no conclusive evidence of a negative impact of listing on the price of and the international trade in certain pesticides, and noted that information on alternatives could be obtained either on the Convention website or through local FAO offices. Another representative noted that the economic development of a country depended on its people therefore human health considerations needed to be taken into account.

94. Given the lack of consensus on the listing of liquid formulations containing paraquat dichloride at or above 276 g/L, corresponding to paraquat ion at or above 200 g/L, in Annex III to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of the matter to its twelfth meeting.

7. Fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L)

95. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/9, containing a draft decision including draft text of an amendment to list fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) in Annex III; and in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/9/Add.1, containing the draft decision guidance document on those fenthion formulations. He recalled that the Conference of the Parties had considered the inclusion of fenthion (ultra-low-volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) in Annex III to the Convention at its seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth meetings, but had been unable to reach consensus on the matter. In its decision RC-8/7, the Conference of the Parties had decided that all the requirements set out in articles 6 and 7 for listing in Annex III had been met for fenthion formulations. At its tenth meeting, given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties had decided to defer further consideration of fenthion formulations to the present meeting.

96. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for listing fenthion (ultra-low-volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) in Annex III to the Convention. Some representatives noted the importance of the listing for the protection of human health and the environment, and one representative recalled that the chemical had first been considered for listing by the Conference of the Parties in 2015. Several representatives noted that fenthion was already subject to bans in their own countries and one representative said that the use of fenthion at a lower concentration was proving effective in his country for the control of quelea birds.

97. Some representatives said that they could not currently support the listing of fenthion (ultra-low-volume formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L). One representative requested technical and financial support for his country's efforts to find a viable alternative to the chemical, which was currently indispensable in protecting national agricultural production. Another representative noted that the use of the chemical was restricted in his country but that no viable alternative had yet been found to protect crops from quelea birds. Progress had been made, however, in conjunction with other countries and FAO, in the search for alternatives and he therefore requested that the consideration of the listing of the chemical be deferred to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

98. One representative said that his country, recognizing the negative impact of fenthion on human health and the environment, was using falcons as an alternative to protect major food crops from quelea birds. In that regard, some representatives requested additional technical and financial support for a regional project of the Rotterdam Convention on the sound management of pests and pesticides that had been started but interrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

99. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, reiterated her previous statement regarding the inclusion of a chemical in Annex III not in any way constituting an international ban or an invitation for Parties to restrict the use of the chemical concerned; the bilateral explicit consent procedure used by those countries for exports of fenthion to all countries working well and the results of a study that had found no conclusive evidence of a negative impact of listing on the price of and the international trade in certain pesticides.

100. Given the lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of fenthion (ultra-low-volume (ULV) formulations at or above 640 g active ingredient/L) to its twelfth meeting.

8. Chrysotile asbestos

101. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/8, containing a draft decision including draft text of an amendment to list chrysotile asbestos in Annex III; and in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/8/Add.1, containing the draft decision guidance document on chrysotile asbestos. She recalled that, at its third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth meetings, the Conference of the Parties had considered but been unable to reach agreement on the listing of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention, even though it had agreed, at its third meeting, in 2007, that all the Convention requirements for such a listing had been met. Given the lack of consensus, at its tenth meeting the Conference of the Parties had decided to defer further consideration of the issue to the present meeting.

102. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for listing chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention. A number of representatives noted that the chemical was subject to bans in their countries or that bans were due to enter into force in the near future. Furthermore, some representatives stressed that the

listing of chrysotile asbestos was vital, owing to the severe threat to human health it posed, and other representatives registered their frustration that the chemical had not yet been listed in Annex III, despite the agreement by the Conference of the Parties over 15 years ago that all the criteria for listing had been met. Several representatives noted that a significant advantage of the listing of chrysotile asbestos would be the sharing of information between countries that would facilitate decision-making at the national level.

103. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, drew attention to the amendment, in 2022, of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) that had added the principle of a “safe and healthy working environment”, and noted that listing chrysotile asbestos would help all countries to ensure safe and healthy working conditions through the prior informed consent procedure. Another representative recalled that ILO and WHO had estimated that the cost of an unsafe and unhealthy working environment equated to almost 4 per cent of global gross domestic product and that asbestos was one of the major risk factors of that loss.

104. A number of representatives voiced their strong opposition to the listing, providing as reasons for their objection the lack of conclusive scientific evidence regarding the negative health effects of chrysotile asbestos; recent advances in the technologies available for handling substances perceived as hazardous; and the lack of comprehensive health assessments of alternative materials. One representative said that, as the Conference of the Parties had failed to reach agreement on the listing of chrysotile asbestos despite the matter having been discussed at numerous meetings, it was futile to continue considering the listing without readdressing the issue at the expert level, and some other representatives said that the consideration of the listing of chrysotile asbestos should be removed from the agenda of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

105. One representative recalled that, under the rules of procedure of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, any item of the agenda of an ordinary meeting, consideration of which had not been completed at the meeting, would be included automatically in the provisional agenda of the next ordinary meeting, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties. Another representative, expressing frustration with the current situation, said that, as there was a belief that those opposing the listing of chrysotile asbestos had not provided sufficiently robust data to support their assertions regarding the chemical, a mechanism should be considered, under which Parties opposing the listing of a chemical were requested to submit a rationale supported by scientific evidence and, after a chemical had been considered at a certain number of meetings of the Conference of the Parties, no disagreement without such a rationale would be admissible.

106. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, recalled that inclusion in Annex III would not constitute an international ban on the chemical but would merely subject chrysotile asbestos to the prior informed consent procedure, so that those countries wishing to continue using the chemical would be able to do so, while other countries would be given all the information necessary for making an informed decision on the chemical. One representative noted that opposing the listing of any substance would not prevent countries from exercising their sovereign right to prohibit it.

107. Given the lack of consensus on the listing of chrysotile asbestos in Annex III to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties decided to defer further consideration of the matter to its twelfth meeting.

C. Enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention

1. Proposal to amend articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention

108. The representative of the Secretariat noted that the proposal to amend articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and to add a new annex – annex VIII – had been put forward by Australia, Mali and Switzerland. Subsequently, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Ghana, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Maldives, South Africa, Togo and the United Kingdom had become co-sponsors of the proposal, while Mali had withdrawn. The proposal was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/13/Add.2. Document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/14 included an explanatory note by the proponents of the proposal and document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/15 set out comments received from Parties on the proposed amendments.

109. The representative of Switzerland, on behalf of the other co-sponsors, introduced the proposal. Noting that the objective of the Rotterdam Convention was to protect human health and the environment from certain hazardous chemicals, he underscored that the Convention sought to do so not by imposing bans or phase-outs, or restricting the use of particular substances, but by facilitating

the sharing of information and establishing a prior informed consent procedure for chemicals listed in Annex III to the Convention. In doing so, the Convention sought to support informed decision-making by the Parties and to promote shared responsibility for the international trade in those chemicals.

110. He noted that for many years the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention had been unable to list several chemicals in Annex III even though the Chemical Review Committee had concluded that those chemicals met the criteria set out in the Convention and a large majority of Parties had supported their listing during successive meetings of the Conference of the Parties. In the view of the proponents, this represented a non-productive stalemate that ran counter to the goals of the Convention and undermined the ability of Parties to gather the information necessary to manage the import and subsequent sound management of those chemicals.

111. The proposal sought to break the impasse, enhance the effectiveness and ensure the continued relevance of the Convention by creating a new annex, annex VIII, in which chemicals could be listed if the Conference of the Parties was unable to agree to list them in Annex III. The Conference of the Parties would seek to list chemicals in the new annex by means of a consensus decision. However, if all efforts to achieve a consensus were exhausted, a decision could be taken by a three-fourths majority vote. In addition to facilitating the exchange of important information, Parties that had ratified the new amendment could only export chemicals listed in annex VIII if the importer had provided consent.

112. In the view of the proponents, the proposed amendments would not affect the operations of the Chemical Review Committee nor its review of chemicals or recommendations to the Conference of the Parties. The proposal was also designed to preserve Annex III, and all its associated procedures, including the consensus decision-making process. Those would remain the principal part of the Convention, and it remained the hope of the Parties making the proposal that all the chemicals recommended by the Chemical Review Committee would be listed in Annex III. The proposal had been submitted to the Secretariat in October 2022, which, in turn, had circulated it to all the Parties and stakeholders. He stated that the sponsors had subsequently held discussions with many other Parties and stakeholders. In the light of those discussions, the sponsors were now proposing a revised proposal to amend Articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and to add a new annex – annex VIII – to the Convention, and additionally to amend Article 13, which included some minor changes that sought to improve the legal clarity of the proposal without altering its structure or purpose, which were set out in a conference room paper.

113. In the ensuing discussion, the representative of Brazil introduced a conference room paper with a proposal to establish an intersessional working group to examine the undesirable, indirect economic and trade-related effects arising from the inclusion of new substances in Annex III or other annexes to the Convention. The paper also included a proposal that the intersessional working group would develop an action plan to address such effects and submit its findings to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

114. One representative stressed his Party's commitment to the objectives and effective implementation of the Rotterdam Convention but noted that unintended effects on trade had negatively affected many developing-country Parties and defeated the purpose of the Convention. In one example, certain companies and Parties involved in such trade had been severely impacted by actions taken by international certification agencies and other actors in response to the listing of certain chemicals in Annex III. Those issues required close examination, particularly in the context of the proposal to amend articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and to add a new annex, annex VIII, to the Convention.

115. During the discussion that followed, many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, supported the proposal to amend articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and to add the new annex to the Convention. In their view, the inability of the Conference of the Parties to list certain chemicals, even though they met the criteria for doing so and the listing was supported by an overwhelming majority of Parties, posed a severe threat to the effectiveness, relevance and future of the Convention. Listing a chemical did not represent a ban or restriction on its production, use or trade. However, failing to list a chemical that met the required criteria prevented interested Parties from using the provisions of the Convention designed to enhance information exchange, promote shared responsibility for the trade in hazardous chemicals, protect their national borders, make informed decisions regarding the environmentally sound management of chemicals, and protect human health and the environment.

116. Additional reasons put forward by representatives supporting the proposal included that it would help interested Parties experiencing difficulties managing unwanted shipments of hazardous chemicals; enhance the national, regional and global sound management of chemicals; augment the ability of Parties to protect their most vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of hazardous

substances; advance the internationally accepted human right to a safe and healthy environment; augment national efforts to achieve the core purposes for which the Convention was created; protect the science-based criteria the Convention set out as the basis for listing chemicals; allow interested Parties to overcome the negative impacts of the failure to list certain chemicals due to the objections of a very small number of Parties; preserve the primacy of listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention while also providing an intermediate step desired by a significant majority of Parties; remove the opportunity for a single Party to veto the listing of a chemical, which was not the intention of the Convention; address a fundamental problem that a majority of Parties had identified for many years as damaging to the image, operation and impact of the Convention; and create a specific procedure for implementing the terms of Article 22 of the Convention regarding situations in which all efforts to reach consensus had failed.

117. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also underscored that, in their view, the ability of one or a few Parties to prevent the listing of chemicals in the Convention undermined the true meaning of consensus and the spirit of international cooperation on which the Convention was based and which it required to be effective. A number of representatives of developing-country Parties, including small island developing States, also outlined their vulnerabilities to unwanted imports of hazardous chemicals, specific difficulties that their countries had experienced due to such imports, and the negative impacts that exposure to certain chemicals had on their citizens due to the inability of the Conference of the Parties to list those chemicals in Annex III to the Convention.

118. Other representatives opposed the proposal to amend articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and to add the new annex or noted concerns they had with elements of the proposal. In their view, the proposal, among other things, violated the principle of consensus-based decision-making that stood at the centre of the Rotterdam Convention and remained the norm throughout global environmental governance, multilateral agreements in general, and the United Nations system; ignored the fact that the absence of consensus on listing a chemical indicated that the issue required additional consideration due to the legitimate concerns of certain Parties, all of whom had equal standing under the Convention; violated the goals and principles of shared responsibility and common but differentiated responsibilities by creating a system with the potential to ignore the interests, special circumstances and different national capacities of Parties opposed to listing a particular chemical; sought to fundamentally alter the design and operation of the Convention; created a two-tiered structure for chemicals listed in the Convention that would pose significant administrative, legal, technical and political obstacles to the effective implementation of the Convention on a global basis; and could lead to weakened support for the Convention.

119. Representatives who opposed the proposal also said that it granted the Chemical Review Committee, a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties which appropriately based its deliberations on a limited set of criteria, excessive influence as the Committee's recommendations could be approved through a new voting procedure that might bypass due consideration by the Conference of the Parties of a broader set of issues, including the social or economic impacts of listing the chemical; would negatively and unfairly affect Parties that did not ratify the amendment because listing a chemical in an annex to the Rotterdam Convention would still reduce the availability of that chemical on the global market and thus negatively impact non-ratifying countries that sought to exercise their legal right to allow the responsible production, use or trade of that chemical; would produce disproportionately adverse effects on the agricultural production and food security of some developing countries; and represented an unnecessarily divisive development given that the Convention was operating increasingly as intended, including the fact that more than 50 chemicals had, by consensus, already been listed in Annex III.

120. Several representatives also raised procedural concerns, including that the Parties had not had sufficient time to examine the revised proposal and that its text had yet to be translated into all six official languages of the United Nations. One sought additional information regarding how a decision on the proposal could occur procedurally, if it could be subject to a potential vote, and, if so, what voting procedures would be used, including details regarding a quorum. Another representative expressed the view that it would be impossible for the Parties to exhaust all efforts to reach a consensus on the issue during the current meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, therefore, other methods to take a decision on the issue should not be pursued. Some representatives noted that their governments were still studying the proposal and its potential impacts and their delegations were therefore unable to take a decision on the issue.

121. Many of the representatives that opposed or expressed concerns regarding the proposal to amend the Convention expressed support for the proposal put forward by the representative of Brazil to convene an intersessional working group. Many representatives supporting the proposal to amend

the Convention, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, as well as some representatives that had expressed some concern regarding the proposal, expressed support for holding additional discussion on the proposal or related issues that aimed to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention.

122. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties agreed to convene a contact group on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention to further discuss the proposal set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/13/Add.2, as revised in the relevant conference room paper, and taking into account the discussion in plenary. The President proposed two individuals to serve as co-chairs of the contact group and the Conference of the Parties agreed to consider the proposal following informal consultations among interested Parties.

123. Subsequently, one representative nominated another individual to serve as one of the co-chairs, noting that the two representatives proposed by the President were members of delegations that had spoken in favor of the proposed amendment. He said that, in his view, it would be appropriate for the contact group to have co-chairs from delegations that had expressed different opinions on the core issues to be considered by the group. Several other representatives expressed support for the new candidate. A number of representatives expressed support for the individuals proposed by the President, with some noting that it would set a regrettable precedent if a Party's position on a particular issue was seen as a determining factor in the selection of a co-chair of a contact group. Co-chairs had always been selected on the basis of their expertise regarding the issue under discussion, serving impartially in a personal capacity.

124. The President proposed that the Parties consider agreeing to entrust the co-chairing of the contact group to three co-chairs, namely the two co-chairs initially proposed and the third co-chair nominated from the floor. Following an adjournment and informal consultations, including consultation with the Bureau, the President announced that the Conference of the Parties would defer final consideration regarding the selection of the co-chairs until later in the meeting. Noting that she trusted the sentiment was shared by all the Parties, the President emphasized the fundamental importance of proceedings associated with the Conference of the Parties taking place in accordance with its rules of procedure. Pursuant to those rules, when a representative of a Party was entrusted to shepherd a process, for instance as a co-chair of a contact group, that representative was not at the same time to exercise the rights of a representative of their Party. She trusted that all the representatives of Parties would therefore agree that when the Conference of the Parties entrusted to a member of a particular delegation the task of co-chairing a contact group, it went without saying that all the Parties were expressing their full confidence that the role would be exercised in an impartial manner. It was similarly true that those who accepted such responsibility, for instance for co-chairing a contact group, committed themselves to exercising the functions associated with that position in an impartial manner. That shared understanding and practice lay at the very core of the proceedings of the Conference of the Parties and the proper conduct of its business.

125. Subsequently, the President again put to the Conference of the Parties her proposal that the co-chairing of the contact group be entrusted to the three co-chairs previously named. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, objected to the proposal, expressing concern at the precedent that would be set in diverging from the customary practice of having two co-chairs. The President accordingly withdrew her proposal. The President then proposed that the contact group be co-chaired by the two individuals originally proposed as co-chairs of the group, reminding the Conference of the Parties that the Bureau had endorsed their selection.

126. The representative of the Party of one of the proposed co-chairs expressed agreement with the President's statement on the impartial role of co-chairs, which all Parties had abided by during more than three decades of work in the chemicals and waste cluster. The proposed co-chairs had been selected in an inclusive process in which the representatives of all the regional groups had participated through the Bureau. The present situation was without precedent, and his Party could not accept any insinuations calling into question the professionalism, dignity, impartiality and full respect for the rules of procedure of the co-chair selected from that Party. His Party, he continued, was characterized by its constructive spirit in searching for consensus to assist agreements in the chemicals and waste cluster to attain ambitious goals, and facilitators from the Party had always striven to prioritize the widest possible debate in seeking solutions that were acceptable to all the Parties. Faced with the unprecedented situation before it, his Party, demonstrating its commitment to the central objective of protecting human health and the environment and its desire to facilitate the commencement of work on the present agenda item, would withdraw the name of its co-chair from consideration. It was to be hoped that that action would give impetus to the fundamental discussions of the Conference of the Parties prioritizing the protection of vulnerable ecosystems and communities rather than the commercial interests of industry and agribusiness.

127. The representative of the Party of the other proposed co-chair of the contact group concurred regarding the long-standing principle of the impartiality of co-chairs; however, she said that, in order to create space for the advancement of discussions on the present agenda item, her Party also would withdraw the name of its co-chair from consideration.

128. The President accordingly withdrew her proposal that the contact group be co-chaired by the two individuals originally proposed as co-chairs of the group. She then proposed Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda) and Martin Lacroix (Canada) as co-chairs. Following a brief statement by one representative, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the contact group would be co-chaired by the newly proposed individuals.

129. Subsequently, the Legal Officer, in response to a query as to whether the proposal to amend articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and to add a new annex – annex VIII – to the Convention, as revised in the conference room paper submitted by Australia and others, had been submitted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and entrusted to the contact group in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure, explained the process that had been followed, and stated that it had been undertaken in accordance with the said provisions and rules of procedure.

130. Following discussions in the contact group, the representative of Switzerland introduced a revised proposal set out in a conference room paper, submitted by the same proponents as the earlier version, to amend Articles 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and add a new annex, namely an annex VIII, to the Convention. He said that, even though the Conference of the Parties had held two intersessional processes on the effectiveness of the Convention and had considered a proposal from a group of African States Parties at a previous meeting of the Conference of the Parties to change the decision-making rule for listing chemicals in Annex III to the Convention, the ability of one or a small number of Parties to block the listing of chemicals, as seen again at the current meeting, remained a fundamental challenge to the effectiveness of the Convention and that efforts to resolve this problem remained deadlocked.

131. In his view, despite the convening of six contact group sessions at the current meeting, it had become clear that Parties remained unable to reach agreement. Nevertheless, the current version of the proposal set out in the conference room paper reflected several useful suggestions made during the contact group discussions, which he presented.

132. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, supported the revised amendment proposal. Reiterating views expressed previously regarding the proposal, they stressed that the amendments and the new annex would address a vital, long-standing issue undermining the effectiveness of the Convention, namely, the inability of the Conference of the Parties to list certain chemicals even though they met the criteria for doing so and an overwhelming majority of Parties supported the listing. As a result, Parties could not, among other things, avail themselves of the provisions of the Convention designed to enhance information exchange on those chemicals; promote shared responsibility for the trade in hazardous chemicals; make better-informed decisions regarding the environmentally sound management of the chemicals; take effective steps to prevent unwanted imports of certain chemicals; better protect human health and the environment within their countries; and fulfil their obligation to provide and protect the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

133. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underscored the adverse effects of the failure to resolve this deadlock. Several representatives reiterated that neither the Convention nor the proposal imposed any restrictions on the production, use or trade of listed chemicals, with one noting that no evidence existed that listing a chemical reduced its availability in international trade.

134. Many of the representatives expressing support for the proposal, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, also noted that discussions on enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention related to the inability to list chemicals that met the criteria set out in the Convention and the negative consequences that situation presented for many Parties had been ongoing for many years. Attempts to address this impediment to the Convention's effectiveness had included extensive discussions since the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; intersessional work to enhance the effectiveness of the Convention that had taken place between the seventh and the ninth meetings of the Conference of the Parties; discussion during regional group meetings; and a previous proposal introduced by a group of African States parties to amend the Rotterdam Convention to introduce voting into the procedure for listing chemicals in Annex III.

135. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, also underscored that the introduction of the proposed amendment and the revised proposal had been made in accordance with the terms of the Convention and the rules of procedure for the Conference of Parties. In their view, the discussions had, over many years and again at the current meeting, reached the point where all attempts at consensus had been exhausted and that a decision on the proposed amendment should be taken during the present meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

136. Many other representatives opposed the amendment proposal. Reiterating and expanding upon points made during previous discussions, they stated that the proposal, among other things, violated the principle of consensus; did not address the underlying issues that caused some Parties to object to the listing of certain chemicals; would create significant implementation problems and legal uncertainties for many Parties; included provisions or would create consequences that violated internationally agreed upon rules regarding international trade; and would negatively and unfairly affect Parties that did not ratify the amendment because listing a chemical in the proposed new annex would reduce the availability of that chemical on the global market. In their view, adding chemicals to the proposed new annex via a voting procedure would also mean ignoring the social and economic difficulties that listing those chemicals would create for some Parties, thus dividing the Parties unnecessarily and possibly damaging the future effectiveness of the Convention.

137. Many of those representatives also specifically opposed taking a decision on the proposal during the current meeting, advocating instead for additional discussion during the intersessional period and at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Several stated that, in their view, the revised proposal differed so significantly from the original proposed amendment and from the content of previous discussions on improving the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention that taking a decision during the current meeting would violate the terms of the Convention regarding its amendment, the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties, and elements of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties. Many also pointed to what they viewed as important and unanswered questions regarding specific aspects of the revised proposal or its potential impact. There had not been sufficient time to discuss these and other issues in the limited number of contact group meetings convened during the week. More discussions were required, as were more attempts to reach consensus. Taking a decision on the proposal at the current meeting would, therefore, violate the rules and norms of the Convention.

138. Some other representatives, while not expressing specific support or opposition to the terms of the proposal to amend the Convention and add a new annex, also advocated for holding more discussions on the proposal and related issues during the intersessional period and at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

139. The President proposed that the Conference of the Parties defer further consideration of the matter until its next meeting. The representative of Nigeria put forward a motion seeking that the adoption of the amendment proposal be put to the vote at the present meeting, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 21.

140. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the motion, saying that consideration of the matter should be completed at the present meeting, by voting if necessary, presenting a number of arguments in favour of that way forward: all efforts at consensus had been exhausted, so the matter fell within the provision of paragraph 3 of Article 21, whereby an amendment could as a last resort be adopted by a three-fourths majority vote of the Parties present and voting at the meeting; the listing in Annex III of certain chemicals whose listing had been opposed by some Parties over several meetings had become of great urgency to those Parties wishing to apply the prior informed consent procedure with respect to those substances; discussions on the matter of listing in Annex III had taken place at successive meetings of the Conference of the Parties over many years, without positive results, and the time had come for action; and the proponents of change had engaged in bilateral discussions, webinars and other interactions to explain the advantages to be gained by a less divisive approach to the listing of chemicals in Annex III, but had encountered entrenched positions.

141. Many representatives expressed opposition to a voting procedure as provided for in paragraph 3 of Article 21, again presenting a number of arguments in favour of their position: the proposed amendment had not been put forward in accordance with the rules of procedure, and was therefore not legally appropriate or correct; the proposed draft decision had been substantively amended compared to the draft originally proposed at the present meeting, and thus no longer complied with the requirement that such amendments be submitted to the Parties for their consideration at least six months prior to a meeting of the Conference of the Parties; of more relevance to the present situation was paragraph 5 of Article 22, which stated that the Conference of the Parties should take its decisions

on adoption by consensus; the adoption at the present meeting of decision RC-11/4, on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention by addressing impacts regarding the listing of chemicals in Annex III and its implementation, had provided space for further dialogue during the intersessional period that should be utilized, and had been done in a cooperative spirit that should characterize the approach to the present discussion; the principle of consensus was the foundation and basis for all decision-making under the Convention, and to diverge from that would sow discord and disharmony among the Parties; consideration of such important matters needed to be inclusive, respectful and exhaustive, and the short amount of time dedicated to the latest proposal did not meet such criteria; more studies, including technical and scientific analysis, were needed on the implications of the proposed changes; and such a radical change in decision-making processes would send the wrong message to the international community regarding the effectiveness of the Convention.

142. The President noted the motion by Nigeria for the proposed amendment of Articles 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and the addition of a new annex – annex VIII – to the Convention, to be put to the vote, in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 3 of Article 21, and invited the Conference of the Parties to proceed with the vote. One representative raised a point of order, stating that the proposed text had not been communicated to the Parties at least six months prior to the present meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The President ruled that the point of order had no merit, as the proposal had been received in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and the vote should therefore proceed.

143. Another representative submitted an appeal against the ruling of the President in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure, and called for a secret ballot on the matter, in accordance with rule 50 of the rules of procedure. The President ruled that the appeal was in order, and that a secret ballot be conducted as requested. The ruling of the President would stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting.

144. The Conference of the Parties proceeded to vote, by secret ballot, on the question of whether the President's ruling should stand. Subsequently, the President reported that 90 Parties, more than half the 141 Parties present and voting, had voted in favour of proceeding with a vote on the motion put forward by the representative of Nigeria.

145. Consequently, she said, the Conference of the Parties would proceed to a vote on the question of whether the Parties were in favour of adopting the amendment to Articles 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 22 of the Convention and adding a new annex - annex VIII – to the Convention, in accordance with the proposal set out in a conference room paper.

146. One representative raised another point of order, saying that under rule 57 of the rules of procedure, the proposal to be voted on should have been translated into the six official languages of the United Nations. The President ruled that the point of order had no merit, as rule 57 applied to the working documents prepared prior to the meeting, whereas proposals and amendments to proposals submitted during the course of the meeting were subject to rule 40, according to which they were normally introduced in writing, in one of the official languages, and circulated to delegations by the Secretariat.

147. The same representative, saying that he did not agree with the President's interpretation of the rules of procedure, appealed the ruling and asked for a vote on it, by secret ballot. The President acknowledged the appeal and said that, in accordance with rule 38 of the rules of procedure, it would be put to a vote immediately and the ruling would stand unless overruled by a majority of the Parties present and voting. As a secret ballot had been requested, that would be the method of voting, in accordance with rule 50.

148. The Conference of the Parties proceeded to vote, by secret ballot, on the question of whether the President's ruling should stand. Following the vote, the President said that 95 of the 141 Parties present and voting had voted in favour of the ruling and the Conference of the Parties would therefore proceed to a vote on the motion put forward by the representative of Nigeria. In response to several Parties requesting the floor, the President recalled that, in accordance with rule 51 of the rules of procedure, following the announcement by the President of the beginning of the vote, no representative was to interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting.

149. One representative requested that the vote be carried out by secret ballot.

150. Another representative said that the vote on whether to vote had already divided the Parties by forcing them to take sides. She moved that no further action be taken on voting and that the debate on voting be closed, and called on Parties to consider the President's suggestion to defer the discussion on

the amendment proposal to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. She requested that her motion be put on the screen for the Parties' consideration.

151. The Conference of the Parties proceeded to vote, by secret ballot, on the question of whether Parties were in favour of adopting the amendments to Articles 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 22 of the Convention and adding a new annex - annex VIII, in accordance with the proposal set out in a conference room paper.

152. Following the vote, the President reported that 92 Parties had voted in favour of adopting the amendments. As that number represented less than three quarters of the 132 Parties present and voting, the proposal was not adopted and the Conference of the Parties had completed its consideration of the amendment proposal.

153. Following the announcement of the outcome of the vote, a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, delivered statements. Almost all those who spoke recalled the Convention's objective of protecting human health and the environment, with several also reiterating the desirability of achieving that objective through constructive discussion and, ideally, consensus. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed disappointment at the failure to find a means of addressing the inability to list certain chemicals that had been determined to have met the criteria for listing in Annex III, while noting that a large majority of Parties had been prepared to amend the Convention as proposed and pledging to continue to work on finding an acceptable approach to enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention.

2. General discussion

154. The President invited general comments on enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention, including the information dissemination strategy.

155. The representative of the Secretariat, introducing the sub-item, outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/13, including the draft decision set out therein, and in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/13, recalling that, in decision RC-10/10, the Conference of the Parties had welcomed the dissemination strategy for obtaining and using information and its use in capacity-building and technical assistance activities, and had requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to implement the activities proposed in the strategy.

156. Following the discussion on the listing of chemicals in Annex III to the Convention under agenda item 5 (b), further general comments were made on enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention. A number of representatives reiterated that all decisions made by the Conference of the Parties, specifically regarding the listing of chemicals in Annex III, should be arrived at by means of consensus. That principle was fundamental to the operation of the Convention, and granted all Parties equal status in the decision-making process, as had been stated in previous discussions at the present meeting on the proposal to amend articles 7, 10, 11 and 22 of the Rotterdam Convention and to add a new annex. A number of representatives reasserted that the proposed measures to amend the Convention would be of benefit to those countries requiring additional information on substances that could not be listed in Annex III due to lack of consensus.

157. On the matter of the dissemination strategy, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work of the Secretariat to implement the dissemination strategy, increase transparency and train Parties on processes and mechanisms under the Convention. She said that there was merit in continuing implementation of the dissemination strategy, which contained a number of actions that could further improve the information on the functioning of the Convention, the transmission of that information to stakeholders, and the involvement of a broader target audience.

158. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information on the activities implemented under the dissemination strategy for obtaining and using information and its use in capacity-building and technical assistance activities, and requested the Secretariat to continue implementation of decision RC-10/10 and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

3. Proposal to amend Article 16 of the Convention

159. The President invited comments on the proposal to amend Article 16 of the Convention. The representative of the Secretariat, introducing the sub-item, outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/13/Add.1, recalling that the proposal had previously been considered by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth, ninth and tenth meetings.

160. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that relevant and effective decisions had already been taken in various forums to foster the provision of technical and financial

assistance for the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention. In line with decision RC-7/8, on the implementation of the integrated approach to financing, the support provided to countries by the Global Environment Facility already took into account, subject to its mandate, possible relevant aspects of the Rotterdam Convention within the revised focal area for chemicals and waste. In addition, the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management had been set up to support institutional strengthening and capacity-building in developing countries. The proposed amendment would bring no added value to the financial mechanisms already in place, and the focus should be on making full and efficient use of existing instruments in the implementation of the integrated approach to financing.

161. One representative expressed support for the proposal to amend Article 16, given the challenges faced by countries with developing and transitional economies in implementing the Rotterdam Convention, and the benefits to be gained from cooperation, information-sharing and the provision of technical and financial assistance.

162. The Conference of the Parties agreed to defer further consideration of the proposal to amend Article 16 of the Convention to its twelfth meeting.

4. Proposal to establish an intersessional working group

163. Subsequent to the introduction by the representative of Brazil of a conference room paper on the matter mentioned in paragraph 113 above, the Conference of the Parties discussed further the proposal by Brazil to establish an intersessional working group to examine the undesirable and indirect economic and trade-related effects arising from the inclusion of new substances in Annex III or other annexes to the Convention, as set out in a conference room paper. The representative of Brazil said that a debate on that matter was of critical relevance to the proposal being considered at the present meeting to create a new annex – annex VIII – to the Convention, and to the wider debate on enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention.

164. Several representatives supported the view that the listing of chemicals in Annex III could have indirect negative economic effects on countries, particularly developing countries, and supported further consideration of the matter.

165. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that the findings of the intersessional process on the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention undertaken during the period 2013–2017 – the so-called “Riga process” – had already been successfully implemented by the Secretariat. Several representatives said that the outcomes of the Riga process were the proper basis for consideration of the matter, and there was no need to launch a new process. One representative recalled that, by its decision RC-9/6, the Conference of the Parties had requested the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue sharing collected information on the measurable impacts of listing and not listing chemicals in Annex III, and said that no subsequent studies had found evidence that listing chemicals in Annex III had negatively impacted the use of and trade in those chemicals.

166. There was discussion as to which contact group was the most appropriate forum for further discussion on the matter, should such discussions be mandated, with some representatives proposing the contact group on the listing of chemicals, while others proposed the contact group on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention.

167. Subsequently, the President proposed that a separate contact group be established to consider the proposal by Brazil to establish an intersessional working group to examine the undesirable, indirect economic and trade-related effects arising from the inclusion of new substances in Annex III or other annexes to the Convention, as set out in a conference room paper.

168. A number of representatives disagreed with the proposal, stating that the matter should be considered by the contact group on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention. The President accordingly withdrew her proposal that the matter be considered in a separate contact group, and proposed that the contact group on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention be mandated to consider it. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, disagreed with that proposal, stating that the matter should be considered in a separate, new contact group, as initially proposed by the President.

169. Several representatives expressed concern at the lack of observation of long-standing protocols at the present meeting, including accordance with the proposals put forward by the President, which was causing considerable delays in discussing important matters.

170. The President withdrew her proposal that the matter be considered by the contact group on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention, and stated that she would hold consultations with Parties, in consultation with the Bureau, to identify a way forward.

171. Subsequently, the President proposed that a new contact group be set up to discuss the proposal set out in the conference room paper submitted by Brazil. The Conference of the Parties agreed to set up a contact group, to be co-chaired by Ms. Theka (Malawi) and Ms. Randall (Norway). The mandate of the contact group would be to consider the proposal by Brazil to establish an intersessional working group to examine the undesirable, indirect economic and trade-related effects arising from the inclusion of new substances in Annex III or other annexes of the Convention, as set out in a conference room paper.

172. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the contact group set up to consider the proposal set out in the conference room paper submitted by Brazil.

173. Decision RC-11/4, on enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention by addressing impacts regarding the listing of chemicals in Annex III and its implementation, is set out in the annex to the present report.

D. Compliance

174. Parts of the discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 175 to 180 and 167 to 170 and 172 below are replicated in section IV.C.1 of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section V.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

1. Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance

175. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the relevant documents, noting that sections A, B and C of part II of document UNEP/CHW.16/13 provided information on the activities carried out by the Committee during the biennium 2022–2023, and that due to the short intersessional period, the Committee had needed to prioritize certain activities within its work programme. The draft decision set out in part III of the document included recommendations the Committee had developed under its specific submissions mandate and its general review mandate, as well as a proposed work programme for the biennium 2024–2025, which built on its work programme for the previous biennium. To facilitate consideration by the Conference of the Parties, the new activities had been indicated in tracked changes. Comments received from Parties on the proposed work programme for the biennium 2024–2025 were available on the website of the Basel Convention. Section II.D of document UNEP/CHW.16/13 and the draft decision also pertained to the needed election of ten new members of the Committee. The annex to document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/22 provided a list of members of the Committee since its establishment.

176. Drawing attention to five additional documents, she noted that document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/20 set out information on the activities of Committee to improve timely and complete national reporting under paragraph 3 of Article 13 of the Convention. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/21 set out information on the activities of the Committee to improve implementation and compliance with Article 9 of the Convention on preventing and combating illegal traffic. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/23 set out information on the activities of the Committee to improve implementation and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Basel Convention on national legislation. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/24 set out information on the activities of the Committee to enhance coordination with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/25 set out information on the activities of the Committee to improve the implementation of and compliance with Article 5 of the Convention. The work of the Committee in those areas had benefited from financial support provided by the Governments of Japan, Norway and Switzerland.

177. In his report, Florisvindo Furtado (Cabo Verde), Chair of the Implementation and Compliance Committee of the Basel Convention, highlighted activities undertaken by the Committee since the conclusion of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. In accordance with its mandate to review general issues of compliance, the Implementation and Compliance Committee had worked towards improving national reporting by undertaking a draft classification of Parties' individual compliance with national reporting for the years 2018 and 2019

against the three targets set by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fifteenth meeting. Among the preliminary outcomes were that 20 per cent of the 2018 reports and 25 per cent of the 2019 reports were both complete and on time, against the set target of 25 per cent, representing the first time that Parties had reached a reporting target set by the Conference of the Parties.

178. The Committee had also prioritized work to prevent and combat illegal traffic. In that regard the Committee had developed a report scoping the extent of illegal traffic on the basis of information provided by Parties in table 9 of their 2018 and 2019 national reports. Among the Committee's recommendations was that the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its sixteenth meeting consider revising table 9.

179. A third area of focus had been improving implementation of and compliance with paragraph 4 of Article 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 9 of the Convention on national legislation. A total of 49 Parties had completed a self-review of their legislation relevant to implementing the Convention, using a specific checklist to guide responses. Following an initial synthesis of the self-reviews, the Committee was recommending that the Conference of the Parties amend the checklist in order to gather improved information.

180. Other activities prioritized by the Committee during the short intersessional period pertained to enhancing coordination with the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention and improving the implementation of and compliance with Article 5 of the Convention on the designation of country contacts. The Committee was also pleased to report that the matter of concern regarding Liberia's difficulties with the transmission of national reports had been resolved.

181. The discussion under the sub-item was held in a Convention-specific session and can be found in section IV.C.1 of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30).

2. Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention

182. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14, including on the activities of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the conclusions and recommendations of the Compliance Committee at its first meeting, a draft programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025 and a proposed draft decision. To facilitate consideration by the Conference of the Parties, the new activities in the draft programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025 had been indicated in tracked changes in the annex to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14. The work of the Committee had benefitted from financial support provided by the Governments of Germany and Switzerland. Section II.D of document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14 and the proposed draft decision also pertained to the election of eight new members of the Committee. The annex to document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/16 set out a list of members of the Committee and identified those whose terms would expire at the closure of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

183. Osvaldo Patricio Álvarez-Pérez, Chair of the Compliance Committee, reported on the first meeting of the Committee and subsequent work, noting that the Committee had initiated work under its specific submissions mandate, both from a substantive and from a procedural perspective, with members very conscious of their role to assist Parties within the scope of the Committee's mandate. He invited Parties that might find themselves unable to comply with certain obligations under the Convention to consider making a submission to the Committee so that potential avenues to provide assistance could be explored.

184. He added that although the intersessional period had been notably short, financial support provided by the Governments of Germany and Switzerland had enabled the Committee to begin work on a compilation of options for information exchange and a review of laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures to implement the Convention, among other activities. The Committee had also taken advantage of the opportunity to hold a joint session with the Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee on issues of common interest. A fruitful exchange of views had ensued between the two Committees, and members of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee members had expressed an interest in exploring lessons from the implementation and compliance bodies associated with other multilateral environmental agreements.

185. The documents before the Conference of the Parties included a draft programme of work for the upcoming biennium, which built on work initiated during the current biennium. There were also recommendations to the Conference of the Parties that the Committee members believed would strengthen their future work. In closing, he invited representatives to engage in bilateral discussion

with Committee members at the present meeting to share information about the work and activities of the Committee.

186. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the members of the Compliance Committee for their work both under the mandate to deal with specific submissions and under the mandate to review systemic issues of general compliance.

187. Several representatives, including the one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed support for the draft decision, including the proposed programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025. Some of them, including the representative speaking on behalf of the group of countries, nevertheless proposed a few small modifications to the draft decision and the annex thereto. The changes aligned the language in the annex to the draft decision referring to enhanced cooperation with the Compliance Committee and the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention with that used in the parallel activity in the decision under the Basel Convention.

188. Following the discussion, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/14, as orally amended.

189. Decision RC-11/5, on the Compliance Committee, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

3. Compliance under the Stockholm Convention

190. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the issue of compliance had been considered at all ten of the previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention and that, at the ninth meeting, given the continued lack of consensus, the Conference of the Parties had decided to defer further consideration of the issue to its eleventh meeting. She drew attention to document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/21, which set out in its annex two draft texts on compliance from annexes to compliance-related decisions adopted at the seventh and sixth meetings, and noted that, should the Conference of the Parties adopt the procedures and mechanisms on compliance at the present meeting, it might need to elect the members of the compliance committee at that same meeting.

191. The discussion under the sub-item was held in a Convention-specific session and can be found in section V.J of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

E. Technical assistance

192. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 193 to 209 below are replicated in section IV.D of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section V.F of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

193. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that, in discussing the matter of technical assistance to Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Parties would also consider the regional centres under the Basel and Stockholm conventions.

194. On the issue of technical assistance in general, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/17–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/15 on technical assistance and capacity-building for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. More detail about the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the biennium 2022–2023 was provided in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/25.

195. The representative of the Secretariat thanked the Governments of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States, and the European Union and FAO for their voluntary contributions for the financing of technical assistance. She also thanked GEF and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach for their support during the period 2022–2023.

196. On the topic of the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, the representative of the Secretariat introduced documents UNEP/CHW.16/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/16, outlining the activities undertaken by the regional centres, the Secretariat and others in response to the requests made by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, in their decisions on regional centres. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/30–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/27 provided further information pertaining to the activities of the centres.

197. As outlined in document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/16, the Secretariat had received a nomination from the Latin American and the Caribbean States for the Basel Convention regional centre for the Caribbean located in Trinidad and Tobago also to serve as a Stockholm Convention regional centre. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, had verified that the nominated centre met the criteria as stipulated in the terms of reference for the selection of regional centres under the Stockholm Convention.

198. A draft performance evaluation report of all 14 regional centres of the Basel Convention and 16 regional centres of the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/26) had been prepared on the basis of the criteria and methodology adopted by both conferences of the Parties.

199. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underlined the importance of technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer. Several thanked the Secretariat for the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the biennium 2022–2023. The continued monitoring and evaluation of the projects undertaken was important to enable the further assessment of the impact of implementation of the plan.

200. Many representatives expressed their gratitude to the Secretariat, donors and the regional centres for the technical assistance and other support they had received. Such support included involvement in the GEF project for the development and implementation of a sustainable management mechanism for persistent organic pollutants in one region and the GEF project on implementing sustainable low- and non-chemical development in small island developing States, known as the “ISLANDS” project; online and face-to-face workshops and seminars on the implementation of the conventions; support for the revision and updating of national implementation plans; the development of policies, strategies and legislation; efforts to deal with waste electrical and electronic equipment; the destruction of PCB; the establishment or equipping of laboratories; the conduct of a study for the establishment of a national health–environment observatory; and the improvement of data collection and reporting.

201. Despite the work that had been undertaken, several representatives considered that developing countries and countries with economies in transition were still ill-equipped to deal with the challenges that they faced, including emerging issues and new obligations stemming from the listing of new chemicals. As well as the support related to the newly listed persistent organic pollutants, additional technical assistance was required in relation to a number of issues, including e-wastes; plastic wastes; the management of hazardous pesticides and the disposal of obsolete pesticides and pesticide containers; the management and elimination of stocks of persistent organic pollutants; PCB; contaminated oil; used tyres and batteries; illegal dumping; illegal trade and trafficking; the development of inventories; the development of laboratory and analysis capacities, including regional accreditation; the training of customs officials; and the management of fly ash and slurry.

202. A number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, stressed the important role played by the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions in providing developing countries and those with economies in transition with technical assistance and capacity-building. Some of them noted specifically the evaluation reports prepared by the Secretariat and welcomed the good work carried out by many of the centres. One representative said that the recommendations of the draft evaluation report should be acted on in earnest.

203. Many representatives acknowledged the excellent support provided by the Basel Convention regional centre for the Caribbean and endorsed the proposal to invite the centre also to function as a regional centre for the Stockholm Convention. One of them also encouraged Parties to support Stockholm Convention regional centres seeking to become Basel Convention regional centres.

204. One representative said that less technical assistance was provided under the Rotterdam Convention than for the other two conventions. Another representative, recalling that some Parties were not eligible for certain types of support, urged the Secretariat to make sure that there was enough technical assistance available for their needs. A third representative stressed the importance of the technical assistance plan reflecting the needs of Parties and thus encouraged Parties to submit their

technical assistance and technology transfer needs through the online questionnaire, encouraging the regional centres to use the information in developing their plans.

205. A representative of a donor country outlined the support provided by that donor, through its contribution to GEF and through its membership of the Executive Board of the Special Programme. She highlighted some of the innovative activities undertaken.

206. A representative of an observer organization outlined the technical assistance work that his organization had undertaken in support of the implementation of Rotterdam Convention, including workshops and webinars on risk evaluation, the reporting of problems related to severely hazardous pesticide formulations, gender and pesticides, import responses, trade aspects and hazardous child labour in agriculture with pesticide exposure.

207. In relation to the taking of decision on the matter of technical assistance, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed the view that an omnibus decision should be adopted by each Conference of the Parties in order to give a proper overview of the various interrelated matters and enable each Conference of the Parties to focus on relevant priorities.

208. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, requested the addition of “small island States” to the mention of “developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition” in paragraph 2 of the draft decision in section III of document UNEP/CHW.16/17–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/15, in view of their special characteristics and circumstances without reference to their level of development.

209. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions established a joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources, to be co-chaired by Toks Akinseye (United Kingdom) and David Kapindula (Zambia). The contact group was mandated to prepare draft decisions on technical assistance for each of the conventions based on the draft text set out in documents UNEP/CHW.16/17–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/15–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/15, taking into account the discussion in plenary; and draft decisions on the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions using the draft decisions in documents UNEP/CHW.16/18 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/16 as starting points and taking into account the discussion in plenary. The draft decision for the agenda item would be in omnibus form, with a section I on technical assistance (for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) and a section II on regional centres (for the Basel and Stockholm conventions).

210. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted the draft decision prepared by the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources.

211. Decision RC-11/6, on technical assistance, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

F. Financial resources¹

212. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 213 to 217 below are replicated in section IV.F of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section V.G of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

213. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat said that, in line with decisions BC-12/18, RC-7/8 and SC-7/22, the Secretariat had continued to take the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste as a reference in its mandated activities and its support for the Parties to the three conventions. The Secretariat had also continued to participate in the internal task team of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach and had attended the meetings of the Executive Board of the Special Programme as an observer. He drew attention to a report submitted by UNEP on the

¹ The sub-item was taken up during a joint session of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The discussion on the Global Environment Facility relevant to the Stockholm Convention under this sub-item is contained in section V.G.1 of the report of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

implementation of the Special Programme, which was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/35–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/35.

214. The representative of UNEP provided an update on the activities under the Special Programme, as more fully described in the UNEP report. She informed the Parties that the seventh round of funding was currently open, with a closing date of 11 August 2023, and that the secretariat of the Special Programme would be holding drop-in clinics in the margins of the present meeting on how to apply for funding under the Programme. She also drew attention to a recent decision by the Executive Board of the Special Programme to revise the application packages for the seventh round, in particular related to eligibility for funding. In that regard, the application package now referred to the World Economic Situation and Prospects report, whose annex contained lists of developing economies, economies in transition, least developed countries and small island developing States. At the same time, the package emphasized that some of the donors to the Special Programme had a strict policy of only funding applicants that met the eligibility requirements for the Development Assistance Committee list of official development assistance recipients at the time of application, a limitation that could affect the funds available for countries not on that list.

215. Following the presentation, several representatives voiced their appreciation for the Special Programme, with some describing how their country had benefited from the programme. One representative noted that some countries, including his, had faced difficulties in accessing programme funds and would appreciate more information on the eligibility criteria.

216. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that while the countries of her region had hoped that the establishment of the Special Programme would bring about significant resources for effective implementation, considerable challenges remained with respect to the lack of funding provided to some countries, even though those countries had submitted their applications to the Programme.

217. The representative of Ghana introduced a conference room paper submitted by his country on behalf of the group of African States, on a framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy. The countries of the region wished to capitalize on the Secretariat's assessment of the relevance for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions of existing guidelines developed by the United Nations system on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors (UNEP/CHW.15/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/37) through the development of the road map for mobilizing funding from non-State actors, to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in fulfilling their obligations under the conventions.

218. The Conference of the Parties took note of the information provided by the Secretariat and the representative of UNEP and agreed to refer the conference room paper submitted by Ghana on behalf of the group of African States to the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial resources for further consideration.

219. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a draft decision submitted by the joint contact group on technical assistance and financial matters.

220. Decision RC-11/7, on a framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

221. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on a framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-16/19 and SC-11/5, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

VI. International cooperation and coordination (agenda item 6)

222. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 223 to 228 and 231 to 252 below are replicated in section V of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section VI of the report of the Conference of

the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

A. Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury

223. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/21-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/16-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/22, presenting the activities undertaken in response to the decisions on cooperation adopted in 2022 by the conferences of the Parties to the four conventions. Cooperation between the two secretariats had continued on relevant administrative, programmatic, technical and technical assistance issues. The secretariats had also implemented the sharing and the purchase of relevant services from one another, on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of each respective convention for the biennium 2022–2023. Further information on that cooperation was set out in joint document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/36-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/19-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/40.

224. The Executive Secretary of the Minamata Convention, Monika Stankiewicz, delivered a statement on cooperation between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention. She said that cooperation between the two secretariats had flourished on a broad array of programmatic issues, such as mercury wastes and their environmentally sound management, the provision of technical assistance and financial resources, compliance, legal issues and effectiveness evaluation, and administrative issues, as well as outreach and awareness raising efforts and knowledge and information management. Important areas of collaboration were or had been mercury waste, in particular efforts to establish thresholds for mercury waste; the identification of funding needs in a successful GEF replenishment, which had resulted in increased funding for both Minamata and Stockholm conventions; the opening up of training events for chairs of bodies and negotiators under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to the chairs of bodies and negotiators under the Minamata Convention. Looking to the future, she said the mandates of the four conventions converged in the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 5/7, on the sound management of chemicals and waste, and 5/8, on a science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution and in their contributions to the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and efforts to ensure stronger linkages with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

225. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Secretariat was extremely important and beneficial to all involved. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the report on cooperation. The representative speaking on behalf of the group of countries also thanked the Secretariat for the outline of future activities, considering that the planned activities would provide for the effective implementation of the relevant elements of the programme of work. She nevertheless encouraged the conduct of further activities in the area of outreach and communication, knowledge management and trade control.

226. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their appreciation of the shared services arrangement and the purchase of services on a cost recovery basis in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium, while some highlighted the value of the cooperation with the Basel Convention for the setting of mercury thresholds. One representative said that it was important to harmonize the definitions of “mercury wastes” in Article 11 of the Minamata Convention and “hazardous waste” in Article 1 of the Basel Convention to enable Parties to comply with their obligations under both conventions. He expressed the hope that, in the meantime, the Secretariat would continue to track the consequences of the differences in definition for the implementation of the Basel Convention.

227. One representative expressed the view that there was a need to crystallize the means of cooperation between the two secretariats, advocating a systematic, effective and transparent tool that addressed the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. One representative thanked the Government of Japan for assistance to his country in addressing mercury emissions from open burning, stressing the need for enhanced cooperation to address the problem of mercury and unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants, while another representative highlighted the need for assistance to Africa in dealing with mercury contamination in mining sites.

228. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decisions set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/21-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/16-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/22.

229. Decision RC-11/8, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

230. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-16/21 and SC-11/20, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

B. Cooperation and coordination with other organizations

231. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information set out document UNEP/CHW.16/22/Rev.1–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/17/Rev.1–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/23/Rev.1, presenting the activities undertaken in response to the requests set out in 2022 decisions on international cooperation and coordination and the related information documents, and a draft decision on the matter.

232. She highlighted three major developments that had occurred after the issuance of the note by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations that the conferences of the Parties might wish to consider. First, following the approval by FAO for the Rotterdam Convention to become a participating organization of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), the two executive secretaries of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had received a letter, dated 18 April 2023, from the Director-General of WHO stating that all nine executive heads of the current participating organizations of the IOMC had confirmed their agreement to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions becoming a single participating organization of IOMC through their joint Secretariat. In the light of those letters, the proposed draft decision would need to be revised.

233. Second, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 77/161 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the resolution, the General Assembly, had, among other things, decided to proclaim 30 March as International Day of Zero Waste, to be observed annually; and had requested that the Secretary-General set up an advisory board of eminent persons, for a period of three years, to promote local and national zero-waste initiatives.

234. Third, the President of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, on behalf of the Bureau of the United Nations Environment Assembly, had requested the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Environment Assembly of a supplementary item, on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements, which mirrored in some respects the agenda items of the present meetings on international cooperation and coordination.

235. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their appreciation for the large number of cooperation and coordination activities carried out with other international organizations and processes. One representative, noting the importance of such efforts as a move away from a silo approach while respecting the mandate of individual agreements, requested that the Secretariat organize webinars to communicate objectively the results of such cooperative activities.

236. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noting that pollution and waste was the least visible element of the triple planetary crisis, said that cooperation and coordination activities with other international organizations and processes were vital in helping to raise awareness of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The representative of the European Union introduced a conference room paper setting out proposed additions to the draft decision regarding suggestions for increasing the visibility and raising the profile of the three conventions.

237. One representative highlighted the success of the training programmes run by the Secretariat for potential chairs of, and negotiators at, meetings under the three conventions and noted that recent workshops had also included participants from the Minamata Convention; the Montreal Protocol; the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment; and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. He expressed his thanks to donors, in particular Germany and Switzerland, for contributions that had made the programmes possible. Many representatives supported the proposal of that representative to add a paragraph to the draft decision to welcome cooperation on such training and to request the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue implementing such training.

238. A number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed, in particular, the cooperation with the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Several representatives drew attention to the report prepared by the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for the negotiating committee that contained information on several essential elements that could be replicated in the instrument, such as technical assistance and compliance mechanisms. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted the need to promote complementarity and avoid duplication of work or governance structures with the new legally binding instrument, while another said that it was important for the Secretariat to be proactive in relation to the process of the development of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

239. One representative said that the creation of a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution envisaged under Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 would ensure the flow of information between the various conventions under the framework of the international chemicals and waste agenda. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, underlined the need for the Secretariat to continue participating in the work of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution in order to promote complementarity and avoid duplication of work or governance structures.

240. The coordination of customs codes carried out with the World Customs Organization was identified by some representatives as having been a particularly beneficial area of cooperation, as harmonized codes would greatly improve cross-border control traceability and allow for improved inventories. Other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed, in particular, the invitation for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to become members of IOMC.

241. Some representatives noted the need to adopt a human rights approach and a gender perspective in the work with other international organizations, and for cooperation with human rights rapporteurs.

242. Regarding the focus for future cooperation activities, several representatives noted the importance of strengthened synergy with the Strategic Approach and the Montreal Protocol. One representative said that exchanging experiences in relation to illicit substances with the Montreal Protocol would be particularly beneficial, while others identified the importance of the proposed framework under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 that was due to be adopted in September 2023. One representative encouraged closer cooperation between the conventions and the International Atomic Energy Agency, noting the value of the latter's technical cooperation programme to developing countries in relation to chemicals and waste in particular. Other representatives encouraged direct cooperation with WHO, in particular in the light of the One Health approach and the worryingly high number of deaths caused each year by chemicals. One representative drew attention to the General Assembly resolution on zero-waste initiatives and asked for the support of all Parties and the Secretariat in implementing the initiative, in particular in the light of the strong links with Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 12.

243. Some representatives encouraged closer coordination with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A representative of Jordan introduced a conference room paper proposing additional paragraphs for the draft decision regarding closer coordination on issues of common interest, subject to the availability of resources. Another representative noted that waste management was a vast domain and coordination between the conventions would be particularly beneficial for developing countries. Some representatives did not, however, support the proposal, noting a risk of duplication of effort between the Basel Convention and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the importance of keeping the processes separate to allow them to maintain specialization, efficiency, clarity and flexibility.

244. On the topic of waste management, some representatives requested capacity-building support from the Secretariat for developing countries regarding the traceability of waste and the management of end-of-life-cycle products, in particular those sent to them from the global North. Some representatives noted that the illegal dumping of waste remained a significant issue in Africa, and, in that regard, some representatives requested strengthened cooperation with the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa. One representative noted that, in particular for countries in Africa,

discussion of chemicals should always include discussion of waste, as the two areas were inextricably linked.

245. Following the discussion, a number of observer organizations made statements.

246. The representative of UNEP presented the report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the conferences of the Parties on programmatic cooperation (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/38–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/43). She drew attention to the collaboration between the conventions and UNEP at the programmatic level, particularly in relation to DDT, PCB and the persistent organic pollutants global monitoring programme (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/11 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/14); in terms of UNEP support for the execution of GEF-funded projects; through information sharing, for example through the Green Customs Initiative and the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA) hosted by UNEP; during other international processes on chemicals and waste management, such as the preparations for the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which was expected to adopt a new framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/35); implementation of the outcomes of the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, including the establishment of the science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution; during preparations for the sixth session of the Environmental Assembly where an additional item on cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements had been added to the provisional agenda; and in relation to the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, in support of which UNEP and the Secretariat had produced a publication entitled “Chemicals in Plastics – A Technical Report” (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/60–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/44–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/61). She also highlighted the collaboration within the joint task force on programmatic cooperation between the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch, the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions and the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Strategic Approach, which had proposed new initiatives to strengthen cooperation to improve the delivery of the respective programmes of work and to enhance efficiencies.

247. The representative of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management presented an update on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (UNEP/CHW.16/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/44). Two sessions of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process had already taken place and a third was due to be held on the two days preceding the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, which was to be held from 25 to 29 September 2023. The fifth session of the Conference was expected to lead to a new enabling global framework for chemicals and waste, supported by a high-level declaration. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions community had actively participated in the discussions on the new framework, which aimed to enhance engagement with key economic and industry sectors that used chemicals and introduce circular and life cycle approaches and other benefits valuable to chemical-related multilateral environmental agreements.

248. The representative of FAO said that cooperation and coordination was key in achieving FAO objectives. The part of the Rotterdam Secretariat that was hosted by FAO cooperated with all the entities within the organization’s headquarters and its field offices, which had enabled the leveraging of resources, increased the impact of activities and enhanced the coherence of the implementation of both the FAO Strategic Framework and the Rotterdam Convention. The Secretariat had cooperated closely with the FAO pest and pesticide management team, including in the development, with WHO, of a global action plan on highly hazardous pesticides and the facilitation of training activities on the FAO pesticide registration toolkit. The Secretariat had also continued to support technical assistance and training activities such as the FAO-led activities related to biodiversity and chemicals management under the third phase of the programme on strengthening environmental governance and supporting multilateral environmental agreements in the Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific regions. The Secretariat had also participated as an observer in the FAO task force on the reduction of plastic use in agriculture.

249. The representative of the World Trade Organization (WTO) outlined the increasing emphasis that the organization was now placing on the environment and sustainable development. Since 2021, it had developed new initiatives, including a dialogue on plastic pollution, which was exploring how enhanced trade cooperation at WTO could help in supporting deliberations under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, while avoiding duplication. The representative of WTO thanked the Secretariat for its systematic sharing of technical information with the organization.

250. The representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) welcomed the continuation of cooperation with the Secretariat. It applauded the study on interlinkages between the chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements and biodiversity produced by the secretariats of the Minamata Convention and of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. IUCN supported efforts to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in numerous ways, including by providing its legal and economic expertise and producing tools such as the IUCN Red List and the Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions.

251. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on joint issues, to be co-chaired by Ole Thomas Thommesen (Norway) and Jeanelle Kelly (Saint Kitts and Nevis). The group was mandated to prepare a revised draft decision on international cooperation and coordination on the basis of a revised text to be prepared by the Secretariat that would reflect the latest developments related to IOMC, as well as other recent developments highlighted by the Secretariat, and taking into account the proposals by the European Union and Jordan set out in conference room papers and the proposal made during the discussion, and the discussion in plenary. Further mandates on joint issues might be added to the contact group as needed.

252. Later in the meeting, the co-chairs reported that the contact group had completed its consideration of the matter and prepared a draft decision on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations. One representative requested that further time be provided for deliberations on the matter. The President noted that, as reported by the co-chairs, the group had completed its mandate and agreed by consensus on the draft decision. He explained that the Conference of the Parties would consider adopting the draft decision later during the meeting, at which time there would be an opportunity for Parties to discuss it further.

253. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations submitted by the joint contact group on joint issues.

254. Decision RC-11/9, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

255. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-16/21 and SC-11/21, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

VII. Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (agenda item 7)

256. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 257 to 259, 262 to 271, 272 to 280, and 184 to 287 below are replicated in section VI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section VII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

A. Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange

257. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the conferences of the Parties had welcomed the proposed joint clearing-house mechanism strategy at their meetings in 2017 and, in 2022, had requested the Secretariat to continue the work to implement the strategy and the activities of the workplan for the biennium 2022–2023. He drew attention to the information set out in documents UNEP/CHW.16/23-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/18-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/24 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/41-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/46.

258. A number of representatives, each speaking on behalf of a group of countries, welcomed the work of the Secretariat to enhance information exchange, given its importance for awareness-raising, decision-making and the implementation of the conventions. They looked forward to the continuation of such efforts, including through the workplan. The representative of one of the groups expressed

appreciation of the aims in the draft decision of ensuring complementarity and avoiding the duplication of activities, tools and mechanisms, including those of the Minamata Convention and focusing on the maintenance of existing systems. Another said that her group would like an assessment of the clearing house mechanism to be undertaken with a view to assessing its effectiveness since its inception.

259. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in paragraph 10 of document UNEP/CHW.16/23–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/18–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/24.

260. Decision RC-11/10, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

261. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-16/23 and SC-11/22, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

B. Mainstreaming gender

262. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at their meetings in 2022, the conferences of the Parties had taken note of the updated Gender Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and had requested the Secretariat to report on its implementation to the conferences of the Parties at their subsequent meetings. The relevant report was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/24–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/25. Document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/42–UNEP/FAO/RC/INF/25–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/47 provided further details on gender-related activities implemented by the Secretariat.

263. In the ensuing discussion, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries stressed the importance of gender mainstreaming, given that the pollution crisis did not affect the entire population in the same way. Several of them mentioned groups that had specific needs with regard to the effects of pollution. One representative underscored the need to involve those groups in decision-making processes that dealt with their plights, because, as well as being vulnerable, they could also be effective agents of change.

264. Many representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the updated Gender Action Plan, further work by the Secretariat and the proposed action. One representative expressed the hope that the next iteration of the Gender Action Plan would use more inclusive language, while another representative advocated the use of scientific studies on the impact of chemical products and hazardous wastes on people with physical, mental, intellectual and sensory disabilities to feed into further updates of the Gender Action Plan.

265. One representative proposed that the reference, in the updated Gender Action Plan, to improving Secretariat knowledge and practices on non-binary inclusion be removed, as he did not consider it relevant to the issue of gender.

266. Some representatives outlined the work that had been done in their countries at the national level, including awareness-raising on gender-related issues and risks related to chemicals and waste, the enactment of relevant national legislation; and a project on strengthening institutional capacity for the coordination of chemicals- and waste-related multilateral environmental agreements and mainstreaming gender.

267. Several representatives spoke of the importance of ensuring the collection of appropriate data, highlighting the importance of data being reliable; gender-sensitive; and disaggregated, to enable the identification of gaps in gender equality and to support the development of public policies and strategies to address them.

268. Some representatives emphasized the importance of taking not only a gender-based approach to dealing with chemicals and waste, but also a wider human rights approach, promoting the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for present and future generations.

269. Subsequently, the Executive Secretary reported that, following consultations with interested Parties, the term “non-binary” as used in the information document providing details on gender-related activities implemented and planned by the Secretariat would be replaced with the phrase “women and

girls in all their diversity.” This phrase had become standard in a number of United Nations forums and had been used in relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

270. Following the explanation, the representative of Jordan stated that his delegation did not object to the information reported on in the relevant documents but requested that it be noted in the report that his delegation respected the relevant resolutions of the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on those matters. The representatives of Indonesia, Iraq, the Maldives, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia aligned themselves with the statement.

271. The conferences of the Parties took note of the update provided by the Secretariat and requested that the Secretariat report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan to the conferences of the Parties at their meetings in 2025.

C. Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes

272. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat recalled that the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, at their tenth meetings, had requested the Secretariat to review the cooperative arrangements with international organizations or entities with a mandate to prevent and combat illegal trade in hazardous chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to make recommendations on strengthening such arrangements. The resulting report, including a draft decision, was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/60 and offered three options for the Parties’ consideration.

273. The representative of Chile introduced a conference room paper proposing that the Secretariat be requested to design a feasible work plan for synergy in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, for adoption by the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings; to generate a specific cooperation mechanism to support the design of the tariff codes needed to identify products containing substances listed under the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and hazardous wastes according to the classifications in the Basel Convention; to promote opportunities to strengthen cooperation aimed at preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes through the support and with the guidance of the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and the FAO regional offices under the Rotterdam Convention; and, if necessary, to establish an intersessional working group to develop a work plan and compile the necessary background information for the intersessional period.

274. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of group of countries, welcomed the Secretariat’s report and compilation of best practices and thanked the Secretariat for the activities undertaken to assist Parties in combating illegal trade in hazardous waste and chemicals. A number of representatives, including some speaking on behalf of a group of countries, voiced support for the draft decision, and several welcomed the submission by Chile.

275. Many representatives, some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed their strong desire to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes. A number said they were in favour of strengthened cooperation, and one, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported the option of extending the scope of ENFORCE to also cover efforts aimed at preventing and combating the illegal trade in hazardous chemicals covered by the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Other measures proposed to combat illegal traffic and trade included the provision of technical assistance, in particular to strengthen the capacity of customs and other enforcement agencies; enhanced and adequately funded tools and mechanisms developed by regional centres; stronger consequences for traffickers; and enhanced cooperation and coordination with the Bamako Convention.

276. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that developing countries were often the victims of illegal traffic on their territories. Some observed that trade required an importer and an exporter, the latter often being the more powerful and better resourced of the two, and said that the onus should be on the exporting country to ensure that hazardous wastes and chemicals were not being exported. One representative suggested that countries that attempted to export hazardous waste or chemicals illegally be identified to help other countries be better prepared.

277. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, noted that the toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management would soon include a tool on illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, to assist Parties in establishing national legislation and infrastructure to strengthen the fight against illegal trade. She drew attention to the work undertaken by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to fight illegal trade in pesticides,

in particular the Network on Illegal Trade of Pesticides (ONIP), and urged the Parties to implement the OECD Council recommendation on countering the illegal trade of pesticides and to use the OECD best practice guidance to identify the illegal trade of pesticides.

278. The conferences of the Parties agreed to refer the matter to the joint contact group on joint issues. The group was mandated to prepare draft decisions based on the proposed action set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/25–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/26, taking into account the conference room paper submitted by Chile and the discussion in plenary.

279. A representative of FAO informed the Parties that the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management was developing a guidance note on addressing the illegal trade in pesticides, which would reference available international guidance and provide practical instructions on addressing the illegal trade in pesticides and was expected to be published in 2024.

280. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), noting that illegal trafficking in hazardous waste and other wastes remained a lucrative, low-risk crime in many countries owing to weak penalties and inadequate enforcement, informed the Parties that in 2020, the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had urged States parties to treat environmental crimes such as waste trafficking as a serious offence and had called on UNODC to provide technical support to States. In response, UNODC had created a legislative guide to international trafficking for national lawmakers featuring model provisions and best practices. The Office was also involved in various projects to address waste trafficking, including the Unwaste project, with UNEP and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the Container Control Programme, with the World Customs Organization, and the Global Maritime Crime Programme. To coordinate its efforts with other initiatives aimed at preventing waste trafficking, UNODC had joined the ENFORCE network in 2022.

281. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties adopted a decision on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes submitted by the joint contact group on joint issues.

282. Decision RC-11/11, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

283. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-16/24 and SC-11/23, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

D. From science to action

284. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the Secretariat drew attention to the information in documents UNEP/CHW.16/26–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/27 and UNEP/CHW.16/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/49.

285. In the ensuing discussion, considering science-based action to be crucial in the implementation of the conventions, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, thanked the Secretariat for its work to date and expressed support for its ongoing efforts to strengthen the use of scientific knowledge in decision-making and subsequent action. Several representatives spoke of their support for the continued cooperation with the United Nations Environment Assembly in the context of its resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries expressly supported the adoption of the draft decision.

286. One representative said that it was essential that the road map take into account the political and social circumstances of each country and show flexibility regarding the submission of data. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries stressed the need to build capacities at the national level. Among the areas of focus mentioned were laboratory analysis capacity; the ability to conduct enhanced research in order to obtain good data; and the provision of greater support for Africa and for regional centres. Some representatives thanked the Secretariat, the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the South American Region and donors for the workshop on “From science to action” held in April 2023.

287. Following the discussion, the conferences of the Parties adopted the draft decision set out in paragraph 10 of document UNEP/CHW.16/26–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/27.

288. Decision RC-11/12, entitled “From science to action”, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

289. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions entitled “From science to action” that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-16/25 and SC-11/24, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

VIII. Programme of work and budget (agenda item 8)

290. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 291 to 304 below are replicated in section VII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section VIII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

291. Introducing the item, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions recalled that in decisions BC-15/30, RC-10/19 and SC-10/26, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions had requested the executive secretaries to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2024–2025 two alternative funding scenarios: one that was based on the executive secretaries’ assessments of the required changes in the operational budgets, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2022–2023 level in nominal terms; and one that maintained the operational budget at the 2022–2023 level in nominal terms.

292. Explanations of the two scenarios were presented in document UNEP/CHW.16/27–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/28. The first scenario represented a continuation of the programmes of work approved for the current biennium and included a budget increase of approximately 5 per cent across the three conventions. Under the second, a zero nominal growth scenario, it would be necessary to reduce activities funded from the general trust fund. Following numerous budget negotiation cycles during which the budgets approved for programme activities had steadily declined in real terms, it had become increasingly unrealistic to prepare a viable scenario of zero nominal growth without such reductions.

293. He said that he was pleased to report that many donors had come forward to support voluntarily funded activities in the programmes of work, especially for activities related to plastic and marine litter, as well as the travel of funded participants. He thanked the Governments of Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States as well as the Norwegian Retailers’ Environment Fund for their generous contributions in the biennium 2022–2023. He also thanked the Governments of Germany and Switzerland for their contributions to the regional preparatory meetings and the Governments of China, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for their generous contributions to support the participation of approximately 350 delegates from eligible Parties attending the present meetings.

294. Regrettably, both the number of Parties in arrears and the overall amount of arrears had increased during the biennium 2022–2023. The Secretariat had continued its efforts to work with Parties and relevant national authorities to find solutions and settle all outstanding arrears.

295. Information on the allocation and utilization of the contribution provided in the biennium 2022–2023 by FAO was contained in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/31. Since the entry into force of the Rotterdam Convention in 2004, FAO had supported the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat located at FAO headquarters in Rome with more than \$18.2 million, including direct financial support of \$1.5 million per biennium. Information on activities to be implemented, funded or co-funded in the biennium 2024–2025 using FAO contributions was set out in annex IV to the proposed operational budgets in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/45–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/50.

296. In conclusion, he noted that a detailed presentation on the budget and financial matters would be provided at the start of the deliberations of the contact group, if one was established to consider these issues further.
297. The representative of the Secretariat presented additional information and outlined the relevant documentation. As in previous bienniums, the budget proposals had been developed jointly for the three conventions and presented in a single, harmonized document to facilitate the consideration of joint or complementary activities.
298. During the ensuing discussion, a number of Parties, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed support for an increased budget for the biennium 2024–2025, noting that this would ensure no reduction in the Secretariat's activities in support of the conventions. The budgets and programmes of work for the biennium 2024–2025 should enable all elements of the conventions, including all their subsidiary bodies, to operate effectively.
299. Several other representatives expressed support for a zero growth scenario for the budget, citing the continued economic challenges facing many Parties, particularly developing-country Parties and noting that the budgets and programmes of work should reflect the special situation of developing countries. One representative said his Government understood that some Parties faced economic challenges and thus potential savings in the operation of the conventions should be pursued while also not cutting activities and programmes important to their implementation and effectiveness.
300. Several representatives expressed the view that the participation of the members of bureaux from developing countries should be funded in addition to the usual total number of representatives funded from that country. One expressed support for including in the core budget the activities of the Secretariat related to providing technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly those relevant to plastics and hazardous waste.
301. A number of representatives expressed support for efforts to address the problem of arrears, with one noting that failing to do so would negatively impact the budget and could lead to Parties that met their funding obligations contributing more in the future. One representative underscored the importance of seeking additional cost savings and operational advantages from synergies among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and other relevant agreements and institutions.
302. Speaking on behalf of a group of countries, one representative expressed support for increasing the number of meeting days for the Chemical Review Committee, in order to address the backlog in reviewing notifications of final regulatory actions, and for retaining translation expenses in the core budget. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, questioned the proposal from the Secretariat to use surplus funds to cover costs related to the security, safety and staff counsellor services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva, believing that those expenses should be covered by UNEP in accordance with the memorandum of understanding concluded between UNEP and the conferences of the Parties in 2019. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, supported, as a general approach, keeping surpluses from particular operations available for the next biennium and using them for the core activities of the three conventions.
303. The conferences of the Parties established a joint contact group on programmes of work and budgets, to be co-chaired by Mr. Álvarez-Pérez (Chile) and Premysl Stepanek (Czechia). The group was mandated to develop the programmes of work and budgets for the three conventions for the biennium 2024–2025, as well as a draft decision for each of the conferences of the Parties, using the text set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/27–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/28 as the starting point for its deliberations, and taking into account the discussion in plenary.
304. Reporting back to plenary, the co-chair of the contact group on programmes of work and budgets said that, during its consideration of the budget, one representative had expressed concern that, owing to lack of dedicated financial support for travel for bureau members, delegations that included members of a bureau had to choose between seeking financial support to fund their bureau member and seeking it to fund a substantive specialist, thus reducing their ability to ensure adequate representation. The Secretariat had noted that funding of the participation of representatives of developing-country Parties and of Parties with economies in transition in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties was carried out pursuant to the procedure set out in the annex to the financial rules and gave priority to least developed country Parties and small-island developing State Parties. The procedure did not specify the number of Parties to be funded and did not exclude funding of eligible bureau members. The contact group had therefore confirmed its understanding that members of the bureau of the Conference of the Parties from eligible Parties would be funded subject to the availability of funds, and after the participation of representatives from eligible Parties had been ensured, in the order of priority as set out in the financial rules.

305. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a draft decision prepared by the contact group on budget matters.

306. Decision RC-11/15, on the programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2024–2025, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

307. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the programmes of work and budgets of those conventions for the biennium 2024–2025. Decisions BC-16/28 and SC-11/27, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

IX. Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (agenda item 9)

308. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 309 to 313 below are replicated in section VIII of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section IX of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

309. Introducing the item, the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions recalled that the three memorandums of understanding had been adopted by the respective conferences of the Parties during their 2019 meetings. Each memorandum included provisions on staffing, delegation of authority, administrative and programme support costs, financial matters and budgets, performance evaluation and management review, and programmatic relationships, among other things. Pursuant to the respective memorandums of understanding, the Executive Director of UNEP and, in the case of the Rotterdam Convention, the Director-General of FAO were to submit to each ordinary meeting of the conferences of the Parties, 90 days in advance of the meeting, a report on the implementation of the respective memorandums of understanding that would provide Parties with detailed information on administration services provided to the conventions by UNEP or FAO. The report of the Executive Director of UNEP to the respective conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions on the implementation of the memorandums of understanding was set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/49–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/53 and the report of FAO to the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding was set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/34.

310. In decisions BC-15/30, RC-10/19 and SC-10/26, which were identical in terms of substance, the Executive Director of UNEP had been requested to comply with the memorandum of understanding between the relevant Conference of the Parties and UNEP regarding service costs to be covered by UNEP pursuant to the annex to the relevant memorandum of understanding.

311. A representative of UNEP said that the Executive Director of UNEP had initiated a review of the memorandums of understanding to clarify the provision of administrative services to the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the cost-sharing arrangements. The amendments to the memorandums of understanding aimed to clarify which costs were covered by UNEP and which were covered by the conventions' budgets. Mainly, centrally administered services provided by UNEP and the United Nations Office at Nairobi were covered by the UNEP share of the programme support cost income, and common services charges, associated with the location of the secretariats in Geneva, such as medical and counselling services, diplomatic services, mail and diplomatic pouch services, and security and safety, were covered by the conventions' budgets. The letters by the Executive Director of UNEP proposing amendments to the memorandums of understanding between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, between FAO, UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, and between UNEP and the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention were set out in document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/53–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/39–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/57. The

proposed amendments would provide the necessary clarifications regarding the provision of services against the coverage of the cost of those services. The amendments aimed to align with standards followed by all the conventions administered by UNEP and by UNEP offices.

312. Following the introduction, several representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, took note of the proposal to amend the memorandums of understanding. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their support for the draft decision. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed her grave concern regarding the proposal by the Secretariat to use savings from the budget retroactively, namely to cover costs of the previous biennium, as was being proposed in relation to the amendments to the memorandums of understanding, and therefore would welcome a discussion on the proposal in the joint contact group on programmes of work and budgets.

313. The conferences of the Parties agreed to refer further discussion of the matter to the joint contact group on programmes of work and budgets. The group was mandated to prepare draft decisions based on the text set out in documents UNEP/CHW.16/28, UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/23 and UNEP/POPS/COP.11/29, and taking into account the discussion in plenary.

314. Subsequently, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention adopted a decision prepared by the contact group on programmes of work and budgets.

315. Decision RC-11/14, on amendments to the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

316. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on the implementation of the relevant memorandum of understanding that were similar to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-16/27 and SC-11/26, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

X. Venue and dates of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 10)

317. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraphs 318 and 319 below are replicated in section IX of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section X of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

318. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the information in document UNEP/CHW.16/29-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.11/30, including the draft decision set out therein. She recalled that the rules of procedure of the three conferences of the Parties provided for their meetings to take place at the seat of the Secretariat unless other appropriate arrangements were made. As at 10 May 2023, no offer to host the 2025 meetings of the conferences of the Parties had been received by the Secretariat.

319. In the ensuing discussion, one representative expressed the hope that more balanced arrangements could be made for the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties, for example by avoiding public holidays such as International Labour Day, and overcoming difficulties in booking the venue to ensure the participation of all Parties. Another representative said that Parties hosting the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions or intersessional meetings should fulfil their obligations to facilitate the participation of all the delegates nominated by the Parties to participate in the meetings, in order to ensure the full participation of experts in those meetings.

320. The Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted the draft decision prepared by the Secretariat.

321. Decision RC-11/13, on venue and dates of the next meetings of the conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, is set out in the annex to the present report.

322. In addition, the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted decisions on dates and venue of the next meetings of the conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that were substantially identical to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention. Decisions BC-16/26 and SC-11/25, as adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions, respectively, are set out in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and in the annex to the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31), respectively.

XI. Other matters (agenda item 11)

Admission of observers

323. The discussion summarized in the present section took place during joint sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention. Paragraph 324 below is replicated in section X of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the work of its sixteenth meeting (UNEP/CHW.16/30) and section XI of the report of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on the work of its eleventh meeting (UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31).

324. Introducing the item, the representative of the Secretariat outlined the procedure by which a body or agency applied for admission as an observer to a meeting of a Conference of the Parties. The lists of bodies or agencies making requests to be represented as observers to each meeting of a Conference of the Parties since the last meetings in 2022 and that met the relevant criteria were contained in, for the Basel Convention, document UNEP/CHW.16/INF/51; for the Rotterdam Convention, document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/42; and for the Stockholm Convention, document UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/55. Following the issuance of those documents, the Secretariat had received requests from several further bodies and agencies that it had verified met the relevant criteria in relation to the three conventions.

325. The Conference of the Parties took note of the bodies and agencies making requests for admission as observers to the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and requested the Secretariat to continue its current practice in that regard.

326. There were no further matters.

XII. Adoption of the report of the meeting (agenda item 12)

327. The Conference of the Parties adopted the draft report on the basis of the draft that had been circulated, on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, in cooperation with the Secretariat, under the authority of the President of the Conference of the Parties.

XIII. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 13)

328. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 10.52 p.m. on Friday, 12 May 2023.

Annex

Decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting

- RC-11/1: Status of implementation
- RC-11/2: Operation of the Chemical Review Committee
- RC-11/3: Listing of terbufos in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention
- RC-11/4: Enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention by addressing impacts regarding the listing of chemicals in Annex III and its implementation
- RC-11/5: Compliance Committee
- RC-11/6: Technical assistance
- RC-11/7: Framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy
- RC-11/8: Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- RC-11/9: International cooperation and coordination with other organizations
- RC-11/10: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange
- RC-11/11: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes
- RC-11/12: From science to action
- RC-11/13: Dates and venue of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
- RC-11/14: Amendments to the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- RC-11/15: Programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2024–2025

RC-11/1: Status of implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting decision RC-10/11, on the programme of work for the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee for the biennium 2022–2023, and decision RC-10/12, on technical assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the information provided on the status of implementation of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;¹

2. *Encourages* Parties:

(a) To adopt, as soon as possible, a national definition for the term “pesticide” and to communicate national definitions to the Secretariat;

(b) To take into account differences among Parties in the definition of the term “pesticide” in their communication with other Parties through export notifications and import responses;

(c) To ensure the effective operation of the Rotterdam Convention, in particular Articles 5, 6 and 10, by submitting notifications of final regulatory action, proposals for listing severely hazardous pesticide formulations and import responses for listed chemicals;

(d) To use the final regulatory action evaluation toolkit, the toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other relevant tools for national risk evaluation and decision-making, and for the preparation of notifications of final regulatory action;

(e) To provide the Secretariat with information that might assist other Parties to prepare and notify final regulatory actions, including scientific and technical information relevant to risk evaluation and decision-making on hazardous chemicals and pesticides;

(f) To provide information on their implementation of Articles 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Convention by submitting responses to the periodic questionnaire on the implementation of those articles;

3. *Invites* Parties, non-Parties, industry, civil society and other stakeholders to provide to the Secretariat data on the international trade in chemicals listed or recommended for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention;

4. *Urges* Parties:

(a) To ensure the effective implementation of Article 11 of the Rotterdam Convention, which is an important contribution to the fight against illegal trade in chemicals that are subject to the Convention;

(b) To ensure proper implementation of Article 13 of the Convention, in particular the stipulation that a safety data sheet that follows an internationally recognized format be sent to each importer of chemicals listed in Annex III to the Convention and chemicals banned or severely restricted in the exporting country’s territory, to be used for occupational purposes, in one or more of the official languages of the importing Party, as far as practicable;

(c) To ensure that the shipping document for an individual chemical or group of chemicals listed in Annex III bears the respective customs code of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System when exported, whenever a code has been assigned;

5. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue implementing the provisions of decisions RC-7/2 and RC-9/1, and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/4 and UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/6.

RC-11/2: Operation of the Chemical Review Committee

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the reports of the Chemical Review Committee on the work of its seventeenth and eighteenth meetings;¹
2. *Confirms* the appointment of Mirijam Seng (Belgium) to replace Mara Curaba for the remainder of her term, until 30 April 2024;
3. *Confirms* the appointment of Adam Barlow (Australia) to replace Qinghong Pu for the remainder of her term, until 30 April 2026;
4. *Appoints* the 14 designated experts listed in the annex to the present decision to serve as members of the Committee, with terms of office beginning on 1 May 2024 and ending on 30 April 2028;²
5. *Welcomes* the activities conducted by the Secretariat for new members and requests the Secretariat to continue to implement training activities, for new and existing members, within the framework of the technical assistance plan, subject to the availability of resources, considering different delivery techniques and information channels, such as workshops and online training, and to report on the results of that work to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.17/10 and UNEP/FAO/RC/CRC.18/15.

² The curricula vitae of these experts are set out in document UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/5/Rev.2.

Annex to decision RC-11/2

Members of the Chemical Review Committee appointed by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting with terms of office beginning on 1 May 2024

African States

Oarabile Serumola (Botswana)
June Aluoch (Kenya)
Sidi Ould Aloueimine (Mauritania)
Daniel William Ndiyo (United Republic of Tanzania)

Asia-Pacific States

Dinesh Runiwal (India)
Yenny Meliana, (Indonesia)
Ahmad Heidari (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Jeevani Prasadika Marasinghe (Sri Lanka)

Eastern European States

[to be completed in the intersessional period]

Latin American and Caribbean States

Stephen Sangster (Belize)
Carlos Enrique Acevedo González (Guatemala)

Western European and other States

Juergen Helbig (Austria)
Mirijam Seng (Belgium)
Irene Beate Sørvik Malme (Norway)

RC-11/3: Listing of terbufos in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Chemical Review Committee,

Having considered the recommendation of the Chemical Review Committee to make terbufos (CAS No. 13071-79-9) subject to the prior informed consent procedure and, accordingly, to list it in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as a pesticide,

Satisfied that all the requirements for listing in Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention have been met,

1. *Decides* to amend Annex III to the Rotterdam Convention to list the following chemical:

<i>Chemical</i>	<i>Relevant CAS number(s)</i>	<i>Category</i>
Terbufos	13071-79-9	Pesticide

2. *Also decides* that this amendment shall enter into force for all Parties on 22 October 2023;

3. *Approves* the decision guidance document on terbufos.¹

¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/12/Add.1, annex.

RC-11/4: Enhancing the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention by addressing impacts regarding the listing of chemicals in Annex III and its implementation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision RC-9/6, in which Parties were invited to further analyse and develop proposals, including in cooperation with other Parties, to enhance the effectiveness of the Rotterdam Convention, in particular to improve the listing process,

1. *Urges* Parties and observers to provide information to the Secretariat on the potential direct and indirect trade and socioeconomic impacts, as well as the financial implications, caused by or anticipated as a result of the listing of chemicals in Annex III, including the costs of inaction, by 30 June 2024;

2. *Also urges* Parties and observers to provide information to the Secretariat on the benefits and challenges of introducing alternatives to chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III, and on action to address such challenges, by 30 June 2024;

3. *Further urges* Parties and observers to provide information to the Secretariat on challenges in implementing legislative or administrative measures for the sound management of chemicals recommended for listing in Annex III and their alternatives, including challenges relating to technological and scientific capability, by 30 June 2024;

4. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to compile the information provided pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of the present decision and to prepare a report for consideration and discussion on a way forward by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;

5. *Also requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to organize a webinar in advance of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in order to present and discuss the information compiled pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 4 of the present decision.

RC-11/5: Compliance Committee

The Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the work undertaken by the Compliance Committee since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,

I

Specific submissions

1. *Invites* Parties that believe that, despite their best efforts, they are, or will be, unable to comply with certain obligations under the Rotterdam Convention to consider making submissions to the Compliance Committee pursuant to paragraph 12 of Annex VII to the Convention;
2. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to organize awareness-raising activities aimed at improving understanding among Parties of the Committee, its objectives and mandate, including in conjunction with any technical assistance activity, as appropriate;

II

Laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures to implement the Rotterdam Convention

3. *Notes* that 24 Parties have transmitted to the Secretariat the texts of national legislation or other measures that they have adopted to implement and enforce the Convention, in spite of decisions RC-7/1 and RC-10/4 encouraging Parties to do so, and that the number of Parties transmitting such texts to the Secretariat may be indicative of a systemic issue of general compliance with the various obligations under the Convention to adopt and implement appropriate legislative or administrative measures;
4. *Requests* Parties to provide the Secretariat with the texts of national legislation or other measures that they have adopted to implement and enforce the Convention, specifically those texts related to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 5 and Article 10 of the Convention;

III

Notifications of final regulatory action

5. *Encourages* Parties to provide the Compliance Committee with information by submitting responses to its questionnaire for the identification of issues faced by Parties in relation to notifications of final regulatory action;¹

IV

Enhanced coordination with the Committee administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention

6. *Notes* the importance for members of the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee of gaining expertise through practice and experience;
7. *Invites* Parties to put forward, if possible, at the eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Conference of the Parties, candidates for election to the Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee who have experience with the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal or other implementation and compliance bodies of multilateral environmental agreements;

¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/CC.1/4/Rev.1.

V

Programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025

8. *Approves* the programme of work of the Committee for the biennium 2024–2025 set out in the annex to the present decision;
9. *Requests* the Committee:
 - (a) To consult Parties, in advance of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on a draft programme of work for the biennium 2026–2027;
 - (b) To report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the work it has carried out to fulfil its functions, in accordance with paragraph 26 of Annex VII to the Rotterdam Convention;

VI

Election of members of the Committee

10. *Elects*, in accordance with paragraph 4 of Annex VII, the following members of the Committee until the closure of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

African States:

Hamadjoda (Cameroon)

Asia-Pacific States:

Ibrahim Alboshi (Saudi Arabia)

Eastern European States:

Anahit Aleksandryan (Armenia)

Karmen Krajnc (Slovenia)

Latin American and Caribbean States:

Helges Bandeira (Brazil)

Jimena Nieto Carrasco (Colombia)

Western European and other States:

Karoliina Anttonen (Finland)

Helen Roberts (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Annex to decision RC-11/5

Programme of work for the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2024–2025

I. Review of systemic issues of general compliance under the Convention

<i>Systemic issue of general compliance to be addressed</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures to implement the Convention (Article 15 (1) and other provisions)	<p>Monitor, based on information from Parties, the laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures adopted to implement the Rotterdam Convention;</p> <p>Based on information from Parties, identify and review, difficulties relating to laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures to implement the Rotterdam Convention;</p> <p>Develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties on steps that could be taken by Parties, the Conference of the Parties, the Compliance Committee and others to improve the laws, regulations, policies, procedures and other measures to implement the Convention.</p>
Notification of final regulatory actions (Article 5)	<p>Based on information from Parties, including from a questionnaire circulated to Parties, identify and review issues being faced by Parties in relation to the notification of final regulatory actions, including a quantitative and qualitative analysis, and in particular with regard to the information requirements set out in Annex I to the Convention;</p> <p>Develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties on steps that could be taken by Parties, the Conference of the Parties, the Compliance Committee and others to support Parties with the notification of final regulatory actions.</p>
Exports and imports of chemicals listed in Annex III (Articles 10 and 11)	<p>Based on information from Parties that have yet to transmit any import responses for the chemicals listed in Annex III, review challenges faced by importing Parties in submitting import responses;</p> <p>Develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties on steps that could be taken by Parties, the Conference of the Parties, the Compliance Committee and others to support importing Parties in submitting import responses;</p> <p>Undertake further work to identify challenges being faced by exporting Parties with ensuring that exporters within their jurisdiction comply with import responses.</p>
Export notifications (Article 12)	Undertake further work to identify challenges being faced by Parties in relation to the provision of export notifications and the acknowledgement of receipt thereof.
Information exchange (Article 14)	<p>Undertake further work to identify options to improve information sharing with Parties, as well as analyse use thereof by Parties and other stakeholders;</p> <p>Based on information from Parties, consider options to encourage and facilitate the exchange of experiences, in particular between developing countries, on the implementation of the Convention and develop recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on options to encourage and facilitate such information exchange, in particular between developing countries, on the implementation of the Convention. Such an activity could also take into account, as appropriate, related activities such as work under the dissemination strategy for obtaining and using information to effectively address obligations and procedures under the Rotterdam Convention, so as to avoid duplication of effort and build on existing or planned activities.</p>

<i>Systemic issue of general compliance to be addressed</i>	<i>Activity</i>
Information submission: improve timely and complete submission of information pursuant to the provisions of the Convention	Monitor developments related to the integration by Parties of their information submission needs in actions to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, in particular interlinkages with and the relation to the Rotterdam Convention.
Enhanced cooperation with the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention	Enhance cooperation with the Committee Administering the Mechanism for Promoting Implementation and Compliance of the Basel Convention to facilitate compliance through the exchange of views and information between the committees on activities, operations and processes of joint interest, including, as appropriate, joint sessions at meetings of the committees, and make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

II. Specific submissions regarding Party compliance

1. The Committee shall continue to accord priority to dealing with specific submissions regarding Party compliance received or initiated in accordance with paragraph 12 of Annex VII to the Convention.
2. The Committee shall explore lessons from implementation and compliance bodies of other multilateral environmental agreements that could inform the initiation of the work of the Committee pursuant to paragraph 13 of Annex VII to the Convention.

RC-11/6: Technical assistance

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the biennium 2022–2023,¹ including capacity-building activities for the implementation 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, and of the database summarizing technical assistance needs;²
2. *Invites* developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to submit to the Secretariat through an online questionnaire, by 31 March 2024, information on their needs for technical assistance and technology transfer, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. Parties may coordinate their replies and submit them jointly;
3. *Invites* developed-country Parties and others with the capacity to do so to submit to the Secretariat through an online questionnaire, by 31 March 2024, information on the technical assistance and technology that they have available to be transferred, in accordance with the provisions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, to developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition;
4. *Emphasizes* the key role of the regional centres, as described in the provisions of the Basel and Stockholm conventions, as well as the roles of the regional, subregional and country offices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Environment Programme and other participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, in delivering technical assistance upon request, particularly at the regional level, for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and facilitating technology transfer to eligible Parties, and invites the regional centres and others in a position to do so to continue to provide and prioritize capacity-building relating to legal and institutional frameworks;
5. *Encourages* Parties, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Environment Facility and the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, according to their mandates and the priorities that have been established, to continue to support the technical assistance plan for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the period 2022–2025;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:
 - (a) To continue to implement the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in cooperation with relevant actors;
 - (b) To develop online questionnaires to collect information from Parties in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the present decision, to continue to update the technical assistance needs database accordingly, to make that information available on the websites of the conventions, and to prepare a report on the assessment of the information on the needs of developing-country Parties and Parties with economies in transition for technical assistance and technology transfer, based on the information submitted by Parties;
 - (c) To continue to include information on the monitoring and evaluation of projects undertaken under the technical assistance plan for the period 2022–2025 in the report requested in paragraph 7 of the present decision;
 - (d) To develop a technical assistance plan for the period 2026–2029, taking into account the reports referred to in subparagraphs 6 (b) and (c) of the present decision, and to present it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;
7. *Requests* the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting on the implementation of the present decision.

¹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/28–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/17–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/25.

² www.brsmeas.org/tabid/4898.

RC-11/7: Framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy¹

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that environmental challenges have been increasing in magnitude and complexity while resources aimed at mitigating problems are not matching needs,

Welcoming the assessment of the relevance for 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 of existing guidelines developed by the United Nations system on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors,²

Recognizing the midterm strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme aimed at coping with the three interconnected planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution,³ which is set to widen and secure the resource base for the execution of its strategy,

Noting the intersessional process to develop an improved multi-stakeholder framework under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for the sound management of chemicals and waste, based on the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste,

Recognizing the urgent need to explore innovative sources of finance from non-State actors to complement the existing funding mechanism in order to assist the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Appreciating the efforts of the Secretariat to mobilize resources from non-State actors,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, subject to the availability of resources, to explore, based on information reflected in the assessment of the relevance for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions of existing guidelines developed by the United Nations system on the mobilization of resources from non-State actors,⁴ as well as other relevant documents, the development of a non-State actor resource mobilization strategy and to report on its findings to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

2. *Encourages* the Secretariat to continue the mobilization of financial resources from non-State actors to complement existing financial sources, pending the finalization of the work referred to in paragraph 1 of the present decision.

¹ The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions BC-16/19 and SC-11/15, on a framework to develop a resource mobilization strategy, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

² UNEP/CHW.15/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/37, annex.

³ See UNEP/EA.5/3/Rev.1.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.15/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/37, annex.

RC-11/8: Cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury¹

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that the sharing of services within a stable framework will enhance cooperation and coordination based on experience and proximity and can foster the effective implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Minamata Convention without undermining the autonomy of the secretariats or the accountability of their executive heads,

Recalling decisions BC-15/24, RC-10/13 and SC-10/20, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury,

1. *Takes note* of the joint report on cooperation and coordination between the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and of the Minamata Convention on Mercury,² and the outline of cooperation activities planned, including for the sharing and purchase of relevant services, between the two secretariats for the biennium 2024–2025;³

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of continued cooperation on programmatic synergies, of the use of the task force between the two secretariats and the United Nations Environment Programme Chemicals and Health Branch, and of the possibility for the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to provide secretariat support to the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, in accordance with the programme of work and budget of the conventions for each biennium;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue, with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention and under the overall steering of the task force, inter-secretariat working groups, as appropriate, to cooperate on relevant administrative, programmatic, scientific and technical and technical assistance matters, in accordance with the programme of work and budget, and to explore ways to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration with the Minamata Convention;

(b) To continue to implement shared services and the purchase of relevant services with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on a cost recovery basis, as appropriate and in accordance with the programme of work and budget for each biennium;

(c) To report on the implementation of the present decision, including on a stable framework for cooperation and for the sharing of services, providing an outline of the cooperation activities planned under such a framework for the biennium 2026–2027, for the consideration of and, as necessary, further guidance by, the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

¹ The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions BC-16/21 and SC-11/20, on cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

² UNEP/CHW.16/INF/36–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/19–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/40, annex I.

³ Ibid., annex II.

RC-11/9: International cooperation and coordination with other organizations¹

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January–31 December 2022,² the information provided by the secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop a legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, on the work of the committee,³ the update provided by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management on the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and wastes beyond 2020,⁴ the information on activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme on programmatic matters pertaining to the conventions⁵ and the information note provided by the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;⁶

2. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat and the secretariat of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue to closely cooperate and coordinate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and to participate in the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on issues relevant to 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, including in relation to persistent organic pollutants in plastic products;

3. *Reiterates* its invitation to Parties participating in the intergovernmental negotiating committee to ensure that the international legally binding instrument is fully coherent with and complementary to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, that it avoids the duplication of actions set out in the relevant provisions of those conventions, and that it promotes cooperation and coordination with those conventions, and to ensure that the expertise of the Secretariat and the Parties and the experience built up in implementing the conventions is fully shared to help the intergovernmental negotiating committee in its deliberations; and its encouragement to the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to participate in the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee and share their expertise;

4. *Takes note* of the report entitled “Global governance of plastics and associated chemicals”⁷ and requests the Secretariat to submit it to the intergovernmental negotiating committee, along with other information of relevance to the mandate of the committee and to promote its dissemination;

5. *Welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue contributing to the preparation of proposals for the science-policy panel and cooperating closely with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the mandate of the science-policy panel;

6. *Reiterates* its invitation to Parties participating in the ad hoc open-ended working group to promote cooperation and coordination with the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as well as complementarity and avoidance of duplication of effort between the work of the panel and

¹ The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions BC-16/22 and SC-11/21, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

² UNEP/CHW.16/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/41.

³ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/40–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/23–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/45.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/39–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/22–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/44.

⁵ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/38–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/21–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/43.

⁶ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/52–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/36–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/56.

⁷ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/58–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/41–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/59, annex.

that of the conventions, and to ensure close cooperation with the scientific and technical bodies under the conventions, as appropriate,⁸ and that the extensive experience of the science-based promotion of the sound management of chemicals and waste is made available to the ad hoc open-ended working group;

7. *Reiterates* its request to the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme in fostering the implementation of activities described in resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly that are relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

8. *Welcomes* the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled “Cooperation with multilateral environmental agreements” on the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

9. *Also welcomes* the programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme on matters of mutual interest, including in the context of the United Nations Environment Assembly;

10. *Further welcomes* the programmatic cooperation between the Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on matters of mutual interest;

11. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue such programmatic cooperation efforts as described in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the present decision;

12. *Welcomes* the invitation by the heads of the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, through their respective secretariat, to become a participating organization of the Programme;

13. *Decides* to accept the invitation mentioned in paragraph 12 of the present decision and requests the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention, the executive secretaries of the Rotterdam Convention and the Executive Secretary of the Stockholm Convention to sign, on behalf of the relevant conventions, the memorandum of understanding concerning the establishment of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

14. *Requests* the executive secretaries, within their respective mandates, to represent the conventions in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals;

15. *Reiterates* the requests contained in paragraphs 18 and 19 of decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21 for the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with relevant organizations with regard to the contributions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

16. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue:

(a) To work closely with other international organizations, within their mandates, on activities related to plastic pollution;

(b) To enhance cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach and 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 report by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination for the period 1 January–31 December 2022;⁹

17. *Also requests* the Secretariat to enhance its cooperation and coordination with the secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns on issues of common interest, subject to the availability of resources;

18. *Further requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to enhance communications related to the contributions of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions towards resolving the triple planetary crisis and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, and their interlinkages with the processes and instruments of other intergovernmental bodies, and to report back to the conferences of the Parties to the conventions at their next meetings;

⁸ See paras. 5 (c), 6 (d) and 8 of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution.

⁹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/37–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/20–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/41.

19. *Invites* Parties to strengthen the visibility of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, with the goal of raising awareness of the work of the conventions and their relevant interlinkages with the processes and instruments of other intergovernmental bodies, as appropriate;
20. *Takes note* of the information on the preparation by the Secretariat of a report on interlinkages between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer¹⁰ and requests the Secretariat to enhance its cooperation and coordination with the Ozone Secretariat on issues of common interest, subject to the availability of resources;
21. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen coherence and synergies across the chemicals and waste agenda at the international level, and calls on Parties to take into account the strategic objectives and targets of the global chemicals and waste framework for beyond 2020, once adopted, in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
22. *Requests* the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions could contribute to the global chemicals and waste framework for beyond 2020, once adopted, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;
23. *Also requests* the Secretariat to develop a proposal for the inclusion in the programme of work for the biennium 2026–2027 of activities to support the implementation of the global chemicals and waste framework for beyond 2020, once adopted, in line with the objectives of the conventions, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their next meetings;
24. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and reiterates the call to Parties contained in paragraph 26 of decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21 to take into account the objectives of the Framework in their actions to implement the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
25. *Reiterates* the requests contained in paragraph 27 of decisions BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21 to the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a report, including possible recommendations, on how the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 targets and 2050 goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the conventions at their next meetings;
26. *Welcomes* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 77/161 on promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and requests the Executive Secretary to cooperate with the Secretary-General in fostering the implementation of that resolution, and with the advisory board of eminent persons to be set up by the Secretary-General to promote local and national zero-waste initiatives;
27. *Also welcomes* the cooperation between the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the secretariats of other multilateral environmental agreements and processes in the chemicals and waste cluster, including the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, in the training of potential chairs and negotiators for meetings of various bodies, and requests the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue implementing such training;
28. *Notes* that actions under the conventions may contribute to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, decides to take this into account in its work, and encourages Parties to do the same when implementing the conventions;
29. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to enhance its cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on issues of common interest;
30. *Requests* the Secretariat to report on the implementation of the present decision to the conferences of the Parties at their next meetings.

¹⁰ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/59–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/37–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/42, annex.

RC-11/10: Clearing-house mechanism for information exchange¹

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-11/17, on the effectiveness evaluation, as they relate to the clearing-house mechanism,

Noting also decision RC-11/5 on the Compliance Committee of the Rotterdam Convention, in particular the activities on information exchange included in the programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025 of the Compliance Committee,²

1. *Welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism;
2. *Takes note* of the workplan for the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025;³
3. *Requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To continue the work to implement the strategy of the clearing-house mechanism⁴ in a gradual and cost-effective manner;
 - (b) To implement the maintenance activities outlined in section II.A of the workplan for the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision, in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium, while prioritizing recurring activities, in particular with respect to the maintenance of existing systems;
 - (c) To implement, subject to the availability of resources, the activities outlined in section II.B of the workplan for the implementation of the clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2024–2025 mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present decision, in particular activities aimed at expanding the clearing-house mechanism to be an online collaborative platform for a community of stakeholders in line with the second goal of the clearing-house mechanism strategy and the recommendations of the effectiveness evaluation committee of the Stockholm Convention,⁵ in accordance with the programme of work and budget for the Convention for the biennium 2024–2025;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat:
 - (a) To continue to enhance cooperation and coordination activities with existing partners in the area of information exchange, to explore possible cooperative activities with new partners including academia, as appropriate, and to ensure complementarity with and avoid duplication of existing and future activities, tools and mechanisms;
 - (b) To continue its collaboration with the secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury to exchange information and share experiences and best practices regarding the use of existing clearing-house mechanism systems;
5. *Invites* Parties and observers to participate, as appropriate, in the implementation and further development of the clearing-house mechanism strategy and in relevant activities of the workplan for the biennium 2024–2025, in accordance with the present decision;
6. *Requests* the Secretariat to keep the strategy under regular review in order to take into account lessons learned and relevant developments regarding the international agenda on the sound management of chemicals and waste.

¹ The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions BC-16/23 and SC-11/22, on the clearing-house mechanism for information exchange, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

² This paragraph is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention.

³ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/41–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/24–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/46.

⁴ UNEP/CHW.13/INF/47–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.8/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.8/INF/50.

⁵ See UNEP/POPS/COP.11/19/Add.1, annex, sect. I, para. 5 (e).

RC-11/11: Synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes¹

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions BC-15/27, RC-10/16 and SC-10/23, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes,

I²

1. *Reiterates* its encouragement to Parties to voluntarily provide information about cases of international trade in hazardous chemicals occurring in contravention of 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, using the forms adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their tenth meetings;³

2. *Takes note* of the report on existing cooperative arrangements with international organizations or entities with a mandate to prevent and combat illegal trade in hazardous chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, including recommendations on strengthening such arrangements, taking into account relevant experience with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal;⁴

3. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue collecting information about confirmed cases by Parties concerned by illegal trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes occurring in contravention of the Convention submitted by Parties on a voluntary basis and to make such information available on the website of the Convention;

(b) To develop, subject to the availability of resources, case studies on action taken by Parties to implement and enforce the trade control measures of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(c) To strengthen, subject to the availability of resources, its cooperation with relevant entities with a mandate to prevent and combat the illegal trade in hazardous chemicals covered by the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

II⁵

4. *Reminds* Parties to the Basel Convention to report cases of illegal traffic to the Secretariat using the prescribed form for confirmed cases of illegal traffic⁶ or through table 9 of the format for national reporting for cases of illegal traffic that have been closed in the reporting year;⁷

III

5. *Invites* Parties to provide best practices for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to voluntarily share information through the Secretariat on action taken to implement and enforce the trade control measures, as well as on challenges Parties may be facing;⁸

¹ The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions BC-16/24 and SC-11/23, on synergies in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

² This section is only relevant to the decisions adopted by the conferences of the Parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.

³ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/32–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/52.

⁴ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/26–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/60.

⁵ This section is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention.

⁶ See www.basel.int/tabid/1544/Default.aspx.

⁷ Taking note of responsibilities of Parties under Article 9 of the Basel Convention.

⁸ In the light of the Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

6. *Takes note* of the report on best practices from Parties for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and related lessons learned;⁹

7. *Encourages* the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,¹⁰ the Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention regional centres, the International Criminal Police Organization, the World Customs Organization, and relevant global and regional enforcement networks to undertake activities aimed at assisting Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes, and to inform the Secretariat thereof;

8. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To continue to provide advice and, subject to the availability of resources, undertake technical assistance activities to strengthen the capacity of Parties to prevent and combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

(b) To collect best practices from Parties for preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes covered by the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and to present a compilation thereof and lessons learned for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting;

(c) To provide Parties, upon request, with assistance in identifying cases of illegal trade in hazardous chemicals as well as in identifying cases of illegal traffic in wastes;

(d) Based on the information submitted under paragraph 3 (a) and (b) of section I, and under paragraph 4 of section II, of the present decision, subject to the availability of resources, to propose a workplan, outlining timelines and associated action, to strengthen Parties' capacity to provide information about confirmed cases and experience related to preventing and combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and waste, to be considered by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively, for possible adoption;

(e) To explore, subject to the availability of resources, the needs related to amending the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System to identify substances and products that contain the chemicals listed in Annexes A and B to the Stockholm Convention, taking into account the current work conducted under the Basel and Rotterdam conventions on those matters, and to present recommendations to be considered by the conferences of the Parties at their seventeenth and twelfth meetings, respectively;

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

⁹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/43–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/27–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/48.

¹⁰ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; World Health Organization; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; World Bank.

RC-11/12: From science to action¹

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the priority areas for action recognized in decision SC-11/16, on effectiveness evaluation, as they relate to strengthening science-policy-industry interactions,²

1. *Takes note* of the information on action to implement the road map³ for further engaging Parties and other stakeholders in informed dialogue for enhanced science-based action in the implementation 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;
2. *Encourages* Parties and others to continue to undertake action that promotes the implementation of the road map;
3. *Requests* the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake capacity-building and training activities to support Parties in taking science-based action for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;
4. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continue to cooperate and coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme and, as appropriate, other relevant organizations, scientific bodies and stakeholders towards strengthening the science-policy interface, including in the context of the implementation of United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and to report on the implementation of the present decision to the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

¹ The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions BC-16/25 and SC-11/24 on from science to action, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

² This paragraph is only relevant to the decision adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

³ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/28–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/49.

RC-11/13: Venue and dates of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions¹

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Decides* to convene the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to 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 back to back, from 28 April to 9 May 2025, in Geneva;
2. *Also decides* that the meetings will include joint sessions, where appropriate, on joint issues;
3. *Further decides* that the meetings will include a high-level segment of no more than one day's duration;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in order to assist Parties in preparing for the back-to-back meetings, to support, subject to the availability of resources, regional meetings, held in coordination with other regional meetings, to assist regional preparatory processes;
5. *Invites* Parties to submit offers to host the 2027 meetings of the conferences of the Parties, if possible by 28 January 2025, for consideration during the meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2025.

¹ The conferences of the Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions adopted, respectively, decisions BC-16/26 and SC-11/25, on the venue and dates of the next meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, which are substantially identical to the present decision.

RC-11/14: Amendments to the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision RC-10/19, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to comply with the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, in particular with regard to core services costs to be supported by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to the annex to the memorandum of understanding,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Conference of the Parties on the implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, reviewing the central administrative and support services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme with a view to amending the said memorandum of understanding to align it with relevant United Nations financial rules and regulations and standard United Nations practices,¹

Taking note also of the proposal by the Executive Director to amend the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention,²

Noting decision RC-11/15 on the programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2024–2025,

1. *Adopts* the amended annex 1 to the memorandum of understanding between the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, as set out in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Requests* the President of the Conference of the Parties, on behalf of the Conference of the Parties, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to sign the memorandum of understanding as amended during or following the closure of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

¹ UNEP/CHW.16/INF/49–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/33–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/INF/53.

² See UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/23, annex.

Annex to decision RC-11/14

Amended annex 1 to the memorandum of understanding between the Director General- of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

Annex 1 to the memorandum of understanding¹

[English only]

UNEP's central administrative services in support of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions

The table below is without prejudice to the delegation of authority from the Executive Director of UNEP to the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.

The list of central administrative services is not exhaustive and may include additional services, as mutually agreed from time to time between UNEP and the Secretariat of the BRS Conventions.

The cost of these services is covered by UNEP against the 33% share of the Programme Support Cost income attributable to all of the trust funds of the BRS Conventions.

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
Policy, guidelines, and procedures	All policies concerning administrative arrangements are governed by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions and those of United Nations Environment Programme's governing body. United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules (UNFRR) supplemented by Multilateral Environmental Agreements' and entities' financial procedures, or rules ensure effective and efficient use of resources in accordance with the purposes for which funds are provided, within authorized limits and available income. The UNFRR also regulate the organization's procurement activities. UNFRR set the framework within which UNEP's personnel, including different categories of staff members, consultants and independent contractors, are recruited and administered. United Nations Secretariat policies supplement and provide details on the implementation of the resolutions and regulations. They are embodied in United Nations administrative issuances i.e. Secretary-General's Bulletins, Administrative Instructions and Information Circulars which may be further interpreted and translated into guidelines and procedures for day to day operations.
Human Resources	Recruitment, staff administration, mandatory training and performance management
<i>Talent Acquisition and Management</i>	Developing staffing plans and implementing related recruitment activities namely classification, vacancy announcement, oversight of assessments, evaluation, review and selection to ensure that all actions are in line with UN Regulations and Rules.
<i>Administration of staff and personnel administered by UNON</i>	Onboarding, administering contracts, processing entitlements and benefits, review and update of dependency status, leave records, lateral move, separation from service. Administering end-of-service and post-retirement benefits including pension fund deductions and After Service Health Insurance scheme.
<i>Development and training of personnel administered by UNON</i>	Mandatory training of personnel, and administration thereof, on issues such as security, ethics and integrity, competency based interviewing skills, management development programme. Training and capacity building sessions offered by CSD under the Corporate Academy, excluding travel.
<i>Performance Management</i>	Implementing and monitoring compliance with performance management policies, process and tools (INSPIRA) to reward/recognize/retain staff and address underperformance. Supporting rebuttal process guidance and conducting training on writing workplans and performance assessments. Managing the Financial Disclosure programme.

¹ The annex is presented without formal editing.

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
Budget and Finance	Management, oversight and reporting of budgets and financial resources of the governing bodies and donors.
<i>Budgeting / Fund Management</i>	<p>Review budgets prepared by the BRS Secretariat and present recommendations to the BRS Secretariats.</p> <p>Identify the programme support cost revenue generated by BRS in the Overhead Trust Account, calculate BRS share and submit annual budget for approval by UNEP Executive Director (ED). Record allocations to BRS upon ED approval.</p> <p>Evaluate the financial viability of operations funded by the Overhead Trust Account. Work closely with BRS to ensure budgets are in line with allocations issued. Issue periodic reports and forecast spending to BRS to predict likely outcomes.</p> <p>Create, review, and close Trust Funds.</p>
<i>General Accounting / Financial Statements</i>	<p>Prepare and issue the financial statements of the BRS trust funds.</p> <p>Prepare and issue donor financial reports.</p> <p>Maintain accounting records and process accounting transactions.</p>
<i>Payments / Expenditure</i>	<p>Process the disbursement of payments to Implementing Partners, consultants, vendors and meeting participants.</p> <p>Monitor advances to implementing partners and record expenditures based on their financial reports.</p>
<i>Payroll</i>	<p>Process payment of salaries, entitlements and related advances and maintain payroll accounts. Maintain Umoja Organizational Management (OM) records to facilitate proper accounting for payroll expenses.</p>
<i>Contributions /Cash Management</i>	<p>Issue invoices to Parties, record and monitor contribution receivables, process contributions upon receipt of payments; reconcile applied deposit accounts. Issue receipts/acknowledge letters of contributions on a need basis.</p> <p>Reconcile Parties' receivables, contributions and unpaid balances. Answer queries raised by BRS Parties on the contributions to the trust funds.</p>
<i>Treasury/Banking/ Investment</i>	<p>Receive and disburse funds, manage the House Bank, perform bank reconciliations. Maintain banking details for staff, vendors, implementing partners and consultants. The investment of UNEP funds in the right products is managed by United Nations headquarters (UNHQ) Treasury.</p>
<i>Oversight</i>	<p>Coordinate internal audit, investigation, inspection and external audit. Support in providing responses to audit queries and coordinate the implementation of the audit recommendations. Coordinate statutory reporting and support to the annual external audit.</p>
Legal	Legal advice, opinions and representation in the Internal Justice System.
<i>Advisory and Representation</i>	<p>Provide corporate legal advice and institutional support.</p> <p>Represent the organisation before the Management Evaluation Unit with regards to requests filed by staff members.</p> <p>Represent the organisation at the United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) and provide support to the Office of Legal Affairs with regards to appeals filed at the United Nations Appeals Tribunal.</p> <p>Negotiate settlements of claims; provide legal support and advice in mediation, conciliation and arbitration.</p> <p>Provide legal and institutional support in disciplinary procedures; provide legal advice in cases of alleged misconduct and relevant investigations.</p> <p>Review and clear Host Country Agreements and legal instruments in accordance with the Delegation of Authority Policy and Framework for the Management and Administration of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.</p> <p>Provide legal advice on human resources issues e.g., interpretation of the Staff Regulations and Rules, advise on outside activities, separation from employment, settlements.</p> <p>Provide advice on engaging with implementing partners.</p>
Support Services	Services to support operations including office space, premises, host country arrangements and protocols.
<i>Contracts and Procurement</i>	<p>Supervise procurement related functions and provide advice on procurement proposals of significant financial or operational impact.</p> <p>Deliberate on the proposed strategy/approach to best serve office's interests in line with standing procedures and UNFRR.</p> <p>Provide oversight over the service providers.</p> <p>Liaise with the contracts committee for the presentation of cases for recommendation and address follow-up queries, in consultation with the UNON procurement section and BRS.</p>

<i>Service Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
<i>Inventory / Asset Management</i>	Provide services to manage inventory of equipment items and assets. Coordinate physical verification exercise in compliance with UNFRR. Process the disposal of obsolete and unserviceable items.
<i>Travel, Shipping and Visa</i>	Provide advice on developments in Secretariat travel policies and procedures.
<i>Facilities Management</i>	Advise on the provision of comfortable and efficient working environment for BRS staff.
<i>Mail Pouch</i>	Provide advisory services on mail, courier and pouch. Provide internal mail collection and distribution services.
<i>Archives/Document Management</i>	Advise on and oversee the implementation of policies for the management of archives in accordance with established archival standards and practices.
<i>Enterprise Resource Programme (ERP) – Umoja</i>	Advise on all aspects of workflow analysis, business process reengineering and organizational transformation. Manage core transformational activities connected to the Umoja implementation and system life cycle. Provide training and guidance on Umoja functionality, access and modality for the execution of administrative processes.
<i>Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and Internal Controls</i>	Implement the United Nations Secretariat ERM policy and framework, its monitoring and development. Advise on developments and activities related to the life cycle of ERM. Liaise directly with the UN Secretariat's Department of Management for all issues relating to ERM and IC implementation and update of the ERM treatment plan.
Information and Communications Technology	Computing, telecommunications, office automation, infrastructure support including electronic mail as well as consulting, advisory and help desk services.
<i>Corporate intranet and email</i>	Provide access to UNEP corporate intranet and email systems.
<i>Software development and maintenance</i>	Provide advice from tactical, operational and strategic aspects with consideration to the specific needs of the office. Make recommendations on cost effective options e.g., outsourcing or in-house IT services. Provide customised / off the shelf software applications to support the specific needs of office.
<i>Help desk services</i>	Provide local and global services to staff in resolving various IT related issues for the UN enterprise and UNEP corporate applications /systems.

RC-11/15: Programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2024–2025

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision RC-10/19 on the programme of work and budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2022–2023,

Taking note of the financial reports for 2020 and 2021 from the general trust fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention general trust fund),¹

Taking note also of the report by the Secretariat on the available surpluses and options for using surpluses to fund core activities,²

Recalling decision RC-9/14 on the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade,

Noting decision RC-11/14, whereby the Conference of the Parties adopted amendments to the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, in particular its annex 1 setting out the central administrative services provided by the United Nations Environment Programme in support of the Convention,

I

Rotterdam Convention general trust fund

1. *Approves* the programme budget for the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2024–2025 of 4,302,621 United States dollars for 2024 and 4,302,621 United States dollars for 2025, for the purposes set out in table 1 of the present decision;
2. *Authorizes* the executive secretaries of the Rotterdam Convention to make commitments up to the amount of the approved operational budget, drawing upon 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 2024–2025;
4. *Welcomes* the continued annual contributions by Italy and Switzerland, the host countries of the Secretariat, of 600,000 euros each to the Secretariat to offset planned expenditures;
5. *Notes* that, of Switzerland's annual host country contribution of 600,000 euros, 50 per cent will be apportioned to the Rotterdam Convention general trust fund and 50 per cent to the special voluntary trust fund for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Rotterdam Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions) for 2024–2025;
6. *Adopts* the indicative scale of assessments for the apportionment of expenses for the biennium 2024–2025 set out in table 2 of the present decision and authorizes the executive secretaries, 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 2024 for 2024;
7. *Recalls* that contributions to the Rotterdam 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 16 October 2023 for the calendar year 2024 and by 16 October 2024 for the calendar year 2025, 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;

¹ UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/INF/31.

² Ibid.

8. *Reiterates* the ongoing concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the Rotterdam Convention general trust fund for 2022 and prior years, contrary to the provisions of paragraph 3 (a) of rule 5 of the financial rules, and urges Parties to pay their outstanding contributions in full as soon as possible;

9. *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;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to work closely with the Executive Secretary of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants to improve the timely communication of information on the payment of contributions, including arrears;

11. *Recalls* the provisions of paragraph 3 (e) of rule 5 of the financial rules with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards and paragraph 12 of decision RC-10/19, and decides to continue the practice that no representative of any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years shall be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties or a member of any subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, 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;

12. *Also recalls* the provisions of paragraph 13 of decision RC-10/19, and decides to continue the practice 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;

13. *Notes* the efforts of the executive secretaries 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;

14. *Adopts* the staffing table of the Secretariat for the biennium 2024–2025 used for costing purposes to set the overall budget, which is set out in table 3 of the present decision;

15. *Authorizes* the executive secretaries 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 secretaries remain within the overall cost for the staff numbers set out in table 3 of the present decision for the biennium 2024–2025, in line with the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,³ and that the staffing does not cause any additional budget obligations to be incurred beyond that biennium;

16. *Requests* the executive secretaries to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the level of positions filled against the approved staffing table;

17. *Recalls* decision RC-10/19, in which it requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to comply with the memorandum of understanding between the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention, in particular with regard to core services costs to be supported by the United Nations Environment Programme pursuant to the annex to the memorandum of understanding;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to comply with the memorandum of understanding adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting in decision RC-9/17 and, accordingly, to cover the costs for the biennium 2022–2023;

³ Office of Internal Oversight Services, Internal Audit Division, Report 2014/024, available at <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.

19. *Authorizes* the executive secretaries, on an exceptional basis, to draw from the available surplus of the Rotterdam Convention general trust fund the amount of 85,431 United States dollars for the purposes set out in table 6 of the present decision;

II

Rotterdam Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions

20. *Takes note* of the funding estimates of 2,712,559 United States dollars for 2024 and 2,712,559 United States dollars for 2025, in table 1 of the present decision, for activities under the Convention to be financed from the Rotterdam Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions;

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

22. *Also notes* the importance of having funding available in the Rotterdam 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;

23. *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;

24. *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 Rotterdam 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;

25. *Invites* Switzerland to include in its contribution to the Rotterdam Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions, referred to in paragraph 5 of the present decision, support for, among other things, 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 and in joint activities under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;

III

Preparations for the next biennium

26. *Notes* the efforts since 2012 to enhance efficiency in the use of financial and human resources in the Secretariat and encourages the executive secretaries to continue such efforts in the future work of the Secretariat;

27. *Requests* the executive secretaries to prepare a budget for the biennium 2026–2027 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting, explaining the key principles, assumptions and programmatic strategy on which the budget is based and presenting expenditures for the biennium 2024–2025 in a programmatic format;

28. *Also requests* the executive secretaries 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 2026–2027;

29. *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 secretaries to include in the proposed operational budget for the biennium 2026–2027 two funding scenarios that take into account any efficiencies identified as a result of paragraph 26 of the present decision and are based on:

(a) The executive secretaries' assessment of the required changes in the operational budget, which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase over the 2024–2025 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 2024–2025 level in nominal terms;

30. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to report to the Conference of the Parties which activities were financed from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations contribution in the implementation of the programme of work for the biennium 2024–2025, and to identify which activities are going to be implemented, funded or co-funded from that contribution in the programme of work and budget for the biennium 2026–2027;

31. *Requests* the executive secretaries, at the twelfth 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;

32. *Also requests* the executive secretaries 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,⁴ in observance of paragraph 3 (b) of rule 4 of the financial rules of the Rotterdam Convention;

33. *Stresses* the need to ensure that the proposal for the requirement for the Rotterdam Convention special trust fund for voluntary contributions for the biennium 2026–2027 presented in the budget is realistic and represents the agreed priorities of all Parties so as to encourage voluntary contributions from donors;

IV

Follow-up to the recommendations from the United Nations Board of Auditors

34. *Adopts* the amendments to the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as set out in the annex to the present decision.

⁴ See, for example, the *World Economic Situation and Prospects* annual report.

Table 1
Programme budget, reserves and financing for the biennium 2024–2025
 (United States dollars)

Activity	General trust funds			Voluntary trust funds (*)		
	Basel (BCL)	Rotterdam (ROL)	Stockholm (SCL)	Basel (BDL)	Rotterdam (RVL)	Stockholm (SVL)
1 Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention	568 816	–	–	1 249 821	–	–
2 Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention	–	568 816	–	–	1 221 405	–
3 Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention	–	–	568 816	–	–	1 249 821
4 Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention	335 153	–	–	583 424	–	–
5 Chemical Review Committee	–	452 924	–	–	215 597	–
6 Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee	–	–	916 100	–	–	89 975
7 Bureaux of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm conventions	44 016	30 536	38 614	–	–	–
10 Basel Convention Implementation and Compliance Committee	40 804	–	–	45 492	–	–
11 Rotterdam Convention Compliance Committee	–	40 204	–	–	8 028	–
12 Support for scientific bodies	–	–	–	40 000	40 000	40 000
13 Technical assistance and capacity development	–	–	–	567 302	656 297	655 300
14 Basel Convention training and capacity development	–	–	–	5 580 800	–	–
15 Rotterdam Convention training and capacity development	–	–	–	–	1 310 000	–
16 Stockholm Convention training and capacity development	–	–	–	–	–	1 150 000
18 Partnerships	–	–	–	3 750 000	–	–
19 Basel and Stockholm convention support for regional centres	–	–	–	976 650	–	956 650
20 Basel Convention scientific support	339 375	–	20 000	435 000	–	–
21 Rotterdam Convention scientific support	–	86 000	–	–	78 000	–
22 Stockholm Convention scientific support	–	–	120 000	–	–	417 000
23 Stockholm Convention effectiveness evaluation and global monitoring plan	–	–	40 000	–	–	440 000
24 Basel and Stockholm convention national reporting	40 000	–	70 000	43 333	–	10 000
25 Clearing-house mechanism	42 673	92 856	42 671	83 334	83 332	83 334
26 Publications	23 766	23 766	23 766	55 753	54 000	54 000
27 Communication, outreach and public awareness	8 834	8 833	8 833	162 000	–	–
28 Executive direction, management and administration	154 600	238 600	238 600	–	–	–
29 International cooperation	6 667	6 667	6 667	34 510	34 510	34 510
30 Resource mobilization and financial mechanisms	–	–	175 000	64 333	16 333	267 834
32 Basel Convention legal and policy activities	–	–	–	969 938	–	–
33 Legal and policy activities	–	–	–	24 334	111 332	31 334

Activity	General trust funds			Voluntary trust funds (*)		
	Basel (BCL)	Rotterdam (ROL)	Stockholm (SCL)	Basel (BDL)	Rotterdam (RVL)	Stockholm (SVL)
34 Basel Country country-led initiative (environmentally sound management and further legal clarity)	–	–	–	444 440	–	–
35 Office maintenance and operational services	434 853	237 427	434 853	–	–	–
36 Information and communications technology (ICT) services	101 360	77 280	101 360	–	–	–
Staffing	6 887 034	5 751 351	8 199 842	2 599 603	972 155	1 137 213
Total approved programme of work (excluding programme support costs)	9 027 950	7 615 259	11 005 121	17 710 067	4 800 989	6 616 971
Programme support costs 13 per cent	1 173 633	989 984	1 430 666	2 302 309	624 129	860 206
Total approved programme of work (including programme support costs)	10 201 583	8 605 242	12 435 787	20 012 376	5 425 118	7 477 178

(*) Funding of the voluntary budget is subject to the availability of resources.

Funding from the general trust funds for the budget for the biennium 2024–2025

(United States dollars)

	<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Basel Convention (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam Convention (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm Convention (SCL)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Approved budgets for the biennium 2024–2025					
Direct costs for the biennium 2024–2025		9 027 950	7 615 258	11 005 121	27 648 329
Programme support costs (13 per cent)		1 173 633	989 984	1 430 666	3 594 283
<i>Total operational budget for the biennium 2024–2025</i>		<i>10 201 583</i>	<i>8 605 242</i>	<i>12 435 787</i>	<i>31 242 612</i>
Working capital reserve (WCR)					
Current level of WCR (15 per cent)		736 091	627 645	895 321	2 259 057
Required level of WCR (15 per cent)		765 119	645 393	932 684	2 343 196
<i>Change in the working capital reserve</i>		<i>29 028</i>	<i>17 748</i>	<i>37 363</i>	<i>84 139</i>
Rotterdam Convention special contingency reserve					
Current level of the reserve			298 874		298 874
Required level of the reserve			294 902		294 902
<i>Change in the reserve</i>	<i>(1)</i>		<i>(3 972)</i>		<i>(3 972)</i>
Total resources required for the biennium 2024–2025					
		10 230 611	8 619 018	12 473 150	31 322 779
Approved funding of the budgets for the biennium 2024–2025					
Host country contributions of Switzerland (excluding the Swiss assessed contribution)	<i>(2,4,5,6)</i>		660 066	2 083 636	2 743 702
Host country contribution of Italy	<i>(3,5)</i>		1 320 132	–	1 320 132
Assessed contributions of Parties		10 230 611	6 638 820	10 389 514	27 258 945
Total proposed funding		10 230 611	8 619 018	12 473 150	31 322 779

Remarks:

(1) The level of the Rotterdam Convention's special contingency reserve has been established to reserve the equivalent of one year's staff costs for the two full-time positions provided as in-kind staff by FAO. The reserve has been adjusted to reflect the changes in the budgeted staff costs between the bienniums 2022–2023 and 2024–2025 at the Rome duty station.

(2) Switzerland's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention is €1,200,000 for the biennium, of which 50 per cent is allocated to the general trust fund and 50 per cent is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions.

(3) Italy's host country contribution to the Rotterdam Convention's general trust fund is €1,200,000 for the biennium.

(4) Switzerland's host country contribution to the Stockholm Convention is CHF 4,000,000 for the biennium, of which CHF 2,000,000 (including Switzerland's assessed contribution) is allocated to the general trust fund and CHF 2,000,000 is allocated to the trust fund for voluntary contributions.

(5) The host country contributions for the Rotterdam Convention are pledged in euros and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.909 euros for May 2023.

(6) The host country contributions for the Stockholm Convention are pledged in Swiss francs and converted into United States dollars using the United Nations operational rate of exchange of 1 United States dollar = 0.896 Swiss francs for May 2023.

Table 2

Assessed contributions of Parties to the general trust funds for the operational budgets for the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2024–2025

(United States dollars)

	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention			
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Afghanistan	0.006	0.008	384	768	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Albania	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	333	666	0.010	524	1 048
Algeria	0.109	0.136	6 972	13 944	0.137	4 533	9 066	0.137	7 137	14 274
Andorra	0.005	0.006	320	640	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–
Angola	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Argentina	0.719	0.899	45 992	91 984	0.901	29 898	59 796	0.906	47 080	94 160
Armenia	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Australia	2.111	2.640	135 034	270 068	2.644	87 781	175 562	2.661	138 228	276 456
Austria	0.679	0.849	43 434	86 868	0.851	28 235	56 470	0.856	44 461	88 922
Azerbaijan	0.030	0.038	1 919	3 838	n.a.	–	–	0.038	1 964	3 928
Bahamas	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	n.a.	–	–	0.024	1 244	2 488
Bahrain	0.054	0.068	3 454	6 908	0.068	2 245	4 490	0.068	3 536	7 072
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Barbados	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	333	666	0.010	524	1 048
Belarus	0.041	0.051	2 623	5 246	n.a.	–	–	0.052	2 685	5 370
Belgium	0.828	1.035	52 965	105 930	1.037	34 430	68 860	1.044	54 217	108 434
Belize	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Benin	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	0.024	790	1 580	0.024	1 244	2 488

<div>Basel Convention</div> <div>Rotterdam Convention</div> <div>Stockholm Convention</div>										
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.012	0.015	768	1 536	0.015	499	998	0.015	786	1 572
Botswana	0.015	0.019	960	1 920	0.019	624	1 248	0.019	982	1 964
Brazil	2.013	2.517	128 765	257 530	2.522	83 706	167 412	2.537	131 811	263 622
Brunei Darussalam	0.021	0.026	1 343	2 686	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–
Bulgaria	0.056	0.070	3 582	7 164	0.070	2 329	4 658	0.071	3 667	7 334
Burkina Faso	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Burundi	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Cambodia	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Cameroon	0.013	0.016	832	1 664	0.016	541	1 082	0.016	851	1 702
Canada	2.628	3.286	168 105	336 210	3.292	109 279	218 558	3.313	172 081	344 162
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Chad	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Chile	0.420	0.525	26 866	53 732	0.526	17 465	34 930	0.529	27 502	55 004
China	15.254	19.075	975 752	1 951 504	19.109	634 303	1 268 606	19.228	998 830	1 997 660
Colombia	0.246	0.308	15 736	31 472	0.308	10 229	20 458	0.310	16 108	32 216
Comoros	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Congo	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Cook Islands		0.001	51	102	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Costa Rica	0.069	0.086	4 414	8 828	0.086	2 869	5 738	0.087	4 518	9 036
Côte d'Ivoire	0.022	0.028	1 407	2 814	0.028	915	1 830	0.028	1 441	2 882
Croatia	0.091	0.114	5 821	11 642	0.114	3 784	7 568	0.115	5 959	11 918
Cuba	0.095	0.119	6 077	12 154	0.119	3 950	7 900	0.120	6 221	12 442
Cyprus	0.036	0.045	2 303	4 606	0.045	1 497	2 994	0.045	2 357	4 714

	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention			Stockholm Convention		
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Czechia	0.340	0.425	21 749	43 498	0.426	14 138	28 276	0.429	22 263	44 526
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Denmark	0.553	0.692	35 374	70 748	0.693	22 995	45 990	0.697	36 210	72 420
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Dominica	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Dominican Republic	0.067	0.084	4 286	8 572	0.084	2 786	5 572	0.084	4 387	8 774
Ecuador	0.077	0.096	4 925	9 850	0.096	3 202	6 404	0.097	5 042	10 084
Egypt	0.139	0.174	8 891	17 782	n.a.	–	–	0.175	9 102	18 204
El Salvador	0.013	0.016	832	1 664	0.016	541	1 082	0.016	851	1 702
Equatorial Guinea	0.012	0.015	768	1 536	0.015	499	998	0.015	786	1 572
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Estonia	0.044	0.055	2 815	5 630	0.055	1 830	3 660	0.055	2 881	5 762
Eswatini	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
European Union		2.500	127 882	255 764	2.500	82 985	165 970	2.500	129 870	259 740
Fiji	0.004	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Finland	0.417	0.521	26 674	53 348	0.522	17 340	34 680	0.526	27 305	54 610
France	4.318	5.400	276 209	552 418	5.409	179 554	359 108	5.443	282 742	565 484
Gabon	0.013	0.016	832	1 664	0.016	541	1 082	0.016	851	1 702
Gambia	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Georgia	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	333	666	0.010	524	1 048
Germany	6.111	7.642	390 902	781 804	7.655	254 112	508 224	7.703	400 148	800 296
Ghana	0.024	0.030	1 535	3 070	0.030	998	1 996	0.030	1 572	3 144

<div><div>Basel Convention</div><div>Rotterdam Convention</div><div>Stockholm Convention</div></div>										
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Greece	0.325	0.406	20 789	41 578	0.407	13 514	27 028	0.410	21 281	42 562
Grenada	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Guatemala	0.041	0.051	2 623	5 246	0.051	1 705	3 410	0.052	2 685	5 370
Guinea	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Guyana	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Honduras	0.009	0.011	576	1 152	0.011	374	748	0.011	589	1 178
Hungary	0.228	0.285	14 584	29 168	0.286	9 481	18 962	0.287	14 929	29 858
Iceland	0.036	0.045	2 303	4 606	n.a.	–	–	0.045	2 357	4 714
India	1.044	1.306	66 782	133 564	1.308	43 412	86 824	1.316	68 361	136 722
Indonesia	0.549	0.687	35 118	70 236	0.688	22 829	45 658	0.692	35 948	71 896
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.371	0.464	23 732	47 464	0.465	15 427	30 854	0.468	24 293	48 586
Iraq	0.128	0.160	8 188	16 376	0.160	5 323	10 646	0.161	8 381	16 762
Ireland	0.439	0.549	28 081	56 162	0.550	18 255	36 510	0.553	28 746	57 492
Israel	0.561	0.702	35 885	71 770	0.703	23 328	46 656	n.a.	–	–
Italy	3.189	3.988	203 991	407 982	3.995	132 607	265 214	4.020	208 815	417 630
Jamaica	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	333	666	0.010	524	1 048
Japan	8.033	10.045	513 847	1 027 694	10.063	334 034	668 068	10.126	526 000	1 052 000
Jordan	0.022	0.028	1 407	2 814	0.028	915	1 830	0.028	1 441	2 882
Kazakhstan	0.133	0.166	8 508	17 016	0.167	5 530	11 060	0.168	8 709	17 418
Kenya	0.030	0.038	1 919	3 838	0.038	1 247	2 494	0.038	1 964	3 928
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Kuwait	0.234	0.293	14 968	29 936	0.293	9 730	19 460	0.295	15 322	30 644
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038

<div><div>Basel Convention</div><div>Rotterdam Convention</div><div>Stockholm Convention</div></div>										
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Lao People’s Democratic Republic	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Latvia	0.050	0.063	3 198	6 396	0.063	2 079	4 158	0.063	3 274	6 548
Lebanon	0.036	0.045	2 303	4 606	0.045	1 497	2 994	0.045	2 357	4 714
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Liberia	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Libya	0.018	0.023	1 151	2 302	0.023	748	1 496	0.023	1 179	2 358
Liechtenstein	0.010	0.013	640	1 280	0.013	416	832	0.013	655	1 310
Lithuania	0.077	0.096	4 925	9 850	0.096	3 202	6 404	0.097	5 042	10 084
Luxembourg	0.068	0.085	4 350	8 700	0.085	2 828	5 656	0.086	4 453	8 906
Madagascar	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Malawi	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Malaysia	0.348	0.435	22 261	44 522	0.436	14 471	28 942	n.a.	–	–
Maldives	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Mali	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Malta	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	0.024	790	1 580	0.024	1 244	2 488
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Mauritania	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Mauritius	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	0.024	790	1 580	0.024	1 244	2 488
Mexico	1.221	1.527	78 104	156 208	1.530	50 772	101 544	1.539	79 951	159 902
Micronesia (Federated States of)	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Monaco	0.011	0.014	704	1 408	n.a.	–	–	0.014	720	1 440
Mongolia	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Montenegro	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Morocco	0.055	0.069	3 518	7 036	0.069	2 287	4 574	0.069	3 601	7 202

<div>Basel Convention</div> <div>Rotterdam Convention</div> <div>Stockholm Convention</div>										
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Mozambique	0.004	0.005	256	512	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Namibia	0.009	0.011	576	1 152	0.011	374	748	0.011	589	1 178
Nauru	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Nepal	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	1.377	1.722	88 082	176 164	1.725	57 259	114 518	1.736	90 166	180 332
New Zealand	0.309	0.386	19 766	39 532	0.387	12 849	25 698	0.389	20 233	40 466
Nicaragua	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Niger	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Niue		n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Nigeria	0.182	0.228	11 642	23 284	0.228	7 568	15 136	0.229	11 917	23 834
North Macedonia	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Norway	0.679	0.849	43 434	86 868	0.851	28 235	56 470	0.856	44 461	88 922
Oman	0.111	0.139	7 100	14 200	0.139	4 616	9 232	0.140	7 268	14 536
Pakistan	0.114	0.143	7 292	14 584	0.143	4 740	9 480	0.144	7 465	14 930
Palau	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Panama	0.090	0.113	5 757	11 514	0.113	3 742	7 484	0.113	5 893	11 786
Papua New Guinea	0.010	0.013	640	1 280	n.a.	–	–	0.013	655	1 310
Paraguay	0.026	0.033	1 663	3 326	0.033	1 081	2 162	0.033	1 702	3 404
Peru	0.163	0.204	10 427	20 854	0.204	6 778	13 556	0.205	10 673	21 346
Philippines	0.212	0.265	13 561	27 122	0.266	8 816	17 632	0.267	13 882	27 764
Poland	0.837	1.047	53 540	107 080	1.049	34 805	69 610	1.055	54 807	109 614
Portugal	0.353	0.441	22 580	45 160	0.442	14 679	29 358	0.445	23 114	46 228
Qatar	0.269	0.336	17 207	34 414	0.337	11 186	22 372	0.339	17 614	35 228

Basel Convention					Rotterdam Convention		Stockholm Convention			
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Republic of Korea	2.574	3.219	164 651	329 302	3.224	107 034	214 068	3.245	168 545	337 090
Republic of Moldova	0.005	0.006	320	640	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Romania	0.312	0.390	19 958	39 916	0.391	12 974	25 948	0.393	20 430	40 860
Russian Federation	1.866	2.333	119 362	238 724	2.338	77 593	155 186	2.352	122 185	244 370
Rwanda	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Saint Lucia	0.002	0.003	128	256	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Samoa	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Sao Tome and Principe	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Saudi Arabia	1.184	1.481	75 737	151 474	1.483	49 234	98 468	1.492	77 528	155 056
Senegal	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Serbia	0.032	0.040	2 047	4 094	0.040	1 331	2 662	0.040	2 095	4 190
Seychelles	0.002	0.003	128	256	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Sierra Leone	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Singapore	0.504	0.630	32 239	64 478	0.631	20 958	41 916	0.635	33 002	66 004
Slovakia	0.155	0.194	9 915	19 830	0.194	6 445	12 890	0.195	10 149	20 298
Slovenia	0.079	0.099	5 053	10 106	0.099	3 285	6 570	0.100	5 173	10 346
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	64	128	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Somalia	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
South Africa	0.244	0.305	15 608	31 216	0.306	10 146	20 292	0.308	15 977	31 954
Spain	2.134	2.669	136 505	273 010	2.673	88 737	177 474	2.690	139 734	279 468
Sri Lanka	0.045	0.056	2 879	5 758	0.056	1 871	3 742	0.057	2 947	5 894
State of Palestine		0.001	51	102	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038

	Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention			Stockholm Convention		
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Sudan	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Suriname	0.003	0.004	192	384	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Sweden	0.871	1.089	55 715	111 430	1.091	36 219	72 438	1.098	57 033	114 066
Switzerland	1.134	1.418	72 539	145 078	1.421	47 155	94 310	1.429	74 254	148 508
Syrian Arab Republic	0.009	0.011	576	1 152	0.011	374	748	0.011	589	1 178
Tajikistan	0.003	0.004	192	384	n.a.	–	–	0.010	519	1 038
Thailand	0.368	0.460	23 540	47 080	0.461	15 302	30 604	0.464	24 097	48 194
Togo	0.002	0.003	128	256	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Tonga	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Trinidad and Tobago	0.037	0.046	2 367	4 734	0.046	1 539	3 078	0.047	2 423	4 846
Tunisia	0.019	0.024	1 215	2 430	0.024	790	1 580	0.024	1 244	2 488
Türkiye	0.845	1.057	54 052	108 104	1.059	35 137	70 274	1.065	55 331	110 662
Turkmenistan	0.034	0.043	2 175	4 350	n.a.	–	–	n.a.	–	–
Tuvalu	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Uganda	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Ukraine	0.056	0.070	3 582	7 164	0.070	2 329	4 658	0.071	3 667	7 334
United Arab Emirates	0.635	0.794	40 619	81 238	0.795	26 405	52 810	0.800	41 580	83 160
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.375	5.471	279 855	559 710	5.481	181 924	363 848	5.515	286 474	572 948
United Republic of Tanzania	0.010	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Uruguay	0.092	0.115	5 885	11 770	0.115	3 826	7 652	0.116	6 024	12 048
Uzbekistan	0.027	0.034	1 727	3 454	n.a.	–	–	0.034	1 768	3 536
Vanuatu	0.001	0.001	64	128	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	0.175	0.219	11 194	22 388	0.219	7 277	14 554	0.221	11 459	22 918
Viet Nam	0.093	0.116	5 949	11 898	0.117	3 867	7 734	0.117	6 090	12 180

Basel Convention				Rotterdam Convention				Stockholm Convention		
Party	United Nations scale of assessment	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Adjusted scale	Average annual contribution for biennium 2024–2025	Contribution for biennium 2024–2025
	(1)	(2)	(4)		(3)	(4)		(3)	(4)	
	Per cent	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars	Per cent	United States dollars	United States dollars
Yemen	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Zambia	0.008	0.010	512	1 024	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Zimbabwe	0.007	0.009	448	896	0.010	332	664	0.010	519	1 038
Total		100.000	5 115 306	10 230 612	100.000	3 319 410	6 638 820	100.000	5 194 757	10 389 514

Notes:

(1) United Nations scale of assessment as per resolution 76/238 of 24 December 2021 adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024.

(2) As per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Basel Convention, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by the General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that: (i) no Party contributes less than 0.001 per cent of the total; (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total; (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(3) As per rule 5, paragraph 1 (a), of the financial rules of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, contributions made each year by Parties should be based on an indicative scale based on the United Nations scale approved by General Assembly and should be adjusted to ensure that: (i) no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total; (ii) no one contribution exceeds 22 per cent of the total; (iii) no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total.

(4) This is the annual contribution to be paid by the Parties both in 2024 and 2025. It is the same for both years and is the average of Parties' assessed contributions due for the biennium 2024–2025.

Table 3
Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2024–2025 funded from the general trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Funding source			Total
	General trust fund	In-kind by FAO	Programme support costs	
A. Professional categories				
D-2 level	1 00	0 25		1 25
D-1 level	1 00			1 00
P-5 level	7 00			7 00
P-4 level	7 00		2 00	9 00
P-3 level	16 50	1 00		17 50
P-2 level	2 00			2 00
Subtotal A	34 50	1 25	2 00	37 75
B. General Service category				
GS	12 00	1 25	6 00	19 25
Subtotal B	12 00	1 25	6 00	19 25
Total (A+B)	46 50	2 50	8 00	57 00
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(3)	

Remarks:

- (1) Core funded positions are funded from the general trust funds (Parties' assessed contributions).
- (2) Posts provided by FAO as an in-kind contribution to the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat.
- (3) Posts funded from programme support costs levied on both assessed (general trust funds) and voluntary contributions.

Table 4
Indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2024–2025 funded from the technical cooperation/voluntary special trust funds (used for costing purposes only)

Staff category and level	Funding source		Total
	Voluntary trust funds	Junior Professional Officers	
A. Professional categories			
D-2 level			
D-1 level			
P-5 level			
P-4 level			
P-3 level	1 60		1 60
P-2 level	1 00	2 00	3 00
Subtotal A	2 60	2 00	4 60
B. General Service category			
GS	5 20		5 20
Subtotal B	5 20		5 20
Total (A+B)	7 80	2 00	9 80
Remarks	(1)	(2)	

Remarks:

(1) Voluntary funded posts will only be filled if sufficient voluntary funding becomes available. Additional voluntary funded positions may be created to support the implementation of voluntary funded projects as required and subject to the availability of resources.

(2) Technical cooperation trust funds for junior professional officers are established and managed by UNEP.

Table 5
Projected staff costs for the Geneva and Rome duty stations for the biennium 2024–2025
 (United States dollars)

Duty station: Geneva

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2024-2025</i>
A. Professional categories					
D-2/D-1 level	326 728	336 530	346 626	357 025	703 651
P-5 level	286 303	294 893	303 740	312 853	616 593
P-4 level	233 012	240 003	247 204	254 621	501 825
P-3 level	191 955	197 714	203 646	209 756	413 402
P-2 level	143 790	148 104	152 548	157 125	309 673
B. General Service category					
GS	141 622	145 872	150 249	154 757	305 006
C. Other					
Retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs					262 931
General temporary assistance, including overtime					100 000
After Service Health Insurance (ASHI)					423 321
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3) (4) (5)

Remarks:

- (1) Actual staff costs and staff entitlements incurred during January–September 2022 have been used as the basis for projecting staff costs for future years.
- (2) Staff costs for 2023, 2024 and 2025 have been estimated by incrementing the actual 2022 costs by 3 per cent per annum to provide for salary step increases, inflation, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on post adjustment and any other unexpected changes in staff costs.
- (3) Projected costs associated with retirement/separation (e.g., repatriation, shipment, annual leave commutation) and recruitment of replacement staff (e.g., relocation costs, assignment grants) have been presented separately as they are not part of actual ordinary staff cost projections. The provisions made take into account the fact that three staff members will retire during the biennium 2024–2025. No provision has been made to cover the repatriation and annual leave commutation of two additional staff members who have the option to retire during the biennium 2024–2025 should they wish to do so.
- (4) General temporary assistance includes the cost of staff to replace staff on parental leave as well as general service staff overtime during large meetings such as meetings of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention.
- (5) The After Service Health Insurance (ASHI) programme provides eligible staff members with continued health insurance coverage throughout their retirement. This benefit to staff creates an accrued liability for the Organization. The United Nations Controller has approved for UNEP an increase of the monthly accrual from 6 to 9 per cent of the base salary to reduce the risk associated with staff liabilities.

Duty station: Rome

<i>Staff category and level</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2024–2025</i>
A. Professional categories					
P-5 level	231 200	238 136	245 281	252 640	497 921
P-4 level	228 936	235 805	242 880	250 167	493 047
P-3 level	185 382	190 944	196 673	202 574	399 247
P-2 level	139 676	143 867	148 184	152 630	300 814
B. General Service category					
GS	88 480	91 135	93 870	96 687	190 557
C. Other					
Retirement/separation and replacement recruitment costs					
Remarks	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2) (3)

Remarks:

- (1) Staff costs incurred during January–June 2022 have been used as the basis for projecting staff costs for future years.
- (2) Staff costs for 2023, 2024 and 2025 have been estimated by incrementing the 2022 actual costs by 3 per cent per annum to provide for salary step increases, inflation, the effect of exchange rate fluctuations on post adjustment and any other unexpected changes in staff costs.
- (3) None of the staff located in Rome are expected to retire during the biennium 2024–2025.

Table 6

Specified activities to be funded from the available surpluses in the general trust funds of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

(United States dollars)

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>General trust fund</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Basel (BCL)</i>	<i>Rotterdam (ROL)</i>	<i>Stockholm (SCL)</i>	
Funding the correction of one Party's assessed contribution under the Rotterdam Convention for the biennium 2018–2019		31 866		31 866
Additional costs incurred owing to contingency arrangements made to allow online/hybrid participation in meetings of the Conference of the Parties during its face-to-face segment held in Geneva in June 2022 (including programme support costs)	53 565	53 565	53 565	160 695
Total	53 565	85 431	53 565	192 561

Annex to decision RC-11/15

Amendments to the financial rules for the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

[...]

Financial period

Rule 2

The financial period shall be a ~~biennium consisting~~ calendar year. The biennial programme of work and budget period shall normally consist of two consecutive calendar years, the first of which shall be an even year.

[...]

Accounts and audit

Rule 6

1. The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations.
2. ~~An interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties during the second year of the period, and a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period shall be provided to the Conference of the Parties as soon as possible after the accounts for the financial period are closed. The financial statements shall be prepared annually in United States dollars in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.~~
3. The Conference of the Parties shall be informed of any ~~relevant remarks~~ key findings in the reports of the United Nations Board of Auditors on financial statements of the United Nations Environment Programme that directly and/or adversely affect the funds and operations of the Convention.

[...]