



BC

UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/18



Distr.: General
19 July 2007

Original: English

**Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention
on the Control of Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**

Sixth session

Geneva, 3–7 September 2007

Item 10 (a) of the provisional agenda*

**Strategic partnerships: Basel Convention Partnership Programme:
progress on the implementation of the 2007–2008 workplan**

Report on progress: Basel Convention Partnership Programme

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention adopted, in its decision VIII/5, a workplan of the Basel Convention Partnership Programme for the biennium 2007–2008. In the same decision, it also requested the Secretariat to keep the Open-ended Working Group and the Conference of the Parties informed on progress on the implementation of the workplan.

II. Implementation

A. Progress reports

2. The annex to the present note contains a progress report in table format on partnership activities undertaken since the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. A progress report on activities undertaken by the Mobile Phone Partnership Programme is provided separately in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/19, and partnerships addressing the environmentally sound management of used and end-of-life computing equipment and e-waste are discussed in document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/20.

B. Partnerships under the Basel Convention

3. The Partnership Programme was launched at the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties and was integrated as a priority cluster activity in the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the Basel Convention. Several decisions by the Conference of the Parties, decisions VI/31, VI/32, VII/3, VII/4, VIII/2 and VIII/5, laid the foundations for the Partnership Programme. As the Partnership Programme has evolved, it is timely to reiterate the basis of the Programme and how the partnerships function in

* UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/1/Rev.1.

K0762425 310707

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

relation to the Convention in assisting Parties in better implementing the Convention and its Strategic Plan to 2010. Experience to date shows that the following are the underlying concepts and purposes of the partnerships established under the Basel Convention Partnership Programme.

(a) **Partnerships.** Under the Basel Convention, partnerships are viewed as a creative mechanism for Parties and stakeholders to work together in a voluntary forum to address new and emerging waste streams which raise particularly complex issues. A partnership can be requested by the Parties to address particular needs or carry out specific activities. Within the cooperative nature and structure of a Partnership, issues can be addressed by a range of experts committed to achieving commonly agreed and technically viable solutions while at the same time ensuring that the Basel Convention's goals and objectives are respected.

(b) **Purpose of partnerships.** A public-private partnership is a forum in which activities can be carried out with all experts working together towards common solutions. It is a body designed to focus on new or innovative ways to address changes and new trends. Such new trends could be, for example, the increasing volume of international trade and the decentralization of markets for goods and wastes subject to Basel controls, such as used or end-of-life products. A partnership can develop guidance documents, make recommendations and undertake technical work as requested by the Convention Parties.

(c) **How does a public-private partnership function in relation to the Convention?** Partnerships are a special type of voluntary body, established within the context of the Convention, and are comprised of government officials from Parties and Signatories, representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia and other international organizations and bodies which can contribute their technical expertise to addressing the subject matter of a particular partnership. Partnerships depend on voluntary contributions or membership fees for their costs of administration and for projects or activities. Each partnership has terms of reference reflecting its own governance structure, as determined appropriate by the founding partners, and consistent with the mandate granted by the Conference of the Parties. Members of a partnership sign a declaration of commitment and each partnership operates under the guidance of the Open-ended Working Group.

III. Proposed action

4. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider adopting a decision along the following lines:

“The Open-ended Working Group,

Welcoming the progress made under the Partnership Programme and its support for environmentally sound management, including through the building of sustainable partnerships between Parties and other stakeholders at the global, regional and local levels,

Also welcoming the extrabudgetary funding provided by Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to support the Basel Convention partnerships and the resource mobilization programme;

1. *Urges* Parties and stakeholders to participate in the partnerships and join new initiatives in addition to providing financial and in-kind support to the Basel Convention Partnership Programme and to funding the post of Senior Programme Officer for Partnerships and Resource Mobilization as a means to support and facilitate implementation of the Partnership Programme;

2. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue implementing the work plan for 2007–2008 in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders and to submit a progress report for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

3. *Also requests* the Secretariat to prepare a draft work plan for the next budget cycle for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting, as provided in decision VIII/5, paragraph 3.”

Annex

Progress report on Basel Convention Partnership Programme on activities identified in the work plan for 2007–2008

Progress on the measures and indicators found in the work plan for 2007–2008 (decision VIII/5, annex) will be reported on at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Planned or ongoing partnerships	Actions
1. Basel Convention Partnership Programme: 2007–2008 work plan	
<p>A. Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative</p> <p>Widely disseminate the Mobile Phone Partnership Initiative (MPPI) guidelines, including holding workshops for awareness-raising and training on the guidelines</p> <p>Finalize pilot projects on refurbishment of used mobile phones and report on results</p> <p>Initiate pilot projects to test the guidelines on collection and report on results</p> <p>Collect data and information on transboundary movements of used and end-of-life mobile phones based on information received through voluntary approaches</p> <p>Refine guidelines according to the outcomes of the pilot projects and voluntary reporting</p>	<p>A workshop held at Basel Convention Regional Centre Bratislava, 25–26 June 2008, materials on web and made available on CD-ROM</p> <p>Project report and results are undergoing peer review</p> <p>Generic terms of reference developed.</p> <p>Under discussion with the Mobile Phone Working Group (MPWG)</p> <p>To be carried out when pilot projects are completed</p>
<p>B. Global partnership on used and end-of life-computing equipment</p> <p>Define scope of the partnership, specific issues to be addressed and stakeholders</p> <p>Develop a results-based work programme</p> <p>Develop terms of reference for the partnership, including procedures for membership and dispute resolution</p> <p>Set up the partnership body, including all stakeholders and Basel Convention regional centres</p> <p>Develop a focused needs assessment for the partnership with stakeholders</p> <p>Initiate projects on a global and regional basis</p>	<p>See document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/20 for further details on actions and on the proposal for an e-waste partnership</p> <p>Under way. Preliminary information is available in the summary record of the 28–29 June 2007 preparatory meeting, available on the Basel Convention website</p> <p>Under way (see above)</p> <p>Under way</p> <p>Under way. Started action with 9 May 2007 teleconference, 28–29 June 2007 preparatory meeting</p> <p>Under way with stakeholders</p> <p>To be determined by the Partnership</p>
<p>C. Partnership on the environmentally sound management of electrical and electronic wastes for the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>Develop and oversee implementation of all memorandums of understanding for projects initiated;</p> <p>Identify and engage a broad range of stakeholders in the partnership</p>	<p>See document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/21, annex II</p> <p>Memorandums completed.</p> <p>Governments of countries in the region, Basel Convention regional centres, Convention Secretariat and one industrial consortium from Japan</p>

Planned or ongoing partnerships	Actions
Based on the regional strategy, carry out one or two pilot projects on the collection, safe storage and management of used oils	To be determined, fund-raising needed
F. Household wastes mixed with hazardous waste	
<p>The project on the new partnership with local authorities for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes in the context of the Basel Convention in South America is a local government partnership with Holcim (cement manufacturer), GTZ, and the Municipality of Guayaquil, Ecuador (2005–2007)</p> <p>Results of the feasibility studies carried out in 2005–2006 will be used as the basis for establishing, operating and maintaining a comprehensive system for the environmentally sound collection, testing and final disposal of oily waste, including the co-processing of oily waste in cement kilns in an environmentally sound manner</p>	<p>N.B. As this partnership concerns the issues of household wastes mixed with hazardous oily waste, the Partnership will be adapted in the future progress report to be included in the section on used oils partnerships.</p> <p>Completed. Feasibility studies completed and approved at the third meeting of the Executive Committee of the project.</p>
<p>Involve and coordinate with a broad range of stakeholders, including local authorities in Guayaquil, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for Latin America and the Caribbean region located in Uruguay (BCCC-Uruguay), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Holcim as well as the University of Quito and the University of Guayaquil, local industry and civil society, in order to develop a national plan to reprocess used oil in Ecuador</p> <p>Develop a pilot project that can be replicated, with moderate adaptations, for other cities</p> <p>Disseminate results</p>	<p>Under way. The action plan is being currently developed according to the decisions taken at the third meeting of the Executive Committee of the project.</p> <p>N.B. UNITAR, Universities of Quito and Guayaquil were deleted as they are not participating in this stage of the programme</p> <p>Under way. Contacts with other partners from the private sector are being held for similar projects in other regions in Ecuador</p> <p>Regional forum was organized in Curitiba, Brazil, between 28 and 30 March, together with UNITAR, UNILIVRE (Brazilian NGO), CIFAL-Curitiba (Centro Internacional de Formação de Autoridades Locais) and the Municipality of Curitiba in order to present the partial results of the project to focal points of the Basel Convention in South America and municipalities of the region</p>
2. Potential new partnership activities 2007–2008	
A. Develop a partnership on asbestos waste	
<p>Hold an initial scoping meeting on the topic and on the benefits of a partnership</p> <p>Identify partners and roles</p> <p>Set up a working programme of activities</p> <p>Coordinate the implementation of practical activities to address the issue of asbestos</p>	<p>Preliminary work on the asbestos programme started. See document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/23</p>

Planned or ongoing partnerships	Actions
<p>B. Coordinate with the United Nations Environment Programme in a partnership on mercury waste. Initiate discussions on the partnership with UNEP Chemicals</p>	<p>Discussions with the UNEP Partnership on Mercury have been carried out. Work under the Basel Convention will address end-of-life mercury products and the environmentally sound management of medical wastes</p>
<p>Participate and engage Parties and other stakeholders involved in the environmentally sound management aspects of mercury-containing products Coordinate and implement activities accordingly with partners</p>	<p>Remaining activities are under way (see document UNEP/CHW/OEWG/6/22)</p>
<p>C. Consider other partnerships on heavy metals as waste to address Strategic Plan focus areas</p>	
<p>Explore potential for initiating a partnership on heavy metals such as cadmium and lead</p>	<p>No activities under way at this time</p>