

## Breakfast event on Marine Litter and Microplastics during UNEA 3, 5 December 2017



# Contribution of the Basel Convention to the sound management of wastes to reduce their impact on our oceans

Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel,  
Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

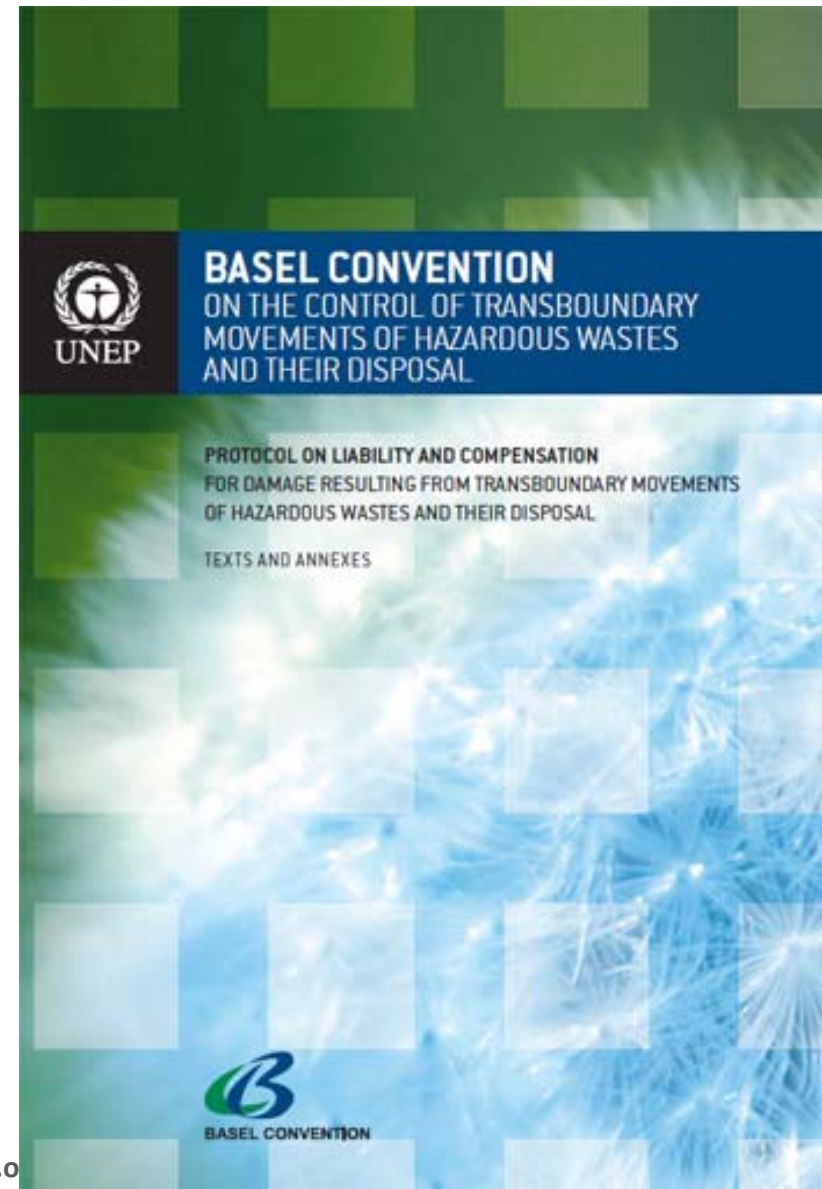
# Marine plastic litter and microplastics: relevance to the Basel Convention

## Overarching objective of the Basel Convention is:

- To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes and “other wastes”.
  - “Other wastes” include household waste and incinerator ash;
  - Some plastics are listed as “hazardous wastes” under the Convention, and many householdwastes may include plastics.

## The provisions of the Basel Convention relating to the following apply to plastic wastes:

- Minimization of the generation of wastes;
- Environmentally sound management of wastes;
- Control of transboundary movement of wastes.





## UNEA- 2 and the Basel Convention

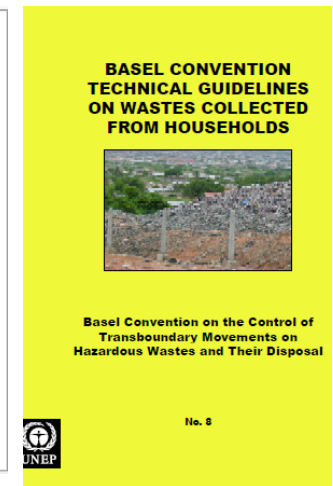
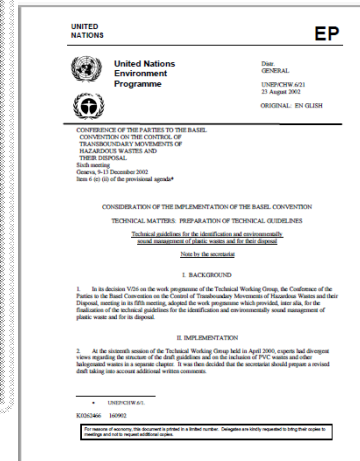
- **Resolution 2/7:** Emphasized the importance of the **elaboration under and application of existing instruments** to further the environmentally sound management of waste, including waste prevention, minimization and recovery, to address the underlying causes of marine litter.
- **Resolution 2/11:** Recognized the **importance of cooperation** between UNEP and conventions and international instruments related to preventing and minimizing marine pollution from waste, including marine plastic litter, microplastics and associated chemicals and their adverse effects on human health and the environment, such as the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, the **Basel Convention** and the SAICM.





# Guidance under the Basel Convention

- **Technical guidelines for the identification and environmentally sound management (ESM) of plastic wastes and for their disposal (UNEP/CHW.6/21, 2002)**
- **Framework for the ESM of hazardous wastes and other wastes (decision BC-11/1, 2013)**
- **Guidance to assist Parties in developing efficient strategies for achieving the prevention and minimization of the generation of hazardous and other wastes and their disposal (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/11, 2017)**
- **Practical manuals for the promotion of the ESM (UNEP/CHW.13/4/Add.1, 2017)**
- **Practical manuals on extended producer responsibility and financing systems for ESM (UNEP/CHW.13/INF/8, 2017)**





# Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group

Work programme for 2018-2019 (decision BC-13/17)

- Consider relevant **options available under the Basel Convention** to further address marine plastic litter and micro-plastics, taking into account the **assessment requested by UNEA resolution 2/11**, any relevant **decision by UNEA-3**, and **existing guidance documents and activities** under the Basel Convention that address issues related to marine plastic litter and microplastics;
- **Develop a proposal for possible further actions**, within the scope of the Convention and avoiding duplication with activities relating to this matter in other forums, for consideration at the **Basel COP-14 in 2019**.





# Partnership on Household wastes

## Mandate:

Promote the **ESM of household waste** including its **prevention and minimization**, and to enable the decoupling of economic growth and environmental impacts associated with the generation of household waste and its **initial handling by the public** in their households.



**Household wastes - new partnership  
under the Basel Convention**

# Partnership on Household wastes



Household wastes - new partnership  
under the Basel Convention



## Workplan for 2018-2019:

- Collect **case studies** related to the topics addressed in the guidance document;
- Enhance **awareness-raising and training** on the environmentally sound management of household waste;
- Coordinate **outreach activities** and cooperation with other organizations working on household waste management.



BASEL & STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS

# REGIONAL CENTRES

## Topic Group on Marine Litter

- Developed **recommendations to 2017 COPs** of the Basel and Stockholm conventions for **further work on marine litter**
- 2017 COPs encouraged regional centres to work **on the impact of plastic waste, marine plastic litter, microplastic, and measures for prevention and environmentally sound management**







**Thank you for your attention!**

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