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Activities

1

The “Month of reporting”: How can Parties benefit from it?

Both Basel and Stockholm conventions have specific mandates on reporting. Though they are different, national reports under both conventions aim at providing information relevant to assessing the progress achieved towards meeting the objectives of the conventions and identifying the needs of parties. The information provided by parties is one of the main ways to measure progress in implementation of the Stockholm Convention and it helps to see trends in transboundary movements of wastes in the case of the Basel Convention.

Join the “Month of reporting” to learn more about who needs to report, how to access the systems, what type of information is needed, when are the deadlines and where to find more assistance on specific issues. A series of activities including face to face workshops and online trainings will take place from mid June to mid July.

Basel Convention parties report before the end of each calendar year while Stockholm Convention parties submit their reports every four years. The deadline for the third round of Stockholm Convention reporting is 31 August 2014.

For more information, access the [Basel Convention electronic reporting system](#) or the [Stockholm Convention electronic reporting system](#).

2

7th PACE meeting in Jakarta

The 7th physical meeting of the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 27 to 29 May 2014. The PACE members discussed the future at the Basel Convention Open-ended Working Group meeting in September 2014 and during the next Conference of Parties.

Accelerating e-waste management at regional and national level in the context of global developments was one of the key topics of the meeting. On the Monday before the PACE meeting, the Basel/Stockholm Regional Centre located in Indonesia organized a one-day national e-waste stakeholder meeting where current e-waste management approaches in Indonesia were discussed. Back-to-back with these meetings, the Basel Convention expert working group on environmentally sound management also met in Jakarta and discussed among other matters e-waste management on global level.

3

3rd Orientation workshop for members of the Chemical Review Committee

The new term for 17 members of the Chemical Review Committee (CRC) under the Rotterdam Convention started on 1 May 2014. To familiarize new members with the mandate and tasks of the Committee, an orientation workshop took place from 19 to 21 May in Rome, Italy. The workshop was attended by 24 of the 31 CRC members.

The participants reviewed working procedures and policy guidance developed to facilitate the work of the Committee, and examined in detail the work of the intersessional task groups for the preliminary review of candidate chemicals as well as that of the drafting groups established to prepare decision guidance documents. The meeting provided an opportunity to foster working relationships among the members and for the existing members to share their experience with the new members.

Participants expressed their appreciation and were optimistic that the orientation would contribute to the effective operation of the Committee.

4

Fostering cooperation of DNAs and the Sahelian Pesticide Committee

The Regional workshop on fostering cooperation between Designated National Authorities (DNAs) and Sahelian Pesticides Committee members of 13 *Comité permanent inter-État de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel* countries with focus on supporting the preparation of the notification of final regulatory action was held in Dakar, Senegal from 7 to 10 April 2014. The participants discussed sharing responsibility between DNAs and Sahelian Pesticides Committee members related to the implementation of obligations under the Rotterdam Convention.

Available tools on pesticides registration were introduced, and an expert from Oregon University of USA presented PRIME, a new tool for pesticide risk assessment. The development of this tool that can be used to strengthen the registration process took place in collaboration with FAO.

Participants engaged in a discussion on the social dimensions related to pesticides use, a topic to which the Secretariat is giving an increasing amount of its attention. The participants developed general recommendations to strengthen pesticide registration and control at national level to protect human health and the environment, and specific recommendations were made regarding the social dimension aspect.



News

1

Outcomes of the industrial chemicals management pilot project workshop

The BRS Convention in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA), and the Center for the Study and Control of Pollutants (CESSCO), of the Republic of Honduras successfully held a final workshop under the industrial chemicals pilot project agreement from 12 to 15 May 2014.

The objectives of the workshop were for the stakeholders to deliberate on the national situation based on a legal review and the updated national chemicals profile, establish priorities and develop a framework plan for the management of industrial chemicals that would enable Honduras to meet its obligations under the Rotterdam Convention. The following outcomes were realized:

- Updated National Chemicals Profile
- Legal Review
- Development of a framework plan on industrial chemicals under the Rotterdam Convention, with clear responsibilities as to who will do what, when and how, among the stakeholders
- Establishment of a process for GHS implementation for a country with little resources
- Documentation of lessons learned and processes followed for the benefit of other countries.

2

Social dimensions of pesticide use and vulnerable groups in Former Soviet Union countries

Considering the social dimensions of hazardous chemicals and pesticide use, assessing the possible different impacts for women and men, and addressing the specificities of children, malnourished and other vulnerable groups can significantly shape risk reduction actions.

The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat has begun a collaboration with the regional FAO project in Former Soviet Union countries, funded largely by the European Union. The Secretariat, together with PAN-UK implements one of the project components, covering activities related to the identification of high risk practices, pesticide exposure scenarios, particularly vulnerable groups, and awareness raising activities with a focus on family farmers, who are key in protecting human health and the environment while sustainably intensifying agricultural production.

Since the designated national authorities to the Convention are part of this process, the work will support governments in integrating social dimensions of pesticide use in national decision making.

3

Growing coffee without endosulfan

In 2011 endosulfan was listed in both the Rotterdam and the Stockholm conventions. The Rotterdam Convention Secretariat supported a project on growing coffee without endosulfan, initiated early 2013 and led by Pesticide Action Network (PAN UK) and other partners, which collected information on alternatives and best practices to control the coffee berry borer, one of the most harmful pests to coffee crops. Farmers in Colombia, Nicaragua and El Salvador, who have successfully moved away from endosulfan, were interviewed and alternative methodologies were validated. This resulted in a series of videos, which are now available on the Rotterdam Convention [website](#) and can be used for training and awareness raising.

4

Training manual for chairing BRS meetings

Following the Pilot training session on chairing meetings of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions that took place in Glion, Switzerland, from 3 to 5 March 2014 and based upon the feedback received from the participants, the Secretariat revised the Training Manual for Chairs of Meetings of the BRS Conventions. The Training Manual serves as a source of information and guidance for delegates presiding over or chairing negotiations, in plenary sessions, contact groups or other group settings in the framework of the BRS Conventions. It covers such issues as the institutions of the conventions; actors, conduct and management of BRS meetings; and chairing techniques and strategies.

[Read the revised manual online](#)

5

Help us tailor our technical assistance activities to your needs!

From 26 to 28 May, Focal Points and Official Contact Points of developing country parties and parties with economies in transition to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions were invited to fill out online questionnaires on priority technical assistance needs to implement the conventions.

A new deadline has been set to allow for a 3-week time-frame. The new deadline to submit the questionnaire is 16 June 2014. Kindly take the time (approximately 20 minutes) to fill out and submit the [Basel](#), [Rotterdam](#), and [Stockholm](#) Conventions questionnaires.

Engage with Technical Assistance

* (All schedules are in Geneva local time: UTC/GMT+2)

Webinars

June

03 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

05 | 16h00

Establishing inventories of POP-PBDEs and other brominated flame retardants (BFRs) listed under the Stockholm Convention

10 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

12 | 16h00

Establishing inventories of PFOS and related chemicals listed under the Stockholm Convention

11 | 13h00 [Click here for registration](#)

Technical Guidelines for the ESM of POPs wastes: Status of work and future plans

17 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

19 | 16h00

Outcomes of the second meeting of the Expert Working Group on ESM

July

01 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

03 | 16h00

How to report information on unintentionally produced POPs

08 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

10 | 16h00

How to report information on PFOS, its salts, PFOSF and other newly listed POPs

15 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

17 | 16h00

Reporting information on PCB

24 | 10h00 [Click here for registration](#)

26 | 16h00

The Electronic Reporting System of the Stockholm Convention

Workshops

June

2 to 5 | Nouakchott, Mauritania

Final national stakeholder workshop for the pilot project on strengthening industrial chemicals management under the Rotterdam Convention

10 to 14 | Brno, Czech Republic

10th Summer School of environmental chemistry and toxicology

23 to 28 | Tbilisi, Georgia

National workshop to develop a national action plan under the Rotterdam Convention

25 | 15h00 * (This is a teleconference)

1st Teleconference on ENFORCE

July

1 to 4 | Bogotá, Colombia

National workshop on SHPF under the Rotterdam Convention

1 to 4 | Phnom Penh, Cambodia

National workshop to develop a national action plan under the Rotterdam Convention

6 to 8 | Dakar, Senegal

Subregional workshop on the national reporting under the Basel and Stockholm Convention

23 to 25 | Montevideo, Uruguay

Regional workshop on updating national implementation plans (phase 1) and reporting under the Stockholm Convention