



**Basel Convention on the Control of
Transboundary Movements of
Hazardous Wastes and their
Disposal**

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



**Stockholm Convention on
Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Conferences of the Parties to
the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions
Simultaneous extraordinary meetings
Bali, 22–24 February 2010
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Matters for consideration or action by the
conferences of the Parties: decisions on joint activities**

Joint activities

Note by the secretariats

Introduction

1. Reference is made to three decisions, hereinafter referred to as the “synergies decisions”, by which the recommendation of the ad hoc joint working group on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions was adopted by conferences of the Parties to those conventions: decision IX/10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention, decision RC-4/11 of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention and decision SC-4/34 of the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention. The present note sets out actions taken to facilitate joint activities and the implementation of the synergies decisions in the three secretariats.

* UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/1.

I. Process for implementation and current status

2. Since May 2009, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in consultation with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the executive secretaries of the three conventions, has set up the following inter-secretariat cooperation mechanisms to facilitate joint activities and the implementation of the synergies decisions in the three secretariats:

(a) Synergies oversight team, comprising the executive secretaries of the three conventions, a representative of the Executive Director of UNEP and a representative of the Director-General of FAO, with the overall mandate of providing strategic guidance to support the implementation of the synergies decisions in the three secretariats and to oversee preparations for the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties;

(b) Joint management group, comprising the executive secretaries of the three conventions, to manage jointly cooperation between the conventions while maintaining their individual identity, integrity and operations; to facilitate the coordination of their programmes of work; to oversee their joint services; and to oversee the implementation of the synergies decisions within the secretariats;

(c) Joint programmatic coordination group (known as the “coordinators group”), comprising the coordinators of the three secretariats, with responsibility for overall planning, implementation of the strategic guidance provided by the oversight team and engaging and communicating with the inter-secretariat groups established to undertake joint activities;

(d) Inter-secretariat thematic groups to identify, develop and implement substantive joint activities relevant to cross-cutting issues within the secretariats’ approved programmes of work, including technical assistance, regional centres, technical and scientific matters, reporting, a clearing-house mechanism, joint inputs into other processes and public awareness and outreach.

3. Inter-secretariat task teams will be established on an ad hoc and time-limited basis to undertake specific activities identified by the thematic groups.

4. The secretariats have held a series of planning meetings to consider the joint implementation of the synergies decisions relevant to the following mandated activities of the secretariats:

(a) **Organizational issues in the field (section I of the decisions):**

- (i) Coordination at the national level (paragraph 4);
- (ii) Programmatic cooperation in the field (paragraphs 10 and 13);
- (iii) Coordinated use of regional offices and centres (paragraphs 17 and 18);

(b) **Technical issues (section II of the decisions):**

- (i) National reporting (paragraph 1);
- (ii) Compliance/non-compliance mechanisms (paragraphs 2 and 3);
- (iii) Cooperation on technical and scientific issues (paragraphs 4 and 5);

(c) **Information management and public awareness issues (section III of the decisions):**

- (i) Joint outreach and public awareness (paragraphs 1 and 2);
- (ii) Information exchange/clearing-house mechanism on health and environmental impacts (paragraph 4);
- (iii) Joint input into other processes (paragraph 5).

5. During the group discussions and development of the above-mentioned joint activities, the secretariats have applied a principle that they have termed “think synergies first”, meaning that opportunities for synergies should be explored before considering the unilateral implementation of activities by the individual secretariats.

6. The work of the secretariats on joint activities focuses on supporting the regional and national implementation of the conventions and on delivering efficient and coordinated services to Parties.

7. In addition, the secretariats are focusing on opportunities to use existing regional networks and offices for the regional planning, implementation and delivery of joint activities and on the

strengthening and development of partnerships with relevant programmes of UNEP, FAO, members of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and others for the planning, development and delivery of cross-cutting activities.

8. The development and implementation of joint activities will continue to evolve as lessons are learned and more efficient and mutually supportive operational practices emerge both among the secretariats and between the secretariats and key partners.

9. The annex to the present note contains information on progress made in the areas listed in paragraph 4 above and provides information on further actions planned by the secretariats.

10. An area that has emerged as requiring additional resources is the development of a clearing-house mechanism serving all three conventions. By paragraph 4 of section II of the synergies decisions, the secretariats were requested to develop systems of information exchange on health and environmental impacts, including a clearing-house mechanism that will serve all three conventions. Further to that decision, by its decision SC-4/21, the Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention requested the secretariat to prepare, in cooperation with the Basel and Rotterdam convention secretariats, a revised workplan for the activities of the clearing-house mechanism, covering all three conventions, to be considered at the simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the Parties. By its decision RC-4/12, the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention requested the secretariat to establish, in cooperation with the Basel and Stockholm conventions, a clearing-house mechanism to assist Parties in the implementation of the Convention. In response to those decisions, a draft joint workplan for a clearing-house mechanism for the biennium 2010–2011 has been developed and is presented in document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/INF/2.

11. The joint workplan complements the current clearing-house activities of the secretariats of the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions and related information exchange activities of the secretariat of the Basel Convention. It is estimated that an additional \$360,000 for the biennium 2010–2011 will be required to establish a clearing-house mechanism serving all three conventions.

12. The secretariats have communicated to the respective organizations and relevant partners the invitations to UNEP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization set out in paragraph 5, to UNEP, FAO and the United Nations Development Programme set out in paragraphs 7 and 8 and to the Global Environment Facility set out in paragraph 19 of the synergies decisions, and have invited the respective organizations to take the necessary action in accordance with the decisions.

II. Benefits to Parties

13. The efficiency gained through the establishment of joint services in the areas of finance and administration; law; information technology; information and resource mobilization and through increased collaboration and cooperation among the secretariats will continue to increase the ability of the technical staff of the three secretariats to provide substantive support and services to Parties, including in the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels. The joint services and their benefits to Parties are described further in document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOP.1/4.

14. The joint planning and delivery of substantive and technical activities through the establishment of inter-secretariat teams on cross-cutting issues is already facilitating the delivery of joint activities to Parties by reducing the duplication of technical assistance activities at the regional and national levels.

15. Joint workshops being convened at the national and regional levels deliver a cohesive common message, tackling cross-cutting issues among the three conventions and involving national authorities representing the three conventions, therefore resulting in a more integrated approach to the sound management of chemicals and wastes at the national level. Such synergies workshops have already been successfully organized in South Africa for the African region and in Uruguay for the Latin American and Caribbean region. Additional synergies workshops are planned for 2010 and beyond.

16. The process of preparing at the national level for the regional synergies workshops has in several Parties led to meetings being held, in some cases for the first time, between the national focal points and designated national authorities of all three conventions. These meetings have enabled and encouraged key national experts and decision makers from various agencies and ministries to identify national opportunities to forge synergies in their work and to agree on the fundamental goal of improving the life-cycle approach to chemicals management.

17. The joint use of the network of regional centres associated with the work of the three conventions (i.e., FAO offices, Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres and UNEP regional offices) has resulted in the increased participation of these centres and offices in the planning and delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance activities and has enhanced the national and regional capacities required for Parties to develop a more sustainable and independent approach towards the full implementation of the three conventions.
18. The decentralized implementation of activities and more efficient use of the scarce financial resources required to implement national and regional activities are being supported through the organization of joint projects, activities and workshops.
19. The use of regional experts associated with regional centres across the work of the three conventions helps to develop joint national and regional solutions for meeting current and emerging needs.
20. The establishment by UNEP of a network of regional chemicals and wastes cluster coordinators, located within existing UNEP regional offices, supports Parties on chemicals and wastes-related issues by providing a two-way communication link between regional activities, national contact points and activities organized by the three secretariats and by supporting the delivery of capacity-building and technical assistance activities jointly organized by the three secretariats.
21. Joint cooperation with partners and potential donors is strengthening chemicals and wastes-related issues in the global environmental agenda, ultimately resulting in increased awareness and support for Parties towards the implementation of activities associated with the work of the three conventions. Specific examples of joint approaches, representation and inputs into other processes are already being implemented in collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the Green Customs initiative and other key partner organizations.

III. Possible action

22. The conferences of the Parties may wish:
- (a) To urge Governments that are Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam or Stockholm conventions to undertake activities to implement the synergies decisions;
 - (b) To take note of the information provided in the present note, including the joint activities being carried out and planned by the secretariats;
 - (c) To request the secretariats to continue their efforts towards the implementation of joint activities and report on the progress thereof at the ordinary meetings of their respective conferences of the Parties in 2011;
 - (d) To ensure that resources are made available to support joint activities of the secretariats of the three conventions in accordance with the synergies decisions during the biennium 2010–2011;
 - (e) To endorse the clearing-house mechanism joint workplan described in document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/INF/2 and invite Parties to provide, through voluntary contributions, the estimated \$360,000 needed to implement it;
 - (f) To request the secretariats to develop, for consideration by their respective conferences of the Parties at their ordinary meetings in 2011, joint proposals for cross-cutting and joint activities.

Annex

Actions by the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to respond to the specific requests for joint activities contained in the synergies decisions

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
I. Organizational issues in the field	
A. Coordination at the national level	
<p>(4) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, in cooperation with relevant intergovernmental bodies such as the member organizations of the Intergovernmental Organization for the Sound Management of Chemicals and regional centres, to collaborate on the dissemination of good practices and, if necessary, the elaboration of guidance and training in the areas referred to in the preceding subparagraph; namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Protection of human health and the environment from the harmful impacts or adverse effects of hazardous chemicals and wastes; (b) Prevention of accidents and emergency response in case of accidents; (c) Combating illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes; (d) Information generation and access; (e) Technology transfer and transfer of know-how; (f) Preparation of national positions for meetings of the conferences of the Parties and other bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; (g) Development cooperation; 	<p>The executive secretaries of the three conventions communicated to IOMC, Basel and Stockholm regional centres and SAICM the invitation to collaborate on the dissemination of good practices and if necessary the elaboration of guidance and training in areas referred to in paragraph 3, section I.</p> <p>The secretariats have established an inter-secretariat thematic group on technical assistance that will coordinate the implementation of joint activities.</p> <p>The secretariats have developed a joint programme to support Parties with the implementation of the synergies decisions. This programme includes regional and national pilot projects that will be developed in collaboration with the Basel and Stockholm regional centres and SAICM for the joint implementation of the conventions in countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. The first of these pilot projects will be launched in the first quarter of 2010. Lessons learned and best practices emerging from the pilot projects will be replicated in other countries and regions.</p> <p>The joint programme also includes a series of workshops designed to foster regional and national synergies in the implementation of the conventions. The key objectives of the workshops include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness of the process to promote further cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and its possible implications at the regional and national levels; • Enhancing understanding of the status of implementation of the conventions in the regions and of the national priorities identified by Parties to fulfil their obligations;

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting information exchange on models and good practices of coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the conventions; • Identifying areas where further coordination at the national level might be required; • Raising awareness of technical and financial opportunities for coordinated implementation of the conventions in the regions; <p>The first synergies workshop was held at the Basel Convention regional centre in Pretoria from 28 to 30 October 2009 with the participation of 18 Parties to the conventions, including representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations, industry, Basel and Stockholm regional centres in Africa and the newly appointed UNEP regional chemicals coordinator. The second workshop was held at the Basel coordinating centre-Stockholm regional centre in Montevideo from 23 to 25 November 2009, with the participation of representatives of 11 Parties to the conventions, non-governmental organizations and Basel and Stockholm regional centres in Argentina and Brazil.</p> <p>An additional workshop is envisaged in Asia in the first quarter of 2010. Additional workshops in other regions are also envisaged, subject to the availability of funds. The secretariats have provided inputs to a publication focusing on the dissemination of good practices on the sound management of chemicals and wastes as a contribution to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighteenth and nineteenth sessions, for which one of the key focus areas is chemicals and wastes.</p> <p>Additional opportunities to collaborate with relevant bodies in the dissemination of good practices and elaboration of guidance and training are being explored, such as in the area of legislation development.</p>
<p>B. Programmatic cooperation in the field</p>	
<p>(10) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the three conventions, in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, and taking into account the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, to initiate joint collaboration to promote the effective implementation of the decisions of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and their work programmes in the area of technology transfer and capacity-building;</p>	<p>The secretariats will ensure that SAICM is taken into account in the planning and delivery of technical assistance activities under the conventions, for example, on industrial chemicals and the synergies programme mentioned in paragraph 4 of the synergies decisions.</p> <p>The secretariats are cooperating with the SAICM secretariat to ensure that the decisions of the conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions that relate to technical assistance and technology transfer are taken into account within the SAICM process.</p>

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
	<p>The secretariats will continue to cooperate in the development of projects to promote capacity-building to implement the conventions under the SAICM Quick Start Programme. The secretariats are involved, for example, in the enforcement component of the Probo Koala programme in Côte d'Ivoire developed in response to the dumping of toxic waste in that country. The enforcement component of the programme is implemented in two phases; phase one focuses on Côte d'Ivoire and three French-speaking countries in Africa (phase one would tentatively end in December 2010); phase two focuses on eight additional African countries with port facilities (phase two would tentatively end in December 2011). The programme's objective is to combat illegal traffic and trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes through ports in Africa. The programme involves the development of norms and regulations for the coordinated implementation of the conventions and training seminars for enforcement agencies such as Customs and port authorities and conventions focal points. Project implementation is under way; the first joint meeting was held in Abidjan in November 2009.</p> <p>Another example is the SAICM Quick Start Programme-supported project on strengthening legislative, regulatory and enforcement capacity for the implementation of the Basel Convention, and Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions as appropriate, in Trinidad and Tobago and 12 small island developing States in the Caribbean region. This project provides a comprehensive and integrated approach to the management of chemicals and hazardous wastes at the country level, while aiming to promote coordinated implementation and enforcement in the region.</p> <p>The secretariats are jointly involved in developing a capacity-assistance brokering tool to facilitate and coordinate access to capacity assistance under the conventions.</p>
<p>(13) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to promote programmatic cooperation on cross-cutting issues, including in the area of technology transfer and capacity-building, in the development of their respective work programmes and to report thereon to the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions;</p>	<p>The secretariats will include programmatic cooperation on cross-cutting issues in their respective work programmes for submission to the conferences of the Parties for their consideration in 2011.</p> <p>The secretariats are developing joint guidelines for cooperation in the delivery of technical assistance to ensure that relevant national contact points and regional centres are included in the delivery of activities. These guidelines include a systematic approach among the secretariats to informing and, when relevant, inviting the participation of regional experts and representatives from Parties and regional centres.</p> <p>The secretariats are coordinating project development associated with technical assistance in key cross-cutting areas, such as industrial chemicals, which includes working jointly with relevant partners and potential recipients and donors.</p>

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
	<p>Cooperation between the secretariats on the programme on capacity-building related to implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, which is executed by UNEP, is under way, both in terms of joint representation at meetings and programmatic coordination.</p> <p>Since the requests to the secretariats included in section B of the synergies decisions affect various areas of their programmes of work, individual task teams will consider specific joint activities on programmatic cooperation in the field.</p>
<p>C. Coordinated use of regional offices and centres</p>	
<p>(17) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to initiate pilot projects on the coordinated use of regional centres, such projects to be undertaken by the regional centres and build on lessons learned;</p>	<p>An inter-secretariat thematic group has been established to consider the coordinated use of regional offices and centres.</p> <p>As noted above (paragraph 4 of the synergies decisions), joint workshops are being organized in coordination with the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>The secretariats are involving the regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions together with FAO and UNEP regional offices in relevant technical assistance activities and related cross-cutting activities.</p> <p>Regional chemicals cluster coordinators located within the UNEP regional offices are currently under recruitment. These coordinators will support an integrated approach to the sound management of chemicals at the regional level, including the implementation of the conventions and of the activities of UNEP Chemicals and SAICM. Regional coordinators for Africa (Nairobi) and for Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama) have been recruited. Coordinators for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) and Eastern Europe (Geneva) are currently under recruitment.</p>
<p>(18) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions and the regional centres to exchange information about their capacities and work programmes;</p>	<p>A workshop on enhancing cooperation between the Basel and Stockholm convention regional centres was held in October 2009 involving representatives of Basel and Stockholm convention centres. The workshop's main purpose was to support the delivery of the conventions' technical assistance programmes by the regional centres. Similar workshops will be held annually and may also involve representatives of FAO and UNEP regional offices as appropriate.</p>

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
	<p>To enhance coordination, the secretariats are developing among themselves and with the regional centres and regional offices of FAO and UNEP a consistent approach to the exchange of information on the priorities and work programmes of the conventions.</p> <p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchanging business plans or workplans on a quarterly or semi-annual basis and including links to the conventions' web pages; • Means to link regional centres and offices to the clearing-house mechanism under development by the conventions; • Preparation of profiles of the Stockholm and Basel convention regional centres that will be made publicly available; • Opportunities for the development of joint activities, particularly technical assistance activities; • Identification of regional experts to assist in the delivery of technical assistance activities at the national and regional levels.
II. Technical issues	
A. National reporting	
(1) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel and Stockholm conventions to prepare, for consideration by their respective conferences of the Parties, proposals:	<p>An inter-secretariat thematic group on national reporting has been established to consider coordination under this activity.</p> <p>The Basel and Stockholm convention secretariats are developing proposals to be submitted at the ordinary meetings of their conferences of the Parties to be held in 2011 covering points (a)–(c) below.</p>
(a) To synchronize the submission of Party reports under the two conventions in those years when the Parties to both conventions are to submit such reports;	<p>At present, party reports under the Basel Convention are required annually, whereas under the Stockholm Convention they are required once every four years. Whenever Stockholm Convention reports are required, Basel reports are therefore also required. In 2010, reports for both conventions will be due; Party reports under the Stockholm Convention are to be submitted by 31 October whereas Basel Convention reports are due before the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>For 2010, the secretariats will jointly request Parties to submit their reports according to existing deadlines.</p>

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
	In 2011, the secretariats will prepare a proposal for synchronizing report submissions for 2014.
(b) To develop joint capacity-building activities to assist Parties in coordinated data and information collection and management at the national level, including quality control, to enable them to fulfil their reporting obligations;	The Basel and Stockholm convention secretariats are planning capacity-building activities to enhance national reporting by Parties. These activities will take place in 2010 subject to the availability of funding.
(c) To streamline their respective reporting formats and processes with a view to alleviating the burden of reporting, taking into account relevant activities by other bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme;	<p>Under the Stockholm Convention, the reporting format is being revised to accommodate better the effectiveness evaluation of the Convention and to comply with the request for streamlining.</p> <p>In 2002 the Basel Convention streamlined its reporting process to make it user-friendlier. The Secretariat will prepare proposals to streamline further the Basel Convention reporting format for consideration by its Conference of the Parties in 2011.</p> <p>The Basel and Stockholm convention secretariats are discussing possible ways to reduce the burden of reporting under the two conventions.</p>
B. Compliance/Non-compliance mechanisms	
(2) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, once compliance/non-compliance mechanisms are established under all three conventions, to prepare proposals for consideration by the conferences of the Parties to the three conventions exploring the possibilities for enhancing coordination among the agreed mechanisms to facilitate compliance by, for example, provision of joint secretariat support for the committees, the attendance of the chairs of the three committees at each others' meetings or encouraging the appointment of members to the committees who have experience with other compliance mechanisms;	<p>The adoption of a compliance/non-compliance mechanism under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions is to be considered at the respective meetings of the conferences of the Parties in 2011.</p> <p>Once compliance mechanisms have been established under all three conventions, the secretariats will prepare proposals on enhancing coordination between the mechanisms for consideration by their respective conferences of the Parties.</p>
(3) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to exchange information on progress made on the operation or establishment of the compliance/non-compliance mechanisms established or under negotiation under the three conventions;	<p>The secretariat of the Basel Convention will propose that representatives of the secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions should be invited to attend as observers the upcoming session of its Implementation and Compliance Committee.</p> <p>The secretariats will exchange information, experiences and lessons learned on their activities related to compliance. The secretariat of the Basel Convention, for example, shared the outcome of the seventh session of the Implementation and Compliance Committee with the secretariats of the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.</p>

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
C. Cooperation on technical and scientific issues	
(4) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to facilitate the exchange of relevant information between the technical and scientific bodies of the three conventions through the sharing of information with one another, with the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management and with other relevant intergovernmental bodies concerning the procedures developed and the chemicals being discussed under the three conventions;	<p>An inter-secretariat thematic group has been established to consider the issue of cooperation on technical and scientific issues.</p> <p>The secretariats are working together to ensure the exchange of information on those chemicals that are being considered for inclusion in or that were recently added to the respective conventions.</p> <p>The secretariats have developed a list of chemicals that are common to the three conventions to support Parties' implementation of the life-cycle approach to chemical management.</p> <p>The secretariats will also share information between themselves on the work of the Rotterdam Convention's Chemical Review Committee, Stockholm Convention's Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Open-ended Working Group of the Basel Convention and identify possible formalized processes for consultation between these bodies, for instance, to discuss possible updating of relevant technical guidelines and chemicals under discussion.</p> <p>During the planning process for meetings of the technical and scientific bodies of the conventions, the secretariat organizing the meeting will inform the other two chemicals and wastes convention secretariats, SAICM and other relevant bodies of issues relevant to them.</p>
(5) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to maintain or establish cooperation on technical issues that relate to more than one of the three conventions, involving other bodies and institutions beyond the three conventions as appropriate;	<p>The secretariats will identify the cross-cutting technical issues on which cooperation needs to be developed or enhanced.</p> <p>One example of such cross-cutting cooperation is the joint development of a road map for the secretariats to tackle the sound management of industrial chemicals.</p> <p>The secretariats will develop joint awareness-raising and training workshops regarding the work of their scientific and technical bodies to support the participation of experts, national authorities and other relevant national stakeholders in their work.</p>
III. Information management and public awareness issues	
A. Joint outreach and public awareness	
(1) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to develop a common approach to awareness-raising and outreach activities among the three conventions;	An inter-secretariat thematic group has been established to consider the issue of joint outreach and public awareness.

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
	<p>The secretariats will develop a common approach to awareness-raising and outreach activities, including a joint communication strategy and, subject to the availability of resources, a global awareness-raising campaign in collaboration with regional offices and centres and other partners, such as UNEP and FAO.</p> <p>The secretariats have produced some public awareness materials, such as brochures and a poster highlighting synergies between the conventions; additional similar materials will be developed in the future.</p>
<p>(2) <i>Also requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to make full use of and build on existing information and outreach mechanisms and tools;</p>	<p>The secretariats will make full use of existing information and outreach mechanisms and tools such as the Rotterdam Convention resource kit and the Basel Convention information leaflets, in addition to those available through UNEP, FAO and others.</p> <p>The secretariats will develop a common system for the development, management and distribution of information and outreach materials.</p> <p>The secretariats will identify gaps in available materials and opportunities for the joint development of new materials.</p>
<p>B. Information exchange/clearing-house mechanism on health and environmental impacts</p>	
<p>(4) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to develop systems of information exchange on health and environmental impacts, including a clearing-house mechanism, with the aim of these systems serving all three conventions;</p>	<p>An inter-secretariat thematic group has been established to consider the issue of information exchange and a clearing-house mechanism.</p> <p>The secretariats have prepared a joint workplan for the biennium 2010–2011 for the development of a clearing-house mechanism serving all three conventions. For more detailed information see document UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.1/INF/2.</p>
<p>C. Joint input into other processes</p>	
<p>(5) <i>Requests</i> the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, whenever feasible, to act jointly in participating in other related processes and in providing information to other related bodies, organizations, institutions and processes;</p>	<p>The coordinators group will consider the issue of joint input into other processes.</p> <p>The secretariats have identified relevant processes and institutions where joint participation may be beneficial, for instance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ World Trade Organization Committee on Trade and Environment;

<i>Applicable provision of the synergies decisions</i>	<i>Actions taken or to be taken</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ World Customs Organization, Green Customs Initiative, Multilateral Environmental Agreements Regional Enforcement Network, INTERPOL, European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law, International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement; ○ Commission on Sustainable Development; SAICM; Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Persistent Organic Pollutants; African Ministerial Conference on the Environment; ○ Global Environment Facility and the World Bank; ○ Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights; ○ Relevant UNEP divisions and programmes such as the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, Division of Trade, Industry and Economics and the programme on capacity-building related to implementation of multilateral environmental agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries; ○ Relevant FAO programmes, such as the obsolete pesticides programme; ○ Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. <p>The secretariats are already coordinating their participation in several of the above-mentioned processes and will identify ways of strengthening such joint approaches to, and representation in, related processes and institutions.</p> <p>Each secretariat will endeavour to include references to the work of the other secretariats where appropriate in the submission of project documents, proposals and resource mobilization activities.</p>