



**BASEL CONVENTION**  
Controlling transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION**  
Sharing responsibility in the trade of hazardous chemicals

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**  
Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POP)

## Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions in 2013

Briefing to Permanent Missions

*Jim Willis, Executive Secretary* 10 July 2012



**BASEL CONVENTION**  
Controlling transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION**  
Sharing responsibility in the trade of hazardous chemicals

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**  
Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POP)

## Outline

- Background and mandate
- Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the COPs from 28 April to 10 May 2013 in Geneva
- Bureaux meetings
- Benefits
- Initial planning
- Organization of work
- Possible schedule of the meeting
- Effective participation by delegates
- Preparations for Permanent Missions





## Background

- First ExCOPs were held from 22 to 24 February 2010 in Bali, Indonesia
  - Omnibus decisions were adopted

## Mandate

- BC-10/29, RC-5/12 and SC-5/27 asked for:
  - Holding 2013 COPs in a coordinated manner
  - Holding ExCOPs in 2013, back-to-back and at the same venue as the last ordinary meeting of the COPs
  - Provided main focus of ExCOPs agenda




## Organization of the ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the COPs from 28 April to 10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland

- Proposal developed by the Executive Secretary
  - Discussed by the Presidents of the 3 COPs
  - Reviewed and approved by the three bureaux, in consultation with parties in their regions
- Thought starter developed on a possible approach for the organization of work during the two-week period
- Both documents available on *Synergies* website (<http://synergies.pops.int>)





## Bureaux meetings

- Presidents' Joint Meeting: 9 May 2012 (Geneva)
- Stockholm Convention COP Bureau:
  - Meeting from 10-11 May 2012 (Geneva)
- Rotterdam Convention COP Bureau:
  - Teleconference on 23 May 2012
  - Meeting from 13-14 September 2012 (Rome)
- Basel Convention COP Expanded Bureau:
  - Teleconference on 28 June 2012
  - Meeting from 12-13 November 2012 (Geneva)
- Joint Bureaux meeting: 13-14 December 2012 (Geneva)




## Benefits

- Consider whole of the work ongoing under the conventions
- Ensure effective and coherent decision-making on policy, technical and budget matters
- Cross-fertilization of ideas
- COPs to identify best practices for implementing the conventions that could benefit all three conventions
- Collectively consider approaches for financing implementation and technical assistance
- Collectively decide on reallocation of administrative savings from 2012-2013 biennium (total estimated to be USD \$2.7-3.0 million)





**BASEL CONVENTION**  
Controlling transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION**  
Sharing responsibility in the trade of hazardous chemicals

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**  
Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POP)

## Benefits (cont.)

- Collective stock-taking for the review of the synergies process
- Help identify new areas where synergies can be achieved
- Increased visibility and awareness of conventions
- Administrative cost savings (USD \$1.2 – 1.5 million) resulting from reduction in conference service costs and staff time




**BASEL CONVENTION**  
Controlling transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION**  
Sharing responsibility in the trade of hazardous chemicals

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**  
Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POP)

## Initial planning

- COPs and ExCOPs to meet from 28 April-10 May 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland
- ExCOPs to convene morning of first day and on the last day and cover topics agreed on the ExCOPs agenda (as per 2011 synergies decisions) – next slide
- Ordinary COPs could meet sequentially (or as otherwise decided) and cover specific items within the mandate of that COP
- ExCOPs can decide to establish contact group(s) (e.g. budget, synergies) that could meet during full 2-weeks
- Bureaux meets each morning during the ExCOPs/COPs to agree on the order of business for the day





## Main focus of agenda of the ExCOPs

- As per paragraph 18 of decisions BC-10/29, RC-5/12 and SC-5/27
  - Review of arrangements adopted pursuant to the synergies decisions
  - Proposal for the organization of the secretariats
  - Draft proposals for joint activities for 2014–2015
  - Budget for joint activities and possible necessary amendments to the budget of the three conventions for the biennium 2014–2015
  - Outcome of the UNEP Executive Director's consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes
  - Other matters related to cooperation and coordination between the conventions that the ordinary COPs may wish to place on the ExCOPs agenda




## Organization of work

- Regional, bureaux and other preparatory meetings on 27 April
- Possibility of high-level segment if decided by the bureaux at joint bureaux meeting
- The precise organization of work of the meetings will be determined by the bureaux
- A detailed meeting schedule will be made available after the joint bureaux meeting to be held on 12-14 December 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland





## Possible schedule of the meeting (as per thought starter)

		Sun 28 April	Mon 29 April	Tue 30 April	Wed 1 May	Thu 2 May	Fri 3 May	Sat 4 May
<b>Week 1</b>	<i>Morning session 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</i>	ExCOPs	BC	BC	BC	RC	RC	RC
	<i>Afternoon session 3–6 p.m.</i>	BC	BC	BC	BC	RC	RC	RC

  

		Sun 5 May	Mon 6 May	Tue 7 May	Wed 8 May	Thu 9 May	Fri 10 May
<b>Week 2</b>	<i>Morning session 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</i>	No meetings	RC	SC	SC	SC	ExCOPs
	<i>Afternoon session 3–6 p.m.</i>	No meetings	SC	SC	SC	SC	ExCOPs





## Effective participation by delegates

- Funding for one participant per Convention for which an eligible country is party (i.e., up to 3 participants)
  - Some donors have already provided funding for participants travel
- Scheduling of all meetings must be clear, logical and easy to plan and cover for delegations
  - Daily order of business posted every morning on the intranet site and communicated in regional groups meetings



**BASEL CONVENTION**  
Controlling transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION**  
Sharing responsibility in the trade of hazardous chemicals

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**  
Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POP)

## Effective participation by delegates (cont.)

- Limited number of contact groups running in parallel
- Reduced number and length of meeting documents
- IT infrastructure (paperless meeting) and social media to facilitate communication among delegates
- Credentials for all meetings can be presented in one document

UNEP    

**BASEL CONVENTION**  
Controlling transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal

**ROTTERDAM CONVENTION**  
Sharing responsibility in the trade of hazardous chemicals

**STOCKHOLM CONVENTION**  
Protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POP)

## Preparations for Permanent Missions

- Communicate with constituencies about 2013 COPs
- Support high level participation, if agreed by bureaux
- Support regional and interministerial coordination
- Invitation letters will be sent end of December 2012
- Documents will be available in December – February (target is 90+ days in advance for substantive documents)

UNEP    

**BASEL  
CONVENTION**

Controlling transboundary movements  
of hazardous wastes and their disposal

**ROTTERDAM  
CONVENTION**

Sharing responsibility in the  
trade of hazardous chemicals

**STOCKHOLM  
CONVENTION**

Protecting human health and the environment  
from persistent organic pollutants (POP)

Follow us at Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/brsmeas>

Synergies website:  
[synergies.basel.int](http://synergies.basel.int)  
[synergies.pic.int](http://synergies.pic.int)  
[synergies.pops.int](http://synergies.pops.int)

